

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The support of the Hepburn bill is the chief argument against it.

If the czar wants to be absolutely safe from bullets he would better enlist with the Japs.

The beef trust has added another nice little injunction to its rapidly growing collection.

Perhaps the masses in Russia call the czar their "little father" because he is so difficult to see.

Just now the American public is not so much interested in Mr. Lawson's motives as they are in his disclosures.

Packer Swift was very much surprised to learn that there is a beef trust. Eighty million people knew it all the time.

The Washington Post says that it is the opinion of some that the stealing of a railroad is an achievement, not a crime.

Municipal ownership is growing. London is arranging to take over the telephone system and operate it by public officials.

Czar Nicholas is evidently one of those "little fathers" who do not get up and walk the floor in the middle of the night.

"Is there an American big enough to build the Panama canal?" asks Walter Wellman. The question sounds like an insult to General Sherman Bell.

If Kuropatkin can catch a body of Jap troops armed like that St. Petersburg mob he may be able to report something not tinged with regrets.

The thief who tried to work in the Philadelphia city hall was unable to show his certificate of election, and as a result he was hustled off to jail.

One of the wonderful disappearances of the decade is that of General Sherman Bell since he found himself unprotected by a vast array of militia.

The "little father" has told his children that they were real naughty, and threatened to do something real severe if they were guilty of doing it again.

As we understand it Secretary Morton is convinced that it is quite wrong to give rebates unless it is necessary in order to make a little bigger dividends.

Governor Pennypacker is considerably worried over the prospect that the Russian editors will secure greater freedom, thus nullifying his efforts in Pennsylvania.

According to Mr. Denis Donahue, Thomas W. Lawson once operated a "bucket shop," therefore the schemes of the "frenzied financiers" are all right. But the Donahue logic will not meet with the approbation of the American public.

The Commoner.

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Mr. Eckles says the country is suffering from "over-legislation." This is the statement of a half-truth. The country is also suffering from over-Ecklesation.

A scientist now declares that it was a quince, not an apple, that Eve plucked and gave to Adam. Some iconoclast will soon bob up with the declaration that it was a prune.

The St. Petersburg chief of police reports that the backbone of the strike has been broken. The spine of the empire seems to have sustained a severe twist in the meantime.

In reply to an inquiry **The Commoner** will say that William George Jordan's book, "The Power of Truth," may be obtained through Bretano's Publishing house, New York.

Rate revision and tariff revision will have to wait awhile. It is about time to begin the work of sending out the spring garden seeds, a task no well-informed congressman ever overlooks.

Mr. Eckles is worrying greatly over the injustice threatened the railroads. Mr. Eckles is one of those eminent gentlemen who draw full pay and overtime for that sort of worrying.

It appears that a vast amount of Russian ammunition needed at Port Arthur to oppose the enemies of Russia was kept stored in St. Petersburg for use against the real friends of Russia.

Did your subscription begin with the first issue of **The Commoner**, four years ago? If so, this is the time for renewal. You can save us a great deal of work by sending it in without delay.

Of course it is hardly necessary to call the attention of Mr. D. M. Parry to the fact that Russia has no labor unions, and therefore the Russian wageworkers are "free and independent workingmen."

"Make Neidringhaus senator!" shrieks the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. "That is the square thing to do." Is the Globe-Democrat trying to work the "innocent purchaser" clause on the people of Missouri?

When Robert M. LaFollette takes his seat in the senate of the United States the president will have one republican senator ready to back him up in the fight against railroad discrimination and extortion.

The statute of limitations has again operated to protect a republican official. The Southern Pacific-Santa Fe pooling agreement was made just long enough ago to make it impossible to punish the parties thereto now.

A California man proposes importing 500 monkeys and training them to harvest prunes. But the scheme won't work. As soon as the monkeys make a little money they will drop it in Wall street just like the rest of them.

The Washington Post says that Senator-elect LaFollette is a "republican with democratic notions." LaFollette seems to join President Roosevelt in endorsing the democratic demand for the regulation of railroad freight rates.

The railroad managers put out a devious line of logic. They now insist that the government has no right to regulate those things which it creates. That sort of logic rams its pilot into its caboose before it gets past the yard switches.

Congressman Lind calls attention to the fact that the "pound master," or dog catcher, of the District of Columbia receives \$1,500 a year, while some of the school teachers receive but \$500. The value of the dog is being overestimated.

The Joplin Globe reports that Mr. Neidringhaus has been compelled to return to St. Louis for treatment of a toe injured shortly after his arrival in Jefferson City. Perhaps Mr. Neidringhaus stubbed it against one of his friend Busch's kegs.

Quite a number of free Americans who can not understand why the Russian people submit to the rule of grand dukes and other nobles, go right ahead accepting the political bossism of men like Platt, Aldrich, Depew, Cannon, Beveridge and others.

Speaker Cannon says that if it had not been for the newspapers there would be no demand for tariff revision. And he might have gone further and remarked that if it had not been for the newspapers there never would have been any Speaker Cannon.

Despite the republican rejoicing over the administration victory in the bout with the Northern Securities company, it will be noted that the merger securities are booming. The government's "victory" seems to have been sadly exhausted in the press notices.

It is gathered from the Russian cables that the "little father" has succeeded in showing his children why they should be thankful that they have eighteen hours in which to do a day's work, instead of being compelled to crowd it all into nine or ten hours.

The Decorah (Ia.) Republican, referring to the fact that Senator-elect Burkett of Nebraska is a native of Iowa, says that "the time may come when Iowa will be referred to as the 'mother of statesmen' the same as Ohio and Virginia." In view of the facts we must give the Decorah Republican credit for a splendid sample of undiluted optimism.

Harper's Weekly, "a journal of civilization," says the south feels more kindly to President Roosevelt since he appointed "Stonewall" Jackson's son to a cadetship at West Point. Harper's Weekly should study arithmetic and get up with the times. General Jackson died in 1863, and if he left a son the "boy" would be more than 40 years old now—rather above the age limit of admission to West Point.

To Democrats: Do not worry about the president "stealing democratic thunder." If the democrats help to secure remedial legislation the country will enjoy the benefit and the democratic party will share in the credit. If the president accomplishes anything the corporations will try to secure a corporation man to succeed him, and that will give life to the next campaign and hope to the democratic party. If the president fails to accomplish anything the democratic party will profit by his educational work.

Why the Democrats Should Help

Why the Democrats Should Help

The Kansas City Commercial club at a recent meeting "resolved" against the proposed national regulation of railroad rates, against a measure pending in the Missouri legislature for the establishment of a maximum freight rate bill, and against an anti-injunction bill pending in congress. To be consistent the club ought to pass a resolution censuring the United States supreme court for its decision against the beef trust. But perhaps the resolutions passed sufficiently show what influences dominate this club.

The Influences Apparent

The Nebraska Democratic Editorial association will meet in Lincoln on March 21, and a fine program has been prepared for the occasion. The topics are all live ones, dealing with matters of importance to the profession, the democratic party and the country. Louis F. Post, editor of the Public, Chicago, will be one of the speakers and has selected as his topic "Democratic Ideals in American Journalism." Mr. Post is particularly well qualified to speak on this topic, and the association members are looking forward with confidence to a helpful address.

A reader of **The Commoner** asks for statistics showing the change that has taken place in the proportion of property holders in the United States since 1856. It is not possible to secure any accurate data, but it is evident from the statistics that a much smaller proportion of the population own the majority of the wealth of the country than did in 1856. The centralization of wealth has probably been more rapid in this country than in any other country. This centralization is due to a number of causes. The protective tariff has contributed; our financial policy has contributed and our monopolies are now contributing to this end. There are, however, signs of an awakening on this subject and we may soon expect to see legislation which will prevent the exploitation that has been going on for a quarter of a century.

The Centralization of Wealth