

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Mr. Babcock is still ping-ponging his position on the tariff question.

It appears that the president settled the coal strike very much like he broke up the beef trust.

Doubtless the White house butler kept his eye on the silverware while the coal barons were present.

Mr. Baer says his railroad has not paid any dividends for several years. How about salaries, Mr. Baer?

President Roosevelt might try the criminal clause of the anti-trust law as a means of settling the coal strike.

There are indications that the people are tired of the trusteeship assumed by the gentlemen who control the coal fields.

Mr. Hanna says he will "stand pat" on the tariff. Mr. Hanna should look again. His "tariff joker" may be a two-spot.

Mr. Knox says he cannot dissolve the coal trust. Will Mr. Knox kindly step down and make room for a lawyer who will try?

Some one has sagely remarked: "If life were a thing that gold could buy, the poor could not live and the rich would never die."

It appears that Mr. Baer was unduly modest when he said he was only one of the trustees of providence. Mr. Baer seems to be it.

The platform of the New York democrats would not have needed so much explanation if it had been made thoroughly democratic.

In view of their enormous profits there is small wonder that the oil trust managers preferred to have their tariff protection disguised.

Of course the president feels badly over the failure of his coal situation conference, but not as badly as a man who has to buy his coal.

If Mr. Baer keeps on talking the people may yet feel impelled to take up a subscription for the poor stockholders of the Reading railroad.

Every time he hears some one say that we have no kings in this country Mr. Baer winks slyly in the direction of J. Pierpont Morgan.

Honestly now, Mr. Taxpayer and Citizen, in whose hands would you prefer to give the management of your public affairs, Baer or Mitchell?

The congressional candidate who will not pledge himself to work against and vote against the infamous Fowler bill should be left at home.

The people who praise Secretary Shaw for loaning the bankers money on chips and whetstones are the same people who grew red in the face and spluttered frightfully a few years ago when the populists hinted at a similar thing.

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Some metropolitan newspaper could score a great "scoop" by printing what David B. Henderson really thinks—if the mail authorities did not interfere.

Mr. Baer says he takes the president's invitation to be equivalent to a command. Mr. Roosevelt should immediately say something that will end the coal strike.

The mention of Mr. Alger's appointment to the senate somehow or other reminds us of Attorney General Knox because it brings up recollections of the beef trust.

It is noticeable that the secretaries of the treasury who are quickest to fly to the relief of Wall street move with exasperating slowness when the people need relief.

A. W. Burrows of Garrett, Okla., writes to *The Commoner* to say that he would like to obtain the address of his brother, W. R. Burrows, who was last heard of in Wichita, Kas.

Mr. Baer says the government is not big enough to make the anthracite trust be good—only big enough to protect with the army while the trust robs right and left.

Mr. Knox confesses his inability to dissolve the coal trust. The time spent in making the confession was wasted. Mr. Knox's inability to smash trusts has long been recognized.

Doubtless the managers of the anthracite coal trust can keep warm with their thoughts concerning the man who discovered the "little joker" in the coal schedule of the tariff bill.

Mr. Baer says he is willing to leave it to Pennsylvania judges. With the memory of Judge Jackson still fresh in their minds can you blame the miners for not accepting the proposition?

Senator Thomas Patterson has purchased the *Denver Evening Times*, which means that the *Evening Times* will be thoroughly democratic and no longer the mouthpiece of selfish financiers.

The republicans say that we have plenty of money, and yet the president is violating precedent and resorting to all sorts of expedients to relieve the stringency of the money market.

While President Roosevelt is in a mood for consultation perhaps he would consent to a short session with those who are daily being held up and robbed by other trusts than the anthracite trust.

The ordinary republican can't get any relief from the treasury when he is afflicted with financial stringency, but he is permitted to borrow from the banks at a high rate the money which the government loans the banks without interest.

Hon. Frank H. Mott, the nominee of the New York convention for secretary of state, was an active and eloquent supporter of both the Chicago and the Kansas City platforms. He is the kind of a democrat that it ought to be easy to harmonize on.

It will be noticed that the money question is not the only one in the Kansas City platform that was omitted from Mr. Hill's state platform. Government by injunction was ignored and the Kansas City platform remedy for trusts was also overlooked.

Among other humorous things we note in a number of republican organs is the charge that "Big Bill" Devery actually used money to achieve his ends, together with the utter horror of those same republican organs that any man should do such a thing.

Some of the papers claim that the president is stealing the democratic thunder on the trust question. Well, the thunder doesn't do any damage—it is only noise. Wait till he steals the democratic lightning and then his talk will amount to something.

The extraordinary republican engaged in the banking business can borrow money from the government for nothing and loan it to the ordinary republican at the usual market rate of interest. What would be the condition today if we had five hundred millions of money less than we had in circulation in 1896? And yet the republicans said we had enough in 1896 and are not responsible for the increase that has come since.

If J. Pierpont Morgan ever makes a dash for the pole he will either find it or break a record.

Mr. Knox says he knows there is a coal trust, but alleges that it has been so skilfully formed that it defies attack. We gather from this that before Mr. Knox became attorney general he assisted in drawing up the papers for the coal trust.

The breaking of a reservoir let eighty millions of gallons of water down on Camden, N. J., the other day. Now Camden knows how the rest of us feel after 'steen billions of gallons of water had been injected into New Jersey stocks and then squeezed out upon us.

The sign of the three golden balls will soon swing from the entrance to the treasury department at Washington. If you happen to be a Wall street banker you can pledge anything from watered stock to scrap iron. If you are a farmer you need not come around.

Ex-Senator Hill has been denouncing the Kansas City platform democrats as socialists and communists. It is an unexpected turn of the wheel that brings him up as the special champion of the government ownership of the anthracite coal mines of the United States.

The republican Sioux City Journal refuses to be worried because the president had to quit making speeches. The Journal, some time before the president's return because of his wound, remarked that "if the president were not making speeches it would be as well."

The Minneapolis Journal admits its inability to distinguish between the good trusts and the bad trusts. The Journal should apply to Mr. Hanna for information. He has a record of all trusts that yielded fat in the pan and of all trusts that were slow in making response.

The name of Zola may or may not be remembered because of his literary work. But the name of Zola will ever be cherished because of the magnificent battle he fought to secure justice to Captain Dreyfus. That legal battle was more dramatic than any novel written by Emile Zola.

Joseph B. Taylor and wife of Des Moines, Ia., according to a press dispatch, "wrote a letter to the public blaming the greedy corporations and the trusts for their failure," and then committed suicide. Possibly they allowed the "dark and evil vices of hatred and envy to eat into their natures," as the president would say.

Judge Birdsall, the Iowa gentleman nominated to fill the vacancy on the congressional ticket caused by the declination of Mr. Henderson, has announced his stand on present day questions. The judge's letter indicates that he will accept any old kind of a platform republicans may frame if only he can be elected to congress thereon.

The Cedar Rapids (Ia.) Gazette punctures the claim that tariff revision will unsettle business by remarking: "If a reform of the tariff will not result in the lowering of the prices of trust-made articles then a reform of the tariff cannot unsettle business even for the trusts." *The Commoner* echoes the Gazette's suggestion—"talk sense."

The Connecticut democrats shied at the Kansas City platform, and now the republican papers are commending them for their wisdom, but of course the same republican papers are expecting an easy victory. It is strange how complimentary the republican papers become when the democratic party weakens itself by running from its principles.

Up to date Mr. Secretary Hay has not seen fit to reply to the humorous note sent him by the sultan of Turkey. When Mr. Hay protested to the sultan against the treatment Turkey accorded to Roumanians the sultan made a remark concerning American treatment of the Filipinos. The sultan's remark was calculated to make even Mr. Hay wince.

The Hon. David D. Hill controlled the New York state convention and saw to it that several hard blows were dealt the Kansas City platform, but he did not dare to nominate a man of his own type for the head of the ticket. Coler, the nominee for governor, is one of the reform democrats of that state, while Bulger, Mott and some of the others have been loyal democrats.