

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

"Kill or conquer" is the motto of the two greatest nations in the world.

The permanent census bureau's first work should be the enumeration of the governmental "soft snaps."

While in Washington Prince Henry should be shown the faded and frazzled out Declaration of Independence.

A reader of *The Commoner* asks how large an estate Commodore Vanderbilt left. Will someone who knows answer?

President Taft says the Filipinos must be educated. The Filipinos have learned a great deal already about our pretensions.

Will the administration organs observe Lincoln's birthday by republishing what Lincoln said about the "argument of kings?"

The republican organs are much more agitated over the sugar tariff than they are over the killing of men fighting for freedom.

There is something suggestive in the fact that the opponents of any isthmian canal are rallying to the support of the Panama project.

The new cabinet office will be known as the "department of commerce and labor." The latter will pay for the upbuilding of the former.

Bishop Brent of the Philippines denies the language recently attributed to him to the effect that "the Philippines are ours" and *The Commoner* gladly makes the correction.

The administration organs could save composition by holding on the standing galleys the Taft claims of peace in the Philippines. They can use them a year from now.

Ex-Attorney General Griggs has been retained by the railroads in the merger case now before the supreme court. He will not earn his fee unless he is more active than he was as attorney general.

The steel trust admits that the orders it has on its books will keep its mills going until well along in 1903. Is it not about time to remove the nipple from between the lips of this infant?

The annual report of the United States fish commission is ready for distribution. It does not devote a chapter to the "suckers" who love to believe that they can tax themselves rich.

## The Commoner.

Some newspapers that claim to be democratic will not be happy until democratic congressmen accept with alacrity the financial and imperialistic measures advocated by the republican majority.

The New York Tribune is deeply pained at the objections made to this country sending representatives to the coronation. The New York Tribune is the paper that was once edited, and by Horace Greeley, too.

If Miss Roosevelt will carry the president's greetings to Kruger instead of to Edward VII. the gratitude of that grand old patriot will give her more delight than she can possibly find in the crowning of a king.

If you have not already sent a postal card to your member of congress urging immediate consideration of the amendment providing for the election of United States senators by the people, you should do so at once.

Governor Taft of the Philippines was before the senate committee on the Philippines the other day, telling about the progress made by the commission. If he confined himself to actual facts the testimony was over with in a very short time.

Recently the New York authorities raided a baking powder factory and seized three tons of baking powder that analyzed 20 per cent of powdered rock. The authorities should now raid a few concerns whose stock is from 50 to 98 per cent water.

The artist who painted the picture of the Battle of Santiago Bay for the national capital seems to be a sly joker and subject to a severe reprimand. The Brooklyn and Oregon are shown in the thick of the fight and the position of the New York is shown by a thin line of smoke on the horizon.

As this is the season for the celebration of Lincoln's birthday, the republicans might employ some of their time in searching the speeches of Lincoln for authority to support imperialism. They will find that he said many things in favor of the Declaration of Independence, but nothing in favor of a colonial policy.

The report prepared by Congressman Corliss in support of the constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by the people mentions twenty-seven states that have passed resolutions favoring that reform. Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Virginia are not included among these. Wouldn't it be a good time for these states to take action?

It is reported that the president is going to send his daughter to London to attend the coronation of the king. Let us hope that this is false. Let us hope that he intends sending her to assure Kruger that the envoys appointed to attend the coronation were only appointed as a concession to the plutocratic influences that dominate the republican party and that his own personal sympathies are with the patriots of the Transvaal republic.

Hon. John F. Dryden of New Jersey has been chosen senator to succeed the late Senator Sewall. The New York Post finds fault with the selection because it thinks that Mr. Dryden has nothing but his money and business capacity to recommend him. The criticism would have more weight but for the fact that the Post at the same time expresses regret that Attorney General Griggs was not selected, preferring him because of his experience in public affairs and saying that he "would have distinctly added to the senate what it most needs—intellect, not money." The Post is mistaken. What the senate most needs is not

men of intellect or men of money—it has both now—but what the senate needs most is more men chosen by the people and sympathizing with the people to legislate for the people. Mr. Griggs may have more intellect and less money than Mr. Dryden, but he has given no evidence of his sympathy with the people in their struggle to secure better laws.

Mr. Oxnard is quite sure that the beet sugar industry cannot live without a tariff, but the Detroit Evening News calls attention to a circular issued by Mr. Oxnard in 1899 in which he assured prospective stock-holders that even free trade could not hurt the beet industry, "as we can undersell Europe in the production of all other crops, and sugar is not an exception."

The people of Iowa can form a just comparison between their ex-governor and their present governor when they contrast the former's apologetic words spoken in defense of trusts with the latter's energetic condemnation of trusts, and they can wonder whether the president made Mr. Shaw secretary of the treasury in ignorance of that official's partiality toward corporations or because of that partiality.

Senator Allen in his paper, *The Madison Mail*, calls attention to the fact that the phrase "the common people" was used by Shakespeare. It appears twice in Henry VI. The senator points out that Warwick, the king-maker, is made to exclaim upon the approach of reinforcements, "The common people by numbers swarm to us!" *The Commoner* has already called attention to the fact that the common people are mentioned in the Bible.

Representative Cochran of Missouri has introduced a bill in congress appropriating \$25,000 to pay the expenses of President Paul Kruger's visit to the United States. *The Kansas City Journal* declares that Representative Cochran has committed a blunder. The *Journal*, however, manages to remark that the appropriation of \$40,000 to pay the expenses of Prince Henry's visit is all right and highly proper.

A New York state reader of *The Commoner* is so interested in the paper's work and so anxious to extend its influence, that he has sent out two hundred postal cards to personal friends calling attention to the paper and urging them to subscribe for it. The editor is greatly obliged for this evidence of interest. This is only one of the instances which encourage him to believe that the paper is accomplishing that for which it was established and that through it he is promoting principles and policies which will be helpful to the country. If every reader of *The Commoner* who believes that the paper is defending his rights and contributing to the public weal would do one-twentieth as much and send out ten postal cards, the paper would soon be a weekly visitor to the homes of all the faithful.

A great deal of time is just now being spent in the study of royal ways in order that Prince Henry may be made to feel at home in America. Why all this worry? He comes to the United States of his own accord, and it would seem more in keeping with the proprieties of the occasion if he would spend some time in the study of American ways in order that he might act as he should act in a republic and among people who believe in a republic. Why not assume that, in spite of his royal birth, he is a good, ordinary man, and treat him as we would an ordinary person? We are under no obligation to treat royalty as royalty is treated at home. It seems a little strange that we should make such violent effort to ape European ways when a foreigner comes here, although there is no aping of American ways when one of our representatives goes abroad.