

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Naturally and of course all of us will take a deep interest in "Young Turkey."

When Mr. Sherman insisted that the people do rule he doubtless winked his left optic in the direction of Danville, Ill.

Mr. Taft says that some tariff schedules should be revised upwards. This affords Treasurer Sheldon his glorious opportunity.

"Dirt is flying at Panama!" shrieks an administration organ. Yes, but a good deal of the stuff you see flying down there is money.

Let's see—we're not hearing so much from republican papers about "rear platform oratory" lately, are we? Nor about "canned speeches."

Reports from various sections indicate that the angle of Joseph G. Cannon's cigar is tending downward.

Mr. Sherman's endorsement of the g. o. p. platform and Mr. Taft's speech of acceptance means a severe strain upon the Sherman unmentionables.

Senator Hopkins of Illinois says "Mr. Taft's promises are not binding on the party." Is the promise of any g. o. p. manager binding on the republican party?

Friends of Chairman Hitchcock call him "the silent man." But Treasurer Sheldon is expected to furnish the medium of talk for the g. o. p. committee.

The Pittsburg Leader, which is supporting Taft and opposing the bank guarantee law, is diligently condemning a Pittsburg banker who has just looted a bank.

The report that Mr. Rockefeller plays the game of golf "on the square" impels one to express the wish that he might have begun the practice many years ago.

The St. Louis Times asserts that if the government guarantees bank deposits it ought to guarantee good crops to the farmer who sows seed. If the St. Louis Times is willing to have its mental ability measured by that sort of argument, certainly nobody will object.

Speaker Cannon says he will speak in all the doubtful congressional districts. If "Uncle Joe" means it, he is in for about seven districts a day from now until election.

If Chairman Hitchcock could be real sure that a couple of letters were destroyed and forgotten, he knows where his committee could get hold of a "practical man" for campaign purposes.

Mr. Taft's promise to call an extra session to revise the tariff in case he is elected is calculated to enthuse the eminent tariff beneficiaries who feel that their schedules need revising upwards.

"The republican party is pledged to revision on the protective basis," says the Sioux City Journal. Mr. Taft says some of the schedules are too low. That ought to explain the republican idea of revision.

"It is amusing," remarks the Sioux City Journal, "to see some newspapers supporting Taft and arguing for most of Mr. Bryan's issues." Why, it must even be positively annoying, to the Journal.

Answering the question, "Shall the people rule?" the Sioux City Journal says: "Not in a southern state, if they happen to be a colored people." So? Perhaps in Springfield, Illinois, or Springfield, Ohio.

American made agricultural implements are sold cheaper in Argentina than in the United States. Perhaps Mr. Taft thinks the schedule covering American made agricultural implements needs revising, upwards.

"Bryan's election would be little less than a calamity to labor!" shouts an Iowa republican paper. Anything less than the present calamity would be welcomed by a million and a half of idle workmen in this country.

A bountiful crop being assured the Washington Post wonders why the republican party should go to the trouble of issuing any other campaign arguments. The Post is another of those republican organs that imagines the voters of America think with their stomachs.

The Pittsburg Gazette-Times says that under democratic administration we have never had prosperity for any period, long or short." The Gazette-Times' historian is another one who believes that fiction oft repeated becomes history.

Mr. Taft has gone fishing. If for votes it must be admitted that between his own platform, the republican platforms of the different states, and his own amendments to the Chicago production, Mr. Taft will have a large variety of bait.

Mr. Taft is loudly demanding "the impartial enforcement of the law." That's exactly what the workmen are demanding—and exactly what they have not been securing through the working of the injunction as applied to industrial disputes.

The Philadelphia Evening Telegraph opposes bank guarantees on the ground that it "upsets a system that was years in the building." A few months ago a large gathering of financiers in New York City admitted, under pressure, that the system was about the poorest imaginable.

The St. Louis Times intimates that the Lincoln boy who acquired the dope habit while in the Nebraska state prison may have gotten some of his dope from the pages of The Commoner. The fact that the Lincoln boy in question is not a victim of paresis absolves the St. Louis Times from all blame.

The New York Tribune calls attention to the fact that Mr. Bryan has often had platforms collapse under him, and remarks that "Mr. Bryan has an unfortunate tendency toward the selection of weak platforms." Be that as it may, perhaps one reason why republican candidates are never in a platform collapse is that they never stand on their platforms.

"AFTER" THE ELECTION

The New York Herald in its issue of August 29, printed the following:

"George R. Sheldon, treasurer of the republican national committee, would not deny yesterday that the committee has received a \$50,000 contribution from William Nelson Cromwell, who is a member of the national advisory committee and well able to make a large contribution.

"Is it true," he was asked, "that Mr. Cromwell, representing E. H. Harriman, gave to you a check for \$50,000?"

"We have received no contribution from Mr. Cromwell for Mr. Harriman. My understanding is that Mr. Harriman usually transacts business for himself."

"Has Mr. Cromwell made such a contribution for himself?"

"I decline to discuss contributions at all. The names of the contributors will be published after election."

This is a sample of the "publicity" the people are to have so far as concerns republican campaign contributions. It has been reported by reputable news sources that Mr. Cromwell, perhaps the most conspicuous corporation attorney in America, contributed \$50,000 to the republican campaign fund. The people are interested in knowing whether this story is true, but the republican treasurer declines to discuss contributions and the people must be satisfied with the assurance: "The names of the contributors will be published AFTER election."

But why not BEFORE election?

"THE WRONG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO FOOT THE BILL"

The Commoner calls the attention of its readers everywhere to an editorial which appeared in the August 10 issue of the New York Evening Post (Ind.). From that editorial the following is taken:

"It is impossible not to sympathize, not with Mr. Bryan's managers merely, but with any honest campaign committee which endeavors to raise money as it should be raised—by the voluntary gift of the many voters interested in the election. The truth is that our electorate has been pauperized. It has been led, with good ground, to believe that individuals seeking private gain or public office would 'put up' the money to run the campaign. Thus only a day or so ago it was announced in Philadelphia that the republican office-holders in that city would be assessed a certain percentage of their salaries. And for what? Not to carry Pennsylvania, but to amass a corruption fund for other states. The voter needs to be enlightened as to his duty to contribute to a cause in which he is vitally interested. His present attitude reminds one of the anecdote told of a stingy church member who always declined to contribute to church expenses, because, as he said, he believed salvation was free. A wise old deacon who had labored with him retorted: 'My friend, we must discriminate; salvation is free, but religion is expensive.' Politics, like religion, is expensive. The trouble is that the wrong people have been anxious to foot the bills."

SUGGESTION FOR DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

Chanute, Kansas, 1908.—The Commoner: I was once a "howling democrat from old Missouri and all the way from Pike," but since locating in a state beasty republican, in a city no less joined to the plutocratic idol I have thought best to keep mum, but the restraint has been trying on my nerves. I feel now that the time is at hand when every democrat should "speak out in meeting," speak strong, loud and often, for victory seems in sight and only needs a united, harmonious and concentrated effort to win and hold the coveted prize. To this end let me suggest that every democratic club, every Bryan club in the United States see that its members read The Commoner that every club make an appropriation to send The Commoner to conservative republicans (or radicals for that matter) but especially to the young men who will cast their first vote this fall. I would further suggest that every president and leader in every club impress on the minds of its members that each and every one of them is a committee of one to solicit and forward subscriptions to The Commoner. I make these suggestions not so much in the interest of The Commoner as in the interest of the party, because I believe it the best exponent of the party, the strongest and best educational force and at the price asked for it (25 cents) by far the cheapest way to get democratic principles, policies and reforms in the hands and hearts of the people.

JOHN W. MARTIN, Jr.