

# The Commoner.

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Speaking of the Fowler bill, read Proverbs 6:5.

Wonder if Wall street could not use a little more silver just now?

Messrs. Baer and Markel seem to be something of rough riders themselves.

Mr. Shaw says he's tired. For once Mr. Shaw and the public are in accord.

A criminal prosecution might let the serum out of the coal trust traumatic.

Doubtless Mr. Henderson would be rejoiced to wake and find it only a dream.

The miners might have won without a strike if they had voted as solidly as they now stand.

The steel trust's latest statement looks and reads like the budget of a world power nation.

A democratic platform that is thoroughly democratic needs neither apologists nor interpreters.

There are as many definitions of the "Iowa idea" as there are republicans who attempt to define it.

Gentlemen who have nothing to arbitrate usually find themselves possessors of something to regret.

Mr. Sibley's friends are said to be "beefing" because General Alger received the senatorial appointment.

The coal barons will not be so insolent hereafter if the people strike at them through the ballot box.

Mr. Republican Congressional Candidate, do you favor enacting into law the iniquitous Fowler currency bill?

However, Mr. Shaw is not the first secretary of the treasury to change his mind after lunching in Wall street.

When Mr. Bragg gets settled in Hong Kong his first writing should be in the nature of a post-script—"burn this letter."

Either Wall street knows the psychological moment or exercises a hypnotic influence over secretaries of the treasury.

The anthracite operators want the coal strike settled just like the protected "infants" want the tariff revised—all their way.

In view of what the Fowler bill provides for there is small wonder that republican candidates for congress refuse to discuss it.

After importing ignorant and brutal foreigners by thousands to take the place of intelligent workmen, the coal barons are horrified to think that there should be anyone so low as to use brute force in the fight against the coal operators.

## The Commoner.

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Read the "Lots of Five" proposition found elsewhere in this issue.

President Mitchell is still wearing his laurels modestly, but President Baer—well he has no laurels to wear.

Having been sent from Cuba to China for saying something about "sow's ears," Mr. Bragg should be careful what he says about pig tails.

City Attorney Folk of St. Louis is proceeding along lines that will bring upon his head the enmity of captains in certain lines of municipal industry.

The Fowler bill is not even sleeping. It is peering over the committee room transom watching to see when it will be safe to come in on the floor of congress.

The steel trust announces that it "earned" \$36,764,643 during the last three months. But doubtless the steel trust uses the word "earned" in a Pickwickian sense.

The coal barons may have more money than Mitchell, but Mitchell has something that all the money of the coal barons cannot buy—the respect of the people.

Judge Birdsall's letter of acceptance indicates that he would just as soon run on that kind of a platform as any other, no matter as long as he has a chance to run.

Senator Hanna believes in letting well enough alone and he is, therefore, still suppressing the investigation of the means employed by him to get his seat in the senate.

Perhaps Baer would be satisfied if Governor Stone would order each one of the ten thousand Pennsylvania militiamen to lay down his gun and get into the levels with a pick.

Secretary Shaw is going through all sorts of contortions trying to prevent a stringency in Wall street, but the reorganizers have to keep still about it or they will make the financiers mad.

None of the dust thrown in the eyes of the people by the president's remarks on the trusts was scraped from the amount which has accumulated on the criminal clause of the anti-trust law.

It appears that Mr. Baer is one of those "sterling democrats" who has been voting the republican ticket for a number of years and contributing liberally to republican campaign funds.

The Nebraska supreme court has decided that it is unlawful to read the Bible in the public schools. The decision may have a good effect if it influences parents to read it more in the home circle.

The democratic platform of Connecticut indorses the Kansas City platform remedy for the trusts. But for its evasion of the money question the Connecticut platform would be a very good document.

The Nebraska Independent is one of the leading populist papers in the United States. It is ably edited, and readers of *The Commoner* will do well to take advantage of its free sample copy offer on page 16.

The president and his cabinet are on the defensive and all of them are trying to explain the administration's inactivity on the trust question. If the defendant's witnesses could be separated they would tell a very contradictory story.

The president seems worried to find some means of getting at the operators without resorting to the criminal clause of the anti-trust law. The operators have never yet been hurt by being hammered over the head with feather pillows.

Mr. Mitchell was diplomatic enough to conceal the fact that the president's request that he end the strike by giving up all the miners have contended for was calculated to insult the intelligence of a less shrewd man than John Mitchell.

The New York gentleman who rejoice because Mr. Shaw loaned them government money on any old kind of securities are the gentlemen who laughed most derisively when the populists proposed a similar course of action and offered good security.

That precocious "infant," the steel trust, is earning about 20 per cent on a capitalization of a billion, and 40 per cent on an actual investment of five hundred millions. Of course the managers of the steel trust believe in "standing pat" on the tariff.

General Grosvenor is agitated to such an extent that he feels it to be incumbent upon Mr. Morgan to settle the strike in the interests of a republican congressional candidate in Ohio, the interests of the miners and the general public cutting no figure at all in the matter.

A Centralia, Ill., young lady who had been asleep for ten days, resisting all efforts to arouse her, has been awakened by an osteopathist. This is a hint to those wise republicans who would arouse their fellows to a realizing sense of the need of tariff revision. Try osteopathy.

Wall street has received \$30,000,000 as a loan without interest to loan to the people at stiff rates of interest in order that the people may secure money enough to pay the tariff taxes. There is every reason why Wall street should hold Mr. Shaw in grateful remembrance.

Mr. Hill was not willing to indorse the Kansas City platform remedy for all trusts. Will he suggest government ownership for the steel trust, the oil trust, the sugar trust, the starch trust, the cracker trust, the harvester trust and the more than two hundred other trusts? If not, what remedy has he for them?

Republicans advocate a tariff on steel because it stimulates competition and reduces the price of steel. Then they advocate a tariff on wheat because it prevents competition and increases the price of wheat. This sample of republican logic, like the whole output, is so crooked that it has crossed itself a dozen times.

The gentleman who thought he had left his watch at home and took it out of his pocket to see if he had time to go back and get it reminds us of the gentleman who unconsciously holds the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law in his hand and rushes frantically around to find a missile to throw at the anthracite coal trust.

Mr. Allison has just given to the public his ideas about the matter of the tariff. Mr. Allison is of the opinion that it should not be revised unless it is revised without revision by revisors who are opposed to revision. For fear that this may be misunderstood it is here explained that it is fully as clear as Mr. Allison's published views on the question.

Mr. Roosevelt's request to Mr. Mitchell was in effect this: "As you have offered to go more than half way, please go all the way; give up all you have fought for and take chances on getting relief from an administration that is controlled by the parties that refuse to budge an inch." These were not the president's words, but they cover the same ground.

Senator Hanna says, first, that there are no trusts; second, that trusts are a good thing, and, third, that "if the trusts are bad the republican party will take care of them." That recalls the famous defense of the man who was charged with borrowing a kettle and returning it cracked. He said, first, that he did not borrow it; second, that it was cracked when he got it, and, third, that it was sound when he took it back.

Senator Turner of Washington is one of the active advocates of election of senators by a direct vote and the convention that renominated him demanded that reform. Until we fill the United States senate with men chosen by the people it will be impossible to pass any important measure for the benefit of the masses. The republicans of the state of Washington can afford to lay aside partisanship and return such a man as Turner to the senate where he has battled so earnestly and so ably for the interests of the common people of the whole country.

Secretary Shaw says that the law requires national banks in reserve cities to keep 25 per cent of their deposits on hand, but he insists that the secretary can exercise discretion in the enforcement of the law, and in his discretion he has decided not to enforce it. The president seems to feel the same way about the criminal part of the anti-trust law. The administration seems to be more strenuous on the stump than in the attorney general's office.