

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

TERMS—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

One Year.....\$1.00	Three Months.....25c
Six Months.....50c	Single Copy.....5c
In Clubs of 5 or more, per year.....75c	Sample Copies Free.
	Foreign Postage 52c Extra.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The Shamrock III. has come forth. Later it will come second.

Major Bittinger might have known better than to criticize the cooks.

Those gentlemen who shout loudest for harmony might try tuning their voices to the democratic key.

The g. o. p. elephant will not die of homesickness as long as the trusts know how to entertain it.

Those coal cornerers who have been caught with unsalable stocks on hand think it is a non-burnable shame.

Ex-Mayor Ames will plead insanity when he is tried at Minneapolis. Mr. Ames is not the first man who has gone crazy after money.

Plans of campaign should be mapped out before the battles begin. Now is the time for democrats to organize for the campaign of 1904.

If things continue it may come to pass that we will dispense with legislatures and congresses and hitch enacting clauses to our federal judges.

Mr. Carnegie has offered to pay for Ithaca's new filtering plant. He seems determined to strain every point to achieve his ambition to die poor.

Before the Wisconsin legislature undertakes to solve the race question in the south it would do well to solve the question of corporation control in Wisconsin.

The railroads that have found that the Elkins law compels them to cut off all concessions to the public also have discovered that they can increase their rates.

The republicanization of the democratic party is not possible as long as men who are democrats from principle refuse to listen to the siren voice of expediency.

Those who believe that the "reorganizers" can lead to victory should recall what the same men led to in 1894, and what they helped to accomplish in 1896 and 1900.

Mr. Littlefield's anti-trust experiences have not been in vain. He has learned the foolishness of believing that a party that benefits from trust contributions is likely to cut off the source of its supplies.

An Iowa reader asks (1) whether the silver dollar is a legal tender and (2) whether it is token money and redeemable in gold. (1) Yes, the silver dollar is a legal tender for all debts, public and private, except when the contract specifically excludes it. (2) It is not token money and is not specifically redeemable in gold, but the present secretary might so construe existing laws if the financiers so demanded.

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VOLUME 3, NUMBER 10.

The president is going to make his non-partisan tour of the west in time to strike several large cities wherein the republicans are up against it in their city elections.

Somehow or other those "harmonizers" always insist on loyal democrats tuning up with some one who was out of tune when the democratic keynotes were struck.

Hurriedly withdrawing Plimley's name and insisting upon the acceptance of Byrne looks to the average citizen very much like straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.

Jingo, the largest elephant in captivity, died at sea the other day. The trust owners of the g. o. p. elephant hope to keep their prize in active life for several years to come.

Mr. Oxnard is building a handsome mansion near Washington, his beet fields and factories at the upper end of Pennsylvania avenue requiring his almost constant attention.

The "Subscribers' Advertising Department" is high in the favor of all who have taken advantage of it. As a means of reaching the-people advertisers have found it unexcelled.

Every time a club is formed for the purpose of upholding democratic principles you can hear a fresh plea for "harmony" from those who have been out of tune for seven years.

Uncle Tom Platt naturally feels that it was a mighty poor return for the work he performed in fixing it up so that the man who turned him down would be in a position to do it.

Ex-Governor Taylor is suing a former partner for an accounting, but not in the Kentucky courts. Taylor has no such confidence in the Kentucky courts as he has in Indiana's republican governor.

When the reorganizers begin to mention as possible candidates the men who were loyal to the party and its principles the rank and file will begin to believe that the reorganizers really want harmony.

The United States "are" a nation, and the first section of the Thirteenth amendment to the constitution speaks of "their" jurisdiction. And the grammarians may put that in "his" pipes and smoke it.

The head of the new corporation bureau hastened to assure the public that there will be no wholesale assault on the industries of the country. Why not assure the people that something will be done?

Before Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan's seven million art collection is admitted free of duty it might be well to admit free of duty a few things that the poor need and cannot buy on account of trust boosted prices.

Perhaps Mr. Hanna, who introduced the ex-slave pension bill "by request" would consent to introducing a few bills in the interests of the people. We say "perhaps" with a full knowledge of what the word means.

That St. Louis federal judge would not, of course, advise railroad owners that it is illegal and contrary to public policy for them to organize for the purpose of protecting their business interests and properly managing their affairs.

Another Vanderbilt has sworn off the larger portion of his personal taxes. Dodging taxes is another vested right that must be respected, it seems, providing the dodger is not a small property-holder without either great wealth or political influence.

If any railroad dares to make two or three million dollars by giving rebates it will have to submit to the horrible punishment of paying a fine of a thousand dollars or less. Such cruel and unusual punishment seems in danger of being declared unconstitutional.

Poor Watterson! He is appealing to Cleveland not to run again and yet he is more than half afraid that Cleveland will refuse to listen to his entreaties. Why does he not announce himself as a candidate against Cleveland? He ought to be willing to make the sacrifice for the rescue of the country. The Commoner could wish each success as against the other.

President Roosevelt says he would ask no greater monument than the Panama canal. Cunningham shackled would be a very fine monument.

If our French friends have any more gold bricks to dispose of they should lose no time while Mr. John Hay is in a position to purchase with government money.

What kind of a democratic victory would it be to elect a democratic administration that holds the same views on tariff, trusts and the money question as the present administration. But that is the kind of a democratic victory the "reorganizers" are fighting for.

When the next republican national platform is read in convention a loud, hoarse hoot may be expected from that section of the hall wherein are seated the delegations from Oklahoma, Indian Territory and New Mexico when the plank promising statehood is reached.

The supreme court has decided that the president and secretary of war have a right to discharge any clerks who have the temerity to think contrary to the thoughts of the president and secretary of war. The crime of lese majeste must be discouraged at all hazards.

The farmer is told that a tariff is placed on his wheat in order to prevent competition and keep up the price. Then he is told that a tariff is put on manufactured articles in order to stimulate competition and reduce prices. The strange part of all this is the fact that so many farmers believe it all.

The Chicago Chronicle, which claims to be democratic, is opposing the re-election of Carter Harrison. This proves how unlikely it is that a newspaper owned by a man who makes it the organ of his corporate enterprises will stand by democratic candidates who have opposed corporation rule.

The fiddlers' contest at Terre Haute may have been an entertaining affair, but it is not to be mentioned in the same day with the fiddling of Nero while Rome burned or the fiddling performed by a gentleman at Washington while the trusts were getting the kind of an anti-trust law that suited them.

When *The Commoner* is indorsed by the New York Sun it will be when *The Commoner* is as untruthful, unfair, unreliable and as thoroughly under the control of vicious interests as the New York Sun is. This simply means that the New York Sun will always entertain a hearty dislike for *The Commoner*.

The proposal to establish a civil pension list in New York city, to be maintained by taxation, is a dangerous one. There is no more reason why a municipality should pension a public clerk after long and faithful service than there is for pensioning at public expense a hod-carrier, bricklayer or carpenter after similar service.

The Panama canal, which is to cost \$300,000,000, which the people of this country must pay, will by the terms of the Hay treaty be constructed and maintained on land over which one of the least responsible governments on earth has supreme control. This is the great "triumph" for Hay diplomacy that we are hearing so much about.

The New York Sun takes exceptions to nearly everything *The Commoner* says. This is very gratifying. If *The Commoner* met with the hearty commendation of the New York Sun it would be so nearly like the Sun that the people would have no more confidence in its utterances than they have in the maunderings of the Sun.

A federal judge in St. Louis issued an order restraining a lot of railroad men from striking to enforce a demand for higher wages. A few years ago another federal judge issued an order restraining a lot of railroad employes from refusing to work under a decreased wage scale. The railroads usually manage to dig up a federal judge willing to travel their way.

Speaking of the per capita circulation of \$30, the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal says: "If you haven't the amount in cash in your clothes you have a God-given right to go after it honestly in the paths of industry and trade." Correct, and the tariff-given right to squeeze it out of your neighbor without giving an equivalent in return, and the New Jersey-given right to steal it from him by legal enactment and official connivance.