

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

It really looks as if the Russian evacuation of Manchuria had begun.

Newsless news seems to have crowded the wireless news out of sight over in the orient.

Mr. David B. Hill's political gold bricks have lost too much of their gilding to be attractive.

Judge Parker is beginning to realize the truth of the old adage that "a man is known by the company he keeps."

Mr. Crum remarks that he can stand it just as long as the president holds open the door of opportunity with his foot.

Anything advocated by August Belmont is pretty sure to be worth opposition from those who believe in real democracy.

Of course the republican readers decline to let any one make an effort to ascertain where the g. o. p. slush fund went in 1896.

A labor journal reports that "typewriters are forming a union." The typewriters have been forming unions for several years.

Mr. Cleveland insists that democracy become sane. Perhaps Mr. Cleveland uses the word "sane" as a synonym for "subservient."

Of course the New York World believes that August Belmont has changed his political ways of making profit from government jobs.

Mr. Carnegie might admit that he got it by unjust laws enacted in his interests, and thus earn a goodly slice of that "hero fund."

Somehow or other the "eastern situation" rather forcibly reminds us of the two boys one of whom was "afeerd" and the other "dassn't."

Perhaps congress adjourned thus suddenly for fear it would have to appoint a committee to investigate the g. o. p. slush fund expenditures in 1896.

There is a rumor afloat that the republicans in congress hastened to adjourn in order to escape for a season the daily lambasting of Congressman Baker.

There seems to be something doing at the west end of the Eads bridge. But it is a "mum" affair compared to what is going to happen along in July.

Mr. Knox politely informs congress and the public that he will prosecute the coal trust just as soon as he has to, and he rather thinks he don't have to.

The Minneapolis Journal says the practice of having United States senators absolutely controlling republican national conventions is wrong in theory and dangerous in practice. This gives grounds for hoping that the Journal will some day see something dangerous in having corporations controlling republican senators.

Franz Von Lenbach, the famous historical and portrait painter, is dead. Mr. von Lenbach was president of the Munich Artists' association.

A reader of *The Commoner* suggests that the New York platform is not a platform at all, but a trap door to let the candidate down into the Wall street pit.

The publisher who says that no first-class fiction is being published these days certainly failed to note the explanations made by Judge Parker's boomers.

Perhaps it is only a coincidence, but J. Pierpont Morgan happens to be in Paris just when that \$40,000,000 of canal money is to be paid over to the French stockholders.

A scientist declares that the apple is a sure cure for the tobacco and liquor habits. Perhaps Eve discovered this and therefore called upon Adam to take a bite.

The fact that New York City is to have a new postoffice may mean that the New York City bank is preparing to engage in another real estate deal with a secretary of the treasury.

Congress adjourned early because it thought it would help the g. o. p. to do so. In view of the character of the congress it must be admitted that it did the wise thing once—just once.

Rubber ribs have been found practical, but that is not strange. Thousands of rubbernecks have been stretched out to see the g. o. p. revise the tariff in the interests of the consumers.

Before Speaker Cannon picks up the gavel as permanent chairman of the republican national convention he will doubtless show the scar of his vaccination against the vice-presidential nomination.

Congress adjourned without deciding the Smoot case. This may be due to the fact that the administration leaders wanted to wait and see if they would need his vote after the next election.

The list of appropriations indicate that rough riding is not in it with rough spending of the people's money. The sum of \$2,640,000,000 in less than three years is rather steep, even for Theodore Roosevelt.

The Lincoln (Neb.) Star says that it was time for congress to adjourn when it had disposed of all necessary business. Perhaps the Star meant to say that congress adjourned because it was indisposed to transact necessary business.

A contemporary says that the indications are that the New York Sun is preparing to return to the democratic party. Well, the democracy has survived some awfully hard afflictions, and it may be able to survive even the return of the official organ of Mr. Morgan.

"Where is Old Whiskers Peffer?" queries the Memphis Commercial-Appeal. Mr. Peffer is not dodging indictments, taking advantage of technicalities nor pointing with pride to republican "redemption," as evidenced by recent political events, thank you.

Happily for the democratic party," says the Houston Post, "no one man has a monopoly of its conscience and honesty." Quite true, yet the Post must admit that there are some men who are trying to stifle its conscience and destroy its honesty.

Owing to the fact that a majority of its members had to hustle out for re-election, congress adjourned before it could appropriate the rest of the money in the treasury. However, the president may attend to it, having assumed powers of legislation and appropriation.

The Atlanta News is coming to the front in a splendid shape. While some of its southern contemporaries are crawling in the dust and ready to lick the hand that has been smiting the democratic party in recent campaigns, the News stands erect and contends for an honest, straightforward platform setting forth democratic principles and defending the interests of the people. With John Temple Graves as editor in chief, and

Charles Daniel as managing editor, the News is destined to take a position of increasing importance among the newspapers of the South.

President Roosevelt is quoted as expressing a desire for a "short platform." But why have any platform at all? The republican party never pays the slightest attention to its platform after it wins an election. It is an expert at making promises that sound well, and deceive many people, but it never keeps a promise that political expediency bids it break. Its only excuse for adopting a platform is that it is customary to do so. But it will adopt one full of platitudes and fair promises, and harp on it for months merely to keep the people, if possible, from scanning its odorous records too closely.

No Need to Adopt a Platform.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon will probably be called upon to make a few explanations to Senator Fairbanks. "Uncle Joe" is just now busily engaged in throttling a handsome little vice-presidential boom, for he is pretty well satisfied with his present job and wants to hold it. "I'll go out and raise corn before I'll go over on the senate side and be a nonentity," said "Uncle Joe." Then he added: "Senator Fairbanks is just the man for the place." Doubtless "Uncle Joe" hit pretty close to the mark in naming his choice for the "nonentity," but Senator Fairbanks may be expected to demand full explanation.

Cannon on "Nonentities."

The "political pull" is responsible for many crimes, but none of greater magnitude than the one comprehended in the accident to the battleship Iowa. Two of the Iowa's big guns blew off their muzzles, carrying death and destruction in their wake. The forgings of the guns were defective. These forgings were made by the Midvale company and were twice rejected. But "political influence" was brought to bear, and on the third trial the defective forgings were accepted. Then followed the horrible accident. The men responsible for this accident are not only criminals, but traitors to the republic.

The Criminal Political "Pull."

The republicans seem to be about as much afraid of the silver question as the reorganizers are. They are so much afraid of it, in fact, that they would not even discuss the question of securing silver for subsidiary coin. Some were in favor of buying silver for that purpose, but the more outspoken of the gold men were in favor of melting silver dollars. On the whole, they decided they had better not do anything at all, so they dodged the matter entirely and put it off until the next session. As the next session comes after the election they can proceed with their schemes with out fear of being called to immediate account.

Dodging is Their Best Hold.

The congressional session just closed was remarkable for two things—for the important business it did not transact, and the enormous expenditures. The total of appropriations made and obligations incurred reach the enormous total of \$800,000,000, and all this in one short session. The presidential office alone during the Roosevelt occupancy has cost the country more than any two full administrations in the country's history. Either taxation will have to be increased or the government will have to borrow money within two years to carry forward undertakings already authorized by the present extravagant congress.

A Riot of Extravagance.

Ex-Secretary Gage is quoted as saying that "it is no crime to be rich." Thoughtless people will applaud the assertion as one wholly truthful. The fact of the matter, however, is that it depends on how the riches were acquired. A few years ago Mr. Gage took part in a little transaction that netted the Rockefeller bank in New York a handsome sum of money. The transaction involved the sale of the old customs house to the bank, and it was a deliberate swindle perpetrated upon the people. Will Mr. Gage have the temerity to say that the riches thus acquired by the men who engineered that deal are honest? Is there nothing criminal about that sort of thing?

Depends on the Means Used.