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**CLASHES WITH COURT.**

President Taft in his special message to congress in 1910, evidently did not anticipate the decision of the supreme court, for he then thought the insertion of the word "reasonable" in the Sherman act, would involve our whole judicial system in disaster. This is what he said:

"Many people conducting great business have cherished a hope and belief that in some way or other a line may be drawn between "good trusts" and "bad trusts," and that it is possible by amendment to the anti-trust law to make a distinction under which good combinations may be permitted to organize, suppress competition, control prices, and do it all legally if only they do not abuse the power by taking too great profit out of the business.

They point with force to certain notorious trusts as having grown into power through criminal methods by the use of illegal rebates and plain cheating, and by various acts utterly violative of business honesty or morality, and urge the establishment of some legal line of separation by which "criminal trusts" of this kind can be punished, and they, on the other hand, be permitted under the law to carry on their business.

Now the public, and especially the business public, ought to rid themselves of the idea that such a distinction is practicable or can be introduced into the statute. **Certainly under the present Anti-Trust law no such distinction exists.**

It has been proposed, however, that the word "reasonable" should be made a part of the statute, and then that it should be left to the court to say what is a reasonable restraint of trade, what is a reasonable suppression of competition, what is a reasonable monopoly.

I venture to think that this is to put into the hands of the court a power impossible to exercise on any consistent principle which will insure the uniformity of decision essential to good judgment.

It is to thrust upon the courts a burden that they have no precedents to enable them to carry, and to give them a power approaching the arbitrary, the abuse of which might involve our whole judicial system in disaster."

**FIRST PAGE ARTICLE.**

We would call special attention to the leading article on our first page from the pen of Nolan R. Best, editor of "The Continent," the National Presbyterian weekly.

The article will certainly give many of our readers an entirely new view point, as to what should be the attitude of the church toward the trades union movement.

Mr. Best shows very clearly that the most landable of human reforms are in a more or less degree tintured with human frailty, and that the church at its inception was no more proof against such weaknesses than is the trades unionism of today.

**THE TRUST QUESTION.**

To handle the trust question properly it may be necessary to elect legislators of different calibre than has heretofore been the rule, or it may have to be done through the initiative and referendum. Restrictive legislation like the anti-trust law or interstate commerce law can bring no genuine relief. The repeal of old laws is a far more urgent requirement than the enactment of new ones. It is never unconstitutional to repeal a bad law. It frequently is to enact a good one. One bad law that must be repealed is the tariff law. That will put an end to all the trusts that are upheld by protection.

**A REPREHENSIBLE PRACTICE**

"The fool who rocks the boat" again materialized on Spirit Lake last Sunday.

Beyond all question, such a character is unfit to associate with young people, and our boys and girls should shun his society as they would a pestilence.

It is hard to classify such an individual. He is a near relative of another idiotic character who points a gun with the subsequent exclamation, "I didn't know it was loaded.

Some states have made provision against such offenses. Michigan has a statute making it a felony to point an unloaded fire arm at another.

Among the sayings of famous men we find this one accredited to Washington (at Trenton): "If any fool rocks the boat, my lads, throw him overboard."

**TREND OF EVENTS.**

The Rt. Rev. Charles David Williams, bishop of Michigan, sees the trend of events and is not afraid to condemn the cringing servility of many of our people.

In his sermon recently, he said: "The United States and Russia stand side by side in the black list of nations that have failed to protect the poor and weak with proper legislation. \* \* \* The government has existed to back up successful men, \* \* \* The nation is being conducted in the interest of the wealthy and successful citizen

"We have false standards and no national ideal worthy the name. The financial barons and merchant princes are worshiped with even greater humility than the old feudal lords of other ages. The highest avocation, the greatest achievement is the accumulation of wealth. There is a deplorable lack of taste, all tending to glitter and tinsel."

**THAT OLD CHESTNUT.**

"We are all equal before the law," has been thoroughly exploded and no sane man should longer express any faith or confidence in the fallacy of such a shattered dream.

Taylor of Kentucky was a fugitive from justice and was indicted on the charge of murder, but for seven years the fugitive from Kentucky had the protection of the state of Indiana.

But, when a labor official of the state of Indiana who was not a fugitive from justice, is charged with crime, the state of Indiana offers him no protection but permits his legal rights and constitutional liberties to be trampled under foot.

But Taylor of Kentucky was a politician and a capitalist, while McNamara was a labor official, who was consecrating his best efforts to liberate the slave from the shackles of industrial servitude.—The Miner's Magazine.

Our legislators are evidently willing to do anything to destroy the trusts except to repeal the laws that create them. Congress and the state legislators could long ago have wiped every monopoly out of existence without any resort to litigation had they been willing to act on the question sincerely and in a rational manner.

**THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM**

The initiative and referendum has reached the stage where there are now no doubts of its being adopted by a great majority of the states. At the last sessions of the California, Washington, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Florida state legislatures bills were passed looking to its establishment. Only one serious rebuff has been encountered. The legislature of Iowa adopted the Oregon plan, but Governor Carroll vetoed it. Oregon, Oklahoma, Nevada, Missouri, Montana, South Dakota, Maine, Arkansas and Utah have constitutional provisions covering this mode of legislation. Arizona, the near-state, has also provided for it. Utah, however, adopted the provision in its constitution when admitted as a state, but the legislatures since that time have steadfastly refused to enact a statutory law putting it into operation. We all know how this meritorious reform fared at the hands of the last Minnesota legislature, but it's coming yet for a that.

**OPENNESS OF OPPORTUNITY**

Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa, in an address at the graduation exercises of the Washington college of law coined the following:

"The greatest problem that we are facing today, and the one upon which the American Republic will be wrecked, if it is ever wrecked, is the question of distribution of the vast wealth of the nation. I do not for a moment suggest the equality of fortune. The openness of opportunity is what is needed in this country today. Business is being concentrated into the hands of the few, and the vast opportunity that once existed is being taken away.

If competition disappears and the mighty combinations control the wealth, there are only two remedies—fixing of prices of commodities by the government or the judicial restoration of the creed of competition.

Competition has been called wasteful, evil and cruel, but I would rather have all of its wastefulness, its evil and its cruelty than that one power have the right to say what prices shall be paid for all commodities used by the people of this country."

**AN ABSURDITY.**

One of the inexcusable absurdities of existing law is made manifest through the Standard Oil litigation. It took that corporation two years to definitely learn whether or not it was violating the law.

The ablest attorneys that its money could employ informed it that it was not.

The judges of the supreme court were unable to say whether it had or not, but had to think about the matter for weeks before deciding.

Yet the ordinary layman who has never been to a law school is held strictly responsible for any violation of law, even if the law happens to be one that no one had ever heard of it would think possible for a sane legislature to pass. "Ignorance of the law is no excuse."

The matter would be a proper subject for a comic opera if it did not so frequently have results that are not at all funny.

Suppose the men who profess to be so intensely interested in the development of Northern Minnesota have bunches of stumps and rocks they wish to sell at ten times their value, never mind that, the agitation will do good, even if the motives that prompt it are not above reproach.

The honest man takes pains, and then enjoys pleasure; the knave takes pleasures, and then suffers pains.

**Our Question Box**

Such questions will be answered in this column as appear in a more or less degree to the good and welfare of our readers. Questions strictly sectarian in nature or ultra political in character, will be either assigned to the waste basket or returned to the questioner, as a sign of respect for his determination.

Duluth, June 7, 1911.  
 To the Editor of The Labor World:  
 My neighbor and I have a dispute over what constitutes the basement of a building and have agreed to leave it to you. Is a store opening on Michigan street in a building fronting on Superior street, to be considered as in the basement?  
 Yours, J. P.

**Answer**—For the purposes of your question a building can be regarded as composed of a foundation and a superstructure. The space enclosed by the foundation constitutes the basement regardless of the purpose for which that space is used, or from what street access is obtained to it. It is possible to have a cellar below the basement where the height of the foundation walls will admit of it. It is possible, too, for a building to have no basement when the space enclosed by its foundation walls is not high enough to be utilized. Such a hole in the ground is in common parlance designated as a cellar.

Duluth Minn., June 4, 1911.  
 Editor Labor World:  
 I wish you would give me a good recipe for making root beer and ginger ale. I am now making dandelion beer from your recipe of two weeks ago.

Thanking you for favors, I am  
 Yours Respectfully,  
 SUBSCRIBER, Lakeside.

**Root Beer.**

**Answer:** To make a first class article of root beer observe the following directions:

Take 1 1/2 gallons of molasses, add 5 gallons of water at 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Let this stand two hours, then pour into a small barrel and add 1/2 pound of bruised sassafras bark, 1-4 pound of powdered or bruised wintergreen, pint of yeast and water enough to fill the small barrel. Ferment for 12 hours and bottle.

**Ginger Ale**

The following is highly recommended: Pour a gallon of boiling water over 1/2 of a pound of loag sugar, one and a quarter ounces of sliced ginger and the peel of one lemon. After allowing the mixture to cool until it is milk warm, add the juice of a lemon and a spoonful of yeast.

Duluth, Minn., June 7, 1911.  
 Editor Labor World:  
 We have an argument over a question we have left for you to decide if you know. The question is this: "It is a fact, is it not, that the Socialists are opposed to the private ownership of property?"  
 Yours truly,  
 SEVERAL SUBSCRIBERS

**Answer:** No it is not a fact. As we understand the position of the Socialists, they want everything that is publicly used to be publicly owned, and everything that is privately used to be pri-

vately owned. They hold, we believe, that wealth is the private property of the individual who produced it, and that he should not be deprived of it by any subterfuge or legal scull duggery. A great deal of falsehood is circulated about the Socialists.

Duluth Minn., June 7, 1911.  
 Editor Labor World:  
 I hear a good deal said of the Copernican and Ptolemaic systems of the universe. I wish you would explain what is meant by each system.  
 HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL.

**Answer:** In the second century after Christ there flourished one Claudium Ptolemy, who enunciated the Ptolemaic theory of the universe.

According to this cosmography, the world was flat and was the center of the universe. The earth was enclosed in a number of crystal spheres, each sphere innermost had the moon imbedded in it. The next sphere had the sun embedded in it. The outer spheres had the visible planets. The next the outermost had all fixed stars. The outermost sphere has the background for the twinkling and quivering lights. These separate crystal spheres moved in different directions. This was self-evident and proven by the course taken by the sun, moon and planets. As these hollow, concentric bodies moved and ground against each other they produced music. This was the "music of the spheres" which was supposed to be pleasing to the Creator.

There was a hole through these spheres through which the angels descended and ascended and through which the souls of the dead escaped. This was proven because Jacob in a dream had seen the angels walking up and down the hole.

This universe was attached to heaven by four golden chains. Up above was heaven and down below was hell. This theory of the universe was the one adopted by Milton in his "Paradise Lost," Milton wrote this poem after the Copernican theory had been given to the world. The Ptolemaic seemed to him the grander conception. As a result Milton's great poem is little read today. This is a scientific age and Milton chose to be poetic rather than truthful.

In 1543 Nikolaus Copernicus, a native of Thorn in Prussia, advanced the theory that the earth revolved on its own axis and revolves around the sun. This at once provoked a great storm. The theologians denounced the impious views of the wretch. They triumphantly marshaled religious dogmas to their aid. Does not Revelations declare that the angels stood at the four corners of the earth? How can the angels stand on the corners if the earth be round? Does not scrip-

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ture declare that the earth is fixed and standeth fast forever? How, then, can it be round and travel round the sun?  
 In spite of the theologians Copernicus was shown to be right, and Sir Isaac Newton (born 1642, died 1727) explained the movements of the heavenly bodies by the one law of universal gravitation.  
 We now know that the earth is round and that it moves round the sun. We know that the stars are bodies billions and trillions and quintillions of miles away.  
 We now smile at the Ptolemaic theory. Yet it created a great furore in its days and those who asserted the Copernican views were held to be heretics, destroyers of human happiness and haters of God.

**HOW THE FARMER IS FLEEDED.**

Farmers pay at least 60 per cent of all taxes. The total amount of land value in the United States is about \$60,000,000,000, of which at least 70 per cent is owned by public service corporations, owners of mining lands and owners of city and suburban lots. It follows that no more than 30 per cent of land value is owned by the farmers. If the tax system would be changed so that all public revenue would be raised by a tax on land values alone farmers would pay no more than 30 per cent of it.

Minnesota State Federation of Labor convenes in Mankato, June 19.

The union man is the best workman to have in a city, for he makes more money and is able to spend more. He gets the price he sets on his work and is willing to pay the price the merchant sets on his goods. He is not a bargain hunter or a cheap skate. He knows the rules of the game of life and is willing to abide by them.

Flattery and slush don't amount to anything, but good honest, well meant praise means a good deal, especially where it is honestly due.

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