

The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Chicago's "I will" has set the pace.

While Mr. Taft is on the lid a lot of people show a disposition to put him on the gridiron.

The beef trust has hoisted prices again, probably with a view to making its profits an even 2 per cent.

Mr. Hyde is now making strenuous efforts to appear in the Dr. Jekyll role before the Equitable policyholders.

Judge Parker says that the democratic organization must begin with the voters. On this point he is sound.

It may yet dawn upon the czar that his police are hatching up plots for the purpose of being able to frustrate them.

Democracy will win when it shows the collar galls of progress instead of the breeching strap scars of so-called conservatism.

The primary pledge plan of organization meets with the approval of earnest democrats everywhere. Have you taken hold?

The Guatemalan ant, which was widely advertised as a sure death for the boll weevil, seems to have come to a regular republican-reform-of-the-tariff finish.

The Outlook defends the acceptance of Mr. Rockefeller's gift to missions. The Outlook also defends imperialism and the present system of finances.

Failure to hear anything definite from Togo and Rojestvensky may be due to the fact that the Mole St. Nicholas and Che Fu correspondents are out "seeing a man."

The new census report on the Philippines conveys the information that only 9 per cent of the inhabitants are uncivilized. "Come over into Macadonia and help us!"

Mr. Garfield is busy gathering data about oil in Kansas. And in the meanwhile the Standard Oil company is just as busy gathering in the money of the oil consumers.

That "American Beauty" oil trust, to make which a thousand independent refiners were snipped off, seems to have developed into a regular Canadian thistle sort of industry.

Democrats who are interested in making the primary organization a success and who will circulate the pledge for signatures, are requested to send for blank pledges. They will be furnished all applicants.

Secretary Taft, it is rumored, is the president's choice for a successor, while Fairbanks is the candidate of the "opposition" in the republican party. Judge Taft has not shown any reform symptoms yet. Wait until La Follette gets to Washington; he promises to go beyond the president as a reformer.

Speaking of the secrets that the beef trust magnates entrusted to those trunks, we are reminded that those same magnates have had the people in a box for many years.

"Beware of the Greek bearing gifts!" This advice to the Trojans is equally good advice for the churches seeking gifts from men who acquire their wealth by means that will not square with the teachings of the Nazarene.

The Milwaukee Sentinel is just now engaged in telling its readers what Jefferson would not do were he alive today. The Sentinel is wasting time and space telling it. It is clearly showing by its actions what Jefferson would not do.

The Chicago Chronicle's Washington correspondent is afraid that the successful management of the Panama railroad will encourage public ownership. Too bad. And yet they can not afford to make a failure of the road. What are they going to do about it?

A great many republican daily newspapers that made mention of the fact that a democrat was elected mayor of Lincoln, Neb., failed to add that "Lincoln is Mr. Bryan's home town." It was different when Lincoln went republican.

President Roosevelt accepted a silver flagon at one place, and a pair of silver spurs at another place. We have forgotten the name of the place where he refused to accept a hand-made American flag from a little French girl who had become a loyal American citizen.

A half-million earnest democrats working under the primary pledge plan can put into the next democratic platform an expression of the sentiments of the real democrats of the country. If you will be one of the number, sign a pledge and send it to *The Commoner*.

It is a little unkind in Judge Parker to say that his defeat was easy to "foresee and predict." Those who urged his nomination used as their only argument that he could win. If the judge had made his Jefferson day speech last June he would not have been nominated.

In no spirit of cavil, but merely from a desire to impart information to a number of g. o. p. organs that seem to have overlooked the fact, *The Commoner* here states that about the time that Mr. Bryan's home city went democratic Mr. Roosevelt's home city also went democratic.

Thomas Fitzsimmons of Cleveland has gone into court to compel the assessors to raise the assessment on his property. If it seems strange that the assessors have to be forced to raise an assessment it is explained by the fact that several trusts have property in that vicinity and an increase in Mr. Fitzsimmons' assessment would compel an increase in assessment of trust property.

The Equitable disclosures show that conditions are worse than Lawson reported. Young Hyde has returned over one hundred thousand that he wrongfully appropriated and declares that other directors are guilty. It develops that the French ambassador was given an expensive dinner for advertising purposes. The policy holders are being heard from.

The discussion aroused by the Rockefeller donation to missions is one of the most healthful signs of the awakening of the public conscience. Churches are always in need of money and ministers are strongly tempted to allow the end to justify the acceptance of money from any source but many ministers are beginning to revolt against a partnership with the trust magnates.

Memorial Day is but little more than a month in the future, and the veterans are preparing to observe it. For several years the soldiers have been protesting against making it a day of sports, and *The Commoner* heartily seconds the protest. Memorial Day is a day set apart to pay our respects to the men who fought and died for their country, and whether it be the memorial day of the northern or the southern soldier it should be a day of solemnity and fervent thankfulness for the valor which proved beyond dispute that the American soldier, fighting for what he believes to be right, is the best soldier the world has ever known. In justice to the memory of these brave men the day set apart for paying tributes to their memory should not be desecrated by making it a day of

Not a Day
for
Merrymaking

revelry and dissipation. After the proper tributes have been paid to their memory, the day should be spent in teaching patriotism to the children, and reviving the patriotism of those who may have grown lukewarm. The spirit of Memorial Day seems destined to be lost in the tendency to make the day a mere holiday to be enjoyed, and not a day of remembrance. The protest of the veterans is founded in justice and should be heeded by every citizen.

A professor of a certain Theological Seminary has asked Rockefeller for some money and has promised him that no inquiry would be made concerning the methods employed by him in obtaining it. Another professor rebuked the first, not for his willingness to accept money without inquiry as to how it was obtained, but because the promise not to inquire might seem like a reflection on Mr. Rockefeller's methods. Let the discussion proceed. It is doing good. Every man who speaks for Rockefeller unintentionally gives new reasons why the money should be refused.

When Mr. Lawson began his disclosures of the rotten management of some of the big life insurance companies many people exclaimed "impossible," and interested parties tried to ignore the ugly disclosures. But the Equitable management is just now in a bad tangle and its managers, quarreling among themselves, are disclosing a situation of affairs much worse than any pictured by Mr. Lawson. Charge and counter charge fly thick and fast, and the great insurance buying public is forcibly reminded of an old saying to the effect that honest people get their dues when a certain class disagrees.

Walter Wellman predicts that when the senate meets in the fall a rate bill of some sort will be reported, and then says that the "opinion is expressed that it would not be a drastic bill," and that it would "probably be a disappointment to the western people" who have wanted congress to enact "a real and effective measure of railway reform." There is only one disappointment that the senate committee can frame for the western people, and that is a happy disappointment. The people of the west are not expecting anything "real and effective" in the way of a railway measure from the senate as now constituted. They may have a faint hope, but they have steeled themselves against disappointment.

The baseball season is on once more, and lovers of the game are packing the "bleachers" and the grand stands and cheering their favorites on to victory. Baseball has a greater hold on the American people than any other athletic game. It is a game of skill and science, it furnishes exercise for participant and spectator, it takes those who play and those who watch out of the daily grind of business and gives them fresh air and fresh blood and fresh impulse. The growing boy who does not love to play ball should be looked after carefully. The grown man who does not love to watch a good game betrays the fact that he missed something in his early training. One reason why baseball has so long retained its place in the hearts of the people is that it has been kept practically free from the taint of gambling. It is a "clean sport," and as long as it remains such it will retain its place at the head of American games of athletics.

The National Association of State and Dairy Food Departments has sounded a warning against adulterated "baby foods," and declares that last year 445,000 infants died from causes primarily due to the adulteration of food.

This is a dreadful indictment to draw against any man or set of men, and immediate action should be taken to punish them. But there is another fruitful source of disease and death among children, and it is to be found in the iniquitous "sweatshop" and child labor systems in vogue in many of the large cities. While publicists are decrying the evils of adulterations that lead to the slaughter of innocent children, let them also turn their attention to these other, and equally great, evils that are not only slaughtering thousands of children every year, but are blasting the lives of thousands of men and women and adding daily to the great social problems that must be settled if this republic is to endure.

Crimes
Against the
Children