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To each and all The Commoner wishes a Happy New Year!

It seems that Perry Heath will resign, after claiming a vindication, but before being shoved.

The report that trusts are seeking to "down" Roosevelt comes with a suspicious Loebish flavor.

That Manchurian door is open, but the screen seems to be fastened on with unbreakable staples.

The cotton batting Santa Claus is now nursing his numerous burns and vowing never to do so again.

It strikes a great many people that Colombia is much nearer Mr. Roosevelt's size than the steel or oil trust.

Colombia's exhibit at the St. Louis exposition probably will be a large sample of this republic's bad faith.

Mr. Rockefeller gives Chicago university another \$3,000,000 and the lamp chimneys should prepare to smoke up.

Quite a lot of esteemed republican editors are working strenuously to keep from saying something about "soup houses."

Senator Hoar seems to be one of the few surviving republican leaders who believes in trying to do right most of the time.

It is not likely that Secretary Loeb will often make the mistake of writing "1903" after today. He has been compelled to think about 1904 for several months last past.

Doubtless ex-Governor Taylor will visit the next national republican convention as a non-order guest, owing to the fact that it will be held in a republican state.

Senator Hoar says he always waits for his party to catch up. Perhaps the senator misunderstands the situation. His party is so far over the precipice it cannot come back.

It must be admitted that Elijah Dowie pulled his Zion enterprise through much more successfully than Morgan and Schwab pulled their ship-building trust enterprise through.

Mr. Roosevelt's request that Mr. Root manage his campaign next summer somehow or other recalls the story of the maid who started to town, carrying a basket of eggs on her head.

According to Mr. Schwab a lot of conscienceless men of wealth seized him, threw him down, and against his protest thrust a few million dollars of ill-gotten profit into his trousers' pockets.

About 750,000 wage-earners will begin the new year with the knowledge that the trusts are very much opposed to "standing pat" on wages, but very much in favor of "standing pat" on the tariff schedules.

Ex-Senator Thurston's epigram, "Everybody is for Roosevelt and nobody wants him," promises to live fully as long as a certain bit of verse concerning a white rose.

The Hawkeye statesman who has written a "History of the Iowa Idea" wasted his time if he wrote anything more than the old quotation, "If I was so soon done for I wonder what I was begun for."

"Is the strenuous life after all nothing but a sublimated bully?" asks the Milwaukee News. The News is actually impertinent and impudent, to say nothing of being guilty of lese majeste and treason.

President Roosevelt omitted the word "neutral" when he quoted from the Monroe doctrine. The quotation did not refer to the trust question, hence the presidential failure to in-dorse neutrality.

The Chicago Chronicle is very vociferous in demanding the prosecution of "labor union criminals." Will the Chronicle also demand the prosecution of men who have stolen street railway franchises and bribed city councils?

Renewed attention is called to the "Lots of Five" subscription campaign outlined elsewhere in this issue. Democrats interested in the preservation of the party's integrity should make every effort to assist in the campaign.

In view of the vast volume of crime, graft and corruption exposed in the government's various departments, it would seem high time for the president to back up a vast flow of words with at least a few small deeds.

"Stand up for Nebraska!" has long been a favorite cry among the republicans of the state, but in view of the enormous and unconstitutional increase in the state debt because of republican profligacy "Dig up for Nebraska!" is now the cry.

That is an interesting story about a Pennsylvania postmaster being attacked in front of his office by a wild bear and vanquishing the animal after a prolonged struggle. Mr. Morgan should write that postmaster and learn how it was done.

The New York Tribune says: "The coldest place on earth inhabited by man is Verkhoyansk, above the Arctic circle." The Tribune is off in its geography. The coldest place on earth is at the republican party's headquarters when a common man asks for justice.

The president is said to have assured certain senators that he will not appoint Wood lieutenant general upon the retirement of General Chaffee. It is barely possible that the president has in mind for that place the strenuous soldier who, single-handed and alone, captured San Juan hill and shoved Spain into the Atlantic ocean.

A large number of The Commoner's valued weekly exchanges issued handsome holiday editions—too many of them to permit of individual mention. But the exchange editor enjoyed them and found in them much of the true Christmas spirit as well as a great deal of genuine democracy—which, after all, means much the same thing.

"Democratic doctrine as enunciated by the democrats at Chicago in 1896, and at Kansas City in 1900," says the Omaha World-Herald, "provides the means for the re-establishment of popular government in its best sense; and whenever popular government is restored, the people will have nothing to fear from the dreams of the socialists or the machinations of the plutocrats."

A Michigan reader of The Commoner writes to correct an error that recently appeared in this paper, saying: "You say that General Miles was appointed upon the death of General Schofield. Upon General Schofield's reaching the age limit, he was retired and General Miles appointed. General Schofield is living and in good health or at least was a few days ago." We do not now recall the article in which this error was made. The correction is, however, accepted with thanks.

In an editorial entitled "Socialists and Republicans," the Omaha World-Herald says: "While it is true that socialism is finding recruits these days, there is a middle ground between the radicalism of the socialist element and the radicalism of the plutocratic element. It is the ground which the democratic party took in 1896 and in 1900, the ground upon which, let us hope, the democratic party stands today; indeed, it is the ground upon which the democratic party must continue to stand unless that party shall prove unworthy of its name and false to its traditions."

**The Conservative Party.**

In his message to congress, Mr. Roosevelt recommended the appointment of a commission to report on the subject of the ship subsidy on the ground that "differences of opinion" have hitherto prevented agreement on a bill. The New York Evening Post says that "but in fact there are just two opinions—that of those who want the treasury to come to the aid of the shipping trust, and that of those who do not. The president ought to be able to say which he favors." Perhaps the "differences of opinion" to which Mr. Roosevelt referred, related to that of those who favored a subsidy amounting to \$9,000,000 per year, and that of those who favored a subsidy amounting to \$8,999,999 per year.

**Just Two Opinions**

Mr. Roosevelt says: "While there may have been as much official corruption in former years, there has been more developed and brought to light in the immediate past than in the preceding century of our country's history." In other words, Mr. Roosevelt frankly confesses that under the republican administration, more corruption has been developed and brought to light than in the preceding century of our nation's history. The New York Evening Post expresses surprise because Mr. Roosevelt made this confession, and the Post adds: "It looks as if President Roosevelt wished to rival Lord Salisbury's fame for 'blazing indiscretion.'"

Many newspapers are just now engaged in a systematic fight against socialism, and a number of these publications point out that "in the new moral world the irrational names of husband and wife, parent and child, will be heard no more. Children will undoubtedly be the property of the whole community." Commenting upon this tendency, the Omaha World-Herald says that "those who would put a check upon socialism should undertake to put a check upon plutocracy." Also, "those who stand in such terror of socialism and who fear its growth in this country can accomplish better and quicker results if, instead of inveighing against socialism itself, they bend their energies toward bringing order out of chaos and contribute their best efforts toward a complete restoration of popular government so that we may shape our policies along clean-cut democratic lines, a method that, intelligently and vigorously employed, will cure every public evil under which we now suffer."

**Socialism and Plutocracy.**

In his message Mr. Roosevelt said that shortly after the enunciation of what is now known as the Monroe doctrine, President Monroe in a special message to congress, January 30, 1824, said: "The navy is the arm from which our government will always derive most aid in support of our . . . rights." The Philadelphia Public Ledger says that the asterisks in this quotation are important. While they indicate the omission of words not essential, reference to the printed text of President Monroe's message, discloses that the complete sentence is: "The navy is the arm from which the government will always derive most aid in support of our neutral rights." The Public Ledger directs attention to the fact that only the one word "neutral" was omitted by Mr. Roosevelt in his quotation from President Monroe. The Public Ledger which, by the way, is a republican paper, adds: "The Monroe doctrine was essentially a doctrine of neutrality, of protection against aggression. Under its new development the country has passed out of its neutral attitude, and Monroe's message is amended by the omission of this restriction on our 'rights.' But is it allowable to give Monroe as authority for either more or less than he said?"

**Miles and Schofield.**