

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

George Ade says Indiana will give a republican majority of 40,000. Sad how soon these great humorists run out.

The trusts are going to experience trouble in selling the public another job lot of life preservers stuffed with old iron.

Senator Spooner's denial would have been much stronger if it had not been quite so strong an appeal for sympathy.

The gentlemen who complain that presidential campaigns unsettle business are finding difficulty in securing the proof this year.

It will strike a good many people that Senator Spooner is offering to prove his innocence by men who dare not admit the facts.

That ominous rustling from somewhere in Ohio is an indication that General Grosvenor is getting his prediction machine oiled up.

Chairman Cortelyou is of the decided opinion that Andrew Carnegie is offering some strong arguments in favor of the republican ticket.

The Wisconsin and New York situations call for a lot of soft speaking on the part of the president, but big sticking is noticeable by its absence.

The banks report a slow demand for money. Men never rush hurriedly to a bank to borrow money. They hesitate and approach with diffidence.

The LaFollette decision and the Steffens expose came so close together that Senator Spooner is excusable for believing that someone has it in for him.

The New York Tribune is now earnestly striving to convince the supreme court that it knows much less than President Roosevelt about common law.

Mr. Rockefeller has about arrived at the stage where he can prove that he earns his money by pointing to the articles written by Mr. Lawson and Miss Tarbell.

Governor Wright talks long about what the United States have done for the Filipinos. But the United States have been guilty of many sins of omission, also.

Republican leaders are explaining by saying that Mr. Roosevelt wrote those books long years before he ever entertained an idea of running for the presidency.

Speaker Cannon's touching reference to "Pillgrim's Progress" seems to indicate that Uncle Joe has arrived at the "Slough of Despond" stage of the campaign.

Senator Spooner is seeking to make the public believe that Lincoln Steffens surreptitiously thrust a lot of scrap iron into the Spooner senatorial life preserver.

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Of course Statistician Wright will not overlook the fact that on the day that dressed beef in Chicago went up 2 cents a pound the price of beer came down \$2.50 a barrel.

The outlook in Indiana and New York is such that Mr. Addicks grows more confident of being able to fix up a deal for Delaware with the managers of Mr. Roosevelt's campaign.

Of course those disgruntled Filipinos must understand that the president's expressed desire for peace has no connection with those who object to the g. o. p. policy of imperialism.

Thomas Lawson has now arrived at the stage where the men he is showing up are preparing to negotiate for some evidence to prove that Lawson does not know what he is talking about.

"Big sticking" is not so popular in republican circles as it was a few months ago, but the indications are that the "two-dollar-billing" is growing animated in New York and Indiana.

It is announced that President Roosevelt will keep out of the Wisconsin trouble. This should be pointed to by his campaign managers as proof that he is not so much inclined to war as charged.

Chairman Babcock of the republican congressional committee is firmly of the belief that the defeat of a certain congressman would be fully as bad as a democratic majority in the next house.

"From Lincoln to Roosevelt" is the title of a pamphlet just issued by the republican national committee. The pamphlet is a short one, but the distance covered is immense, and down hill all the way.

Grover Cleveland has written an article on "Why the young man should vote the democratic ticket." The young man should vote the democratic ticket in spite of what Grover Cleveland says.

Senator Spooner's reply to Lincoln Steffens is in effect that Steffens does not know what he is talking about because the "system's" tracks were so well covered that not even Steffens could find them.

The Topeka Herald says that "every strike settled before election is a blow to democratic hopes of success." How about the packing house strike? The g. o. p. is welcome to all it can make out of that.

The Wisconsin supreme court has committed a mortal sin in the opinion of the machine republicans of that state. The court has insisted upon refusing to base its opinion in the LaFollette-Cook case on machine politics.

It is noticeable that the papers clamoring loudest for the policy of "teaching the people self-government" are also loudest in their support of the party whose policy is to let the trusts do all the governing in this country.

The demand for steel in the construction of battleships is so enormous that there is a dullness in the structural iron market. This will explain the delay in getting to work on Mr. Carnegie's Palace of Peace at The Hague.

Secretary Shaw couldn't see a \$41,000,000 deficit with a microscope, but he managed to see the little surplus of \$6,000,000 with his naked eye at a distance of 1,800 miles. The g. o. p. optics always were in need of a first-class oculist's services.

The Sioux City Journal of October 6 says editorially: "Mr Tibbles has not yet come to the front with a letter of acceptance." Mark you, the Journal says this editorially. The news editor would not have been guilty of such a foolish mistake.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat insists that the presence in the presidential chair of a man like Roosevelt always makes for peace. But the Globe-Democrat stops before it gets to the logical conclusion, which is that it is the same kind of peace that the strong bad boy exercises over the small boys at school.

Noting that Chairman Taggart is at work in Indiana, the Sioux City Journal shouts: "Watch

for an increase in the bank clearings!" Is it possible that the g. o. p. committee has begun its shipments of two-dollar bills into Indiana so soon?

It is reported that Mr. Cortelyou will succeed Mr. Payne as postmaster general. Mr. Cortelyou is much more successful as a successor than he was as a public official charged with the duty of investigating and prosecuting illegal trusts and combinations.

Governor Odell is defending himself by laying the blame for "reckless and extravagant legislation" upon a "former administration." This charge is not being used as a campaign document by Mr. Cortelyou, whose candidate was at the head of the "former administration."

Carroll D. Wright is trying to make some people believe that the increase of \$10 a thousand feet in the price of lumber is more than offset by the decrease of 3 cents a pound in the price of putty, and the strange thing about it is that quite a lot of home builders seem to accept the statement as gospel truth.

In a recent issue of *The Commoner* in quoting from another writer who discusses the advantages to be derived from defeat, mention was made of the Joggins' raft and a Mr. Joggins was spoken of. The Joggins' raft was not in fact named after a man—so a reader informs *The Commoner*—but at a harbor bearing that name.

The national committee has just issued the campaign book for 1904 and copies can be secured by application to the democratic national committee, 1 West Thirty-fourth street, New York. It contains a vast amount of valuable information on pending issues and will be useful not only for campaign purposes but for future reference. Every active democrat should secure a copy.

New York and Nebraska have inaugurated reforms in prison affairs that should be followed by other states. The reform lies in the abolition of the prison uniform of striped clothing. This reform naturally followed the abolition of the lock-step, and already the good effects of both reforms are to be seen in better discipline and a growing manhood on the part of the prisoners. The old idea that prisons should be made torture for criminals is giving way to the humane and sensible idea that prisons are reformatories, and their chief purpose is to make men better instead of constantly reminding them that they are dangerous animals who must be securely chained and maltreated.

The diplomatic misunderstanding at Lee, Mass., recently, while annoying to the state department only serves to show that we are progressing. A few centuries ago a similar case would have resulted in a bloody war. Indeed, great wars have resulted from smaller causes. Mr. Gurney, third secretary of the British embassy at Washington, was arrested and fined for driving his auto above the speed limit. He made the defense that under international law he could not be arrested and fined. But Police Judge Phelps insisted that international law cut no figure in his court, and added a fine for contempt. Before Mr. Gurney was haled to prison he paid under protest. Of course the state department took the matter up, and proper apologies will be made to Great Britain and Mr. Gurney. It was a small matter, but a little diplomacy untangled it, which is far better than going to war.

The growing independence of the pulpit is one of the encouraging signs of the times. Rev. Dr. Elwood, a Presbyterian minister of Wilmington, Del., has conferred a blessing upon the public by his recent denunciation of J. Edward Addicks' methods. Dr. Elwood did not mince matters, but talked "straight from the shoulder." He said: "The human leeches that have hung to the money bags of Addicks since his advent into Delaware are as much to blame for the reproach of Delaware as their master, and when the history of this state's present decade is written, the greatest contempt of posterity will be heaped upon those native-born citizens of Delaware who for greed and gain sullied the honor of their state." When the pulpit joins with an untrammelled press in denouncing corruption in public life there will be better prospects for reform.