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Cecil Rhodes is sick. So is John Bull, but not with the same ailment.

There is a marked similarity between republican platforms and some maps prepared by the navy department.

If ever an interest-bearing greenback is issued perhaps Secretary Gage will be able to look upon it without experiencing that tired feeling.

President Roosevelt is well enough versed in politics to have known that the g. o. p. organs believe in negro equality for election purposes only.

The ship subsidy promoters are wearing felt slippers, which fact should impel the opponents of that measure to drop a few commonsense tacks in the way.

The Commoner.

Commercial failures during October, according to reports to R. G. Dun & Co., were 864 in number and \$10,680,627 in amount, against 782 last year for \$9,072,791.

There is good ground for believing that Great Britain is anxiously waiting for some neutral power to offer its services as an arbiter of that South African matter.

It is reported that President Roosevelt's message will be short. In view of his official acts since that Minneapolis speech it must be conceded that his memory is, also.

It is not probable that the republicans will claim that their retrograde movement on the trust question was made to secure coal for a vigorous attack on the enemy.

There are ample indications that the time is near at hand when the man who does not wear an honorary university degree will be pointed out as something of a curiosity.

It is a good thing for the republic that the men who founded it did not act on the "let well enough alone" theory. That theory, if put into practice, would result in the world standing still.

Will those who think they see the hand of Providence pointing toward imperialism recognize the Roosevelt-Washington incident as another manifestation of destiny?

General Chaffee says that the only friendly Filipinos are the ones who are holding office under the carpetbag government. At that rate we can pacify the islands whenever we have positions enough to go around.

Farm and Home, a leading agricultural paper, may be secured by any reader of **The Commoner** who sends a yearly subscription to **The Commoner**. Read the liberal clubbing offer made elsewhere in this issue.

General Chaffee will have weekly reviews of the troops in the Philippines for the purpose of creating awe in the minds of the natives. A people awed into subjection have a habit of breaking loose very often.

General Buller should not grow impatient. Before John Bull gets through with this little task he will not only have to give all of his generals a second trial, but will have to make a lot of new ones.

Why is it that just as soon as a republican is appointed to the position of secretary of the treasury or comptroller of the currency he immediately begins scheming to benefit the banks at the expense of the people?

The American people have tried Schley before the bar of public opinion, found him guilty of having won a naval battle second only to Dewey's victory at Manila, and sentenced him to everlasting fame. No court can reverse that verdict or commute that sentence.

By carefully forgetting Pana and several other points within their own state the republican papers of Illinois are able to get up quite a show of indignation because the southern papers criticize President Roosevelt for dining with Booker T. Washington at the White house.

A republican paper sagely remarks that it is lucky for civilization that the work of the conventions of one decade is likely to be repudiated during the next decade. If it has reference to the work of republican conventions it has allowed a good deal more time than is usually required.

The derelict postal employes in Cuba feel that they could do much better in the way of covering their tracks if given another opportunity.

Having lost valuable colonies by insisting on taxation without representation the British government is now experiencing trouble by taxation with misrepresentation.

The body of Czolgosz was buried in quicklime. Republican attempts to make political capital out of the sad chapter of assassination should be buried in the same material.

Republican organs love to tell the young men of the land that their chances are "just as good as they ever were," and then urge as a reason for retaining the republican party in power that it is better to "let well enough alone." But g. o. p. logic is usually so badly snarled as to be unintelligible.

Government officials are exerting themselves to prevent the shipment of munitions of war from San Francisco to South American ports, fearing they are to be used in the Colombo-Venezuelan trouble. American mules, however, continue to go from United States ports to agents of John Bull in South Africa.

We need a new navy—not so much in the way of ships as in the way of departmental managers. The two men who were in at the death on July 3, 1898, have been illy treated—Schley hounded by a clique and Clark of the Oregon actually lower in rank than he was before he took the great battleship around the Horn and into the fight.

Japan looks upon the United States as its best friend. It was the United States that brought Japan into contact with the civilized world. How? Not with bullets and swords; not with rapid-fire guns and high-priced commissions living at the expense of a people impoverished by 300 years of fighting for liberty. It was accomplished by kindness, by force of example and by recognition of inalienable rights. But when Japan was reclaimed from industrial seclusion there was an absence of congressmen anxious to confer "blessings" in return for the privilege of gobbling up all of the rich concessions or holding the fat offices.

A reader of **The Commoner** has given the editor an opportunity to read a book published many years ago containing biographical sketches of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. It is to be regretted that the book is out of print. The republicans who are now infatuated with the doctrine of imperialism would find it profitable to review the struggle of 1776 and learn of the character and virtues of those who were willing to pledge their lives, their property and their honor in defense of the doctrine that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

The supreme court of Michigan has sustained the law enacted by the republican legislature extending the term of municipal officers one year, and providing that municipal elections shall be held simultaneously with state and congressional elections. The effect of this is to bring national politics into the municipal campaigns, and the opponents of the law assert that it was enacted for the purpose of enabling the corporations to put their representatives into the city council for the purpose of looking after franchises. There are usually local questions entirely distinct from state and national ones, and it is in the interest of good municipal government to allow these questions to be acted upon at an election where the people are at liberty to give their exclusive attention to such questions.