

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Senator Depew says the trusts are good things. They are, for men like Depew.

It seems high time that the people smuggled a few schedules into a tariff law.

Doubtless Mr. Henderson will recover in time to accept something equally good.

That Moro sultan talks like a man who has his winter's supply of coal in the bin.

The election of a democratic congress will mean a severe jolt for the "divine trusteeship" idea.

Republican demolition of the trusts has always exhausted itself in the campaign assessment period.

The miners who asked for bread and were given a bayonet should not forget that they have a remedy in the ballot.

All this feverish desire of the administration to settle the coal strike may have been due to a lively recollection of Homestead.

Senator Spooner admits that he did not know that anthracite was in the protected list. Perhaps the senator burns wood.

Thirty-one years ago this month occurred the Chicago fire, and Chicago may have to do it all over again in order to keep warm.

There seems to be a marked difference between the methods used in hunting bears in the mountains and hunting Baers in the mines.

The wonder is that some of the leading "feenawnciers" have not broached the subject of a single anthracite standard of money.

By labeling their colored supplements "comic" a number of daily newspapers prevent a great strain on the imagination of their readers.

Mr. Hanna says his health is very poor. Perhaps it makes Mr. Hanna ill to think how narrowly he escaped a joint debate with Tom Johnson.

The indications are that the coal operators have allowed their heads to swell to such an extent that their crowns are likely to slip off.

One of the coal barons refers to Quay, Penrose and Platt as "so-called statesmen." But did anybody ever hear Quay, Penrose and Platt called statesmen?

October 12 was Christopher Columbus day. Columbus is the man who discovered the coal fields that had already been pre-empted by Mr. Baer.

A protected infant that is big enough to compel legislation in its interests is always quick to demand the protection of the militia when the people insist upon having a little protection against "infant" rapacity.

Mr. Cyrus Townsend Brady is laid up for a fortnight by an accident and the postal deficit seems sure to increase to a horrifying extent.

Senator Spooner says he will talk only on the "issues." The tariff is one of the chief issues, and Senator Spooner confesses his ignorance of the present tariff law.

Senator Allison says the trusts would be helped rather than hurt by a removal of the tariff. Senator Allison still succeeds in keeping his vacillation on straight.

The Helena Record gravely discusses the "Duty of Republicans." It appears to be from 50 to 500 per cent and the public is called upon to pay it for the benefit of the trusts.

The boy king of Spain is raising all kinds of regal trouble, but this may be due to the fact that they have no "infant industries" in Spain to show a king his place.

The republicans are so busy rejoicing over the "settlement" of the coal strike that they will not have time to talk trusts for some time—and yet the trust question is still unsettled.

People who read in the morning papers that Mr. Hanna had challenged Mr. Johnson to joint debate did not have to waste time looking in the evening papers for Mr. Hanna's denial.

For men who have been denounced as criminals by the interstate commerce commission the managers of the coal-carrying roads are doing a lot of denouncing of organized labor.

Newspapers are being sold by automatic machines in Europe. But Europe is still behind the United States. In this country we have republican newspapers edited by automatic machines.

If the laws against smuggling were impartially enforced some men concerned in securing the insertions of schedules into the Dingley law would be serving time in federal penitentiaries.

If the man who wrote that "No man is born booted and spurred to ride another man saddled and bridled" will call on George F. Baer he will doubtless hear a few superheated remarks.

Of course General Grosvenor will insist that the miners refuse to vote for the miner candidate for congress and vote for Grosvenor because the coal strike was settled by some one else.

The "infants" took precious good care to see that none of their interests were neglected when the Dingley bill was drawn. The interest most neglected was the interest of the people who pay the bills.

Columbia university's appeal for funds sounds strange. When did any Columbia university president say or write anything calculated to offend the worthy gentlemen who used the club on Brown university?

On another page will be found Baer's description of the creation of the coal beds as reported by Mr. Dunne, the celebrated "Mr. Dooley." It is one of the richest bits of humor given to the public in recent years.

John Mitchell emerges from the contest immeasurably greater than the operators who opposed the just demands of his people. Organized labor will profit greatly by the leadership of men of John Mitchell's calibre.

A careful study of the speeches made by leading Iowa republicans reveals that the "Iowa idea" means that there shall be no tariff shelter for monopoly unless a revision of the tariff threatens to deprive monopoly of the shelter of the tariff.

Mutual concessions ended the New Orleans street railway strike. That mutual concessions were made was perhaps due to the fact that the street railway managers realized their inability to show clear title to "divine right." George F. Baer may also have a monopoly of that.

General Grosvenor is greatly exercised about the coal strike. But the general's concern is not about the needs of the people. The coal miners of his district number 9,000 and they have nominated one of their number against Grosvenor. This will explain the Grosvenorish attitude of the Ohioan.

The Commoner's "Lots of Five" plan has proved successful in arousing loyal democrats to the urgent need of preventing the party's betrayal into the hands of those who would make it an annex to the republican party.

The "protected infants" occupy palaces on the hills and cottages at the sea shore. The people who vouchsafe the protection must be content with humble homes in the valley and a day or two on the river bank during the summer.

Secretary of the Navy Moody says that the duty on anthracite coal was "smuggled into" the Dingley bill. Well, all the tariff rates were "smuggled in" so far as the voters are concerned. The republican party cannot defend a single schedule.

General Grosvenor appears too busy to grind out his usual voluminous predictions. He is again a candidate for congress and is opposed by a miner candidate, the district having 9,000 voting coal miners. The general will be pardoned a few anxious tears.

When mercury is at 70 republicans may be partisan enough to be willing to wait for four or five years for President Roosevelt to kill the coal trust with his proposed constitutional amendment, but will they be as partisan when the mercury gets down to zero?

Of course the mere fact that Secretary Shaw violated the law cuts no figure with the money barons who had to have some help to keep their water-cured stocks from leaking too badly. A little thing like the law never bothers your genuine money gambler and stock floater.

The democratic and populist conventions of Kansas have indorsed Senator Harris for re-election and in so doing have honored themselves as well as him. No state has had a more efficient, industrious or conscientious public servant. His head and his heart, his time and his talents have been at the service of his constituents. On every question his sympathies have been with the people and his defeat would be a distinct loss. He is a credit to his state and merits re-election.

The Commoner appreciates the commendation which it receives from ministers who approve of the moral tone of the paper. While the main purpose of the paper is political, it is the desire of the editor to make the paper helpful along all lines, and he is confident that an appeal to the conscience of the people will not be in vain. Each reader of *The Commoner* should see that his pastor has a chance to read the paper. If it is not convenient to loan him a copy subscribe for it for him.

A reader asks whether there is anything in the democratic principles inconsistent with the honest accumulation of money. No. On the contrary, democratic principles stimulate and encourage the honest accumulation of money by guaranteeing to each citizen protection in the enjoyment of the proceeds of his toil. A man can have money and be a democrat, but if the money has him he is very apt to become a republican. It depends upon whether money is his servant or his master.

A market report in one of the papers explains a slump in the hog market by saying that the packers put the price up the day before and stimulated a heavy run, "enabling them to take off not only what they put on Saturday, but 10 cents or 20 cents additional." It would seem that the packers by combining are able to swing the market as they like. What defense can be made of a monopoly that thus entices stock into the market by a high price only to cut the price when the stock arrives? Who will defend the moral character of such a transaction?

Before a republican farmer votes for the railroad's choice for senator, congressman, governor, judge or any other office let him remember the "pork" story. A man who had his winter's supply of salted pork stolen was prosecuting the thief and after producing indisputable proof of the guilt of the accused was surprised at the acquittal of the prisoner. Calling one of the jurors aside he asked him how the jury could in the presence of such testimony fail to convict. "Why, you see, each juror had received a piece of the pork." Our public officials are constantly called upon as jurors to decide questions which arise between the people and the corporations. If the corporations select them they are influenced by the "pork" received.