

## Items of Interest.

Massachusetts has 4,500 registered physicians.

California is producing daisies a foot in circumference.

Scotch-cured herrings are bringing big prices in the Netherlands.

The amount of French capital invested in China exceeds \$100,000,000.

In some New Zealand towns there are more women voters than men.

Legislation enacted by the last congress will result in at least 10,000 new pensioners.

There has been noted in Honolulu a series of tidal waves believed to be due to volcanic action.

Strikes and riots are blamed for the removal of six big insurance companies from Paterson, N. J.

Carl Myers of Frankfort, N. Y., is building signalling and scouting balloons for the United States government.

A circus performance was recently given in the penitentiary in Jackson, Mich., and the convicts enjoyed it thoroughly.

A Trenton, N. J., man recently took first the gold cure and then a sleep, from which last he failed to wake up for ten days.

It is said that almost every steamer from the Hawaiian islands that arrives on the Pacific coast brings hundreds of Japanese laborers.

From Winona county, Minnesota, comes a report that this is a record summer for rattlesnakes. One citizen has killed more than 200 of them.

The topographic mapping of the state of Vermont is being continued this summer by the topographic branch of the United States geological survey.

The government of Honduras has granted a subvention of \$100 a month to a college for women and has given it a building with accommodation for some 200 scholars.

In order to kill off mosquitoes owners of property in Greater New York on which there are pools and marshes have been asked to drain the land, fill it in or sprinkle it with oil.

According to reports made by the government geologists of Victoria and Queensland, there are no less than 62,000 square miles of coal-bearing country in the eastern states of Australia.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

## An Educational Trust.

In a recent letter to the Chicago Record-Herald, Walter Wellman tells the following:

"Among senators and representatives lingering here there has been a great deal of comment upon the report of the steel trust, which shows net earnings of \$64,000,000 during the last six months. 'This means that we have got to revise the tariff,' said a western republican. 'The American people know that the average protection on the product of the steel trust is nearly 40 per cent. They know that on account of this protection there is no foreign competition in our market. They know that the prices of iron and steel are from 25 to 50 per cent higher than they should be, and that these prices, which enable the trust to roll up such enormous profits, are made possible by the high tariff. In other words, the steel trust is taking out of other industries \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 a year more than it is fairly entitled to and more than it could take did not the federal government bar out legitimate competition. This is using a government of the people to

## ANOTHER RAILROAD HOLD-UP.

The Modern R. R. Reorganizer to the Public—"Here, Carry This for Me!"



—By Courtesy of the Chicago Record-Herald.

rob the people, and here is the question which the republican people have got to face. The sooner we make up our minds to it the better will it be for the party."

That is an apt phrase—"government of the people to rob the people." It is likely to be heard of again as the campaign progresses. The big steel trust is educating even republican politicians, and it cannot be expected that the people will be unmindful of the lesson that is being taught.

The steel trust, getting between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000 a year more than it is entitled to out of the public, may be robbing the people to a greater extent than is any other combine, but the difference between it and scores of other trusts is only one of degree of robbery. Others are mulcting the people in exactly the same way, through the tariff, and the steel trust has proved beyond all dispute that is so. The education it has imparted on this subject may be worth all it has cost the country.—Sioux City (Ia.) Tribune.

## Fifty Millions Out in the Strike.

The ninth week of the anthracite coal strike has ended and the strike has entered on its tenth week. We have the usual estimates of losses, more or less correct, but certainly setting forth the magnitude of the

movement. The loss to operators in the price of the coal that would have been mined had there been no strike is put as \$23,000,000; the loss to strikers in wages is estimated at \$11,000,000; to other employes than strikers, \$3,000,000; to business men in the coal region in loss of trade, \$7,500,000; to business men outside the coal region, \$4,500,000; cost of maintaining coal and iron police, \$650,000. Omitting other and smaller items of less consequence we have here a total loss in business and wages of not less than \$50,000,000 in nine weeks. The figures are probably exaggerated, but the cold facts make them big enough in all conscience, as can be realized by an examination of the operations in the anthracite region last year, which was the most prosperous in the last quarter of a century. The total output of the mines was but a few tons short of 60,000,000 tons, and for producing the output the miners received \$36,323,000 in wages. The selling price in 1901 was thirty to forty cents a ton higher than in 1900. The 60,000,000 tons at \$3 a ton represented a value of output reaching \$180,000,000.

Viewed in the light of common sense and sound business principles, could anything be more foolish and suicidal than this struggle in which the brightest business men of the land and a great army of industrious mechanics are engaged? They seem to

be blinded to their own interests and duties, as well as the general prosperity of the country. Yet it could all have been avoided by arbitration, but the operators rejected all offers of arbitration, even those supported by the civic federation, on the ground that there was "nothing to arbitrate," and the only settlement possible was by submission to the terms proposed by one party to the difference—a party of few men and many millions, against a party of hundreds of thousands of men and no dollars. This makes an argument for compulsory arbitration or for public ownership of the coal mines; but we are told both are impossible. Arbitration is impossible simply because the capitalistic side would maintain and assert power over flesh, blood and muscle. And, further, it dare not face the American public with such a disclosure of its business methods as would follow impartial investigation as the necessary prelude to arbitration. The loss to the operators in dividends far exceeds the additions to the wages of the miners that would have avoided and would now settle the strike. This secret and powerful coal trust must be taken in hand by the federal government, if there is any virtue in the anti-trust law or any sincerity in the professions of President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox.—Pittsburg Post.