

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Public ownership of railroads would mean no more pass bribery.

The only argument against an income tax is the argument of selfishness.

If he finds it difficult to raise money Chairman Cortelyou might import Raisuli.

Port Arthur is falling often enough to arouse suspicion of taking a drop too much.

Public ownership of railroads seems to be the solution for railroad ownership of the public.

The president took a hand in the coal strike during an "off" year. This is not an "off" year.

When the people own the railroads there will be no more giant trusts built up by the rebate system.

The life preservers on the g. o. p. excursion steamer have every appearance of being General Slocumed.

Of course Mr. Folk is not surprised that a large number of republican organs have bolted his nomination.

The 30,000 striking cotton operatives should show their dinner pails to the g. o. p. national committee.

By the way, did you ever notice the republican leaders objecting to the trusts being given too much representation?

It is barely possible that the chilly Mr. Fairbanks was nominated for the purpose of frappeing the top of the ticket.

Senator Fairbanks was notified of his nomination last week, and the Indianapolis icemen complained of a dull day.

Naturally enough the big trusts that secure freight rebates from privately owned railroads oppose railroads owned by the public.

That low chuckling sound from the far east is doubtless "Gas" Addicks endorsing the "stand pat" policy of President Roosevelt.

The harvester trust has just laid off 15,000 employes. It feared that the employes might become spoiled by too much prosperity.

J. Pierpont Morgan's yacht tied up at a New York dock the other day with three feet of water in her hold. Mr. Morgan must be preparing to sell the yacht to the general public.

The Minnesota supreme court has affirmed the decision that market hunters must pay a fine of \$20,000 for killing 2,000 ducks out of season. Ex-Mayor Ames could give those market hunters some pointers. They should have claimed that it was the shot, not themselves, that killed the ducks. Ames secured his freedom on a poorer technicality than that.

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Of course President Roosevelt uses the word "we" in the editorial sense.

"Why not Roosevelt?" queries the Chicago Chronicle. One very good reason is that the Chronicle is for Roosevelt.

Rudyard Kipling has written a poem favoring Chamberlain's tariff crusade. The anti-Chamberlain people seem to have "seen" Rudyard.

The striking meat cutters seem to forget that this is the year when the administration must make assessments, not issue injunctions.

"If Judge Parker is elected his party will be master," declares the Sioux City Journal. That would be a welcome relief from the rule of the trusts.

In view of ex-Governor Black's nominating speech General Sherman Bell should be engaged to do a little rear platforming for the g. o. p. ticket.

Theodore Roosevelt, former tree trader, civil service reformer, anti-criminal aggressionist and trust buster, is making quite a spectacle as a "stand patter."

Those union butchers are being censured by republican leaders for insisting upon justice just at a time when a strike would seriously embarrass the g. o. p. machine.

Chairman Cortelyou is not pointing with pride to the injunction which put the meat trust out of business. That injunction is filed away in the dust covered archives.

President Roosevelt's address to the notification committee reminds one very much of the stuff the circus advance man hands in to the advertising manager.

It is reported that some one has discovered a bread that is also a first-class substitute for meat. The name of the trust holding the right to manufacture is not given.

The coal trust is hoisting prices on the excuse that it fears a strike. But the coal trust would have raised the price on the ground that there would be no strike, so what's the odds?

Theodore Thomas declares that Milwaukee has no right to the reputation of being a musical center. Mr. Thomas seems to be laboring under a delusion as to what has made Milwaukee famous.

The suggestion that the packers engineered the strike as a rebuke to Roosevelt is one of the early jokes of the campaign. The packers have nothing to complain of in injunctions that do not enjoin.

On August 1 the anthracite trust added 10 cents per ton to the price of their product. The anthracite trust, like the beef trust, thinks that federal injunctions are real pretty ornaments for the parlor table.

Perhaps Mr. Carroll D. Wright is busily preparing figures to show that the packing house strike is a good thing because the increased price of meat enables those who can not buy it at any time to save just that much more money.

The report that the "zebrula" will replace the mule as an army adjunct is enough to arouse widespread opposition. Is it possible that Mr. Roosevelt, who was a prominent free trader a few years ago, will stand idly by now and make no protest against the threatened injury to the "infant mule" industry?

The ant, called the Kelep, imported from Guatamala is said to be making a successful fight against the boll-weevil, much to the relief of the cotton growers. Can't Uncle Sam find something that will exterminate imperialism and thus relieve the whole country from the burden of a large army and a large navy?

Mr. Roosevelt considered the Panamans competent to practice self-government inside of twenty-four hours. He points with pride to the fact that the Cubans were granted self-government after eighteen months of practice. He infers that the Filipinos will have to practice for self-government until the oriental trade is worthless, and then perhaps they may have it.

When President Roosevelt pointed with pride to what the republican party has done for civil service, Byrne, Lou Payne and Postmaster General Payne solemnly winked their left optics and gazed dreamily across the waters of Oyster Bay.

Well, private life has its advantages after all. While the eminent jurist of Esopus, the distinguished soldier of Oyster Bay, the renowned historian of Georgia and the illustrious publicist of Pennsylvania are hiding from camera fiends and dodging the ubiquitous newspaper correspondent the obscure and the "ex's" "far from the mad-d'ning throng" keep the "noiseless tenor" of their way.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, which evidently prefers being republican to being either right or sensible, says: "The wage earner who would give up a per cent of his salary for the sake of a lower tariff is a mighty scarce individual." Has the Inquirer ever compared the proposed scale of the Fall River operators with the scale paid in Manchester? Has the Inquirer ever taken note of the fact that the average wage of the striking packing house men is less than \$7 a week? Perhaps the Inquirer has some figures and facts which will convince these striking spinners and butchers that the protective tariff is a wonderful benefit to them, and of no particular account to the meat trust and the cotton print trust.

"We have made the deed square with the word," said President Roosevelt to the notification committee. But what about the words of President Roosevelt? In answer let President Roosevelt be put upon the witness stand. Mr. President, what did you say in a recent message to congress concerning corruption in public office? "I said, 'While there may have been as much official corruption in former years there has been more developed and brought to light in the immediate past than in the preceding century of our country's history.' And what did you say to the notification committee, Mr. President, concerning this same subject? "I said, 'Never has the administration of the government been on a cleaner and higher level; never has the public work of the nation been done more honestly and efficiently.'" Comment is unnecessary at this time. Take the witness, Mr. Cortelyou.

**Roosevelt vs. Roosevelt.**

The wreck of the battleship Maine still obstructs navigation in the harbor at Havana, and the navy department holds that it has no authority either to abandon the wreck or to authorize its removal. A private company has contracted to remove the wreck providing the government will relinquish claim to it, the company expecting to be remunerated by the salvage and by exhibiting the remnants. But the government will not do this, nor will it pay to have it removed. Cuba declines to act without being assured that its action will be acceptable to Uncle Sam. As the matter now stands the wreck will have to remain there, a striking object lesson in governmental red tape. Dicken's "circumlocation office" should have its attention called to the situation. Perhaps it could act before the navy department gets into motion.

**The Wreck Of The Maine.**

Mr. Carroll D. Wright has issued another job lot of figures for the use of the republican national committee. Mr. Wright declares that since 1896-97 there has been an increase in the retail price of commodities of 15.5 per cent, while during the same period there has been an increase of wages averaging 16.6 per cent. It is by juggling averages that Mr. Wright reaches these conclusions. Here is a sample which may show his method: The section hand's wages have been \$300 a year for years. The railroad president's salary was raised from \$50,000 a year to \$75,000 a year on June 1, 1903. The average was \$26,150 a year before the president secured his increase, and \$37,650 after he secured it—an average increase of about 50 per cent. But the section hand has not found it out. Again: Meat, flour, clothing and shoes have increased say 30 per cent during the last five years. But spices, pepper, perfumery and talcum powder have decreased 27 per cent. This shows an average increase of 3 per cent. Then Mr. Wright proceeds to show that wages have increased 47 per cent faster than the cost of commodities. It is all very simple when it is carefully examined.

**The Wrong Figures of Mr. Wright.**