

# 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.

Put none but loyal democrats on guard;

Organize a democratic club in your voting precinct!

Organize democratic clubs and be prepared for the battle of 1904!

That Venezuelan revolution seems to have suddenly reached a Clevelan boom finish.

If the "Hands off" slogan fails to work, Mr. Hanna might suggest the "full baby cab" cry.

The fact that the old Liberty Bell is cracked is not the only reason why it is not sent to the Philippine islands.

The Brooklyn Eagle should read Mr. Cleveland's fishing article and try a new kind of reorganization bait.

The public shows a disposition to open some of Postmaster General Payne's "closed incidents" with a crowbar.

The value of "asset currency" may be calculated by using the depreciating stocks of Wall street as a basis for figuring.

The dollar's worth of commerce that costs five dollars' worth of powder is profitable only to the powder manufacturers.

Those thrifty gentlemen in the postal department doubtless will indorse the "speak softly" portion of the president's advice.

A great many people who had never heard of Servia until a few weeks ago are now able to point out its location on the map.

Think of it! The men who supported Mr. McKinley or the Palmer and Buckner movement are questioning Mr. Bryan's democracy!

"Beware of the Greeks bearing gifts!" Organize a democratic club in your precinct for the preservation and propagation of democratic principles.

Mr. Chamberlain will have to try some other argument than the old one to the effect that "the foreigner pays the tax." The British voters know better.

The Ohio republican convention "pointed with pride" to several things, but not to the report of the Ohio senate investigating committee in regard to the methods by which one of the Ohio senators secured his seat.

The mere statement of the fact that hundreds are still suffering from the effects of the recent floods in the west and south should be sufficient to bring them relief from the people of the more favored sections of the country.

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VOLUME 3, NUMBER 24.

Mr. Babcock, erstwhile tariff reformer, has at last succeeded in making his forgettery envelop his recent appearance as an advocate of tariff revision.

Mr. Hanna may pose as the leader of Ohio republicans, but it is safe to say that his followers have to see the J. B. F. mark before they take hold.

As the days go by the people realize more and more the necessity of some one like Joseph W. Folk to push the investigation into the postal frauds.

Now Whitelaw Reid is saying some harsh things about "high society." Is it possible that society has been saying means things about Mr. Reid's knickies?

Of course Mr. Hanna fondly hopes that Tom Johnson will heed the wailing cry of "Hands off." Mr. Hanna is still nursing a varied assortment of bumps and bruises.

Would any defender of the Administration's Philippine policy be willing to dopt for the Philippines the same conditions made when the Louisiana territory was acquired?

Mr. Hanna loses no opportunity to rejoice over what he calls Mr. Roosevelt's devotion to Mr. McKinley's policies. Mr. Hanna's idea of devotion seems to be in need of extensive repairs.

Perhaps Russia would be willing to promise evacuation of Manchuria on the date that the trust beneficiaries permit the republican party to revise the tariff in the interests of the consumers.

The trouble with the Ohio republican platform plank concerning the tariff is that it means what the trust magnates wish and only appears to mean what the consumers think it means.

A prominent trust magnate says this labor agitation must stop or prosperity will be threatened. Has he ever thought of giving labor a square deal as one method of trying to end the agitation?

The efficacy of the "Subscribers' Advertising Department" is amply demonstrated by numerous letters written to the publisher by those who have tried it. Full particulars concerning terms, etc., will be found on page 12.

A reader of *The Commoner* inquires whether Mr. Heath, formerly assistant postmaster general, and now proprietor of the Salt Lake City Tribune, was in office at the time the newspaper guessing contests were given the use of the mails, and if so, whether Mr. Heath's contemplated guessing contest had anything to do with the rendering of the decision. *The Commoner* is not able to answer.

The imperialist who can detect a similarity between the acquisition of the Louisiana purchase and the acquisition of the Philippine islands is equally capable of detecting the similarity between truth and falsehood. If it were proposed to annex the Philippine islands under the same terms and conditions assumed in the annexation of the Louisiana purchase the republican leaders would be the first ones to object.

The Honolulu Bulletin is disposed to think that the territorial government is partial to some of the politicians in its administration. This is not strange. If at home we find men lining their own pockets out of government contracts, what can we expect in remote islands where human nature is as frail and where detection is not so easy? There are American citizens in Honolulu who are quick to protest against wrong-doing, but the trouble is that the people here in the United States do not feel that they are immediately injured.

A reader of *The Commoner* asks whether there is a law requiring that all ships, guns and ammunition for use in the United States army and navy should be of domestic material and manufacture. The inquiry was submitted to the navy department and information received that "the acts of congress making appropriation for new ships for the navy explicitly require that they shall be of domestic manufacture. This is construed to mean not only the hull and machinery, but also the armor, guns, ammunition, etc." The department adds that the law has been studiously adhered to.

A Lincoln, Neb., republican organ declares that childishness and bigotry are responsible for ex-Secretary Boutwell's anti-imperialistic views. If this is true we now know the reason why Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and others took the stand they d.o. But it is barely possible that the organ in question is mistaken.

To the Graduate: May he realize that graduation is the commencement rather than the end of his labors; may he recognize that his education brings a responsibility commensurate with his abilities; and may his learning give him a deeper interest in the welfare of his fellows and convince him that he can best raise himself by raising the general level of mankind.

*The Commoner* published a definition of democracy a few weeks ago, and since that time has received others, the briefest of which is that democracy means "The people to govern." That is the essence of democracy, and the test of a democrat. Platforms must agree with this definition and apply the definition to the questions before the question can have consideration.

The editor of *The Commoner* receives a great many suggestions, often unsigned. He utilizes such of them as seem to be available. He receives many good suggestions entirely outside the line of the subjects discussed. It is not the intention of *The Commoner* to discuss all subjects which are of interest to the public, but those rather which are immediately before the public for political action.

Before dwelling too long upon Russian cruelty in permitting massacres like that at Kishineff let us recall certain happenings in our own country—at New Orleans, at Rock Springs, at Spring Valley and in the coal fields of Pennsylvania. The Chinese have a proverb running thus: "Sweep before your own door and bother not your head about the frost on your neighbor's tiles." There is considerable frost on the Russian tiles, but we have quite a bit of rubbish at our nation's door that needs some attention.

A reader of *The Commoner* calls attention to Marshall Field's complaint in regard to "the lax enforcement of the law," and asks whether Mr. Field is as anxious to have the criminal law enforced against trusts as he is to have it enforced against a laboring man. The difference between the republicans and the democrats is that the former are very anxious to have the law enforced against small criminals, while the democrats insist that it ought to be enforced against big criminals and little ones alike.

When asked the location of the walls of Sparta the Spartan captain took his guests out and showed them the army drawn up in battle array. "There are the walls of Sparta," he said. "Ten thousand men and every man a brick." The walls of true democracy are bulded of the tried and true defenders of the democratic faith, not of the men who would make the democratic party so nearly like the republican party that the trust magnates and beneficiaries of private graft would as readily accept one as the other.

Some of the country banks are beginning to get scared about the plans of the big banks, and it is well they are. It would have been better still had they been scared some time ago. If the small bankers assist the large bankers to establish a financial policy which is purely for the interest of bankers, they will find that such a policy once established will be still further extended, so as to put the little financiers in the hands of the big ones. The only safe course for the small bankers to pursue is to stand with their customers—the depositors and borrowers. They will thus find protection for themselves in the protection that they give to the public generally.

A New York reader of *The Commoner* makes an inquiry. He reports that he is a market gardener and covered some plants with one of the New York papers. In the morning he found the plants dead. It was discovered that Cleveland's picture was printed in that issue of the paper and the question is whether the blight was caused by the picture or by the acid in the printing ink. The matter is receiving serious consideration in that section, and it ought to be thoroughly investigated before the reorganizers attempt to force Mr. Cleveland's nomination upon the party. It has long been known that Mr. Cleveland's policies were injurious to agriculture, but this is the first intimation that even his picture had a deleterious effect.