

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 Foreign Postage 52c Extra.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Somehow or other the technicalities seem always to work in favor of the defendant.

Perhaps Russia and Japan have decided not to fight until the American beef trust eases up its grip a little.

"We've whipped you twice," say the reorganizers, "and now we'll let you win if you will follow our leadership."

Mr. Taft says the Filipinos are growing more tranquil every day. They will all be tranquilized in time, if the ammunition holds out.

Secretary Taft is already jabbing large holes in his presidential boom. This shows that Secretary Taft knows why he is secretary.

Mr. Knox might take advantage of his victory over that little salt trust and use some of its product upon the tails of bigger trusts.

Perhaps some members of congress would find no opposition to their collection of mileage if they did their traveling away from Washington.

What, \$500,000 for an army gymnasium! What athlete in civil life can show a jumping or vaulting record equal to that of either Wood or Mills?

The new secretary of war was escorted from the depot to his office by a gorgeous cavalcade of cavalry, which is sufficient evidence that we have "developed some."

The Kansas City Journal remarks: "The statement that Wall street is opposed to President Roosevelt is not unreasonable." No; it is simply unbelievable.

Letter postage in Japan is seven-tenths of a cent per ounce. This leads us to infer that either Japanese railroads ask only fair rates or postal grafters have slim picking.

"How long will it take to dig the canal?" asks a reader. It depends on how long the money holds out with the eminent commercial gentlemen who are now in charge.

A white man has been appointed postmaster at Indianola, Miss., which reminds us of the eminent king of France who marched up the hill and then marched down again.

The difference between cyanide of potassium and a legal technicality is that the latter permits the culprit to go right on, while the former stops everything but the funeral procession.

Some of the bolters have been given positions by the party for harmony's sake, but nearly all of them are working tooth and toe-nail to turn the party over to those who have knifed it.

Senator Foraker is seeking to amend the Sherman anti-trust law so as to give the corporations more leeway. The senator is developing into a rare joker. Just as if the corporations did not have their own way without any amendment of the anti-trust law!

The republican press experiences considerable difficulty in finding argument to bolster up its claim that the receiver of stolen goods is a model of honesty when compared with the thief.

This is Lincoln's birthday. Notice the columns of the papers claiming to represent the party of Lincoln and see how little they dare to reprint of Abraham Lincoln's speeches and letters.

President Harper of Chicago University is talking about the "ideal university professor." Can it be that the venerable Dr. Harper is looking for an educator with an increased financial pull?

Dr. Harper says Chicago University is "no longer Baptist," having "outgrown denominationism." This may be taken as further proof that oil and water will not mix, save in Standard Oil company barrels.

Senator Dietrich has demanded an investigation by the senate. As the court decided that Dietrich was not a senator when the act's charged were committed, what right has the senate to investigate them now?

"Harmony" seems to be especially popular with two classes, those who are trying to gain a secret advantage and those who are willing to be duped. An honest understanding is the only basis of a lasting harmony.

From the bitterness which characterizes the utterances of reorganizers like Pulitzer, Watterson, et al., those who voted the ticket in 1896 can imagine what the arrogance of the bolters will be if they ever get in control of the party.

Governor Odell has refused to honor Missouri's requisition for Mr. Zeigler, the baking powder magnate, owing to a flaw in the requisition. Perhaps the flaw was seen by looking sharply through a pair of campaign contribution spectacles.

And now comes the New York Herald and suggests August Belmont, the bolting gold bug banker, for chairman of the democratic national committee. If the reorganizers control the committee he would be next to J. Pierpont Morgan in fitness.

"Kid" McCoy, instructing one how to protect oneself against a foot-pad, says: "I trust whichever hand is free against your assailant's nose." That's all very well, but how about the eminent, but far distant gentlemen who are stealing our pocketbooks by legislative enactment?

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves. And under a just God cannot long retain it.—Abraham Lincoln.

A Russian general is quoted as saying: "Our army takes no heed of political questions, and, of course, desires war, for war is its trade. But I think on this occasion its wish will remain unfulfilled." This little item not only gives hope of a peaceful settlement of the differences between Russia and Japan, but shows the dangers of a large army. The "army desires war, for this is its trade"—this ought to be considered by those who are clamoring for a large army.

Referring to Mr. Bryan's Lincoln speech, the Pittsburg Post says: "It is the autocratic fiat of a dictator who declares my ways are the only ways and my thoughts the only thoughts. The democratic party of these states will reject the idiocy of suicide to which they are asked." Instead of being the "autocratic fiat of a dictator," it is the earnest appeal of a democrat who believes that the principles of Jefferson and of Jackson should control the democratic party. It is the earnest appeal of one who loves his party that that party be true to its principles by remaining true to the people. It is the protest of a democrat, who believes that the hopes of the people depend upon the democratic party's fidelity to its principles, against the republicanization of the party, and the delivery of the party's affairs into the merciless keeping of the representatives of special interests. To advise the democratic party to remain true to the people is not counseling suicide. It is sug-

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gesting the only plan whereby the party can obtain new life and new power and ultimately win a victory that will be worth having, because it will be a victory that will bring substantial results to the people.

Commenting upon the showing relating to the large increase in gold production, the Cincinnati Enquirer says: "The gold men are of course delighted with the present showing, and the free silver men find in it no rebuke of the position they took in 1896, when so many thousands of men presented a picture of earnestness that may not be duplicated in many a year. 'Plenty of money to do business with' was the cry. The silver remedy was rejected at the polls after a hard fight, and then the gold discoveries did the business. The situation does not, however, preclude further study of the question of finance." And yet the Enquirer is among those newspapers that would have the democratic party utterly abandon the Kansas City platform, because in that platform the party declared for bimetallism. While admitting the situation does not preclude further study of the question of finance, the Enquirer protests very strongly when any bimetallist insists that no question is settled until it is settled right, and that it would not be wise for the democratic party to abandon its position on the money question.

Why Abandon it Then?

The Brooklyn Eagle says that "Mr. Bryan assumes that the voters are wrong while he is right." The voters placed the republican party in power in 1896 and again in 1900. Were they right then in giving support to the republican party? If the republican party was right then, is it not right now? And if the voters were right in 1896 and in 1900 in choosing the republican party, why does the Brooklyn Eagle insist that the democratic party nominate some man of its choosing because that course, in the Eagle's opinion, is necessary to the defeat of the republican party. The Eagle is willing to have the republican party defeated, provided that result can be accomplished by a candidate of the Eagle's choosing, and a candidate whose administration would act no differently with respect to special interests than the republican administration does. But the democratic party does not choose a candidate upon whom the representatives of special interests may rely, then the Eagle will be found giving cordial support to the republican ticket.

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Why Try to Defeat it Then?

Speaking before the Outlook club in New York recently, President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton University said: "We have anarchy and socialism to deal with, but these are not evils peculiar to us, for all nations have to deal with them. We are still in the flush of manhood and we have a future ahead of us. We should keep our high ideals whether new or old; if we don't we will decline." Is it not strange that while this college president found occasion to speak of anarchy and socialism, he had no words of condemnation for the anarchists in high places, those men who control legislatures, dominate congress, push buttons in order that United States senators may promptly jump, violate the law and defy the authorities? If President Wilson expects to give genuine aid to the effort to maintain our high ideals, he will do well to aim blows in the direction of the wealthy anarchists, blows just as vigorous as those directed at the anarchists in rags.

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When It is not Vox Dei.

A reader of the Washington Post asks that paper if it is true that Mr. Roosevelt has ever given public utterance to the idea that "vox populi" is not "vox Dei;" also, is it a fact that Mr. Roosevelt is on record as having asserted that "the voice of the people is sometimes the voice of the devil." The Post says that it has been informed and believes that in a lecture delivered at the Catholic university in the District of Columbia, Mr. Roosevelt did say what its correspondent has been assured he said. Whether Mr. Roosevelt said it or not, we may take it for granted that if the republican convention should happen to settle on some one other than Mr. Roosevelt, he would at least think, even though he did not openly say, that in this instance "vox populi" was not inspired from on high.