

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter.

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.

Organize, emphasize and decline to apologize for doing right.

General Mills has "arrived," but he, too, had to be vigorously shoved.

The administration stokers are experiencing great difficulty in keeping up steam in the Roosevelt boom's boilers.

The statute of limitations and the technicality should be unanimously indorsed by the republican national convention.

The president has given his old hat to a friend, doubtless because its acoustic properties were becoming out of date.

We may yet be forced to listen to a senator defending his crookedness on the ground that he "was not much of a senator, anyhow."

Senator Hanna's denial machinery is working rapidly, but there are a lot of indications that some one has dumped sand into the journals.

Senator Smoot's emphatic demand for a full and complete investigation gives foundation for a belief that he has a technicality in reserve.

The attorney general's fund of \$500,000 looks almost as big as ever, but it looks very small by the side of the big defense funds the trusts keep on hand.

Those who deny the theory of future punishment should come forward and tell us what is to become of the miscreants who have organized a corner in anti-toxin.

Four thousand people were killed in railway accidents in the United States last year. And the death roll will grow as long as human life is cheaper than safety appliances.

The anti-toxin trust is about the meanest exhibition of greed yet made, but under present conditions and purposes it is quite likely to be out-classed before the trees leave.

The railroads of the country seem to find it profitable to work upon the principle that it is cheaper to settle with the estate than to adopt safety appliances like the block system.

Attorney General Knox has spent one-twentieth of that appropriation and as yet not enough violators of the anti-trust law have been pushed into the prisoner's dock to overcrowd it.

Fining a man \$2,000 for stealing \$2,029 and sending a boy to the penitentiary for stealing \$9.30 worth of postage stamps is not the kind of justice that is calculated to increase respect for the courts.

The same newspapers that announced the political death of Tom Johnson also declared that his fight for 3-cent street car fares was not genuine. The 3-cent fare has been accomplished because of Tom Johnson's fight, and the opposition newspapers should be prepared to meet the gentleman in the flesh.

Mr. Rockefeller, sr., has been re-elected president of the board of trustees of his Cleveland Baptist church. Others not less guilty have claimed a vindication on less substantial grounds.

Governor Mickey of Nebraska says the republic is doomed if "grafting" is not stopped. The governor should see to it that he does all he can to shorten the open season for trafficking in post-offices.

Congress appropriated \$500,000 with which to prosecute the violators of the anti-trust law. The amount is large enough; the trouble is with the disposition of the attorney general into whose hands it was entrusted.

The New York World says Cleveland can carry Illinois. The World should now give us definite information on the point whether Cleveland would again undertake to play into the hands of the bond brokers.

If you doubt that the Kansas City platform will be reaffirmed watch the state conventions. Some of the men who are very much opposed to reaffirmation now will be very glad to go as delegates on a straightout reaffirmation platform.

Colombia seems to have a mistaken idea concerning the real definition of arbitration. Arbitration, as Colombia should know, is submitting to the decision of others when we want something and are not quite in shape to take it without ceremony or apology.

Is the democratic party going to appeal to the conscience of the American people? If so, read over the list of candidates proposed by the corporation democrats and inquire which one could make an appeal to conscience without exciting a loud and prolonged laugh?

Senator Platt's declaration that the democratic party is becoming sane is rather in the line of evidence that Senator Platt is acquiring the ability to recognize right and justice when he sees it. It is to be hoped that the three will be introduced at some early date.

It is believed that congressional investigation of the boll weevil will enable certain trust protectors to stave off investigation or adverse action for a few months longer. The eminent statesmen who are taking good care of the trusts are not overlooking any opportunities these days.

At a banquet the other night Senator Hanna said, in the course of his remarks: "We hold the ace," but one of the papers reported him as saying: "We hold the ace." Whether it was a typographical error or was purposely changed to correspond with his "stand pat" policy is not yet known.

The republican papers in their innocent and disinterested way seem quite as much alarmed at the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform as the so-called democratic papers that bolted in 1896. Is it affectionate solicitude for the democratic party or are they afraid that the republican party is going to be handicapped by the support of these papers?

The democracy of 1904 is the democracy that stood by the platforms of 1896 and 1900, and the men who maintained the principles enunciated in those platforms will be entrusted with the work of framing the platform of 1904. The work of framing democratic platforms will not soon be given again into the hands of men whose democracy is so close an imitation of republicanism that an expert investigation is required to detect the difference.

Every American will rejoice to learn that the gallant old ship Constitution is to be preserved. The Constitution has a foremost place in American history, and the preservation of the famous warship will keep before the growing generations a lesson of patriotism. Secretary Moody, upon recommendation of Rear Admiral Capps, has directed that the Constitution be retained at the Boston navy yard and repaired from time to time so as to be preserved indefinitely. The vessel will be transformed into a naval museum. Secretary Moody will name the next battleship authorized by congress Constitution, in order that the name may be preserved in the navy.

In his recent message to congress, Mr. Roosevelt said: "In no other place and at no other time has the experiment of a government of the people and for the people been tried on so vast a scale as here in our own country." The Philadelphia Public Ledger, a republican paper, is curious to know why the words "by the people" were not used in this sentence. The Ledger says: "The idea of government 'by the people' appears to have been edited out of our politics."

Why Not "By the People."

The New York World recently outlined a platform for the democratic party, and now it complains because a republican paper quoted the platform and said: "The average reader will be much puzzled to know what particular plank in the above could not be inserted with grace in the republican platform." The World then proceeds to construe the generalities of its platform to suit itself and this illustrates perfectly the position of the reorganizers. They want a platform so ambiguous that a republican could run on it and so full of uncertainties that a corporation democrat elected on such a platform could do anything the corporations demanded. It is simply a confidence game.

They Look Alike.

Secretary Shaw made a talk before the Washington Y. M. C. A. a short time ago, and in the course of his remarks said that "boys are the most valuable things on earth." Secretary Shaw, however much he may believe that assertion, does not seem to live up to it. If memory is not at fault Secretary Shaw has on divers and sundry occasions hurried to the rescue of a policy that demands the lives of hundreds of brave boys merely that a few men may have a chance to engage in the business of money making. Within the last six years more than 5,000 American boys have been sacrificed on the altar of imperialism. But perhaps Secretary Shaw differentiates between boys.

More Valuable Than Boys.

President Roosevelt's real friends are amazed at the result of the recent republican state central committee meeting in Nebraska. All surface indications were to the effect that Mr. Roosevelt had a firm hold on the Nebraska delegation. His friends insisted on an early convention in order that the state might get early into the Roosevelt wagon. But while his supporters were noisy, his opponents were shrewd, and the result is an unusually late convention. The Nebraska delegates to the republican national convention will be selected just four days within the time limit set by the national committee. It is admitted that a late convention is not calculated to be of benefit to the Roosevelt boom.

Many Words, But Deeds Won.

A Cincinnati reader of *The Commoner* directs attention to the fact that under the heading of "Financial Points," page 14 in the Cincinnati Enquirer of November 1, appears the following item: "Before the Boer war, South Africa was producing about \$100,000,000 of gold per annum. When this was cut off it meant just that much contraction of the money supply of the world, and therefore a consequent increase in the value of the money and a decrease in the value of commodities and securities." This Cincinnati reader suggests: "This from a paper that is known to be opposed to everything which it calls 'Bryanistic' looks as though some one with more brains than politics has charge of that paper's financial column."

Brains and Politics.

Cheerfulness is a good thing under any and all circumstances—if it is at all possible to be cheerful. The loyal democrat is always an optimist and therefore cheerful. This was well illustrated a few days ago when a committee of 100 Michigan men called on the president to invite him to attend the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the republican party. Frank Hosford, a Michigan democrat, came with the delegation. "Hello, Frank!" said General Alger, "are you not lonesome here with these hundred republicans and you the only democrat?" "O, no," replied Hosford, "that's about the proportion in Michigan." The democratic optimist gets plenty of satisfaction in doing right, and when success comes he can enjoy it to the utmost.

In the Minority But Happy.