

FROM THE COMMONER

MR. BRYAN'S PAPER

THE SPHERE OF THE STATE.

The recent decision of the supreme court, sustaining the federal judges in North Carolina and Minnesota, focuses public attention upon a subject, consideration of which can not be much longer delayed: Shall the lower federal courts have jurisdiction to suspend the laws of the various states before the state courts have had an opportunity to pass upon those laws? The newspapers which take their inspiration from the large corporations are congratulating the country that property is made more secure by the decision, and that vested interests are rescued from peril. How long will these papers be able to deceive the public and to mislead their readers? Property is in no danger and vested interests are not imperiled. The laws of the states can be depended upon to protect property rights and vested interests. The question is simply a question of dealing with corporations. Shall the corporations be regarded as superior to the natural man? That is the only question involved. If a natural man locates in a state and engages in business he must rely upon the state courts for his protection. The state protects him in his life, in his liberty and in his property and he resorts to the courts of the state when he seeks to enforce a right. Under the present laws and decisions it is different with the corporation. A railroad corporation can be organized in the state of New Jersey and proceed to engage in business in any of the 46 states of the union; it gets from the state a license to build a railroad; it uses the power of eminent domain and condemns land; the state laws protect its property and the lives of its employees, but when a citizen sues the railroad for more than \$2,000, or the state attempts to regulate the railroad, the railroad contemptuously turns its back upon the state and the courts of the state and drags its adversary into the United States court. Why should a state be so impotent when it deals with a corporation which owes so much to the state?

If the state passes a rate law the railroad at once enjoins the enforcement of the law on the ground that it is unconstitutional. While the courts are deciding this question the state stands helpless. The law has not been declared unconstitutional by any court, and yet the state is not permitted to enforce it. If, after months or years of litigation, the United States court decides that the law is not unconstitutional, then during all the intervening time the state has been prevented from enforcing a constitutional law. Why not give to the state courts rather than to the railroads the benefit of the presumption? Why clothe a corporation with privileges so much superior to those of the natural man? The Democrats of congress are right in urging the passage of a law withdrawing from the circuit and district courts of the United States power to suspend state laws. Let every corporation doing business in the state submit its controversies to the courts of the state, and thus put itself upon the same footing with domestic corporations and with individual residents. If the state courts deny the corporation justice, the corporation still has its appeal from the highest state court to the United States supreme court. Is not this protection enough?

The big corporations and their defenders, conscious of the weakness of their cause, constantly confuse the issue. The question is, not whether property shall be protected, for the state has as much interest as the nation in the protection of property; the question is, shall the corporation be brought down to the level of the God-made man, or shall it be made an object of worship? The Democrats are right in insisting that the state shall not be deprived of its power to protect its citizens, and that federal remedies shall be added to state remedies, not substituted for them. There is no disposition anywhere to deny to the federal government its constitutional authority, but the jurisdiction of the district and circuit courts of the United States is regulated by congress and congress ought to withdraw the jurisdiction which the lower federal courts are now using to the prejudice of the states and citizens of the states.

WHO PAYS THE BILL?

The American Protective Tariff League has issued circular No. 216—which shows that the league has issued a good many circulars before—and this circular is in the form of a letter asking for the name and address of one person who will cast his first vote in the presidential election in 1908. The league wishes "to forward literature on the subject of protection," and wants the "home address" only. It costs money to keep an office on Broadway in New York and furnish literature on the subject of protection. The Protective Tariff League has for a good many years been sending out this literature, and those who get it are helping to pay for it. Like the tariff tax, the payment is concealed, but somebody must pay it. The protected industries have used a small part of the money that they get from the people to pay for the literature with which to send out arguments in support of protection. The Protective Tariff League, however, is more interested in the voter just now than it is

after the election, for after the election the voter is completely ignored. The beneficiaries of protection are dead to the entreaties of the masses on the subject of taxation. When it is proposed to put upon the free list imported articles which come into competition with articles controlled by the trusts, the Protective Tariff League is quick to protest. When the Democrats talk about reducing all schedules which are above 100 per cent, the Protective Tariff League resists the reduction of 120 per cent duty, for the protection of the Standard Oil Company does not disturb the Protective Tariff League. It is looking at the question from the standpoint of the tax-payers, but during the campaign it is quite anxious to spread its literature before the taxpayers. It ought to be put on each piece of literature: "This document is paid for by the protected industries which have been getting the benefit of the high tariff."

WHAT ABOUT THE HOUSE?

Referring to tariff revision bills Representative Dalzell, Republican of Pennsylvania, and a member of the Ways and Means committee of the house, is quoted by the Associated Press as saying: "This multiplicity of bills and resolutions does not scare anybody. There is no change in the situation," he declared. "At the commencement of the session the ways and means committee determined that there should be no tariff revision at this session. Nothing has occurred to change that decision and it stands." "At the commencement of the session the ways and means committee determined that there should be no tariff revision at this session. Nothing has occurred to change that decision and it stands." But what has become of the house of representatives? Has it, under the Republican party, ceased to possess the power delegated to it? Is a mere committee to issue decrees such as Mr. Dalzell describes?

"REST AND PEACE AND REASSURANCE."

In a letter addressed to the New York World, Grover Cleveland of Princeton, N. J., said: "Our people need rest and peace and reassurance; and it will be quite in line with true Democracy and successful policy to impress upon our fellow countrymen the fact that Democracy stands for those things." "Yes, rest and peace and reassurance! And for all of that Democracy stands!" But that does not mean reassurance to the men who manipulate the money of insurance policyholders or the wealth in the public treasury. It does not mean that they are to enjoy rest and peace so long as they persist in their evil practices. It does not mean that the American people are to be asked to close their eyes to these inequities or, through an appeal to a false conservatism, grant immunity to those who conspire against the public welfare.

"IMMEDIATELY"—BUT LATER.

In his letter to the Indiana Republican convention wherein he pleaded for postponement of tariff revision until after the presidential election, Vice-President Fairbanks said: "We can, however, revise such schedules as may require revision immediately following the coming national election and before the fourth of next March." Well, why not revise one or two schedules before the election in order to give the people a sample of tariff revision by the Republican party?

Why not revise the wool pulp schedule, for which revision Republican publishers are pleading so earnestly?

A GROWING QUESTION.

What is the extent of the financial interests held by Joseph Pulitzer, owner of the New York World, in railroad companies and in great corporations commonly known as trusts? This is a pertinent question because an honest answer might uncover the special interests for which the New York World speaks in its present day attacks upon Democrats.

DEMOCRACY APPEALS TO YOUTH.

Democracy appeals to the young because it is the growing doctrine. Behind it are the eternal and irresistible forces which bring victory to the truth. The young man wants an opportunity and Democracy insures opportunity. Democracy's aim is justice and the young man's heart responds to Democracy's arguments.

CONGRATULATIONS.

The Oklahoma legislature should congratulate Secretary Taft upon the spirit of progress shown in Ohio by the submission of the initiative and referendum amendment.

The German reporters who struck in order to revenge themselves on the lawbreakers have a lot to learn about how to play even with recreant public officials.

If these Japanese emissaries really want to study thoroughly all of our defense plans they will have to visit something like 12,000,000 American homes.

Having passed the ship subsidy bill the "standpaters" can point to the fact as another reason why the tariff must be maintained.

If reports from the navy's target practice are true there is no reason why Japanese spies should create consternation by their presence.

DETECTIVE AMONG GHOSTLY BEINGS

THE SINGULAR AND ORIGINAL OCCUPATION OF A MILWAUKEE PRIVATE SLEUTH.

INVESTIGATES SHADE WORLD

For the Purpose of Science He Watches and Uncovers the Deceptions of Mediums and Fake Spiritualists.

Milwaukee. — Being a detective among ghosts is perhaps the most original occupation pursued by any living American. A good many persons earn their bread and butter by playing the sleuth among mortals, but so far as is known one young man in Milwaukee is the only exponent of Sherlock Holmes in the shade world.

This detective is the general superintendent of the Citizens' Detective Agency of Milwaukee. He was retained by a psychical research society to serve as an investigator of spiritualistic and mediumistic matters. Just as the agency's general men are employed to unearth and search out cases of ordinary dishonesty, so this superintendent was retained to run to earth the deceptions practiced by professional spiritualists who use manual dexterity and mechanical devices to raise tables, materialize figures and do the other "miracles" which anyone can witness at innumerable seances.

On the occasion of a recent study near Chicago of the alleged interpretations of a celebrated medium whose mysterious case has been under the observation of men like Prof. William James and Sir Oliver Lodge for many years past, this superintendent was found to be thoroughly enthusiastic. He said:

"It is because I believe that such phenomena do occasionally occur that I am anxious to expose the frauds. Only by so doing can we hope to reach the genuine phenomena. The proportion of fraudulent to authentic I have tried to indicate in my reports, the larger part of which is given up to the former class."

This detective has exposed almost numberless devices of mediums by



A Ghost Detected.

which "materialization" of spirits is purported to be accomplished. He has discovered the cleverest imaginable schemes for smuggling clothes into cabinets, and has found that the self-playing guitar, which strikes the average audience as wonderful, often simply contains a music box to do the work.

A ghost whom this superintendent once detected proved to be a young man entirely covered by black tights, except his right arm, which was bare half way between the elbow and shoulder and was powdered with pulverized luminous paint. With his face masked in black, this phantom's luminous arm seemed to float in space while it wrote spirit messages, thrust them into the pockets of sitters, played a guitar and performed other miracles which appeared real to the credulous.

The sleuth has frequently been a witness of the phenomena of gradual "materializing" and "dematerializing" on the floor in front of a cordon of sitters. To the audience it looks absolutely astonishing to see a small ball of light, projected before them, grow gradually into cloud and increase in size until a phosphorescent spirit like a woman wavers before their very faces and eyes.

But trick underlies the whole performance. The human confederate who accomplishes the illusion removes all her clothing, draws on a long black chemise which reaches her shoe tops, puts on a pair of white stockings and white slippers. Her head is covered with a black mask. She puts a luminous robe into a black bag and then slips down a ladder into a carefully prepared cabinet.

By crawling under the curtains of the cabinet she exposes on the floor a little portion of the robe doubled up to form a luminous ball. Out of the bag the glowing robe is shaken gradually, producing the effect of a swelling cloud. The woman then gets on her knees, pulls the robe up over her face and throws off the black mask. The figure rises gradually until it appears the full size of a woman. The robe is next adjusted and, by a slight noise, a signal is given to have a little light turned on.

BLUSHING BLUEGOAT AIDS GIRL IN SCANT ATTIRE

PATROLMAN COMES TO RESCUE OF PSYCHE-LIKE FIGURE WITH COVERING OF BLUE.

New York.—Patrolman Jerry Reardon, a young and fair-complexioned bluecoat, looked once and then looked again. He had never noticed any life-size picture of statuary adorning the front stoop of the home of Rev. Edwin A. Keigman, the pastor of the West End Presbyterian church, at 139 West One Hundred and Third street.

Well, then, Jerry blushed and unconsciously swung on his heel and gazed at the landscape toward Columbus avenue. But there was a murmur of words behind him, and stern duty



Jerry Slipped Off His Coat and Wrapped It About Her.

bade him blush on, if blush he must, but stern duty must, perforce be obeyed.

So the bluecoat approached the young woman, who was as unconscious of the unconventionality of her appearance as if she were in some ancient Grecian glade and she a nymph of old. She, at least, was in costume for the part.

Jerry slipped off his coat and wrapped it about her. Meantime she murmured that she was seeking the path heavenward. Jerry sent for a patrol wagon. Stragglers through the street were mystified at the appearance of a shirt-sleeved bluecoat and a young lady garbed, apparently, in brass buttons and—well—

As we were saying, the pair went to the West One Hundredth street station, where the matron helped in the difficulty. The young woman said that she was Miss Bertha Schmidt, and that she lived with Mrs. J. Carmichael in West Ninety-Third street. Yes, she had walked all that distance before she was helped into Policeman Jerry's coat.

From the station she was taken to the observation ward at Bellevue hospital, where the physicians said they thought she was suffering from religious mania.

Mrs. Carmichael said the young woman had lost both her parents in the San Francisco earthquake and that the shock of the catastrophe had affected her mind. She had been in the care of a trained nurse from whom she had disappeared.

CARRIES SEVERED LEG.

Logger Shows Great Grit in Going Two Miles After Fatal Injury.

Tacoma, Wash.—Carrying his severed right leg with him, Daniel Stetson, a logger, crawled through two miles of brush to tidewater at Toby Inlet, B. C., got into a boat and rowed another two miles down the coast to a logging camp before finally collapsing. Stetson was hand logging alone. While felling a tree, he was caught as the tree fell. It crushed his right leg into a shapeless mass, practically tearing it off. Stetson completed the work by cutting the shreds of skin which remained.

Although bleeding to death, he retained consciousness and laboriously made his way through the brush to the coast. Foot by foot he crawled over logs and through swamps until he reached the water's edge. Suffering untold agony, he got into a boat and managed to reach a small camp two miles away. Then he collapsed. The men procured a launch and took him into Lund. From there he was conveyed to the Vananda hospital, where every attempt was made to save his life, but the shock and the loss of blood had been too much and he died the next day.

Orders His Own Coffin.

Chattanooga, Tenn.—Jack Smith, a reputed millionaire of Atlanta, Ga., came here and placed an order with a local casket company for the construction of his coffin and vault.

A wooden model of each is now being made, and the coffin is to be of steel, mahogany trimmed, while the vault will be of steel and cement.

Smith says he will remain here until the models are completed and he is satisfied with them. Smith, it is said, prides himself that he never wore a necktie, and when an artist put one on him he refused to pay for the picture, and later defended and won a \$10,000 damage suit started by the artist.

Holland's Drainage System.

Holland has 10,100 windmills, each draining on an average of 310 acres of land.

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

MAY STIR UP CIVIL WAR



Augustus Everett Willson, governor of Kentucky, will engender the enmity of thousands in his state if he puts into execution his threat to veto the McChord bill forbidding any trust to carry on operations within the state, or to employ agents therein. If this bill becomes law the tobacco trust will be placed at the mercy of the tobacco growers, for it will have to buy its tobacco through middlemen, and its immense factories in Kentucky will have to be closed down. The governor is said to have a feeling of sympathy for the trust whose legal representative he has been in the past. Should he veto the bill it is declared that it will result in civil war, the planters declaring that the first law of nature, the law of self-preservation, is to be obeyed rather than the man-made law of the land.

The difficulties encountered by the governor in his endeavor to stamp out lawlessness will be appreciated, when it is stated that a detective whom he sent to Russellville appeared before the grand jury with a list of persons guilty of night riding, and discovered that four or five of those accused were on the jury. The detective left the important part of his story untold, and before he left town by the earliest train he made a speech to the farmers advising them in their own interest to stand by one another and fight the trust.

The tobacco trust has apparently very little hope of the governor killing the bill, for it has made an offer to purchase 15,000 hogsheads of tobacco from the association at 12 cents a pound—the very same tobacco which before the formation of the organization was selling for four cents. The farmers refused the offer and stated their terms, which were that the price should be 15 cents, and that the buyers should take the crop of 1905 first, then the crop of 1906 and then they would be allowed to buy the crop of 1907. The trust is said to have refused this offer, and there may be a recrudescence of night riding any moment. The militia is in full sympathy with the farmers and will not interfere with them if it can be avoided or evaded. Meanwhile the governor's position is a critical one.

MINERS' CHIEF RETIRES

After ten years of leadership of the United Mine Workers of America, John Mitchell has retired from the head of the great labor organization and has been succeeded by Vice-President Thomas L. Lewis of Ohio.

Mr. Mitchell will devote his time to regaining his health, which has given way under the strain of office. He has been called to Washington by President Roosevelt, who wants to send him to Panama as an investigator of conditions, but it is understood that he does not favor accepting the position. It is said that in future he will devote his attention to a labor paper which he will establish in Indianapolis. The object of the paper will be the securing of industrial peace between the miners and operators of the country.

Mr. Mitchell's work for the miners has been detailed at length many times. When he became the head of the organization about ten years ago there were only 43,000 members in the organization; to-day there are 350,000; wages have been advanced almost 100 per cent.; living conditions in the mining camps have improved several hundred per cent.; the company store has been driven out of the mining settlements and men are now paid in money, not brass checks redeemable only in trade at the "pluck-me" store run by the employer. Children of tender age have been taken out of the mines and put into school, and in most states in which the organization is now established boys under 14 or 16 years of age can not enter the mines. The miners have received favorable standing before the people of the country because of their advocacy of peace in preference to strike, and their adopted policy of keeping inviolable contracts when made with the operators.

SOUTH CAROLINA SENATOR

Frank B. Gary, who has been elected United States senator from South Carolina to fill an unexpired term, claims among his ancestors, Robert Bruce, king of Scotland; John Knox, founder of the Presbyterian church; John Witherspoon and other Scotch worthies. He is a nephew of the late Gen. Mark Gary, a picturesque character of the secession and reconstruction periods, who was a major-general of cavalry in Wade Hampton's legion, a brilliant soldier, a reckless leader and a hard fighter. He was famous for his profanity and his ungovernable temper. There was no fiercer fire-eater in all the south, and he was mixed up in a dozen duels.

After the overthrow of the Republican government in South Carolina and the establishment of what is known as the Hampton oligarchy, Gen. Gary quarreled with his former commander because he did not receive the political recognition that he thought he was entitled to, and, although the family belonged to the old slave-holding aristocracy, Gen. Gary and all his relatives joined the Tillman and the "wool hats" in the overthrow of Hampton. Under Gen. Hampton's "oligarchy" none but the aristocracy of the state and those who had distinguished themselves in the confederate army were recognized by appointments to office. The ordinary farmers were ignored, although they were in a very large majority. Tillman organized them through the Farmers' alliance; he aroused them to a sense of their rights, and he swept Hampton, Butler and all the rest of the aristocrats out of power. Since then the Gary family have enjoyed unusual political prosperity, and it is declared that they have held more offices than any other family in the state.

Frank Gary has pledged himself not to be a candidate for election next year, but it is expected that he will do what he can to secure the election of his cousin, former Gov. John Gary Evans.

WILL WELCOME FLEET

Alfred Deakin, premier of the commonwealth of Australia, was probably quite sincere in his delight when his invitation for the American fleet to visit Australian ports was accepted, for Mr. Deakin is a warm admirer of the United States and its people. He has been in America several times studying the irrigation question in the western states. Australia has a problem that is exactly similar, the interior of the continent being absolutely waterless for the greater part of the year. With a good system of irrigation Deakin hopes to make the interior as habitable as the seacoast.

Premier Deakin is a warm sympathizer with the United States and Canada in their attitude towards the Asiatic. From its geographical position off the coast of Asia, and its remoteness from any people of cognate race, the Asiatic problem is a very serious one to Australia. The northern part of the island continent would be an ideal country for Chinese and Japanese, but the Australian government will not allow them to land, preferring to retain the northern part of the island in a state of nature rather than allow it to get into the hands of any but a white race.

Premier Deakin is also an admirer of the American system of government, and in the confederation of Australia he followed the American rather than the Canadian ideal. Thus the colony is a commonwealth rather than a dominion, and is composed of states instead of provinces. The powers of the central government are not nearly so wide as those of the Canadian government and resemble more those of the United States government. This system he urges for adoption in the confederation of the British empire, each colony to be represented in the federal council, and to have a say with the mother country in questions of inter-imperial or international nature. If his plan is adopted the British empire will become another United States.

