

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Crime is crime, whether perpetrated under the guise of "duty" or "destiny."

King Cotton recently stepped back on his throne and remained long enough to recall how he used to feel in the good old days.

When a man feels called upon to make a seven-column apology it is a sign that he realizes the need of making an apology of some kind.

Doubtless John Bull could give Czar Nicholas some valuable pointers on this thing of going to war with a people who fight for the preservation of their country.

Salt Lake is said to be drying up, and doubtless Mr. Hanna wishes that a celebrated citizen of the metropolis close by that lake would do the same thing.

Iowa's state house is in ruins, but the fire was not set by any of the state officials working themselves up to a fever heat in the effort to curb the corporations.

Mr. Hanna's friends are quietly insisting that the Roosevelt boom will yet have to seek the services of the incubator that is caring for that six-ounce Colorado baby.

Sultan Abdul Hamid wants it distinctly understood that he will promptly agree to anything that does not require him to put up money or stop doing as he pleases.

President Roosevelt gave the varied interests of the south just seven lines in his message. But this is fully as much as he expects to get from the south next November.

Mr. Root bows and declares that so long as people bark at Wood he will defend him. But what will Wood do when Root leaves, and carries his trunk back to New York?

"Vexatious indisposition" is a new one, but it seems to fit the case of the administration in the matter of prosecuting the grafters and violators of the anti-trust law.

Secretary Cortelyou says the government should establish a great aquarium at Washington. If the government furnishes the tanks Wall street can furnish the water.

The New York millionaire who says he traveled 9,000 miles without finding any evidence of hard times should take a run over into the steel and tin plate manufacturing districts.

A Pennsylvanian carved a car out of a chunk of coal, surmounted it with the national colors and presented it to President Roosevelt. Owing to the fact that the man did not make the flag the gift was accepted with effusive thanks.

Mr. Hanna was re-elected senator on the 13th. By providing for all contingencies before electing the legislature, instead of afterwards, Mr. Hanna saved himself considerable annoyance and incidentally made it possible to take a run home from Washington occasionally.

The governor of New Hampshire draws four salaries, but even that is not nearly so bad as the habit some postal department employes have contracted of seizing questionable perquisites.

This is campaign year, and democrats who are loyal to democratic principles should be rousing themselves to a realizing sense of the duty they owe to themselves, their party and their country.

Among other precautions against panics in theatres and other public places, it might be well to invent something that will squelch the fool who yells "fire," and squelch him, too, before he has time to yell.

The Commoner's subscription campaign progresses at a gratifying rate. Every democrat who is opposed to the "reorganization" of democracy should lend his assistance in making the campaign an unparalleled success.

Mr. Carnegie insists that England would give vast sums of money for about 7,000,000 of our negro citizens. General Alger opines that he is able to give England a tip on how to secure a large number at much less rate per head.

The Sioux City Journal says that Iowa has more commissions than she needs at the present rate of taxation. What has the esteemed Journal to say of the modern republican plan of referring disputed questions to commissions that make places for discredited politicians?

The Washington Post advocates "sending the poor to the country." That's just what the protective tariff is doing for us. We get the poor sent to this country to compete with American workingmen, and the manufacturers hold up the purchasers in the home market under the plea of protecting American workingmen.

For the convenience of those who are preserving files of *The Commoner* an index of Volume 3 has been prepared. It is too long to publish in a regular issue of the paper, but those who desire it may secure a copy by sending a 2-cent stamp. Address, *The Commoner*, Lincoln, Neb.

An Oklahoma territory reader of *The Commoner* writes:

What is the Percentage? "Is it possible to ascertain approximately the percentage of native born American vote that goes to the republican party in a presidential year? A good democrat puts it at about one-third by counting the foreign and negro vote that usually goes to that party. Please give us what information you have upon the question." If any Commoner reader is able to supply this information, it will be accepted with thanks.

A Honolulu, Hawaii, reader writes: "You may judge of the conditions here when I can say that I firmly believe that if a referendum were submitted to the voters of this territory, whether they wish to continue under territorial conditions or return to an independent form of government with possibly a protectorate declared by Uncle Sam, the latter proposition would win two to one. This is not because the Hawaiians cannot be loyal to our American institutions, but largely because up to the present time they have seen very little of the American spirit in the conduct of our territorial officers."

A Kentucky reader sends to *The Commoner* a circular issued in behalf of one of the candidates for the democratic nomination in 1900, in which circular, referring to this candidate it was said: "He was not entirely in sympathy with the democratic platforms of 1896 and of 1900, but he supported the democratic ticket in both of these disastrous contests, and stood by the party." This Kentucky reader adds: "I have no patience with a man who seeks a democratic nomination on the ground that he has not agreed with the party. We made a great fight in 1896 and again in 1900, and polled more votes than were ever polled by the party

before. It does not seem to me that a man who thinks the efforts we then made were disastrous is the proper man to lead the party to victory."

An Havana, Ark., reader sends an extract from a statement made by Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, in which, referring to the democratic position on the money question, Mr. Shaw said: "They said it was Jacksonian. It was not. Jackson was a gold standard man. They said it was Jeffersonian. It was not. Jefferson is on record as favoring the single gold standard." Perhaps Mr. Shaw has forgotten that Andrew Jackson signed a bill providing for the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and he would find it just as difficult to prove that Thomas Jefferson was a single gold standard man as he would to prove that Andrew Jackson was a monometallist.

A Fort Worth, Tex., reader of *The Commoner* sends a newspaper clipping showing a Washington dispatch claiming that the result of the November election is "the elimination of Tom Johnson not only from the national councils of his party, but from the leadership of his own state." This reader says: "I would like to know by whom such publications are started or given out to the newspapers and for what purpose such thoughts are put in the daily papers." Evidently dispatches of this character emanate from those who are interested in maintaining special privileges, and are therefore opposed to the participation in politics by such men as Tom Johnson. It is plain, however, that so long as there are gigantic evils in government, it will be rather difficult to eliminate from politics strong and faithful men like the gentleman from Ohio.

A Des Moines (Ia.) reader of *The Commoner* writes to say that when two years ago the democratic candidate for governor of Iowa was defeated, it was claimed that it was because he ran on the Kansas City platform; that at the last Iowa convention, the Kansas City platform was repudiated and a good democrat who had supported the ticket loyally was nominated for governor with the result that he was beaten practically by the same plurality that was rolled up against the party two years ago. This writer adds: "Whenever the democratic party hesitates or is afraid to advocate an issue, that will as they say disturb the business interests, or, in other words, the trusts or banks of issue that receive special privileges at the hands of the government, it may depend upon being defeated. To succeed, democracy must champion the cause of the masses and openly and fearlessly fight privileged classes wherever found, whether it is the steel trust, the sugar trust or the money trust, and when democracy does this, it will in the end be successful and it is the only success worth winning."

A reader of *The Commoner* asks: "When were the citizens of the District of Columbia disfranchised? What were the causes that led to said disfranchisement? Did the citizens of the District have full franchise, in other words did they vote for president; did they have a congressman or were they entitled to one; also, did they have a local self-government? I claim that the District of Columbia had the full franchise until the colored people came after the war and threatened to outvote the white men." The District never had full franchise. In the beginning, the authority was placed in the hands of three commissioners. Later, Washington was incorporated and its government was arranged by the creation of a president and a council, the former appointed by the president and the latter chosen by the people. In 1820 a mayor to be elected by the people was substituted for a president. In 1871 a territorial government was created, the governor and upper house being appointed by the president, and the lower house selected by the people. In 1874, this system was abolished and a board of three commissioners was provided. In 1878, congress provided for a permanent government. The district never had a congressman, and not being a state was, of course, not entitled to one. It is claimed that the large number of negroes in the District had something to do with the complete disfranchisement in the District of Columbia.