

# The Commoner.

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The Ohio reorganizers seem to have executed a regular Gathmann gun finish.

If a judge can imprison all who criticize his decisions he need not pay much attention to the law.

The Hartford Courant is 137 years old—so old that it is forgetful of many principles it once espoused.

Professor Rhulin doubtless feels much like a reciprocity treaty after a bout with a lot of tariff magnates.

It seems that some republicans are in favor of reform only when it results in getting them into connection with the pie counter.

Joseph Chamberlain is putting the screws to the British taxpayer. But Joseph manufacturers screws—to saw nothing of small arms.

The New York Weekly Tribune will be an agricultural paper in the future, save when it neglects agricultural topics to wave the bloody shirt.

That hilarious sound floating in from the direction of Washington may be the result of Philander Knox reading a certain Minneapolis speech.

President Roosevelt should not carry his anti-docking crusade to extremes. He would alienate some influential personages if he were to dock a few trusts.

The successful Gathmann gun, the Freeman-Willins nuptials and republican revision of the tariff appear to be eventualities of the dim and distant future.

Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York, have recently published a work by Mr. Upton St. Clair, entitled King Midas, which is receiving very complimentary mention at the hands of the press.

Frank A. Munsey has purchased the Washington Times. It is to be hoped that the former owner, Mr. Hutchins, will get back into journalistic work somewhere. His energy and long experience ought not to be lost to the newspaper world.

## The Commoner.

Republican organs are making sport of The Commoner's suggestion that debating clubs should be organized throughout the country. This is perfectly natural. If there is anything a republican editor fights shy of it is an honest discussion.

The Chicago American charges Judge Elbridge Haney of Chicago with having changed his name from Patrick Hennessy, and offers to prove it by the brother and sister of the judge. This is almost as contemptuous as to charge him with being the tool of the gas trust.

The Farm, Stock and Home, of Minneapolis, Minn., makes a wise remark when it says that we wouldn't feel so puffed up about the size of our exports if we stopped to consider how large a part of those exports goes to pay dividends on our own watered stocks held abroad.

The republican organs that protested so strenuously when southern newspapers condemned President Roosevelt for dining with Booker T. Washington should take cognizance of the fact that a Boston barber refused to shave a negro. In Boston, too; right under the shadow of Bunker Hill.

The proposed tariff commission will serve a two-fold purpose—it will make places for a few political favorites at goodly salaries, but more than that, it will give congress an excuse for postponing action on a reform demanded by the people and opposed by the beneficiaries of the tariff.

The Medical World of Philadelphia has introduced a department for the discussion of public questions from the standpoint of the physician and the citizen. In a recent issue it discussed anarchy, the Philippine question and free speech, and discussed them both patriotically and intelligently.

A reader of The Commoner is anxious to find the whereabouts of Joseph Page. He is supposed to be in one of the western states, but has not been heard of for twelve years. Any person having information concerning him will please communicate with Virgil Page, Kolen, Green county, Indiana.

Brother Watterson's destiny doctrine seems to have a reversible attachment. He is not willing to accept the president's action in the Booker Washington case as a final decree of Providence. Is it possible that destiny must have the initials of the Courier-Journal's editor blown in the bottle in order to be genuine?

The growth of organization among the laboring men is shown by the fact that the costume cutters of Chicago began an organization about six months ago and now their organization includes four-fifths of the men in that trade in the city. One of the objects of the organization is to avoid strikes by promoting arbitration.

Wanted—The name and address (to be furnished by himself) of every travelling man in the United States who believes in democratic principles as set forth in the Kansas City platform. Readers of The Commoner will confer a favor on the editor by bringing this item to the notice of travelling men who are not subscribers.

The Daily Democrat of Johnstown, Pa., is congratulating itself on the democratic victory won in Cambria county. While it is not always easy in politics to trace the result to a particular cause, it is certain that the Daily Democrat has been giving its readers good and substantial reasons for voting the democratic ticket, and has doubtless had a considerable influence in the moulding of public opinion in that part of the country.

The result in Ohio was not due to the unpopularity of the candidate for governor; it was due to the fact that even so good a man as Mr. Kilbourne could not overcome the indignation aroused by a convention which tried to bring back the bolting democrats by abandoning the national platform.

A citizen of Lake City, Ia., has recently learned a lesson on the tariff question. She received from relatives in Europe some home-made souvenirs, upon which the duty and other charges amounted to considerably more than the articles were worth. She has had an insight into the beauty of a high tariff system which it is impossible to get except through experience.

In 1900 1,040,000 votes were polled in Ohio. This year 840,000 votes were polled—a falling off of 200,000 votes since last year. At the gubernatorial election in 1899, 920,000 votes were polled—20,000 votes more than were polled this year. If the democratic ticket had polled as many votes this year, with the Kansas City platform eliminated, as it polled in 1899, when the Chicago platform was reaffirmed, the reorganizers would be rejoicing.

In 1900 the presidential tickets received the following vote in Maryland: McKinley and Roosevelt, 136,185; Bryan and Stevenson, 122,238. This year Herring, democratic candidate for comptroller, received 91,040; Platte, republican, 90,587. For clerk of court of appeals, Turner, democrat, received 90,490; Parron, republican, 90,634. It will be seen that the democratic state ticket, running on state issues, polled thirty-one thousand votes less than the democratic national ticket polled last year when the Kansas City platform was in issue. And yet this is claimed as a victory for the reorganizers. It seems that the greater the falling off in the democratic vote, the greater the victory for the reorganizers.

The American Economist reproduces with apparent approval an editorial from the Camden (N. J.) Telegram opposing a reduction of the tariff on steel rails. The reason given is that "since the very discussion of the subject, to say nothing of legislation upon it, would cause an industrial disturbance, it is clearly in the interests of prosperity and business stability to let the tariff remain on steel rails, although, strictly speaking, it is no longer necessary to the industry." So it seems that the tariff question cannot be discussed without disturbing business. The same argument was used against the discussion of the money question, and will doubtless be used against the discussion of the trust question. When corporations get what they want they not only want to be left alone, but they do not want the subject discussed. Why not make anti-anarchy laws broad enough to punish anybody who suggests a reduction of the tariff?

A reader of The Commoner inquires what qualities the mayor of a municipality should possess. A mayor is an executive officer, and should have executive ability, which may be described as the ability to organize and perform work by the employment of the most systematic, thorough and economical means. He should also be a man of integrity, and by that is meant that he should not only be able to resist the temptations which come in a multitude of forms, but should have an honest purpose to administer his office as a public trust. He should have moral courage—a quality less common than ability and integrity—to do his duty according to his judgment, regardless of the threats of enemies or the persuasion of friends. The municipal government of a city of any considerable size offers great and honorable opportunities for men who desire to see the government administered in such a way as to protect the equal rights of all and give special privileges to none.