

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Nothing e'er became the last congress so well as the taking off thereof.

Ohio was one hundred years old on March 1—really old enough to know better.

President Elliot declares that no man can work too hard. As a theorist President Elliot is all right.

If you want to see a confirmed pessimist just tell a schoolboy that Memorial day falls on Saturday this year.

Why should banks be the only ones privileged to borrow government money on state and county bonds?

The effort to sprout the "Iowa idea" on congressional soil seems to have been a deep and dismal failure.

Large families and trust prices for groceries, meat, clothing and fuel do not make an attractive combination.

Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan is visiting in Cuba. If he likes the island he may wear it home on his watch chain.

This European trouble over Turkey simply means that Turkey will profit while the European powers wrangle.

A trial of the "Subscribers' Advertising Department" will convince that it is a splendid medium of exchange.

What this country needs is a democratic congress that no millionaire trust magnate will waste time sending telegrams to.

There is something wrong about the democracy of a democrat who acts on the advice of republican bosses and manipulators.

After the exhibition made by the last senate how can any sane man object to the election of senators by direct vote of the people?

Men who habitually vote the republican ticket and advocate republican policies do not possess the right kind of democracy by which to measure democratic policies and principles.

Twenty negroes, the entire colored population of Webrum, were driven out of town the other day and their little shacks pulled down and destroyed. Mississippi? No, Pennsylvania.

The Memphis News puts a great truth in a few words when it says: "It is a strange being that wants the democratic party to adopt a republican platform in order to lose the populist vote."

The principal thing accomplished by the Fifty-seventh congress was to demonstrate that if the people expect any legislation in their interests they should elect a different kind of congress.

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The Joplin (Mo.) Daily Globe is another democratic daily newspaper that is a democratic daily newspaper every day in the year.

It ought not to be difficult to water the stock of a newspaper published on an ocean liner and served with wireless telegraph news.

Some newspapers that make no pretension of being humorous are now publishing articles on "The Work of the Fifty-seventh Congress."

While the Oklahoma legislature is amending the rules of "seven-up" the people should set about amending the rules of the trust game of "cinch."

Perhaps Mr. Rockefeller was afraid that Miss Tarbell might be appointed to look after the publicity department of that anti-trust law.

Before the extra session was called the trusts had figured up and learned that the new senate would not differ materially from the old.

Attorney General Knox now has a fund of \$500,000 with which not to prosecute the trusts any more than is necessary for campaign purposes.

The death at 85 of the inventor of the Gatling gun demonstrates that it is safer to stand behind one of those guns than it is to stand in front of it.

Under what theory of republican government is it proper to tax the people in order to raise money to lend back to the people through favored banks?

"What shall Cuba do for us?" plaintively asks the New York Tribune. The Tribune doubtless thinks Cuba should do all we ask without asking anything in return.

The presidential explanation concerning southern appointments reads wonderfully like the "I ain't been a-doin' of nothin'" explanation of the small boy at school.

It costs \$60,000 a year to keep the White house clean and the floors scrubbed. Really, Mr. Hanna should be more careful and wipe his feet on the front door mat.

Mr. Addicks' joy over the result in Delaware gives rise to the suspicion that the people would do well to modify their rejoicings until some more facts are made public.

The republicans who favored loaning government money to banks on any old kind of bonds are the same men who denounced the populist idea of loaning money on non-perishable products raised by the farmers.

Those democrats who have spent the last eight or ten years voting the republican ticket will not have a great deal to say as to who shall or shall not have seats in the democratic national convention of 1904.

A republican organ expresses wonder at the extreme slowness of news transmission in Washington's time. A whole lot of good things written in Washington's time has not reached the republican leaders even to this day.

If an uncalled-for surplus were not collected by outrageous and unjust taxation there would be no need of lending government money to favored banks on chips and whetstones for the purpose of giving the people an opportunity to borrow at heavy interest.

The telegraph informs us that the island of Guam has been raised six inches by an earthquake shock. The interesting feature of this bit of news is that it lends encouragement to the hope that some time republican policies may be lifted up above a mere contemplation of financial gain.

The legislature of Nebraska has refused to pass a bill providing for equal taxation, the bill being bitterly opposed by the railroad corporations. The man who cannot guess the political complexion of the Nebraska legislature with his eyes shut doubtless would swim a river to get at his bath-tub.

A St. Louis federal judge has enjoined a lot of railroad employes from striking for better wages. The employes might find a federal judge willing to enjoin railroad managers from refusing to pay a fair rate of wage. We say "might" because we entertain grave and serious doubts about it.

It is not for men who betrayed the democratic party into the hands of its enemies to say who shall or shall not sit in democratic conventions. Neither is it for men who bolted the democratic platforms and candidates to say what future platforms shall contain or who shall be nominated as candidates thereon.

Senator Aldrich's monetary bill provides that the government shall loan money to the banks at 1½ per cent in order that the banks may have money to loan to the people at 8, 10, 12 or even greater per cent. The mere fact that Senator Aldrich introduced the bill is evidence that the banks are to be well taken care of.

Mr. Roosevelt will have difficulty in demonstrating that educated and worthy negroes live only in the south. If he is determined to reward fitness let him apply the test indiscriminately north and south. The appointment of a few negro postmasters in northern states will do more than epistolary exercise to prove his sincerity.

When special interests want some particular legislation they ask for it and then keep bringing pressure to bear until they get it. When the people want some particular legislation they ask for it and then smile and vote to re-elect the men who refuse their petitions. This is why special interests are always well taken care of by congress.

With 300 armed, uniformed and well drilled men haunting the country within ten miles of Manila and making war on American troops it will be difficult for the imperialistic press to make the people believe that all is quiet and peaceful in the Philippines save for an occasional clash between "ladrones" and the "armed constabulary."

Renewals to *The Commoner* are coming in at a gratifying rate, while new subscriptions are constantly received. Those whose subscriptions expired in February are urged to renew without delay. The date on the wrapper shows time of expiration, and when renewal is made the date will be changed as soon as possible, usually in about two weeks.

It is something more than a coincidence that one of the ablest democratic daily newspapers in the country is published in Pennsylvania. It is a tribute to the ability of its editor and its worth as a newspaper. Under the editorship of Warren Worth Bailey the Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat has become one of the foremost democratic dailies of the country.

The Sioux City Journal says it was "publicity" that broke up the get-rich-quick schemes. The Journal is wrong. It was "publicity" obtained by paying advertising rates that enabled the get-rich-quick promoters to accomplish their object. And a lot of newspapers that now denounce the scheme joyfully accepted the advertisements of the gambling concerns.

The Aldrich financial plan simply means that the people must be heavily taxed in order that a surplus may be created for the purpose of being loaned to the banks on certain securities that the people may be given an opportunity to borrow their own money at heavy interest to carry on the business of the country. The plan is characteristically republican.

Quite a large number of daily newspapers that published the advertisements of those St. Louis "get-rich-quick" concerns are now severely denouncing the fraudulent companies. But did those newspapers not know when they accepted the advertisements that the concerns were frauds? The morality that is bounded by the financial receipts does not amount to much.

Fortune seems to be smiling upon Spain once more. That country has just been awarded \$375,000 damages from a Scotch shipbuilding firm that failed to complete four torpedo boats in time for use in the war with the United States. It is a stroke of good fortune for Spain that the boats were delayed. She now has the boats and the money. As a case of eating the cake and having it this is interesting.