

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

"Special legislation is needed!" exclaimed President Roosevelt just after congress adjourned.

The Pennsylvania republican platform demands honest elections. In Philadelphia it is to laugh.

It costs more to maintain the presidential Mayflower than it did to build the Mayflower of the Puritans.

Rear Admiral Crowninshield seems to be better at navigating a roll-top desk than at steering a battleship.

The g. o. p. organs will have to haul out their sacred logic in order to discuss the Smith court-martial verdict.

Perhaps it would have been better to call "Hell Roaring Jake" Smith home and set him on Bandit Tracey's trail.

King Edward will be crowned on August 8, and the administration will be represented—if Mr. Reid's padding holds out.

An esteemed exchange has published a long article on "The History of Kissing." The future of kissing concerns more people.

It is noted that every newspaper that deprecates tariff revision commends the president's "trust busting" speech at Pittsburg.

If "Hell Roaring Jake" Smith had been but a little bit more brutal he might have received a slap on the wrist from the administration.

A. Jeremiah Beveridge denies that he is a candidate for the vice presidency. Jeremiah must still be insisting that he is a child of destiny.

Emperor William has decorated J. Pierpont Morgan with the Order of the Red Eagle. This is quite correct. The eagle is a bird of prey.

The administration manages to work for the trusts during the sessions of congress and to work the people while congress is not in session.

The "shadow of predestined defeat" seems to have first been cast when Mr. Cleveland stood between the people and the sun of democracy.

The harmony for which the reorganizers plead is that peculiar brand of harmony invoked by a man who seeks to obtain an advantage over another.

The government paid \$650,000 for the transport Grant shortly after the Spanish-American war broke out. The other day the government sold the transport Grant for \$51,000, and it was in better shape when sold than when purchased. The rake-off department seems to have put in full time during that little scrap.

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Mr. Roosevelt's equestrian pictures always show him jumping a stake-and-rider fence. The country would dearly love to see him jumping the tariff wall.

Hon. Dave Ball of Missouri is worse than a cannon ball when he gets after the reorganizers. He did some very effective work for the democratic party at Springfield recently.

Senator Elkins urges the annexation of Cuba and thinks that a refusal of reciprocity will drive her to a proposal for admission. This is a good sample of republican ethics.

Rear Admiral Crowninshield (pronounced Crunchell) is afloat. His course is being marked by the sight of American battleships with their noses stuck in sandbars and mudbanks.

The Smith court-martial verdict vindicates those gentlemen who were denounced for trying to defend the army by making the army uniform a badge of honor and not a sign of brutality.

Every time a republican state convention declares for Mr. Roosevelt your Uncle Mark Hanna allows his left eyelid to droop gently, while a wrinkle appears on each side of his mouth.

There is something radically wrong about a democratic platform that meets with the approval of men and newspapers that are always bitterly opposed to the principles and policies of democracy.

Thomas C. Platt declares that the republicans of New York can elect a yellow dog to the governorship. After reviewing the actions of New York republicans in the days gone by we cheerfully admit that it has often been done.

The Birmingham Age-Herald remarks that General Funston has been sent to Arizona, where the rivers are underground affairs. This may explain the general's sudden disappearance. Perhaps he is swimming those underground streams.

"The Friars Must Go," is the startling headline found in an administration organ. We confess to a tremor of terror which lasted until we noted the orthography. The fryers will be with us as long as the trusts exist and depend upon the g. o. p. for protection.

"Who is the most unpopular man in the world?" asks Harper's Weekly. We don't know. But the most popular man with the trusts is the one who shackles cunning with cobwebs and postpones talking about anti-trust legislation until after the lawmaking body adjourns.

"President Roosevelt carries his government under his own hat," declares Secretary of the Navy Moody. Within a fortnight we may expect another speech from the president warmly defending Secretary of the Navy Moody. This is the sort of reciprocity that the g. o. p. believes in and carries out.

"There was no brutality in the Philippines!" shouted the administration organs, "and the man who says there was is a coward, a little American, a traitor, a copperhead, a defamer of the army and a prevaricator of the worst type!" Now they can prove it by pointing to the findings of the Smith court-martial.

Those who have for years objected to free coinage on the ground that the production of silver was increasing so rapidly that the parity could not be maintained are now just as certain that the parity cannot be maintained because gold is being produced more rapidly than silver. The republican arguments always answer themselves.

On another page will be found an article by George E. Vincent, written for the Chautauqua, treating of Chautauqua as an educational center. No educational movement in recent times has more thoroughly demonstrated its practical usefulness than the Chautauqua movement. All over the land Chautauquas have sprung up in imitation of the parent association on the shores of the lake bearing that name. These annual assemblies have been of incalculable value in bringing the discussion of religious, social, economic and political questions before the thinking public. They have also furnished millions at small expense an opportunity for rest and recreation. The community which has a Chautauqua assembly is fortunate.

Of course the officers and gentlemen making up the court-martial are guilty of defaming the army by declaring General Smith guilty of brutality.

It appears that the dire punishment inflicted upon General Egan is to be inflicted upon General Smith. It will be remembered that Egan was punished by being retired on pay for the rest of his life.

Strange that republican papers should resent criticism of Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Hill as if it were directed against republicans. If reorganization is intended to strengthen the democratic party and enable it to defeat the republicans, isn't it queer that the republicans are so willing to assist in the reorganization?

General Bragg, consul to Cuba, is in trouble. He says it is because he wrote a letter to his wife and she read it to a woman friend who told it to her husband who told it at the club where a reporter got hold of it. This is a variation of the Adam and Eve story, but not so much so that there will be difficulty in recognizing it.

A New York reader of *The Commoner* says: "I admire your paper in every particular, but I think as the old minister did, that you are not preaching fire and brimstone enough to the gold standard democrats." Well, *The Commoner* will endeavor to make it a little warmer for those who claim to be democrats and yet are more loyal to the money changers than to the party.

The senatorial convention of the district which includes Du Page and Will counties, Illinois, met at Wheaton recently and nominated Charles L. Swartz for senator and W. A. Bowles for representative. The convention adopted resolutions reaffirming without mental reservation the Kansas City platform and deploring the "efforts of those so-called democrats who in the national campaign of 1896 sought by every means in their power to aid their republican allies to gain control of the policies of the democratic party in state and national politics." Mr. Hopkins' committee was not able to control this convention.

The editorials which appeared in the Boston Herald, Kansas City Star, Chicago Chronicle, Detroit Free Press, and several other papers, criticized Mr. Bryan's editorial commenting on Mr. Cleveland's speech at the Tilden dinner. These papers are quite bitter in their criticism of Mr. Bryan's position, but they are so much milder than the editorials which appeared in the same papers denouncing Mr. Bryan in the campaign of 1896 that he really feels that he must be rising somewhat in the estimation of their editors. It is not strange that the papers that went out of the party with Mr. Cleveland should desire to transform the party into a Cleveland reorganization, but they will not succeed.

The gold papers bitterly denounce *The Commoner* for its criticisms of Mr. Cleveland's Tilden club speech. These papers point out that Mr. Bryan did not until recently comment upon Mr. Cleveland, and accuse him of reopening old sores. As long as Mr. Cleveland acted with the republicans he was an open enemy and enjoyed the protection of the rules of war. But when he tried to enter the democratic camp, not as one in sympathy with its purpose, but as one who would use it for republican purposes, *The Commoner* objected. When Mr. Cleveland becomes a democrat he will be treated as such, but as long as he believes in republican policies he ought to be content to associate with those who believe in those policies. He ought not to be afraid of the name "republican" so long as he is in political affiliation with them.

Mrs. Elizabeth Owen, 1004 Detroit avenue, Toledo, O., has written a biographical sketch of the late president, William McKinley, on a postal card. The sketch contains 240 lines, 5,700 words and 27,353 letters. The manuscript covers thirty pages of foolscap, closely written, and makes about six columns of newspaper matter. She has published the biographical sketch in a cloth covered pamphlet containing nearly forty pages, with plate of the postal card. The price of the pamphlet is 50 cents. In her preface she states that the object of the book is to show what can be accomplished with the pen. For sixteen years she has practiced writing in small hand, and claims to be the champion of the world in this style of writing. Not long ago she wrote a biographical sketch of Admiral Dewey on a postal card, but it only contained 5,650 words and 25,782 letters.