

# The Commoner.

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The figures of the Chinese indemnity look like the capital stock of a steel trust.

The cigar trust will find poor picking in those districts where "long green" and corn-cobs grow side by side.

Russia may banish Tolstoi, but not even the Russian council of state can banish Tolstoi's ideas.

Captain Carter's health will not be regained until he is free to dig up his planted swag and divide it with his tireless lawyers.

The Boers are a very valuable people if their worth can be estimated by the amount England is spending to secure the ownership of them.

It seems that the Manila editor who was deported was made to suffer for having dared to tell a truth long known by the powers that deported him.

A number of this country's industrial infants exhibit symptoms of indigestion, super-induced by too high living at the expense of the general public.

The appointment of an attorney general not only recommended but selected by the trusts makes the administration a silent partner in the trusts.

The National Watchman is determined to stand in the front rank among the democratic weeklies and it is only fair to say that it is realizing its ambition.

The young men of the country should take an active interest in politics. Not, necessarily in partisan politics, but in the study of politi-

cal issues. Every man owes it to himself and to his country to acquaint himself with political conditions and to do his best to solve political questions aright.

The commercial agencies report 214 business failures for last week as against 212 for the same week last year and 182 for the corresponding week of 1899.

The Irish World is printing a continued story by Michael Davitt on the Boer war. It contains many interesting documents bearing on the present struggle.

How many readers will try to increase the influence of **THE COMMONER** by securing one or more new subscribers? The greater the paper's circulation the greater its power to do good.

The British rate payer is beginning to realize the full portent of the "pay, pay, pay" refrain of Rudyard Kipling's "Absent Minded Beggar." Throttling republics is an expensive business.

"Painless identification with Russia" is a phrase much used by Russia in connection with Manchuria. And it is a phrase that is entitled to rank with "benevolent assimilation." Both mean the same thing—"Grab."

When Brother Marvin of the Beatrice (Nebr.) Democrat asserts that Mr. Cleveland was the greatest president since Lincoln, he is able to produce a postmasters commission in support of the statement.

On his swing around the circle the president will avoid the Plain Duty, Benevolent Assimilation & Manifest Destiny R. R. That road has been pretty well wrecked during the last twelve or fifteen months.

The Sultan of Sulu desires to call attention to the fact that there have been no postal or military frauds in his jurisdiction, and that he has not found it necessary to suppress any newspapers and deport their editors.

Senator McLaurin, elected by democratic votes as a democrat upon a democratic platform, has deserted democracy and allied himself with the administration. Mr. McLaurin is eligible to a front seat among the "reorganizers."

Russell Sage warns investors that railroad stocks are too high. He asks, "who would pay twice as much for a house as it would cost to duplicate it?" But he forgets that a house has no monopoly while a railroad may have. That makes a great difference.

The administration idea of fulfilling the pledge to Cuba is to give the Cubans everything they want with the exception of the things the administration does not want them to have.

As the administration insists on keeping the things most wanted by the Cubans—self government and absolute independence—the amount of pledge keeping involved is too small to be visible to the naked eye.

A young man in Baltimore offers to raffle himself off provided he can sell two thousand tickets at five dollars apiece. He has probably heard that marriage is a lottery, but he is doomed to disappointment if he thinks that any girl will pay five dollars for a chance at him.

Some readers have complained that they could not find **THE COMMONER** at news stands. This is not the fault of the publisher. Any news dealer who desires to keep **THE COMMONER** on sale can secure copies either from the wholesale news companies or direct from this office.

The St Louis election contest will be helpful no matter how it results. If, as Parker and Merriwether assert, fraud has been committed it ought to be exposed. If, on the other hand, the election was an honest one, it is due to Mr. Wells that the cloud should be removed from his title.

Senator McLaurin answers the charge of plagerism made against him by Senator Tillman by saying that his secretary neglected to use quotation marks at the proper place. After reading his Charlotte speech one is led to enquire why the Senator did not use quotation marks when he endorsed republican principles and policies.

Governor Lon V. Stephens has retired from the executive office but he has not retired from politics. His nomination was due to the active part he took in the silver fight prior to '96 and he announces his intentions to stand guard as long as there is any danger of the reorganizers trying to secure control of the party in Missouri.

The Cuban representatives who visit Washington discover that there is a good deal of difference between official courtesy and political support. The administration can be "personally friendly" without abandoning its imperialistic plans. In an empire the delegations sent by subjects to the seat of government are generally treated with great civility, especially if the petition is certain to be denied.

The American people may secure some idea of the change that has taken place in the opinion of the world concerning this republic by noting the attitude of the people of the Danish West Indies. A few years ago they voted almost unanimously in favor of annexation to the United States. Today they are said to be almost a unit in opposing annexation. A nation that violates its pledged word and ignores its own fundamental principles can not hope to retain public respect.