

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Iowa has shown the world what little use republicans have for any real "ideas."

The weather bureau seems to have sprung a joke on the Press humorists at St. Louis.

Of course the Wisconsin republicans are very sorry to see so much disagreement among democrats.

Russia's denial that she uses floating mines is easily believed. Russia has difficulty just now in keeping anything afloat.

Those eastern reorganizers who depended upon Nebraska are now sadly gazing on the brass filings from their little "gold brick."

As long as the Japanese army can subsist on rice and dried fish the mikado's administration will be free from any embalmed beef scandals.

President Thomas of the Lehigh Valley railroad declares that anthracite coal is a luxury. Thomas and his crowd are rapidly making it an impossibility.

Reports of rapid growth come from two cabinet officers. Mr. Wilson says vegetation is growing rapidly and Mr. Shaw says the deficit is keeping a close second.

Mr. Baer intimates that coal is high because people are willing to be robbed, owing to the subserviency of courts and the refusal of officials to do their sworn duty.

Those eastern reorganizers who pinned their faith on Nebraska are entitled to the return of their money. It was secured from them by false and vociferous pretense.

The New York World calls it "Judge Parker's unfortunate policy of silence." But are not August Belmont's actions capable of speaking loudly enough for Judge Parker?

By the way, what right have men who have been persistent bolters when things did not go to suit them to demand that there be no bolters when things do go to suit them?

The men who chipped in the most to buy a nomination and election for a republican president are howling the loudest about a man spending his own money to get a nomination.

The ocean steamers have dropped steerage rates to America to \$10 and are bidding lively for business. It is republican logic that talks about protection from European pauper labor goods and then puts a premium on the importation of the laborer.

The republican national committee selected as one of the assistant secretaries of the national convention a man who has been dead for six months. But doubtless he is just as much alive now as republican tariff reform or Rooseveltian trust busting.

The Commoner.

The republican idea of reciprocity is offering some other nation things it does not want in return for things we will not have.

The New York World says that "Judge Parker knows everything that is going on." If this is true, it is no wonder that the judge refuses to say a word.

Nebraska democrats went into the "reorganization" business just ten years ago this spring, and they have been pretty well satisfied with their work ever since.

The Lincoln (Neb.) Star says: "After all, the real Iowa idea is to vote the republican ticket." We cheerfully admit that is about the only idea a majority of Iowa republicans seem to have.

Senator Burrows says: "The republican platform will not be written by any one man." It will be noted that Senator Burrows did not say that it would not be "dictated" by one man.

It is estimated that by June 15 the number of men employed by American railroads will be 50,000 less than at the same time one year ago. The full dinner pail seems to be acquiring a hollow sound.

The mention of Secretary Cortelyou for chairman of the g. o. p. national committee is opportune. Mr. Cortelyou has been secretary of commerce and labor long enough to have all the big trusts spotted and their assessments made out.

In view of the New York World's strenuous efforts to unload another presidential nomination upon Mr. Cleveland it is very cruel of Mr. Cleveland to declare that he never paid a bit of attention to what the World was saying during that infamous bond deal.

The Houston Post says the "democrats of Tennessee, too, have ceased to look backward." The Post does the democrats of Tennessee an injustice. It was Patrick Henry who said that he had no way of judging the future save by the past, and when democrats forget the past in looking towards the future, they are in a bad way.

The Wisconsin republicans want to put the Roosevelt electors on both the La Follette and the anti-La Follette tickets, but are confronted with a law passed to prevent democrats and populists from fusing on a ticket. However, the republican supreme court can settle the matter by holding that as the law was passed to help the republicans, it is void where it hurts the republican party.

The Nashville American publishes a suggestion from one of its readers to the effect that the democratic platform ought to have an anti-labor union plank. It is hardly probable that a democratic convention would attempt such a thing, but there is no doubt that the reorganizers would be glad to have such a plank if they dared to suggest it. Their labors are all in the interest of the capitalistic classes, and the laboring man is given no consideration whether he belongs to a union or is out of the union.

The Chicago Record-Herald prints a Philadelphia dispatch to the effect that Attorney General Knox will on June 20 file a bill in equity against the coal trust. This is important if true. It means that the republican national convention will then be in position to commend the anti-trust efforts of the administration. The hearing would hardly occur during the campaign, and the hope of a final decision against the trust would be sufficient encouragement for the thick and thin republicans. With some two hundred trusts in existence, the administration has two hundred years work before it (if it attacks one a year), not to speak of the new ones constantly springing up.

The coal barons of Pennsylvania insist that they had no agreement, and that the similarity between their rate sheets was merely a coincidence. On the same day, though widely separated and wholly unknown to each other, these coal barons would issue price lists identical in figures, words, punctuation marks and paragraphs. Those who are interested in the subject of "The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of" should investigate. Students of psychology, or telepathy, or thought transference

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—whatever it may be called—will find in this case of the coal barons a wonderful field for investigation. Such a striking example of unsought similarity has never before been brought to public notice. These are wondrous times, and mysteries pile themselves upon mysteries with every coming up and going down of the sun.

Some railroads have placed a ban on Sunday excursions and will hereafter have no more of them. The management declares that the excursions were too often participated in by roughs and rowdies, and that the resultant fights and other disturbances injured the standing of the roads much more than the excursions benefited it in a financial way. This decision of the railroad management will be hailed with delight by those who deprecate the growing tendency to make Sunday a day of merry-making and jollification instead of a day of rest and worship.

Sunday Excursions Barred.

The Chicago American has exposed a very clever scheme to swindle the government, the scheme being worked by railroad corporations with the connivance of government officials. Under the forestry laws the government often takes possession of land already owned by a private citizen or by a corporation, giving in return an equal area of land elsewhere, the same to be selected by the owner of the land taken. Just how the scheme is being worked is explained by the American article reproduced elsewhere. It shows that the "graft" is constantly assuming new phases and emphasizes the necessity of putting into office men who are not only honest, but who will leave no stone unturned to punish dishonesty in other public officials.

Graft In A New Disguise.

The postoffice department has undertaken a war on the obscene advertising that of late has become so prominent in the daily newspapers of the country. So flagrant has become the violation of the laws aimed at the suppression of this class of advertising that the proprietors of the "remedies" not only paraded their worthless nostrums in language unfit for any publication, but used the postoffice department to blackmail those who fell into their clutches. The department assures reputable advertisers that they have nothing to fear from the crusade, but the quack nostrums that offend decency by their obscene publicity will be suppressed. All men and women who despise obscenity and indecency will wish the department unqualified and speedy success in its efforts.

Postal Department Aroused.

With the coming of the summer season the newspaper columns begin to carry reports of cyclones, and many are the strange stories of the freakish doings of these mysterious storms. Just what gives the "funnel-shaped clouds" their awful power is a mystery. No one attempts to explain how some of the wonders are wrought. People who have personally observed the strange freaks of these storms are ready to believe almost any story they hear concerning them. When a man has seen a flock of chickens denuded of feathers, but otherwise uninjured, by a cyclone, and has seen the superstructure of a house carried away, leaving the floor intact and the furniture unremoved and uninjured, he is quite ready to accept without question any story of a cyclone's doings.

The Mysterious Cyclone.

The Houston (Tex.) Post says: "It seems that Judge Parker will not tell where he stands, and Mr. Bryan will not tell who he is for." The esteemed Post is correct only in the first half of its remarks. Mr. Bryan has repeatedly told who he is for. He is for a man who has been loyal to democratic principles as enunciated in former platforms, and who is in thorough sympathy with the rank and file of democracy in their demands for a platform that not only opposes trusts, imperialism and the domination of the country by the financiers, but means what it says. Mr. Bryan has named a score or more of such men. The democratic newspapers that make the loudest demands for harmony are the newspapers that persist in misrepresenting Mr. Bryan. The rank and file of democracy have no confidence in a candidate who does not know what he believes or stands for until a convention frames a platform for him.

Where Mr. Bryan Stands.

The republican national committee selected as one of the assistant secretaries of the national convention a man who has been dead for six months. But doubtless he is just as much alive now as republican tariff reform or Rooseveltian trust busting.