

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The Commoner's "Lots of Five" plan puts good democratic literature within reach of all.

Dr. Mark Twain's new degree is calculated to make one Funston think some superheated thoughts.

By calling *The Commoner* to the attention of your friends you will assist in increasing its sphere of influence.

Whitelaw Reid has just been decorated with a college degree. Few escape it.

Mr. Rathbone goes free, and the pillars of the republican temple are still there.

The true test of democracy is loyalty to principle, not eagerness for spoils of office.

Mr. Quay of Pennsylvania has again met in state convention, drafted a platform and nominated a state ticket.

It seems that the court of claims safety net was spread under the South Carolinian just in time.

A negro school in Illinois has been destroyed and the teachers and students forced to flee. In Illinois!

Amos Cummings left an estate valued at less than \$1,500. But he left something better than money.

Mr. Roosevelt still insists that publicity is the best way to curb the trusts. Linotype shackles are something new.

Mr. McLaurin doubtless feels satisfied since his "commercial democracy" landed its entire rank and file a winner.

House-breakers and highwaymen should form a union and demand that they too be shackled with writs of injunction.

The best way to solve labor troubles is for employing capital to give labor a just share of the profits arising from the labor.

Senor Buencamino's testimony, somehow or other, reminds us of Little Tom Tucker, the juvenile who vocalized for his evening meal.

By granting amnesty to all American prisoners in the Isle the Cuban congress has relieved President Roosevelt of a very disagreeable task.

The beef trust has promised to be good, but it sounds very much like those "gentlemen's agreements" we used to hear about in railroad circles.

From a democratic standpoint there is something wrong with the democratic platform that meets with the approbation of republican politicians.

Attention is called to an offer made elsewhere in this issue of "Lots of Five" subscription cards. The Commoner asks all of its readers to examine the offer carefully.

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Vol. 2, No. 22.

Mr. Cannon declares that it is time to call a halt on needless and reckless appropriation of the people's money. Mr. Cannon always was a great hand at padlocking the horseless stable.

Mr. Lodge says he "will answer in his own way in his own time." Mr. Lodge would better hurry. Men who believe as he does have no time to waste if they desire to speak officially.

The Chicago Tribune asserts that criminal proceedings were not brought against the trust because the evidence was not strong enough. The Tribune always maintains a good humorous department.

Edward VII. and J. Pierpont Morgan dined with Ambassador Choate. We are now prepared to believe the story that most of the jewels in the British crown have been removed and imitation stones inserted.

If democrats who are true to democratic principles will do their duty the next national democratic convention will not need to waste time in providing thumb-mark experts to pass on the loyalty of men who claim to be democrats.

The republicans have decided not to push the Fowler bill until after the election. This is just what was expected. They dare not pass such a bill now. They will wait until December and rush it through during the short session.

When Americans celebrate the Fourth of July in Manila they must be careful not to read the Declaration of Independence. It is a crime to read the Declaration in some parts of the territory under the jurisdiction of the United States.

Naturally the republican organs resent the truth about certain army officers and denounce it as "attacks on the army." Whenever a pet republican scheme is opposed the republican organs begin to howl about "attacks on the national honor."

Admiral Crowninshield (pronounced Crun-shell) is on the other side of the ocean, but the world power that seizes the opportunity to attack us under the impression that Crowninshield is our greatest sea fighter will have plenty of time for afterthought.

Bishop Thoburn says we are "in the Philippines by the act of God." Will the truly good bishop please point to the chapter and verse which tells us to go with bayonets and torches and water cure to preach the peaceful and loving gospel of the Nazarene?

The Memphis Morning News is showing the people of Tennessee what a real democratic paper can do, and the people who live in the neighborhood of Memphis will enjoy the novelty of reading a fearless and able exponent of pure and undefiled democracy.

One striking difference between the Indiana democratic platform and the Tennessee democratic platform is that republicans have some words of commendation for the former. Democratic platforms that meet with the commendation of republican organs are lacking in something.

Senator Quay writes to a constituent that he will "give careful consideration" to the resolution providing for the election of senators by the people. In view of the fact that the legislature of Pennsylvania is on record in favor of the election of senators by the people, Senator Quay ought to be able to speak more definitely.

The resistance offered by the Boers has materially strengthened free government. It is a vicarious suffering that makes other republics more secure by showing how difficult it is to overcome men who love liberty better than life, and no nation will profit so much as this nation, whose guardianship of the republics of Central and South America is not less likely to be disturbed.

The traveling salesmen are beginning to feel the effects of the mercantile combinations, for where competition is destroyed the salesman loses his place and the salary that he once drew is added to the profits of the concern. It is suggested that the retail dealers agree to give their trade to the independent jobbing houses, but this remedy is not sufficient. It is much easier to form a combination among a few manufacturers than to form a combination among the retail dealers. The remedy is by law, and until the people are ready to employ a legal remedy they will have to suffer for the exactions of the trusts.

Mount Pelee erupted and killed 20,000 people, and America stood aghast. More deaths have been the result of an eruption of imperialism and greed in this country, yet thousands of people profess to see the hand of God in it and encourage further eruptions of the same kind.

A reader of *The Commoner* calls attention to the fact that during the month of May the mints of the United States coined \$426,000 worth in gold and \$1,873,000 worth in silver—and all of this silver was coined at the ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation.

The democrats of Logan county, Ohio, met at Bellefontaine the other day and not only indorsed the Kansas City platform, but instructed their delegates to the state convention "to support no man for state or congressional honors who is not in full sympathy with democratic principles as set forth in said platform." This has the right ring to it.

Congressman Green of Pennsylvania, who visited the Philippine islands last summer, has delivered a speech in the house of representatives setting forth the evidence collected by him in support of the proposition that the Filipinos are capable of self-government. It is a convincing document and will appear in *The Commoner* in full during the campaign.

The Chicago Tribune asserts that there are too many anthracite coal mines operated, and says: "If the surplus laborers were out of the way it would be possible for the operators to give the miners at least 200 days' work in the year at fair wages." Of course the Tribune knows that if the surplus laborers were out of the way the operators would import more. That's one way they have of keeping the wages down.

Hill and Cleveland are to attend a harmony meeting in New York. Why should it seem necessary to harmonize Mr. Hill and Mr. Cleveland? They have always been in harmony whenever the interests of Wall street demanded harmony. Why should Cleveland be invited to a democratic meeting? Until he expresses an intention to return to the democratic party there is no reason why he should be invited to speak before democrats.

Mr. Hepburn of Iowa would have us believe that General Smith's attorney uttered a falsehood when he admitted that General Smith had issued the brutal order. But Mr. Hepburn believes that men can tax themselves rich, that the narrower the financial base the stronger the financial situation, and that the Declaration of Independence has not been ignored by abandoning the principle of consent of the governed. This will explain Mr. Hepburn's position.

It is reported that the United States has been offered a statue of Frederick the Great on condition that it be set up in the national capital. It is hardly possible that any large number of our people will be in favor of accepting such a gift, no matter how kindly he may feel toward the person offering it. The difference between a monarchy and a republic is so great that a republic can hardly afford to begin the erection of monuments to kings and emperors. We cannot afford to obliterate the difference between a government resting upon the consent of the governed and a government resting upon the divine rights of kings. The fact that the statue is offered as a gift does not change the situation. There is an old proverb that "a gift is more expensive than a purchase," and it would be a costly gift if to receive it our nation would have to appear before the world as friendly to the monarchical idea.

As an illustration of the temper of the people attention is called to a democratic convention in Wayne county, Illinois. The committee reported a series of resolutions that did not mention the Kansas City platform and in the noise and confusion usually attendant upon conventions, many did not notice the omission. However, as soon as attention was called to it the convention showed its feeling on the subject and it only required a moment's time to add a resolution indorsing democratic principles as set forth in the Kansas City platform, and having thus set themselves right the democrats proceeded to the other business before the convention. One stalwart and watchful democrat can thwart the schemes of the reorganizers in almost any precinct and a few who are on the alert can usually prevent the reorganizers from capturing a county convention. The nearer you get to the voters the less strength the reorganizers show.