

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The Shaw explanation department is running hot in the bearings.

It appears that the Liquid Air company put too much water in its stock.

The beef trust will never know that Mr. Knox is in Europe if nobody tells it.

The genuine democratic platform needs no interpreter in any part of the country.

It seems that Secretary Shaw believes in tariff revision that does not revise anything.

Mr. Alger says he is in the Michigan senatorial race "to a finish." We can see it without spectacles.

It is said that Mr. Morgan refuses to tip waiters, but Mr. Morgan is so rich he can afford to do it.

It appears that Mr. Roosevelt is making a rather belated revision of his Minneapolis Labor Day speech.

When the editors of *Manila Freedom* get out of jail their first act will be to change the name of their paper.

A large number of Iowa republican organs are frightened lest the Iowa republican tariff plank be taken in earnest.

President Baer writes like a man who imagines that he can take his wealth with him when he crosses the dark river.

Of course the trusts urge the president to keep up a "firm foreign policy." The trusts will attend to local affairs.

It is noticeable that those who call loudest for democratic harmony are those who refuse to tune up with the orchestra.

The worst that can be said of the Jeffries-Fitzsimmons prize fight is that it was merely a beef trust injunction scrap.

By throwing the complaining witness into jail the defendants in the Northern Securities case manage to score a point.

A reading of the "Lots of Five" plan, found on another page of this issue, will reveal a method of spreading democratic principles.

Time works wondrous changes. A few short months ago De Wet, Botha, and Delarey were giving the English warm receptions.

The presidential journey from Washington to New England was a wide trail of apologies for a certain "shackling of cunning" oration.

The Peter Powers suit against the Northern Securities company only shows that the Northern Securities company has pull enough to secure a prison sentence for any man who has the temerity to demand justice at the hands of the company.

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Secretary Shaw says the treasury clerks must not gamble. The Wall street gentlemen who control the treasury will attend to all of that.

If Emperor William will come over and see a lot of American girls he will no longer wonder that his son fell in love with one of the first ones he saw.

It will be noted that the beef trust did not wait for Mr. Knox to go to Europe before wriggling its fingers at him and going right ahead with its work.

Over two thousand democrats interested in the perpetuation of democratic principles have taken advantage of the "Lots of Five" offer made by *The Commoner*.

Japan has just lost an island through volcanic action. Perhaps some one will find a volcano in the island inhabited by the Moros and touch it off for us.

If American naval vessels, officered and manned by Americans, failed to effect a landing on American shores it is useless for any other nation's vessels to try it.

And now Schwab is thinking: What shall it profit a man if he gain control of all the iron industries of the country and lose his own health in trying to look after them?

"The tariff should be revised by its friends!" shout the republican organs, and as the friends of the tariff are its chief beneficiaries revision is a remote possibility if left to them.

The statement that President Roosevelt is displeased with the republican campaign text book inclines us to the belief that the book fails to feature the San Juan Hill episode.

The coal trust refuses to allow the strike to be settled by a republican politician. Doubtless the coal trust feels that it has done enough when it sends a big sum to the republican campaign fund.

William E. Chandler, of the "Solid New England," is conjuring up frightful visions of the "Solid South" for the purpose of scaring himself into supporting a party whose principles and policies he knows are wrong.

The case of Rev. Sam. Small suggests the following scriptural text: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritually-minded restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

Hanna says that he does not mix politics and business. No, where he has a pecuniary interest it is all business and when the people at large watch their interests as closely as Mr. Hanna watches his interests the republican vote will be very small.

Banker Andrews of Detroit says he will not serve his sentence of fifteen years for embezzlement, and as he embezzled something over a million dollars the chances are that he will not. The chances of his serving the full term would be greater if he had stolen a sack of flour or a ham.

Tom Johnson prophesies that Ohio will go democratic by 200,000 this fall if Hanna gets his perpetual franchise amendment into the new law for the government of cities. Well, as this would ensure the repeal of the law the people could afford to submit to the law for a few weeks in order to get a chance to rejoice over such a republican defeat.

A slight typographical error may make all the difference in the world. A large number of exchanges credit *The Commoner* with saying: "Laboring men can enjoy monopoly at the ballot box." What *The Commoner* did say was: "Laboring men can enjoin monopoly at the ballot box." A slight difference in wording, but a large difference in meaning.

Senator Dolliver offers as proof of the splendid opportunities for young men the case of a young man of his acquaintance who worked for five years at \$200 a year and saved \$400 of it. The senator might have offered more encouragement. For instance, J. Pierpont Morgan made \$20,000,000 in three months by openly violating a federal statute, and John W. Gates won \$75,000 at poker in three hours.

While the laboring man must content himself with perpetual toil, Senator Hanna, self-styled the laboring man's friend, is down at Columbus lobbying for a perpetual franchise for his street car lines.

The Houston Post suggests that the bones found under the White house belong to some presidential boom that Mr. Roosevelt strangled. It may be, but the chances are that they are all that is left of that "more liberal policy" we heard mentioned at Buffalo.

The republican machine in Illinois organized a band and marching club among the inmates of the Kankakee insane asylum, and the band and club were freely used in republican campaigns to arouse enthusiasm. But the members of the band and club are not to be blamed.

The governor of Kentucky proposes to fight the merger of the Louisville & Nashville and Southern railway companies by the Morgan interests. As Governor Beckham is a democrat the merger is not likely to witness a Minnesota republican governor finish to the fight.

It is not often that a United States senator lobbies for the passage of a bill favorable to himself, but Senator Hanna excuses himself on the ground that his street railroads are his savings bank and he can use a perpetual franchise in his business.

Secretary Shaw deserves credit for stopping poker playing among employes in his department, but he ought not to overlook that larger and even more dangerous game wherein the monopolists put up an enormous campaign fund and play for the control of the national government.

If President Roosevelt does not like to have Secretary Shaw defend the beef trust while Attorney General Knox is prosecuting (?) it, he has only himself to blame for he commanded the cabinet officers to go out and defend the administration on the stump.

The republican papers which criticised Mr. Bryan for making "campaign tours" in 1896 and 1900, and said it was not "dignified" for a presidential candidate to "run around after votes"—these same papers are praising the president for the dignified course he is pursuing in making political speeches in behalf of his party and his own renomination.

President Roosevelt in his recent speech at Concord, N. H., said: "About all we have a right to expect from government is that it will see that the cards are not stacked and if it does that then we will abide by the deal." Abraham Lincoln used to employ Bible quotations when he wanted to make a question plain, but the present head of the republican party seems to consider the language of the card table more familiar to his supporters.

Russell Sage says that "combinations of all industries are a menace to true government and are the oppressors of the people." He even says that if the combinations continue there will ultimately be a revolt against them and that "there will be financial ruin the like of which this country has never seen—or any other." And yet the president says we must be very careful not to use harsh measures against the trusts. Can any necessary remedy be too harsh?

Captain F. H. Peck, Twenty-sixth United States volunteers, excuses brutalities in the Philippines on the ground that "the army was hastily recruited and contained many men who had served terms in state prisons and men who, having good reason to fear the law, enlisted under false names." Such men, he declares, committed the crimes charged. If some opponent of imperialism had made that statement the imperialistic press would have thrown a long series of connoption fits.

If any republican reader of *The Commoner* feels inclined to criticize Mr. Bryan for doubting the sincerity of President Roosevelt's promise to exterminate the trusts, let him read the Kansas City Journal editorial, reproduced on another page. In his Boston speech the president said: "If the nation had that power (to control the corporations), mind you, I should advocate as strenuously as I know how that that power should be exercised with extreme caution and self-restraint." Would the president be as strenuous in advocating "extreme caution and self-restraint" in the punishment of small criminals? The trusts no longer fear President Roosevelt; he has made his peace with them.