

# The Commoner.

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**THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.**

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What kind of "wise business policy" is it that takes all the cash China can raise and then sells China goods on credit?

Why not send General Bates to Cuba to "persuade" the Cubans to allow the flag to continue waving over them?

There is growing suspicion that Congressman Babcock is only bidding for some of the "fat" in his district next year.

The Czar may suppress the Russian version of Tolstoi's writings but he is adding to their popularity on this side of the Atlantic.

DeWet is giving John Bull too much lead and J. Pierpont Morgan is purloining his steel. This is injurious to John Bull's iron constitution.

China offers to pay the indemnity if the powers will loan her the money. John seems to be having a joke at the expense of the foreigners.

The promptness and liberality which marked our action in settling the Rock Springs rioting cases should, of course, impel China to pay up promptly.

It seems that Ferdinand Peck was unfortunate in that his expense account reached the comptroller before he had been seen by the proper parties.

It appears that the gentlemen most anxious for "re-organization" of the democracy are those who are enjoying the special favors of the present administration.

The Sultan of Turkey will never know what postal trouble really is until he forgets to mail a letter given to him for that purpose by one of his numerous wives.

General Chaffee has issued a "farewell address" in China, which is more like Washington than any action on the part of this government for two or three years.

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By announcing the possible withdrawal of Postmaster General Smith from the cabinet and denying it the next day, some of the papers were able to fill up space in two issues.

The Earl of Cadogan announces that Edward VII is ready to aid Ireland. Edward must be preparing the ground for another call for Irish troops to serve in South Africa.

It is too early yet to quote the exact language of the democratic platform of 1904. But it is safe to say that the platform will not be written by democrats who always vote the republican ticket.

A book reviewer says eighty "historical novels" came from the press during April. A history of republican degeneracy may be had by reading the last two or three national platforms of the party.

It is said that John W. Gates is going to organize a trust to fight the steel trust, but his past record raises the suspicion that he will not be averse to selling his interests to the big steel trust whenever the inducement is sufficient.

The Buffalo Times is authority for the statement that the new ships purchased by J. Pierpont Morgan are to fly the English flag. Possibly the great financier is planning to follow the example of Mr. Astor and ex-patriate himself.

THE COMMONER is indebted to the republican organs that are so deeply interested in the permanency of its subscription list. The advertising is sufficient to insure the permanency of the list if there is any virtue in advertising in such mediums.

The people of Jacksonville, Fla., are working heroically to care for those who were made homeless by the terrible conflagration which swept over the city, but outside help is needed. Contributions may be sent to the mayor or to the various relief committees.

Elizabethon, Tenn., has been visited by unprecedented floods. Mr. Lee F. Miller, President of the Relief Association, wires THE COMMONER that one thousand persons in the town and county are homeless and destitute and that outside aid will be gratefully received.

Mr. McKinley refused an invitation to visit Mexico, saying that an unwritten law prevented the president from going outside the United States. It would seem that Mr. McKinley also holds that the constitution does not go outside of the United States—when it is more convenient to keep it at home.

Prof. Starr of Chicago University says that the habit some of the college boys have of parting their hair in the middle is a sign of degeneracy. What about those so-called democrats who part their political opinions so near the middle that they can vote the republican ticket as easily as they can the democratic ticket?

The Federation of Musicians has placed "Goo-Goo Eyes" and other rag time music under the ban. This will not be sufficient, however, to extinguish the fondness for something bright and spirited. Until the world is trained to the enjoyment of classical music, the simple melody will be in demand.

The Hereford Republicans (the white faced variety) are doing a little premature rejoicing in the south. When a democrat becomes a republican for office he is not apt to take many with him. A man's political influence is acquired by the advocacy of principles and is lost when he abandons his principles.

General Fred Grant has returned from the Philippines and his first unofficial act is to blame the anti-imperialists for the trouble in the Islands. According to this distinguished gentleman we are returning to the time when imperialism was right and when any criticism of it was next thing to treason. If he had lived in England during the revolutionary period he would have been an enthusiastic supporter of George III.

The New York Sun warns Mr. Babcock that he is likely to receive "a sound party spanking for the irresponsible revivification of an issue always disturbing to the commercial world, regardless of its disadvantage or advantage to the republican party in particular." After this rebuke the gentleman from Wisconsin ought to subside and content himself with reading in the Sun of "the country that glows with industrial activity and rejoices in prosperity." Where silence is bliss 'tis folly to be a disturber of the peace.

The character of Judas has so many counterparts in modern times that it is not likely to be forgotten. Mr. Dilcher of the United Mine Workers says that the corporations found among the laboring men of Pennsylvania "one dozen traitors" and took them to Harrisburg to oppose the passage of bills intended to benefit the wage-earners. It is lamentable but true that corporate interests can generally find a few men in every community who for a small temporary advantage will jeopardize the permanent welfare of themselves and their children.

The machinists throughout the country are striking for a nine hour day with ten hours pay. No one can give an intelligent decision upon the subject of wages without knowing the conditions existing in the various sections where the demand is made, although it is only fair to assume that the demand is reasonable, unless the republican reports of prosperity are subject to heavy discount. As to the number of hours, however, that should constitute a day's work it is easier to form an opinion. A nine hour day is long enough anywhere. The Commoner is an advocate of an eight hour day and observes this limit among its employees. It hopes to see the rule adopted everywhere.