

organized, and wages have risen over 100 per cent in three years. When does your gold standard come in?

"If Christ came to America," asks the Coming Nation, "how long would it be before he would be in the chain gang?" Within an hour after he should begin on the dens of thieves.

The Tobacco Trust has cancelled all its contracts advertising Battle Axe plug. A million dollars spent in advertising that brand has been rendered unavailing by the boycott.

The postoffice department is the only public enterprise in America that comes anywhere near being the benefit to the people that it might be, and it is the only one of any importance that has not been delegated to a corporation.

The officers of the Miners' union at Leadville, Col., charged by the mine operators with the murder of Jerry O'Keefe during the recent labor troubles have been released, the district attorney acknowledging that he had no evidence to implicate them.

As between public monopoly and private monopoly intelligent people have no hesitancy in choosing the former. The evils we have already suffered should emphasize to every thinking mind the necessity of cities owning all their own public utilities. There should be a prompt facing about. No more franchises should ever be delegated, and those that have been foolishly thrown away in the past should be recovered as promptly as circumstances will permit.

Next to our unscientific, dishonest and unprogressive financial system, there has been no factor more potent in bringing about the centralization of

wealth, that now threatens to wipe out the last vestige of popular liberty, than private ownership of public utilities. And that our modern civilization in these matters started out wrong, is no more an argument against a reversion of our present methods, than that a man, lest people accuse him of a vacillating mind, should refuse to change his course when he finds himself on the wrong road.

Coming City Election.

The city election comes in about two months and intending candidates are beginning to shape up their booms. Can't something be done to elevate the coming contest above a mere scramble for office? At the late election the silver men received safe majorities of from one to two thousand, and if they will pull themselves together and enter the contest on the issue of the ownership and administration by the city of all municipal utilities, and put forward clean, competent candidates, they not only stand to win by big majorities, but they will inject into the contest a saving principle hostile to both demagogery and corruption. "City operation of city franchises," should be the motto of the combined forces opposed to the plutocratic machine that disgraces the name of "republican."

Favorable legislation cost the Erie railroad \$1,000,000 within a year. The New York Central evidently don't require as much as its outlay, for the same commodity only amounted to \$205,000.

He Can Get 'Em All Right.

Mark Hanna in an interview said: "We cannot do anything with the farmers. They have left us; but we can get the labor vote; and we shall begin now to direct it away from Bryan and his party."

The Duluth & Southwestern Bonds.

The project on foot to vote bonds for the Duluth & Southwestern Railroad may be a good investment. We have not had the opportunity to know the merits of this particular enterprise, but in relation to the matter of voting bonds there is this to be said:

The county is expected to put money into the enterprise and then like a private investor take stock in exchange. So far, so good, the county has a right to be treated just as good as any other investor and, we presume, no better. But here comes the rub. The road is mortgaged, the mortgage is foreclosed and the county gets nothing. That is the record in 9999 out of 10000 such cases.

Now what is right?

If it is proposed to give this money to the railroad company let the promoters say so and come before the people with a plain and honest proposition, so that the men who vote for the bonds know that they are voting a gift to the company. In a similar case a few years ago the commissioners refused to accept the stock provided for in the proposition, and justly, because they knew the stock eventually, through foreclosure proceedings, would become worthless, and that the county would very likely become liable to themselves for an additional assessment to pay the debt of the corporation.

If there is to be a pretense of reciprocity in this matter let it be gone about in a business-like manner and in good faith. Let the money be voted and given to the company but let the county have in exchange—not stock but *first mortgage bonds*. We can help the company in that way and not do business like bloomin' idiots. The bonds may be a good investment. The stock will not be worth the paper its written on.