

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

The New York "400" seems to be made up largely of E. Z. Marks.

When the good citizen takes a vacation from politics the grafter redoubles his exertions.

One way to prevent crop report scandals is to prevent speculation on the boards of trade.

Doubtless the insurance companies would be willing to submit to examination by national bank examiners.

And only a few years ago Mr. Depew was widely mentioned as a probable candidate for the presidency!

So far Panama appears to serve only the function of being the place at which juicy salary warrants are dated.

It is very generally believed that the Equitable was pretty thoroughly skinned before its Hyde was removed.

A gold strike running \$138,000 to the ton is reported from Wyoming. Dr. Harper has struck a richer vein than that.

Japan declares that she does not want the Philippines. The wisdom of the Japanese becomes more manifest every day.

The packers have long boasted that in packing hogs they utilized everything but the squeal. The people have been given that.

The indications are that Japan is preparing to have Manchuria and a few other sections of China thrown into her lap by providence.

Secretary Bonaparte's reference to whitewash is calculated to make Paul Morton read that letter with a violent twitching of the left eyelid.

Uncle Sam's "conscience fund" has been established twenty years and amounts to less than \$400,000. Dr. Harper's conscience fund can beat that a mile.

Mr. Rockefeller's only solace lies in the fact that McClure's was labeled "fiction number" when the most interesting portion of Miss Tarbell's story was printed.

Senator Platt says that if he had his life to live over he would live it differently. Of course, but wouldn't it be hard on the public in view of the senator's experience?

The trouble with Mr. Jerome while on his western trip was that he was profoundly solemn in his attempts to be humorous, and hilariously funny in his attempts to be profound.

That reciprocity congress is called about three years too soon. Reciprocity always gets its big boost in presidential campaign years, and is the G. O. P.'s main argument, barring only the barrel.

While trying to wash his face at a public fountain a man in New York dropped \$3,000,000 in stocks into the water and they were washed away. The slump in watered stocks still continues.

The Taft presidential boom seems to have been thrown into the junk heap alongside trust prosecution, railroad rate regulation and canal pushing.

Senator Depew will have to tell the reporters some awfully funny stories this time if he expects to make them forget what they were sent to interview him about.

Mr. Lawson's remarks concerning Governor Johnson of Minnesota will be taken in a Pickwickian sense by Governor Mickey of Nebraska and Governor Hoch of Kansas.

It seems that the beef trust forgot all about those injunctions almost as soon as the administration and the courts did. The trust and federal forgetteries seem always in good working order.

Mr. Loomis has been in Europe several weeks, but up to date we have heard of no principality paying up old debts because Mr. Loomis had purchased the certificates at a heavy discount.

Doubtless those Equitable directors and pensioners and the members of the beef trust wish that their business would be treated like the bones of John Paul Jones—that is, let alone for about a hundred years.

The Chicago strike is ended and several labor leaders are under indictment for accepting bribes. The business men who paid any bribes that may have been accepted are not, however, under similar indictment.

Secretary Bonaparte promises the public that no one will be whitewashed from the service and that no one will be made a scapegoat. Is this an indiscreet reference to the Morton whitewash and the Bowen scapegoat?

Norway and Sweden are in trouble and Mr. Depew is in Europe. Mr. Depew is a great hand at giving advice for a consideration, but we would advise Norway and Sweden to read up on Equitable affairs before purchasing.

"I have lived in the searchlight of publicity for forty years," says Senator Depew, "and this is the first time I have ever been called to account for anything." Senator Depew has been singularly fortunate in his chosen career.

The Schenectady college president who declined to give up a \$3,500 job to accept one paying \$14,000 can not give away as much money as Mr. Rockefeller, but it will be readily acknowledged that he is capable of doing more real good.

The Kansas City Journal has made note of one important difference between banking in China and banking in the United States. In China the officials of a failed bank get it "in the neck." In the United States it is the depositors who get it.

The bankers who loot their own bank and the railroad magnates who extort from their patrons are creating more sentiment in favor of government savings banks and the public ownership of railroads than all the advocates of these things combined.

Taking note of The Commoner's club subscription rate the Chicago Tribune exclaims: "Now is the time to inquire what is the matter with The Commoner." The Commoner is all right, thank you. None of the staff has deserted to the opposition.

President Roosevelt has appointed Judge W. J. Calhoun a special commissioner to investigate the Venezuelan situation. With the fate of Mr. Bowen in mind it is easy to guess what Judge Calhoun will do if he wants to hold his job and get a letter of recommendation.

Secretary Bonaparte has set a good example by returning all passes and announcing that he will not during his term accept such favors from the railroads. Now if the new secretary can convert the president to his way of thinking the way will be clear for a much needed reform.

The men in direct charge of the "system" are not the only ones worried by Tom Lawson. There are the eminent publishers who must take some sort of showing for the money they receive from the newspapers controlled by the "system."

Referring to the rumor that an extra session of congress will be called for November 13 the Sioux City Journal exclaims: "Yes, it sounds unlucky, but for whom?" Well, have you noted the railroad managers worrying because the congress is republican?

A lot of newspapers that are recommending that the czar give his people a more representative government are also commending our violation of the principle of self-government in the Philippines. But the crimping of g. o. p logic continues to flourish with all of its old-time vigor.

Dr. Michael Warner of Baltimore did not give up millions and seek to secure a reputation for philanthropy by building public buildings and endowing universities. But just before he died he burned his account books in order that his patients should not be pressed for payment by his executors. Dr. Warner's practice was largely among the poor. There was more genuine philanthropy and practical love for his fellows in this act of Dr. Warner than in the giving of millions wrung from the public by sharp practices and through purchased laws. Dr. Warner's philanthropy was not "tainted" in any way. And his practical help to his fellows has erected in many hearts monuments to his memory that will be far more enduring than granite piles.

Secretary Bonaparte assures the public that the Bennington disaster will be thoroughly probed, and that if anyone is responsible he will be punished. He further adds that no one will be made a scapegoat. This is not an uncommon assurance, but somehow or other the people place more reliance upon Secretary Bonaparte's words than they usually do under similar circumstances. His action in refusing transportation "courtesies" doubtless had something to do with establishing confidence in him. The Bennington disaster should be probed to the bottom, and if it was caused by negligence, the guilty parties should be punished. The lives of American sailors and marines are too precious to be entrusted to the keeping of careless or irresponsible officers.

It has been considerably more than a year since President Roosevelt shouldered his spade and declared that he was about to build the Panama canal. Already there are signs that the president is tired and anxious to go at something else. So far all that has been done on the canal has been vocal instead of industrial, and the only things dug up are yellow fever, red tape, inconsistency and lack of decision. No one knows as yet whether the canal will be a lock canal or built at a sea level. No one has any idea what it is going to cost. The men who have been selected to take charge of the work have been recommended by the managers of the trans-continental railroads who have spent so many years and so much money in defeating all canal projects. It will take congress a long while to straighten things out down there. In the meantime everything save dirt is flying in the canal zone.

Governor Odell invested \$170,000 in the shipyard trust. When he saw that he had been bilked he protested and demanded his money back. The trust promoters laughed. But the legislature was about to meet to elect a successor to Depew. Governor Odell proposed the name of Black and began using his power to elect him to Depew's seat. In the meantime he sued the shipyard trust for the return of his money. After a short time Governor Odell withdrew Black from the race and announced that Depew was entitled to re-election. Simultaneously with this decision came the announcement that Governor Odell's suit against the shipyard trust was dropped. Depew was in close alliance with the insurance companies, and the managers of the insurance companies were deeply interested in the shipyard trust. Concealed somewhere within this little story is a plot for a good novel or a thrilling drama.

How Odell Secured His Money

The Dirt is Not Flying

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