

**The Commoner.**

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The delegate who opposes instructions would willingly accept instructions if they met with his approval.

It seems that the republican managers have decided to pay little or no attention to Sena'or Hoar's talk, being sure of his vote.

Wonder if the guessing contests which have been run during this administration will be expected to contribute to the campaign fund.

Mr. Cleveland is a great anti-imperialist until somebody shouts something that gives him an excuse for supporting the party of imperialism.

Mr. Watterson announces that he has "retired from politics." The use of the word "retired" in this connection is a bit of unconscious humor.

The Chicago Chronicle seems offended because some regular democrats object to its request for unanimous consent that it be allowed to name the democratic presidential ticket.

If, as the president told the West Point cadets, a good soldier ought to be not only willing to fight, but anxious to fight, how our army must long to get into the war in the east.

There is another uprising in the Philippines. The cause is not given, but it is probably due to the smuggling in of a copy of the Declaration of Independence or constitution of the United States.

An administration organ declares that the death of Mr. Hanna "removes the last obstacle in the way of Mr. Roosevelt's nomination." Of course the aforesaid administration organ has overlooked Mr. Roosevelt.

We can best appreciate the reference to Napoleon as standing "grand, gloomy, solitary and alone," when we think of the resignation of Mr. Shafroth. The indications are that the resignation will never be overworked.

As the republicans assure us that the negro always receives fair treatment in the north, the question arises, Was the Springfield, O., lynching done by a crowd of southern democrats? If so, why did the Ohio republicans permit it?

President Jordan of Leland Stanford university indignantly denies that rich men tie strings to their university gifts. Professor Ross of the Nebraska state university might give President Jordan a few pointers on twine.

Any group of insurrectionists contemplating a revolutionary movement against a friendly republic will please see to it that the financial interests of the United States are properly "promoted" if they expect hasty recognition.

It is reported that the president has agreed to allow Senator Fairbanks to name the chairman and vice chairman of the republican national committee. Why not nominate Fairbanks for 1908 and save the expense of that convention?

Republican leaders avow and aver that the time has come to select vice presidential candidates who are quite worthy of being classed as presidential timber. It seems that the republican leaders are not yet incapable of learning by experience.

The farmer who hauled 50-cent wheat to town in a tariff-taxed wagon and sold it to an elevator combine managed by a railroad trust, is now expected to rejoice and be glad because that same wheat is being sold by the holders at a dollar a bushel.

Mr. James J. Hill is confident he will win a verdict in the merger case, and his confidence is well founded. Long since the people learned that they would not profit, no matter how the case was decided. As an anti-trust bluff the merger suit is worthless.

The administration's quickness to announce neutrality in the present war recalls some very interesting failures to remain neutral during a recent war when a little republic was valiantly striving to keep from being gobbled up by an arrogant monarchy.

The gentleman who retired General Miles without a word of commendation, retired amidst a perfect fusillade of flapdoodle. And yet there are those who will believe that General Miles will be remembered for quite a while after the other man has been forgotten.

The tariff organs that favor putting building materials on the free list for the benefit of Baltimore will have to talk awfully loud about something else in order to prevent people from noticing their lapse from the old cry that "the foreigner pays the tax."

It pains the republican leaders to think that Porto Rico should be so ungrateful as to desire statehood. They have drifted so far from the doctrine of self-government that they cannot understand why the Porto Ricans should want to control their own affairs.

The Kansas City Journal says Senator Teller holds a seat secured through grossest frauds, and demands that he resign. The Journal may not know it, but such a demand is laying the precedent for reducing the republican majority in the senate to an infinitesimal minority.

The Kasson reciprocity treaties, having been pigeon-holed for several years by the g. o. p. managers, will now be taken out, dusted off and used for campaign purposes. The tariff victim who bites at the republican reciprocity bait again should get his money ready for the gold brick man.

The able administration editors who are contending that dollar wheat is due to a republican administration are deftly side-stepping when asked to explain why the price was not elevated sooner. The average republican editor is compelled to keep his side-stepping apparatus in constant working order.

Senator Dick might begin his senatorial career by asking the senate to investigate the lynching of a negro named Dixon at Springfield, O. As the republicans assure us that there is no race prejudice in the northern states, Senator Dick ought to ascertain what it was that led the crowd to shoot into the lifeless body for "thirty minutes."

Insurance takes some queer forms in England. The latest form of insurance is against twins. This is a sure sign of degeneration, and one that will not, it is to be hoped, soon be visible in this country. Rather, let it be hoped that a premium be offered for twins, and practically a competency for triplets. And quadruplets should insure the proud parents more than a mere competency. If any American even attempts to insure against twins, pull him down on the spot!

Japan is not allowing the war to interfere with her plans for the St. Louis exposition. When it was announced that Russia had relinquished the space allotted to her, Japan eagerly sought it. It is now announced that Japan's exhibit will not only be one of the largest in the foreign section,

but that it will be the first installed and ready. The exhibit will be in charge of young men who are acquainted with Japan's every resource, and nothing will be left undone to show everything possible calculated to impress the world with the fact that Japan is making wonderful progress in the arts and sciences.

There is a lesson for parents in the "car bandits'" case just decided in Chicago. Though merely boys in years, the convicted criminals were old in crime. They have been convicted of murder, following a series of daring robberies. Early in their lives all of the boys contracted a taste for the "penny dreadful" novels that make heroes of highwaymen and paint crime in attractive colors. These boys decided to emulate their dime novel heroes, and the result was the death of three men, the wounding of others, and finally the arrest and conviction of the youthful criminals. The lesson should not be lost upon parents. The literature that the boys read should be carefully selected.

Two incidents in widely separated sections of the north still further prove that lynching is not a question of section, nor race prejudice confined to the south. Within the past ten days two negroes have been lynched in northern states, one in Ohio and one in California. When it comes to pass that a southern governor takes the field in person and rescues a negro from a mob, while negroes are lynched in the north, it is high time that those who seek to make the negro question a political question subsidize. Judge Lynch knows no politics, and it seems time for the people to lay politics aside in this particular, and let it lay aside until the lynching question is solved in a satisfactory manner.

Shakespeare says something about "protesting too much," which quotation is forcibly called to mind by the vociferous denunciations uttered by a number of congressmen when Mr. Bristow's report was submitted. Some of the congressmen seemed to experience great difficulty in finding words sufficiently strong to express their wrath towards Bristow, and the way they vocally defended their wounded honor is calculated to make the average citizen believe that they are trying to make noise enough to obscure the real issue. As was quietly remarked by a democratic member, "If there's nothing in the charges, why not insist upon a full investigation without wasting all this time in speechmaking?"

Secretary Cortelyou, who has charge of the new cabinet portfolio of commerce and labor, addressed the Merchants' club of Chicago recently and told the members the aims of his department. He spoke in behalf of both capital and labor, but he did not seize the occasion to explain why no move has yet been made to enforce the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law. The attorney general has failed to act, and all that has been done is to secure an injunction or two, which have been coolly ignored by the trusts aimed at. Secretary Cortelyou might set the machinery at work to enforce the criminal clause, and thus show by example that he is really desirous of making his department of service to the people.

When the democratic minority in congress sought to force an investigation of the charges of corruption in the postal department the republican majority defeated the motion. And while republicans were opposing the fullest investigation they were denouncing Bristow and his report in unmeasured terms. The situation became so tense that several republicans berated the administration, and when one proposed Cannon for president the republican side of the house cheered heartily. This republican opposition to an investigation should be enough to open the eyes of the people to the real state of affairs. Enough is already known to prove that corruption is rife in the postal department, and there is a growing demand for a full and fair investigation. But until a democratic administration is elected the people need not expect an investigation that will be of any particular value.