

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Eighty-seven years ago last January a British camp near New Orleans was knocked out without waiting to hear from Washington.

Perhaps Mr. Chamberlain did not resent Mr. Dillon's charge because of a well-grounded fear that if put to the test Mr. Dillon could provide the proof.

The tobacco trusts are engaged in a war in Great Britain. American consumers of tobacco will have to smoke up to make good the trust losses in England.

The Washington Democrat says "President Roosevelt is the Grover Cleveland of the republican party." It will take a commission to decide which is the aggrieved gentleman.

While Speaker Henderson was helping to nail on a few loose sugar tariff boards some enterprising republicans in his district have been razing a few panels of his political fences.

Mr. Morgan is forgetful of details in little fifteen million dollar deals. He thinks in billions now. And Mr. Morgan is chief factotum in a little infant industry that must be coddled with tariff.

It is believed that Mr. Roosevelt's forthcoming "History of Texas" will be carefully edited with a view to keeping out those things that might be quoted against him when he makes his run for the presidency.

Thoughtful republicans are watching for some one to Thomas Carter the river and harbor appropriation bill. Thoughtful republicans realize the danger lurking in that proposed wanton waste of the people's money.

General Smith explains that when he ordered Major Waller to take no prisoners he meant that captured natives were to be disarmed and turned loose. The Philippine business keeps right on demanding explanations.

Colombia has submitted the terms under which she will permit the United States to build the canal, and if the state department approves the matter will be laid before congress. This means some extra work for Lord Pauncefoot.

The Chicago American has been doing excellent work in behalf of the municipal ownership of municipal franchises, and the recent vote on municipal questions shows that the American is on the popular side of the question.

A New York judge recently refused to admit to citizenship a man who did not understand the first principles of the constitution. Perhaps the judge will undertake to explain the constitution in the light of a few recent supreme court decisions.

How would Young Rockefeller do for the republican candidate for vice-president? His recent utterances at church meetings show that he loses no opportunities to say a word for the trusts, and a campaign would give him a splendid chance to defend the monopoly that brought him into prominence.

Some one has defined a farmer as a man who makes his money on a farm and spends it in town and an agriculturist as one who makes his money in town and spends it on a farm.

"The Imperialist," which was published by the Imperial Publishing company, 37 Mercer street, New York, in 1869, will feel justified in starting up again if our government makes much more progress toward arbitrary power.

Mr. Ivey still insists that Great Britain is stealing our Alaskan territory. What does the man want, anyway? Does he expect us to make a fuss over a patch of ground just at the time when Whitelaw is being fitted with his coronation knickies?

The "durham heifer," of which the republican papers—especially the Washington Post—have talked so much, has been received at Fairview, and while she is a credit to the shorthorn breed, our esteemed contemporaries will be pained to learn that she cost less than half as much as they reported.

A Benton county, Arkansas, reader of *The Commoner* writes that the democratic convention of that county endorsed the Kansas City platform and resolved not to select as a delegate to the state convention any man who did not endorse it. The reorganizers do not seem to be strong in that section.

When it is remembered that St. Louis county includes the precincts immediately surrounding the city of St. Louis, the resolution referred to on another page is the more significant. If the democrats immediately adjacent to Missouri's largest city are unanimously opposed to reorganization, what hope have the reorganizers in the more remote counties?

United States Judges Grosscup and Humphrey of Chicago have so modified the assessment made by the board of equalization, under the order of the state court, as to materially lessen the taxes of the corporations affected. According to the Times-Herald the federal court has reduced the assessment until it is within from 2 to 7 per cent of the assessment of 1901, while it is from 30 to 47 per cent lower than the amount fixed by the state court. After examining a few such decisions as this it is not difficult to understand why the corporations always rush into the federal courts when in trouble.

The Los Angeles Times and other pro-English republican papers are trying to justify their opposition to the Boers on the ground that Kruger was not a good president. The charge made against Kruger is not true, yet it is worth while to remember that that sort of logic would justify a monarchy if the king happened to be good and would condemn a republic if the president turned out to be a bad man. If the editor of the Times will read the Declaration of Independence he will find that the self-evident truths set forth in that document were not conditioned upon officials being perfect.

Senator Hansbrough of North Dakota has written to a constituents that he will support the constitutional amendment providing for the election of United States senators by popular vote, but his colleague, Senator McCumber from that state is not quite so outspoken. He says the proposition "seems to be very much before the people at the present time, and is certainly important enough to merit very serious consideration." Come, senator, "serious consideration" is not enough. The senate has been seriously considering that proposition for several years. What is needed now is not more time for "serious consideration," but prompt action.

On another page will be found a table giving the contents of *The Commoner Condensed*. Instead of containing from 300 to 350 pages as promised the volume will contain something more than 450 pages. The table gives the titles of the editorials reproduced and also shows the selections gathered from the other departments of the paper. The index has been carefully prepared and the book is now ready for the press. Notwithstanding the increased size of the volume it will be furnished with renewals or new subscribers for fifty cents bound in cloth, twenty-five cents in paper cover. The editor regrets the unavoidable delay which has occurred. Notice will be given when the books are ready for delivery, which will be in two or three weeks.

The Democrats of Texas are unfortunate in that there are several daily papers of considerable circulation, like the Dallas News, that pretend to be democratic and yet support republican policies and often republican candidates. These papers are constantly putting forth the arguments made by the reorganizers and expressing great solicitude about the welfare of the democratic party. If the Texas democracy was not "rock ribbed and ancient as the sea" it might be led astray. But the democratic voters have a way of speaking out with no uncertain sound when the time rolls around for a convention.

Director of the Mint Roberts is reported as expressing fear that the increased production of gold will "seriously disarrange the world's credit." It is said that he has announced his purpose to discourage the production of gold by refusing to recommend any more assay offices. Can it be that gold is likely to become so plentiful that it will be cheap? Will the financiers swing around to silver as the more stable and scarce metal, as they did between '50 and '60? What the financiers want is a dear dollar, and they will detest gold as much as they have detested silver if gold becomes so plentiful as to lessen the purchasing power of the dollar.

A reader of *The Commoner* calls attention to the fact that the balance of trade for 1901 was \$679,625,475 and as the currency of the country was not increased by that amount he asks what became of it. This is a question which cannot be definitely answered. A part of it went to pay interest due on notes and bonds held by Europeans; part of it was used by Americans traveling abroad and a part may have been used to pay on the principal of obligations due to foreigners. Sometimes we hear of Americans buying bonds of foreign nations and such purchases would be charged against the balance of trade.

Senator Harris of Kansas informs a constituent that he favors the election of senators by the people and will do all he can to secure the adoption of the resolution. Senator Burton of the same state informs the same constituent that he will give the matter "most careful consideration." This is the difference between an advocate of the election of senators by the people and a friend of the present method. The advocate does not hesitate to declare himself; the opponent is going to give it "careful consideration," and the chances are sixteen to one that the opponent will avoid a vote on the question if possible.

A few weeks ago *The Commoner* reproduced a cartoon which first appeared in the Record-Herald of Chicago and afterward in the Gatling Gun. The picture represented Aguinaldo and a Macabebe soldier. The editor of *The Commoner* has received two letters in regard to this cartoon. Both say that the Macabebe soldier, instead of being a dwarf as shown in the Record-Herald picture, is as large as the Filipino soldier, if not larger. One correspondent says that the Macabebes asked protection from the Tagolas and have been loyal to the United States as scouts, and the other correspondent says that some of the Macabebes were serving as mercenaries in the Spanish army, fighting against the Filipinos, and that these soldiers who were in the employ of Spain, offered their services to the United States army when our nation took the place of Spain as the dominant power in the Philippines. The *Commoner* gives it readers the benefit of the information furnished by these correspondents.

According to a dispatch from Copenhagen the upper house of the legislature of Denmark insists upon delaying the ratification of the treaty until the people of the Danish islands have a chance to vote upon the subject of annexation to the United States. The vote stood 35 for delaying the ratification until after the plebiscite; 8 for ratification on condition that a popular vote in the islands be taken afterward, and 21 for the ratification of the treaty without condition. It now goes to a conference of the two houses, and the dispatch says that the compromise is likely to be in favor of ratification with a subsequent submission to the people of the islands. It is a little humiliating to have our senators so indifferent to the will of the people of the islands, while the legislature of Denmark recognizes the principle of government by consent. And yet this is the natural result of an imperial policy which ignores the wishes of the people and builds a government upon the doctrine that the strongest have the right to anything they can take. To purchase title from Denmark without the consent of the people does not differ in principle from taking the land and people by force.