

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The Parker boom seems to be suffering from an ingrowing Hillopus-Belmonticus.

The Japanese feat which resulted in bottling up the Russian fleet at Port Arthur was a "corker."

Perhaps the Yalu is as crooked as a prairie stream. This would explain the necessity of crossing it so often.

Joseph Chamberlain delivered a speech at Birmingham, May 12, declaring that his tariff policy will yet prevail.

Mr. Rockefeller has been telling of some of his early trials, but he did not tell of some in which he managed to escape justice.

Of course the native Filipinos at the St. Louis exposition will be detained in quarters while the Liberty Bell is on exhibition there.

Secretary Shaw should be getting his explanatory department into good working order. That Shercliffe parole will work it overtime.

"Are battleships worth while?" queries the Kansas City World. That depends on whether you are making 'em or paying for 'em.

If President Roosevelt wants a brief platform his party should confine itself to telling what he has done towards carrying out his trust busting promises.

The waning of the Parker boom is evidence enough to convince even David B. Hill that the democrats will never consent to perpetual peanification.

Mr. Gage's remarks concerning "blades of grass" will only have the effect of showing him that the people are not quite as green as he thinks they are.

Mr. Cleveland is defending his bond issues. This means that Mr. Cleveland has something in hand that will occupy his full time for the rest of his natural life.

John Brisben Walker calls the New York platform a "platform of putty, persiflage, peanuts and prevarication." That was a perfectly proper punch to place.

Somehow or other the administration organs that point the finger of scorn at San Domingo fail to extend any index digits in the direction of Colorado's mining fields.

While Mr. Cleveland is writing about the history of his administration he might spend the fraction of a second in writing about what he did to enforce the anti-trust law.

The government expected to spend \$250,000 on its Philippine exhibit at St. Louis. It has already cost \$1,000,000 and is not yet complete. That's the way the whole Philippine business has turned out from a financial point of view.

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The Yalu has been crossed so often that it must be real angry by this time.

Thomas W. Lawson is certainly mistaken when he says he will make the Standard Oil company give up \$92,000,000. What he means is that he will try to force the Standard Oil company into making the public give up \$92,000,000.

Democrats who have persistently bolted and maliciously denounced those who remained loyal, are now fearfully wrought up lest the loyal ones go into the bolting business. The bolters are as inconsistent as they are treacherous.

Men who belong to organized labor should note that this republican congress would not even consider the eight hour bill nor the anti-injunction bill. The republican leaders figure that they can coerce workingmen again as they did in 1896, or if they can not coerce them can again fool them with the "full dinner pail" cry.

Having read that a man caught slant eyes from associating with the Chinese, the Houston Post recklessly plunges into lese majeste by warning President Roosevelt to watch out lest he catch the watermelon habit. The Post is perilously near banishment.

The Canton, O., district, McKinley's old congressional district, has selected its delegates to the national convention and adopted a platform indorsing the Kansas City platform. It seems that the reorganizers are not making much headway in Mr. McKinley's former home.

Mr. Cleveland waited until Governor Altgeld was a long time dead before breaking into print with a defense of his actions during the Chicago strike. But Governor Altgeld's speech on that topic still lives to refute the "explanations" of the man who used the United States army to do the bidding of corporation managers.

A reader of *The Commoner* calls attention to the fact that the scientists are pointing out the sanitary advantage of coin over paper money. As silver is the only coin within reach of the people generally, the scientists may finally drive the country to the use of bimetalism as a precaution against disease. Success to the scientists!

Will the Tennessee friends of Mr. Parker pause long enough to examine the election returns in Tennessee in 1894? If the Banner and the American will publish the election returns of that year, they will give their readers some idea of what to expect if the Wall street element again gets control of the party and makes it the tool of the corporations.

Some of Mr. Parker's friends, recognizing the crushing weight of the New York platform, are trying to pull him out from under it by telling what he thinks on public questions. This might do with ordinary individuals, but Judge Parker knows that hear-say testimony is not admissible, especially when direct testimony is so easily obtained. He will probably fine his friends for contempt if they don't stop trying to talk for him.

A subscriber writes at length to give his reasons for believing that the reorganizers will capture the St. Louis convention. He is earnestly advised to search for the moral in the following story: A resident of a Minnesota swamp district heard that frogs' legs were commanding a high price in Chicago. "How much will you pay for frog saddles?" was the question he wrote to a Chicago commission house. "We'll pay \$1.50 per dozen; how many can you furnish?" replied the commission house. "Ten thousand dozen," replied the resident. A week later the commission house received the following: "I ship today three dozen frog legs, all I could get. I was misled by their hollering."

Mr. Frederick T. Warde, the well-known actor, recently occupied a pulpit in an eastern city and talked about the "church and the stage." He is quoted as saying that if the stage presents immoral plays it is the fault of the public, because

"managers present plays that the public demands." Mr. Warde is either ignorant of the real facts or intentionally insults the general public. The dramas which pander to depraved tastes are written by men who could not write otherwise. That the public does not demand such

dramas is evidenced by the fact that they are short-lived, while the pure dramas live season after season. The so-called "problem plays" succeed for a time, but are soon forgotten, while plays that breathe high morals and deal with life in its virtuous phases survive season after season. Has any one of Clyde Fitch's inane "dramas" dealing with subjects tabooed in Christian homes survived more than one or two seasons? Has any one of the "sex" dramas ever rounded out three or four successful seasons? Not one of them. But dramas that breathe love and virtue—plays like "Shore Acres" and "The Old Homestead"—plays that touch the heart's tenderest emotions, like "Rip Van Winkle"—live year after year and never lose their charm. Mr. Warde cheapens the theatre; he lowers it in the estimation of thinking men and women, and he indicts its chief claim for popular favor, the claim that it is a public educator, when he asserts that it panders to depraved tastes because it "pays."

Several years have passed by since Mr. Roosevelt made his somewhat famous "shackling of cunning" speech at Minneapolis. Since then he has been elevated to a position giving him ample power to "shackle cunning as we have in the past shackled

force," but he has utterly failed to make good the implied promise. The Rooseveltian promise to curb trust rapacity recalls the story of a man who had never seen a ship, but who was elevated to the proud position of secretary of the navy. One of his first official acts was to visit a battleship lying at anchor at the nearest navy yard. After acknowledging the salutes of the officers and men he walked across the deck and peered down an open hatchway. Starting back with a look of surprise he exclaimed: "Bless me, the blamed thing's hollow!" During the three years of Theodore Roosevelt's administration the people have made the same discovery concerning his promises of trust busting that the secretary of the navy made concerning his country's battleships.

The New York Tribune, in an effort to defend the riotous extravagance of congress, says: "We are committed to policies, involving expenditures undreamed of under Cleveland and Harrison." For once, at any rate, the Tribune is correct.

During the administrations of Cleveland and Harrison we entertained no thought of swaggering around among the "world powers" and entering upon an un-American policy of colonialism calling for the maintenance of extravagant carpet-bag government on the other side of the globe. Fifteen years ago we had no thought of expending millions upon needless battleships and big armies for the mere purpose of being able to pose as a bully and a braggart among the nations. A great many things are happening in these days that were undreamed of by the men who founded this government upon what they thought would be equality, justice, liberty and right. The Tribune may have unintentionally voiced this great truth about "undreamed of expenditures." But they are here, and the dreams are rapidly degenerating into nightmares of oppressive taxation.

Mr. Cleveland is contributing a great deal to the literature of the present day, most of it in the shape of essays explaining and defending his actions while occupying the White house the second time. Mr. Cleveland is quoted as saying that he prefers a very brief platform for the democracy this year. There are several millions of democrats who will readily admit that a statement of all of Mr. Cleveland's democratic principles would not occupy over half of a sheet of common note paper. But while Mr. Cleveland is posing as a democrat and giving yards of advice and explanation to democracy, and urging a brief platform, it will be noticed that he feels impelled to write yard-long explanations of a great many things he did while president that either were not mentioned in the platform upon which he was elected, or were in direct contradiction to the principles espoused by the party which twice honored him.

Mr. Cleveland's concern about a platform is seemingly very great, and the fact is enough to create considerable wonder, for Mr. Cleveland not only refused to carry out the principles set forth in the last platform upon which he was elected, but insisted on carrying out policies that were in direct contradiction of both the platform and the traditions of democracy.