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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

"Shirt sleeve diplomacy" seems to have scored another triumph.

At all events it is much better to be a peacemaker than a would-be pacemaker.

It seems that Mayor Weaver also met and sunk quite a few gas-equipped privateers.

After having been introduced properly King Oscar may be able to recognize a Norwegian republic.

Mr. Shaw may yet have to insist upon a prohibitive tariff on sandbars if Mr. Taft keeps on cutting up that way.

Several eminent gentlemen who missed out on the presidency of the Equitable might apply for the Norwegian throne.

Perhaps Mr. Ryan proposes "mutualizing" the Equitable after the fashion he set of mutualizing street railway properties.

The new Equitable arrangement looks very much like another case of hiding the public's medicine in some beautifully colored jelly.

Japan's demand for a huge indemnity is calculated to make the sultan take a second look at his statement of account from Russia.

Owing to certain constitutional restrictions Secretary Wilson is not allowing his work to be hampered by the buzzing of presidential bees.

An outbreak of yellow fever in the canal zone is not at all strange. There has been a great deal of "yellow" work in the whole of this canal business.

Having heard much of Russia's boasted "unlimited resources," Japan shows evidences of being willing to try to put a crimp in them with a war indemnity.

Secretary Wilson is complaining of a "leak" in the agricultural department's statistical bureau. He would confer a favor by transferring the leakage to some of the industrial stocks.

San Francisco is endeavoring to legislate steam whistles out of existence. Too much should not be attempted at once. Better begin with those that persist in blowing about 5 a. m.

When Senator Beveridge wrote his book, "The Russian Advance," he did not anticipate that he might be called upon to throw in the chromo of a crab with every copy sold.

Senator Elkins says he is going to take six months to study the railway rate question. It is hardly possible that the rate and rebate fixers will require so much time to get their reports ready.

After conferring with Mr. Schwab about the price of new battleships Russia concluded to listen to peace proposals. This is calculated to make Mr. Schwab think less of eminent gentlemen who "butt in."

## The Commoner.

Immediately after Mr. Ingalls charged that the Equitable gave rebates of large policies to well known men, Mr. Morton was appointed general manager. This is an exhibition of consistency entirely unlooked for.

Somehow or other we can not help looking for the African in the fuel heap when we read about a man paying \$5,000,000 for a block of stock worth at par only \$50,000 and capable of earning only 7 per cent on the par value.

Henry James is saying some very severe things about America and the Americans. This is very unkind in view of all the efforts Americans have made to refrain from saying severe things about Henry and his novels.

The young man who recently held up a Northern Pacific train explains that he did it "just for the fun of the thing." As he is now safely behind the bars there is nothing to interfere with his having a long series of hearty laughs, if he still feels like it.

Governor Vardeman has declined to accept a state university library from Mr. Carnegie. Governor Vardeman seems to be one of those old-fashioned gentlemen who cling to the idea that the state's schools should remain in control of the state and not pass under the insidious control of eminent financiers.

The American advocates of a big navy are pointing to Japan's recent victory as a vindication. Russia's defeat is due more to her internal troubles than to Japan's preparedness. Russia, under constitutional government, would present a very different fighting force from that furnished by a hated despotism.

The dispatches report that the premier of Greece has been assassinated by a notorious gambler. The premier angered the gambler by enforcing the law and unless the people of Greece differ greatly from other people the death of the officer is likely to do more than the officer himself could have done to drive gambling out of the country.

Several esteemed republican contemporaries that point to Mr. Cleveland's appointment on the Equitable board as calculated to restore confidence, are the same esteemed contemporaries that have long pointed to Mr. Cleveland's acts as the causes leading to the loss of confidence several years ago. This, however, is only another sample of the extreme sinuosity of g. o. p. logic.

The Washington Post suggests that Senators Foraker and Dick might debate for the purpose of determining which can offer the better diagram and explanation of the Ohio republican platform plank on railway rate legislation. The chief difficulty about such a debate would be that Messrs. Foraker and Dick might not be able to refrain from laughing while addressing the voters.

Year after year, about this time, the newspapers are filled with demands for "safe and sane" celebrations of the

### The Fourth of July Death List

Fourth of July, and the suppression of the deadly dynamite cracker and blank cartridge. But each succeeding celebration brings an increased death list. The American carelessness of life and limb is appalling. The list of dead and injured following our Fourth of July celebrations equals that of many battles set forth in history as "bloody engagements," and yet the public gives little or no heed to the death harvest. Enough laws have been enacted for the suppression of deadly explosives to fill a huge volume, but the laxity of enforcement renders them useless. Young America—and older America, too, who should know better—go right ahead killing and wounding themselves. It is one of the strange symptoms of a queer age.

Germany is still experiencing the trouble of a civilized nation that makes war on a semi-civilized people in a country where civilization is well-nigh impossible on account of climatic conditions. The war in Southwest Africa still drags on, as it has for a number of years, and Germany is little, if any, further advanced than at the beginning. An immense sacrifice of life and property has been entailed in the attempt to grab new territory, and the end is not yet in sight. The climate of that section is vile, and the soil is practically barren. Typhoid fever is decimating the German ranks.

### Germany's War in South Africa

A short time ago the entire German garrison at Wambad was destroyed by the natives. During the Boer war the German press was filled with criticism of the British plans and it was claimed that German commanders could have brought the war to a close in less than half the time. Yet Germany has been five times longer at war with a half-savage and numerically weak tribe in South Africa and the end is not yet in sight.

With the addition of Mr. Bigelow to the national banking colony at the federal penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth the colony now numbers six, all of whom have been assigned to clerkships. It is said that Bigelow will be assigned to a clerkship in the hospital—which is hardly to be construed as "hard labor" according to the accepted definition of that term, although it may be hard for Bigelow. The Milwaukee bank wrecker was given the maximum penalty of ten years on the one count in the indictment of ten upon which he was tried. He was sentenced by Judge Quarles, a life-long friend.

A few days ago a memorial tablet to the victims of the Slocum disaster was unveiled in the little chapel of St. Mark's, New York City. The Slocum disaster was responsible for the death of upwards of one thousand people, a majority of them being children. The awful accident was the result of gross carelessness and utter disregard of law calculated to safeguard life, and although two years have passed no one has been punished for the crime. The failure to punish those responsible for this accident adds one more to the long list of acts of criminal neglect on the part of American municipalities.

Echo of the Slocum Disaster

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Jesse Olive, Eddyville, Ky., writes: "Enclosed find check for \$16.60, together with list of six subscribers to *The Commoner*."

J. B. Wilson, Portland, Ind., sends list of twelve subscribers to *The Commoner*, with check to pay for the same at clubbing rates.

W. E. Phipps, Medford, Oregon, writes: "You will please send *The Commoner* to the enclosed list of ten subscribers, which I picked up this morning in less than two hours. Two or three of them are republican in politics. All are new subscribers."

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S. P. Turner, Elwood City, Pa., sends ten subscribers at the clubbing rate, with draft to cover the same at 60 cents each.

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