

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

King Sully and King Schwab might flock together for a time and swap condolences.

The latest Balfour vindication looks wonderfully like a congressional disclaimer of undue interference in postal affairs.

Attorney General Knox wants it understood that he does not feel as exultant over the merger decision as he ought to feel.

Mr. Hill is quite confident that he can evade the merger decision as long as the criminal clause of the Sherman law is not enforced.

Reorganization will hardly be left to the eminent gentlemen who have been actively engaged in trying to spread demoralization.

The man who endeavors to undermine the foundation is not the man to entrust with the work of building the superstructure.

Mr. Knox says, "The administration will not run amuck." Of course Mr. Knox makes a mental reservation in favor of the fryingpan.

That confirmation having been landed, General Wood will probably find it unnecessary to pacify any more of the already pacified Filipinos.

Republican Newspaper to the Trusts: Cease your extortion on print paper and we will overlook your oppression of the general public!

No wonder the trusts would like "four more years of Grover." A corporation justice in place of Harlan could reverse the merger decision.

The republicans of Minnesota have declared in favor of tariff revision, but they still seem willing to entrust the work of revision to the people who profit by high duties.

President Roosevelt fears that he will be unable to attend the St. Louis exposition. There will be no bear hunting there, and the visitors will be too busy to talk politics.

The democratic platform will stand for something. The republican platform will be passed around as an argument for a cheerful compliance with the requirements of the fryingpan.

The time has gone by when the democratic party will nominate for president a man whose sole qualification is that nobody knows where he stands on the great issues of the day.

The democrats of Nemaha county, Kansas, instructed their delegates to the state convention to vote for no man as national delegate who did not unqualifiedly support the Kansas City platform, and who will not vote "first, last and all the time for the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform." After the convention they organized a strong Jefferson club.

## The Commoner.

The York (Neb.) Democrat, after listening to the chorus of the reorganizers, figures out that it is about a thousand croaks to one frog. Even though this be true, loyal democrats should not be less active.

Governor Cummins is laboring under the hallucination that republican promises mean something. This will explain the hoarse hoots that greet the governor's animadversions on current political affairs.

If Mr. Hill persists in continuing the merger he will be fined. The trust magnate who makes millions a year out of his trust schemes will not worry a great deal about fines amounting to a few hundred dollars.

Mr. Knox kindly tells the trusts that the administration "will not run amuck" with its prosecutions. The trusts would feel better if Mr. Knox would assure them that the "fryingpan" would also be held in abeyance.

A Chicago business man makes the startling announcement that avarice is the basis of graft. This demands the attention of those who imagined that charity, or love, or patriotism, or something like that, was the real basis.

"Republican Missouri is on the way!" gleefully shouts the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. And so is the day of judgment. The Globe-Democrat will have to be patient and wait, for the indications are that the two will arrive simultaneously.

On another page will be found a Chicago Tribune editorial which describes the attempt on the part of the Transvaal authorities to introduce what is in effect Chinese slave labor. As England's treatment of her colonies is the model after which our imperialists pattern, Americans may find instruction in the Tribune's editorial.

And now the republican papers are calling attention to the fact that Mr. Cleveland did not prosecute the trusts during his second administration. It is exceedingly unfair to blame the democratic party with the sins of Cleveland. As they took him away from us and used him to elect their president it is cowardly in them not to assume responsibility for his official acts.

The pass question is being discussed in congress and some of the members are denying that such favors influence representatives. Why do the railroads give passes if they do not expect a legislative return? The Commoner has already shown by the testimony of railroad officials that they expect pay in legislative favors. In some instances they have demanded a return of the pass when the holder has shown his independence. The railroad pass is one of the most demoralizing as well as insidious of all the means employed by corporations for the corrupting of officials.

The Cedar Rapids (Ia.) Gazette has been making notes of the harmony existing in republican ranks, involving "abutting rights at the pie counter," and finds some interesting things. In Ohio it is Dick vs. Foraker. In New York it is Odell vs. Platt. In Delaware it is Addicks vs. the Field. In Wisconsin it is La Follette vs. the Machine. In Utah it is Smoot vs. Fate, and in the Capital City of the republic it is Bristow vs. the Republican Congress. The Gazette sagely concludes that "the only thing involved is the salvage sale of patronage," and that the people "will be pardoned if they retain a large measure of self-composure."

The Financial Age, New York, talks interestingly on the subject of the merger decision. "The decision of the supreme court was not unexpected," says the Financial Age, and then it continues: "It cannot be doubted that some plan satisfactory to the present controlling interests will be devised whereby the ownership of the road will rest where it does at present. In addition to the plan for a liquidation of the company through a pro rata distribution of Great Northern and Northern Pacific stock to Northern Securities holders, there is now under advisement a further plan which would leave the Northern Securities company in existence. In accordance with this plan the Northern Securities company would continue to hold either the shares of the Northern Pacific or the Great

**Why Insolence Prevails.**

Northern and would give up to a trustee the shares of the road whose stock it decided to part with. Under this plan, if the company decided to hold Northern Pacific shares, the shares of the Great Northern would be turned over to a voting trustee and voting trust certificates would be distributed to Northern Securities stockholders. This plan, it was believed, could be carried out without infringing on the terms of the supreme court's decision." This sort of evasion is to be expected under existing circumstances. But if a few of the insolent violators of the anti-trust law were imprisoned, as the law directs, there would be less insolence and more regard for the rights of the public.

It appears that the gentlemen who engineered the merger will not be punished for violation of the anti-trust law, for the reason that they did not know it was good law until after a decision was rendered settling its validity. And the only means they had of learning whether the law was valid was to do something and then have the law tested. Having discovered that the law is good and that they had violated it, they will now be allowed to resume their efforts to frame up some sort of scheme that will permit them to accomplish what they sought to accomplish through the merger. This explanation may not be quite clear to those who are so old-fashioned as to believe that rich criminals should suffer the same penalties as poor criminals when the offenses are equal.

**How It Is Being Explained.**

While Messrs. Platt and Odell are signing agreements as to what shall be done in republican state politics in New York, what are the thoughtful people of that state doing? It remains to be seen whether a majority of New York voters will consent to being used merely for the purpose of ratifying agreements as to the division of spoils made by the eminent republican statesmen above mentioned. Time was when New York republicans endeavored to elect statesmen to office; now it seems that men who can "pass the pie" are in favor. Since Governor Odell sold groceries to the state institutions at a high price, and since Mr. Platt has so carefully safeguarded the interests of the express companies in congress, it seems high time that New Yorkers selected some officials who would devote a share of their time to looking after the interests of the whole people.

**Where Do The People Come In?**

Union labor leaders in Chicago are undertaking a novel scheme. They have bought 30,000 acres of good farming land in Mississippi, which will be divided into 5-acre farms and sold to union workingmen. The terms of purchase will be remarkably easy, and provision is to be made that if the purchaser is dissatisfied and prefers to return to his work in the city, the purchase money is to be refunded. A similar plan was tried in New York several years ago, Typographical Union No. 6 leasing all the available garden plots within reach and sub-leasing to members of the union who could not secure steady work. The plan was very successful and served to tide a number of men over a long spell of enforced idleness. The Chicago leaders estimate that if their plans carry they will find employment for every union man in Chicago who is now idle.

**Union Labor Leaders Planning.**

"The Menace of the Law's Delays" is the title of an interesting and timely article by Frederick Trevor Hill in the current number of Everybody's Magazine. Mr. Hill cites numerous cases wherein delay was sought and obtained for the purpose, not of securing justice, but preventing it. One case is particularly interesting. A brakeman named Williams sued the Delaware & Lackawanna railroad for damages sustained by reason of personal injuries. On the initial trial Williams was awarded \$4,000. Twenty-one years afterwards, after six trials and ten appeals, Williams secured a final verdict for \$4,500. Mr. Hill does not say so, but the fact still remains that by reason of the ability of rich corporations to secure long delays, thus wearing out their opponents who have little or no money with which to prosecute their cases, the general public is losing faith in the integrity of the courts and is growing contemptuous of laws that permit such palpable injustice. Those who mourn over the growing contempt for some courts are invited to ponder over this matter.

**The Law's Unwarranted Delays.**