

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Perhaps those Baltimore and Pittsburg bankers did not wig-wag to Mr. Shaw in time.

Under the circumstances no one is surprised at the charge of "graft" in the navy department.

The "let well enough alone" cry does not appeal to the coal mine operator. He wants more.

"Stand pat" and "stay put" are the arguments of those who have no real argument to advance.

Mr. Knox's opinion in the Littauer case is about as peevish as his boasted attacks on the trusts.

Now if Texas scientists could only discover a method of grafting yellow fever on the boll weevil!

An Englishman named John Lever announces that he will make an effort to pry the America cup loose.

Is there any department of the government that dare step forward and declare that it is free from "graft"?

If Mr. Carnegie is still determined to die poor he might trade those steel bonds for steel preferred at par.

Doubtless Mr. Hanna howled "calamity" when his attention was called to that lobby article in Frank Leslie's Monthly.

It seems high time that the people sent a few more senators to Washington to "lobby" in the interests of the masses.

The supply of dummy directors is still large, but the promoters are experiencing increasing difficulty in finding dummy investors.

Mr. Schwab's part in the shipbuilding trust seems to have been to furnish the water while the other fellows furnished the ships.

Mr. Cleveland says the day of opportunity is not yet past. Is it possible that Mr. Cleveland is anticipating another chance at a bond deal?

People who advocate letting the trusts alone until they swamp themselves overlook the fact that many of the victims are unable to swim.

It seems that when a trust fails to secure justice in a court of law it closes its mills as a warning to the people not to interfere with trust graft.

Congressman Curtis says that certain Indians have leased the same land to nineteen different people. This is what comes of permitting the Indians to associate too intimately with officials of the land department.

Mr. Chamberlain's tariff speeches are listened to over the telephone wires by hundreds of people. Mr. Chamberlain is not wise. Over here the tariff advocates also use wires, but they pull 'em instead of talking over 'em.

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The press reports tell us that "Senator Allison was visibly agitated." The senator must have found himself losing his exquisite balance on the fence.

"We must uphold President Roosevelt and his policy," shout the republican bosses. But not one of them can tell us what the "president's policy" is.

Mr. Bristow's report does not specifically mention the name of Perry Heath, but undoubtedly Perry Heath knows that Mr. Bristow had him in mind.

It has been several days since Mr. Postmaster General Payne "just laughed." Is it possible that Mr. Payne has amputated his abnormal sense of humor?

Of course, if a democrat occupied the White house now the republican organs would have other reasons to advance why so many banks are being closed.

Secretary Hitchcock "admits there have been frauds in the land department." And Secretary Payne is wondering why Secretary Hitchcock didn't "just laugh."

When Captain Kidd wanted a subsidy for his ships he took it without any pretense of doing it for the benefit of the public. Even Captain Kidd hesitated at some things.

Mr. Knox would have us think that Congressman Littauer is innocent of intent to milk the government because the statute of limitations operated about a year ago.

Now that it is over perhaps Mr. Hanna's friends will admit that his "notes of warning" were what they would call "calamity howls" if uttered by their political opponents.

The wily Turk is quite well aware that his dreams in his guarded tent will not be disturbed as long as the guards quarrel in low tones about the division of the prospective swag.

Attorney General Knox decides that a republican maintains his party standing and honor providing he can keep out of jail until the statute of limitations operates as a bar to prosecution.

While the cutting down of the trotting and pacing records goes bravely on, the cutting down of the grafting record in the government departments seems to be at a standstill.

Count Cassini says Russia and Japan will not fight. He also said that Russia would evacuate Manchuria. These statements indicate that the count is a genuine diplomat.

Perhaps President Roosevelt is averse to exposing all the rottenness in the departments at once because it might result in leaving the janitors with altogether too much to attend to.

Mr. Knox seems able to prove that there has been no fraud in his department. The legal department of the government makes no attempt to conceal its purpose to let the trusts go right on with their robbery.

What this country needs is an open door to each of the federal departments while a strong democratic boom is sweeping out the aforesaid departments. And the doors should be unusually wide in order to permit of easy egress.

We are informed by the administration press that it is "unlikely that any senators are involved" in the land frauds. However, this may be only another way of saying that it is unlikely that any of the senators will be exposed.

It seems that the Chicago reception to Mr. Cleveland was planned, executed and delivered by Mr. Eckels. The attendance was small, but the papers said that 300 millions were represented at the table. This was a delicate observance of the proprieties. Mr. Cleveland feels more at home with money than with men.

Sultan Abdul Hamid's naval manager managed to steal \$100,000,000 which the sultan thought was being invested in new battleships. But there are some gentlemen in the departments at Washington who could perhaps equal the record if they had equal opportunity. Several of them seem to have made a good start.

BENNETT WILL CASE.

Mr. Bryan's Argument.

If your honor please, the counsel who represent me in this case, you will remember, came into it after the direct examination in which all of these facts were brought out; and, therefore, I felt that it was incumbent upon me to respond to so much of the argument of contestants' counsel as relates to the facts. I am not prepared to discuss the law points and those will be presented by Mr. Newton, but I do want to deal with the facts.

As the court has heard all the testimony, it is unnecessary to remind him that there has been nothing in the presentation of the evidence to justify us in the expectation that the will would be attacked on the ground of undue influence, and, therefore, the evidence in this case on that subject rests merely upon my testimony. If we had known that this point would be raised we would have been prepared to present testimony on this point.

Mr. Stoddard—I submit, if your honor please, that that is a very improper statement for counsel to make. Mr. Bryan has had ample opportunity as a witness. I submit when counsel is dealing with facts it is very improper to say that he has evidence which he has not prepared.

Mr. Bryan—I wish to call the court's attention to the fact, and the court having heard the testimony only needs to have his attention called to the fact that there has been no intimation that this contest would be made upon the lines which his speech indicates, and therefore, we had no notice of this phase of the question, and consequently I can only speak of the evidence of the one witness who has been examined, and that was myself.

I would much prefer to have this testimony discussed by some one else; but, as the court knows, the hearing went on before I had consulted counsel, and went on for the reason that I gave at the time, that when this bequest was brought out, I desired at once, without and delay, to have the entire story of my relation with Mr. Bennett given to the public.

And I must say, your honor, that I am not surprised at the manner in which this case is conducted by the counsel for the contestants; I am not surprised at the language that has been used by him; I am not surprised that he has sought to draw from the facts in the case the inference that he has.

It was because I believed that his conduct was not inspired by the motives that inspire the lawyer generally that I wrote the letter that I did to the widow of the best friend I have ever had.

I want to speak of the relationship between us as shown by the testimony. Counsel suggests that inducements were brought, indirectly, he says, to the making of this bequest. He conveniently forgot to remind the court of what has preceded the making of the will.

The court will remember that there was offered in evidence the first letter I ever received from Philo S. Bennett—a letter written prior to the election of 1896, just at the close of the campaign—a letter in which he identifies himself to me by describing himself as one of the committee and saying that he rode with me in the carriage. I testified that I could not have recalled the face from the name, although when I met him afterward, I remembered him as one whom I had seen. Before I knew him except in this casual way, he manifested an interest in the principles for which I was contending, an interest that I am not surprised my friend here fails to comprehend. I want to find the first letter if the court will pardon me a moment. (The letter of 1896 was handed Mr. Bryan and read aloud by him.)

"Dear Sir: (You will notice that this letter is not even addressed to a 'friend,' not even to 'Mr. Bryan.')

Dear Sir: The betting is three to one against you in this state at the present time, but notwithstanding that fact, I am impressed with the feeling that you will win, but if you are defeated, I wish to make you a gift of \$3,000, and if you will accept the same, it will be a genuine pleasure to me to hand it to you any time after the 10th of May.

"You have made one of the most gallant fights on record for a principle against the combined money power of the whole country, and, if you are not successful now, you will be, in my