

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Perhaps Russia and Japan are waiting for bids from the moving picture syndicates.

Senator Burton's attorneys will now have to get busy and find the proper technicality.

Doubtless Mr. Hill has long since had his attention called to the horrible fate which befell the beef trust.

Mr. Knox gives us the assurance that the administration "will not run amuck." And he gives it without cracking a smile.

Republican Colorado is having a hard time of it. The Colorado voters who thought with their stomachs will know better next time.

Up to date no reorganizer who opposes the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform has undertaken the task of writing a better one.

The radium cure for the boodling habit has not yet been announced. The press agents of radium seem to be overlooking a few things.

Perhaps those congressmen would be willing to stand investigation were it not about time for them to hurry home and begin nailing up their fences.

Somehow or other the eminent reorganizers who so love to quote the election returns of 1892 and 1896 never think of the general election returns of 1894.

Panama has sold her two gunboats. But she didn't get nearly so much out of their sale as she did out of the gold brick sale she engineered on your Uncle Sam.

There is an evident disposition on the part of a number of distinguished English politicians to make a punching-bag out of the Right Honorable Mr. Arthur Balfour.

Mr. James J. Hill might try inducing some court to compel him to sell his merger to another of like nature. That's the way the sugar trust made its best move.

Mr. James J. Hill is not grumbling. All he will have to do will be to do it some other way and then wait until the supreme court decides that it, too, is wrong.

The time has gone by when the democratic party will accept a candidate whose sole recommendation is that nobody knows where he stands on the leading issues.

"What does Chicago want?" queries the esteemed Tribune. Why should the Tribune put its question in such difficult form? "What does Chicago not want?" would be an easy one.

The Commoner hears with deep regret of the death of Washington Long at his home in Versailles, O. Mr. Long was a staunch democrat and a tireless worker in the cause of democracy. He was honored on several occasions by election to municipal office, and in every trust he was found faithful.

The "full dinner pail" orators will do well to steer clear of the coal mining regions during this campaign.

When a president can make laws by the mere stroke of a pen, what is the use of having an expensive congress whose sole work seems to be to provide scandals and junketing trips?

Congress shows a disposition to prevent the jumping of Colonel Mills over the heads of about 800 older officers. This is calculated to call renewed attention to Kettle Hill, for Colonel Mills was there.

A lot of Colorado wage-workers who could see nothing in the democratic national platform plank condemning government by injunction are now witnessing an aggravated case of government by bayonet.

The merger decision of the supreme court was such an awful blow to the Northern Securities company that its stock rose ten points within twenty-four hours after the decision was announced.

The special examiner who reported that he "discovered little change in the Indians" could have made the same discovery among white men since the trusts secured control of everything eatable and wearable.

Just about twelve years ago a gentleman arose in a democratic national convention and announced, referring to Mr. Cleveland, "We love him for the enemies he has made." Things have changed in a dozen years. Now loyal democrats distrust him because of the friends he has made.

A Nebraska editor who had the temerity to demand a just freight rate on coal and the courage to make the demand emphatic, had his advertising contract cancelled and his editorial transportation taken up. But he could well afford to pay full fare if he could get just freight rates on coal, paper, etc.

While Secretary Shaw was proudly pointing to the fact that injunctions were in full force and effect against seven corporations, twenty-three individuals and one co-partnership engaged in the production and transportation of meats, restraining them from doing certain specified things, the beef trust was engaged in revising price lists. And before the echoes of Secretary Shaw's voice had quit ringing, the beef trust hoisted prices some more, thus showing its contempt for injunction proceedings. Trust managers are not afraid of injunctions that do not enjoin, but they might profit by the spectacle of a violator of the law peering through the bars of a prison cell.

**Boasts That are of No Avail.**

Congressman Baker is very sarcastic. He believes that the postoffice bill should be so amended as to reimburse the railroad companies to the amount of \$50,000 for supplying the special trains, etc., for the president's political junkets last summer.

**Mr. Baker is Very Sarcastic.**

When asked why he favored such an amendment, Mr. Baker replied that congress should not force the president to accept such favors from the corporations, adding that "it must be humiliating for such an uncompromising foe of corporate wealth as Mr. Roosevelt to accept such favors." It is not difficult to imagine that Mr. Baker's eyes twinkled when he said it.

The Northern Securities people are not worrying. They are already at work on a scheme to circumvent the supreme court decision. Holders of Northern Securities shares are notified to turn them in and receive \$39.37 worth of Great Northern stock and \$30.17 of Northern Pacific stock for each share thus turned in. This will retire the Northern Securities stocks, but it will continue the control of the merged railroads in the hands of the men who organized the merger. The Standard Oil trust worked the same smooth scheme a few years ago and up to date it has proved successful. When Attorney General Monnett of Ohio tried to investigate it he was thrown out of the supreme court, and when he still persisted a lot of books were burned to prevent his examining them. Mr. Hill and his associates seem to be well content, having been assured that the administration "will not run amuck," being content to have the decision while the managers of the merger hold the goods.

**Tweedledee and Tweedledum.**

A few days ago a young man in Lincoln, Neb., was sentenced to four years in the penitentiary for embezzlement. He was employed in the county treasurer's office and sequestered money paid in as taxes, forging receipts and making no entry upon the books. About the same time the supreme court decided that a number of wealthy men had violated a federal law which provided for fine and imprisonment for certain acts. The wealthy men are still at large with no prospect that the criminal section of the law will be enforced. The un-influential young man is behind the prison bars. And yet some people profess to wonder why there is a growing feeling that justice is being abused in this country.

**Where the "Pull" is Handy.**

The wisdom of the gentlemen who construe our tariff laws is beyond the comprehension of the average voter. The law permits free entry of animals intended for breeding purposes, but a man who tried to import a Plymouth Rock cockrell was compelled to pay a duty of 3 cents a pound. The wise tariff adjusters pondered and studied over it for weeks, and enough red tape was unwound to fill a bushel basket. But it was decided that a chicken was not an "animal," therefore it could not come in free. This recalls Secretary Shaw's decision that frog's legs should be classified as poultry for revenue purposes. It may take a long time to decide these little things, but when iron, steel or sugar happens to want something the matter is settled off-hand, and always in favor of iron, steel or sugar.

**The Wise Tariff Experts at Work.**

The Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat, one of the ablest democratic journals in the land, is not afraid to join issues with the reorganizers of Pennsylvania. It challenges the reorganizers to meet the issue squarely at a primary election and let the voters of the party decide between reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform and repudiation. Of course the reorganizers will do nothing of the kind. They hope to win by evasion, false pretense and corporation favor. They prefer to talk about "harmony" while diligently working under cover to discredit those who were loyal in 1896 and 1900 and give control to those who were disloyal and aided in the election of the republican administration. But the Democrat's challenge will have the effect of calling the attention of loyal democrats to the plans and purposes of the reorganizers.

**They Dare Not Accept It.**

The New York Evening Post insists that congress should consider the eight-hour bill and tell the labor unions some "unpalatable truths." This must mean that the Post is opposed to the eight-hour working day. It is within the memory of workingmen yet actively engaged in earning their daily bread when thirteen hours was a day's work. The day was shortened, not by the voluntary act of employers, but by the organized efforts of employes. This is an "unpalatable truth" that always confronts the capitalists who think more of cent per cent than they do of human flesh and blood. Organized labor has not benefited union men alone; it has benefited non-union men as well, for non-union labor is today reaping many of the benefits secured by the earnest toil and sacrifice of union labor leaders. This is another "unpalatable truth" that confronts conscienceless employers and their subsidized newspaper organs.

**"Unpalatable Truths" Numerous.**

The John P. Altgeld Democratic club has been organized under the membership corporation law of New York, with headquarters in New York city. John Hosey, Thomas Doyle, James Walstead, Jeremiah Healey, Alfred J. Boulton, John B. Foote and Charles E. Clarke are the directors. The following is quoted from the certificate: "The particular objects for which the corporation is to be framed are, to establish and maintain an organization for the investigation and study of the science of political economy, and particularly to ascertain, enunciate, elucidate and propagate the original and essential principles of democracy as exemplified in the history of the United States of America." The Commoner wishes the John P. Altgeld Democratic club a long and useful career. It bears the name of a distinguished patriot and democrat whose example is worthy of being followed by all who seek for the best in political life.

**Honors to a Great Democrat**