

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

A few Lorimerized democrats in Chicago now have ample leisure to figure out how it happened.

The "speak softly" policy is not the one for the president to use when he tackles that postal scandal.

The earthquake which killed 700 Turkish troops did not waste any time in sending an ultimatum.

The weakness of the New York stock market is an indication that the new crop of lambs has not yet shown up.

"The Gentlemen from Indiana" seem to have been quite industrious in their efforts to prepare for the distant future.

Having pushed the press-muzzling law to the front Mr. Quay stepped out in time to let it roll back upon Pennypacker.

Somehow or other Mr. Perry S. Heath's explanation recalls the school-boy's excuse of "I ain't been a-doin' of nothin'."

Despite the efforts of Postmaster General Payne the people still insist that there is ample reason for the Joe-folking of the postal department.

Richard Henry Stoddard left an estate valued at \$2,000. He left a fragrant memory, however, that all the millions of a Rockefeller cannot buy.

Uncle Sam is spending \$20,000 in an effort to propagate the aquatic lobster. The bipedal lobster, however, is not yet in danger of extermination.

John Bull's action in adding three Pacific islands to his collection is calculated to bring forth a few more presidential platitudes about "big sticks."

Owing to certain complications in his political department because of his utterances, Mr. D. M. Parry is now engaged in hedging as rapidly as possible.

Doubtless you have noticed that when a daily newspaper begins to wane in circulation and influence it begins then to denounce its successful competitor as "yellow."

Radium is a metal worth something like a million dollars an ounce. The single radium standard must, of course, appeal to those who still insist that the quality and not the quantity of the dollar is what counts.

Some descendant of Annanias has sent out a report to the effect that Mr. Bryan had "privately informed friends" that he preferred the nomination of either Parker or Sheppard. Mr. Bryan has never at any time or to any person expressed any such preference. The *Commoner*, not nameless "friends," gives Mr. Bryan's views on public questions.

Renewed attention is called to "The Subscribers' Advertising Department," found on page 12. The results secured by those who have availed themselves of this department is a guarantee to those who may be considering the matter of using it.

Some of the republicans say that Mr. Hanna was guilty of a tactical error in opposing a resolution indorsing President Roosevelt. The mantle of charity should be thrown over Mr. Hanna. He is yet considerably dazed from the last trouncing administered by Tom Johnson.

A gentleman signing himself "G. O. P." writes to the *Chicago Chronicle* and begins his communication by saying: "I am as good a republican as the next one." The gentleman shows great political acumen in his selection of a newspaper in which to tell of his republicanism.

Ex-Senator Deboe of Kentucky is quoted as saying that Mr. Bryan was indirectly responsible for the death of Governor Goebel because he spoke in Kentucky, but the ex-senator is not quoted as saying anything in condemnation of the man who fired the shot that killed Goebel.

The *Nashville American* says, "Obviously the thing for democrats to do, if they would succeed or deserve success, is to say as little as possible about the past," etc. In view of the American's past, to say nothing of its present, no blame can attach to it for desiring to say nothing about it.

A Chicago United States judge seems inclined to champion the ninety-nine years lease claimed by the traction companies. The only time when the average United States court decides against a ninety-nine-year lease is when it has to choose between a ninety-nine-year and a 999-year lease. It is generally on the side of the corporation as against the interests of the public.

The Memphis *Simitar* has moved into a six-story building and installed a new Hoe sextuple press. The *Simitar* is a republican paper, and ought not to be popular in that section, but possibly it is thriving on the support of democrats who would rather read a republican paper that calls itself republican than to read a paper like the *Commercial-Appeal*.

Gen. John B. Gordon has been elected commander-in-chief of the Confederate Veterans, and his election will delight all who know him. He was not only one of the great generals of the confederacy, but he has through his lectures done a great deal to bring the sections together and to restore a real sympathy and friendship between the veterans of the two armies.

Congressman Fowler urges the banking interests "to act before commercial disaster forces a change." Is it possible that we can have commercial disaster with high tariff men making our tariff laws, the trust magnates controlling our industries, the exploiters running our oriental islands, and the bankers looking after our financial legislation? Perish the thought!

The publisher of *The Commoner* expected to have Volume Two of "The Commoner Condensed" ready for delivery on June 1. Owing to legal complications in which the contracting printers have become involved the publication of the book has been unavoidably delayed. The publisher will make every effort to secure possession of the plates and push the publication of the volume. The hundreds who have already ordered the book are asked to exercise patience.

Bishop Burgess of Long Island deserves credit for his bold denunciation of the acceptance of money derived from immoral sources. He says: "Let it (the church) refuse the large gifts that come from men whose moral lives have been notoriously corrupt, or from fortunes won by child labor, or by the grinding of the faces of the poor." Good for the bishop. The churches have been too slow in awakening to the immorality involved in the acceptance of bribes from the predatory rich.

The New York *World* publishes an interview with Senator Ford in which it is made to appear that Governor Roosevelt "tried to sidetrack the franchise law" recently declared constitutional. Senator Ford also states in the interview that former Senator Hill, with some fifty other attorneys, represented the corporations and tried to persuade the governor to veto the bill. Public opinion at last forced the bill through, but Senator Ford does not seem to give the president much credit for the passage of the bill.

The New York *Tribune* is discussing the new currency scheme, and it confesses that it is a grave problem. The whole purpose of the financiers seems to be to get a bank currency that can be controlled by the financiers, and they recognize that the national debt cannot always be used as a basis for such currency. It is time the people were considering the democratic plan of using greenbacks instead of bank notes. Greenbacks require neither a perpetual debt nor fluctuating assets for a basis. And yet the reorganizers say that the money question is dead.

The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* contains a curious sentiment for a paper published in a republic. It refers to a new law in Spain which provides for the punishment of any person who publicly says: "Long live the republic." It then expresses the opinion that good government by King Alfonso "can do more in a month to extirpate republican ideas in Spain than could be accomplished by punitive statutes in a hundred years," and adds: "It is to be hoped the young king will grasp this fact." Does the *Globe-Democrat* really mean to express the hope that King Alfonso will, by grasping this fact, "extirpate republican ideas in Spain?"

An Alabama reader of *The Commoner* asks for a definition of a standard dollar and the double standard. The "standard dollar" is used to describe the ordinary silver dollar of 412½ grains and the gold dollar of 25.8-10 grains. The democratic platform of 1892 says that "we hold to the use of gold and silver as the standard money of the country." The double standard is a term used to describe a monetary system wherein the unit rests upon two metals instead of one. Under the double standard gold and silver are given free access to the mint, and are coined at a fixed ratio into full legal tender money. The value of the dollar depending on the number of dollars, the use of gold and silver would, by giving more dollars, raise the level of prices.

The Chicago Bankers' club held a meeting at the Auditorium recently and listened to speeches delivered by ex-Secretary Gage and Congressman Fowler, author of the Fowler bill. According to press dispatches, "both argued for a system of asset currency, and asserted that unless financial advantages are secured great commercial dangers threaten. This problem, it is held, is of a seriousness second not even to the labor question." So "great commercial dangers threaten" unless we can secure an asset currency. Can it be that after seven years of republican rule the money question is still unsettled? They insist that the money problem is not second in seriousness even to the labor question, and yet the reorganizers say the money question is dead. The money question seems to have as many lives as a cat, and not one of its lives has yet been entirely extinguished.

A reader of *The Commoner* inquires how the price of silver could effect our competition with India. As follows: Before 1873, when England had to pay about \$1.29 an ounce for silver, she could afford to pay \$1.29 a bushel for American wheat if Indian wheat cost her one ounce of silver per bushel. When the price of silver fell to 80 cents an ounce she could only afford to pay 80 cents for American wheat, if she could still get a bushel of wheat in India for an ounce of silver. In this way the price of wheat in India was maintained, while the price of wheat in the United States fell. A fall in the price of silver raised the silver price of goods imported into a silver country, but as the domestic trade is usually vastly larger than the foreign trade, the advantage brought by the stability of silver in a silver country far outweighed the disadvantage caused by the rise in exchange.

Mayor Rose of Milwaukee is quoted as saying that he has a personal grievance against Mr. Bryan because the latter contributed to his defeat in the recent gubernatorial campaign. Mr. Rose attaches too much importance to Mr. Bryan's part in the campaign. The defeat was due to Mr. Rose's platform, not to the fact that Mr. Bryan criticized it. The Wisconsin convention put the desire to win above its love for democratic principles, and thought that success could be secured by conciliating the corporation republicans whom La Follette had alienated. The result of the election showed that such a policy lost more democrats than it gained republicans. It does not pay to ape republican ways or to indorse republican policies in order to win republican votes. The democratic party will make more progress if it will stand by democratic principles and convert honest and patriotic republicans by showing the vicious tendency of republican policies.