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Watchful Waiting for Business While the "Record" Is Being Made.

The "teeth" have been amended out of the administration's anti-trust bills that have so far been made public in their altered form. The bills as they stand are innocuous and needless. The changes amount to a practical concession of the Tribune's position that it was either dangerous or useless to change the Sherman law. The trades commission bill in its present form gets nowhere. The holding companies bill equally gets nowhere. Both, if they are put upon the statute books, will not alter the policy of the government toward trusts in any significant degree or, what is just as important, make it any clearer.

Why should the recovery of business be held up while Congress adopts a programme of no more consequence than that of the administration promises to be after it takes its final shape? If the present law was not adequate to restrain excessive combinations and monopolies, we should say that it should be strengthened, even in the existing business exigency. But the general testimony is that the law is strong enough. Even the administration concedes that it is strong enough. In its latest bills it does not add to the law's rigor. And the attempt to define restraint of trade, according to the view of Washington, is going to be abandoned.

The amended trades commission bill is not of much importance. It merely gives a new name to an old thing. The powers which it is proposed to confer upon the new commission are substantially those now exercised by the Bureau of Corporations. The trades commission would have slightly more initiative with respect to securing publicity than the present bureau possesses; that with a change of name is all the bill in its present form provides.

The holding companies bill apparently will add little or nothing to the resources of the government in dealing with restraint of trade as it is practised through the holding company device. All that the Attorney General will be able to do when that bill is enacted into law is to be able to do now under the Sherman act, if indeed, in an attempt to be specific, Congress does not weaken the effect of the broad and inclusive prohibitions of that act.

The only exigency that requires the amendment of the Sherman act now is a party exigency. Mr. Wilson wants to make a record. If the latest form of the administration bills is a guide, any enactment with regard to the trusts, however superfluous and lacking in real significance, will be sufficient to constitute a record. Meanwhile the business of the country must perforce adopt Mr. Wilson's Mexican policy of "Watchful Waiting."

Fifty for Merit, Fifty for Spoils.

In the two appointments just made to fill important vacancies in the State Department good is mixed with bad. Mr. Robert Lansing, who succeeds Mr. John Bassett Moore as counselor of the department, is well qualified for the place. He has long been associated with his father-in-law, Mr. John W. Foster, in international law practice in Washington and has represented the United States on various international commissions. His appointment is non-political and for merit only, and he will help greatly to fill the gap unfortunately left by Mr. Moore's resignation.

It is regrettable that a similar desire to strengthen the department should not have been shown in the selection of Mr. Cone Johnson, of Texas, as solicitor. Mr. Johnson is a political friend of Mr. Bryan and also put the President under some personal obligation by helping to elect a Wilson delegation to the Democratic National Convention of 1912. He was one of the Texas delegates-at-large. At home he is known chiefly as an orator and an unsuccessful candidate for office. "The Houston Post" for many years referred to him as "Coon" Johnson; but that disrespect may have been due to the fact that he was an ardent anti-Baileysite. So far as special equipment for a high post in the State Department is concerned, Mr. Bryan and Mr. Wilson could scarcely have gone further afield. The present administration has shown itself weakest in its management of foreign relations. It has learned a little by sad experience, but not much. Hope of any permanent improvement is dampened when a good appointment like Mr. Lansing's is coupled with a bad appointment like Mr. Johnson's.

A Cotton Plague of Egypt.

The discovery of insect pests in Egyptian cottonseed is of far greater interest than might appear at the first glance. On the face of it, it means that a consignment of seed intended for planting in Arizona cannot be received into this country. Beyond that, it is profoundly significant of conditions in the rivalry between America and Africa in the production of cotton.

For years the British and German governments have been striving to develop extensive cotton culture in their African colonies. Their success has not been marked, but in Egypt there has of late been a promise of it, and enormous water storage and irrigation works for its promotion are now being undertaken on the Upper Nile. One of the chief grounds for pushing the African enterprises has been the affliction of American cotton fields with the boll weevil and other pests. It has been assumed that the new fields in Egypt and the Sudan would be free from these, as American grapevines were free from the phylloxera which ravaged the vineyards of France.

There can, of course, be no exultation here, but there must be profound disappointment in Great Britain and Egypt at the discovery that malignant insect pests prevail in the African cotton country. That fact deprives the enterprise there of the open

great advantage which it was supposed to have over the American industry. Thus the rivalry between the two countries is kept on a more even basis, though the contrast in value of land, cost of labor and other details makes African competition potentially formidable.

The Execrated Book Agent.

Book agents have earned their reputation by hard, consistent effort. When a housewife sets the dog on one of these visitors she is but exercising the natural right of self-defence. Worthy ones do exist. But they are as nothing to the general run of plausible, insistent, impudent rascals who have given the term "book agent" its color and character.

In Boston just now there is a suit on trial involving a somewhat exalted version of the daily story. Some \$87,075 was paid by a woman for books which one expert on the stand swore were worth not over \$1,700. The books were of the familiar "de luxe" class. Superficially they exhibited much gilt and many illustrations. At heart they were the usual cheap stuff gotten up, like the historic Yankee razors, "to sell."

Everybody knows better than to buy such volumes. But much talk will conquer the sternest resolve, through sheer exhaustion, if nothing else. Rude doctrine that it is, the slammed door and a yapping Towser remain the only efficient safeguards against these insidious pests.

A Rose Tinge in the Business Sky.

The report of the American Railway Association that the number of idle cars was 27,470 fewer on March 15 than on March 1 is bound to be cheering to a great many people in this country. It is axiomatic that as goes the country's railway business so goes all the rest of the country's business.

Fewer idle cars means more shipping, more work, more wages to go into circulation, more opportunity for work. The atmosphere has not been so rosaceous lately that the railroads, the merchants and manufacturers and the cold and hungry job-seekers will fall to give hearty thanks for this flush of pink in the sky.

The "Movies" Making for Temperance.

Those who have hastily assumed the increasing and multiplying moving picture theatres to be dens of poisoned needle iniquity will do well to reconsider their judgment. In some places those establishments are accounted active and efficient agencies for righteousness, and it is authoritatively declared that their influence for good on public morals is plainly perceptible.

In Manchester, England, for example, a city magistrate is reported as saying that the "movies" are nightly keeping thousands of men out of drinking places, with the result that the drinking habits of the city are showing a marked improvement. The "movies" remain open until about the time set for the closing of bars, so that there is little if any opportunity for men to get drunk after leaving the former; and small as the admission fee to the shows is, few seem willing to forfeit even a fraction of it by leaving before the last film is reeled off. Therefore the great majority of those who go to the "movies" are thus practically kept from going to drinking places.

This result is not at all surprising, and it is gratifying. Perhaps, too, it may convey a profitable suggestion to those who are working to abate the evils of intemperance. It is a truism that men, and women, too, require entertainment and social diversion. Too often the saloon has been the only "poor man's club." If it is now largely replaced by the "poor man's theatre," the gain will be great.

Injunctions for Red Lights.

Senator Herrick's "red light injunction" bill, which has just passed the upper house of the Legislature, should become a law. This is a measure similar to that under which the resort section of Washington was recently closed. It enables a person to obtain an injunction against the maintenance of a disorderly house, which is declared to be a nuisance and so subject to permanent injunction.

The social evil will not be abolished by such legislation, to be sure. But under such a law persons owning real estate would not have so easy a time collecting big profits from it when rented for disorderly purposes. Nor would respectable, law-abiding neighbors find it so difficult as it now is to rid their vicinity of objectionable resorts.

The Real Woodrow Wilson.

President Wilson's remarkable protest against the conception of his personal character which the public has generally accepted will make a vivid impression on the country. It could not be otherwise, since his comments at the Press Club in Washington on his own attitude and point of view were delightfully unaffected and human. What he said was both candid and modest. He analyzed himself with all the grace and sureness which we have come to expect from urbane psychologists like Henri Bergson. Any suggestion of egotism was dispelled by the humor with which the President lifted the official mask and tried to appraise himself merely as the man who can still "at blessed intervals" hold the cares and burdens of the Presidency at arm's length.

The Presidency is a lonely office. General Harrison suffered acutely in it because the people with whom he came in contact—most of them necessarily with axes to grind—considered him reserved and unsympathetic. He complained bitterly to his few intimates of the judgment which the world had formed of him, but he lacked the initiative and boldness to fight such an impression as Mr. Wilson is now fighting it. No President would be worth his salt if he did not take the responsibilities of his office seriously enough to guard his confidence and to be on the alert to head off politicians anxious to use him for their selfish purposes. A President must listen much, say little and often act abruptly if he wants to discharge the obligations imposed upon him as a distributor of patronage and as a party leader.

Too great a friendliness to those who imposed on his good nature was Mr. Taft's chief fault in the Presidency. The country would gladly have seen him more unapproachable and suspicious, however much it appreciated his kindness and bonhomie in non-official relations. Colonel Roosevelt struck the happier mean, for although he gave unhampered expression to all his varied interests in men and things and was by nature and habit companionable and expansive, he also knew when to freeze up and to fight. In our time the Presidents who have not been afraid to fight and to hold off the office-seekers and politicians in Washington have been those who have made the greatest impression on history.

Mr. Wilson may regret that Washington and the country generally esteem him a cold man and have never seen the caudron of emotions boil over within him, as he says it often does. He may feel that he

has a simpler, more ardent and more friendly nature than the country has so far credited him with. Yet he has lost very little in popular estimation if he has sacrificed a reputation for geniality to acquire a reputation for impersonal self-absorption in the work which he has had to do. If the results satisfy the country it will not worry about the appearance of unemotionality. In due time, as the strain of the Presidency relaxes, Mr. Wilson will be able to give freer rein to the good-fellowship and naturalness of feeling which he says are bubbling up within him. If his psychology is accurate the public will not long continue to think of him as lonely and cold.

Somewhat Ominous for Carson.

So there is a Carson cigarette; named after the "uncrowned King of Ulster." It has been placed upon the market simultaneously with the rallying of the clan for the last stand against Home Rule. Presumably every loyal Unionist will be expected to smoke it. That may mean good business; but it may also be ominous.

More than one great man has had some object named for him. Sandwich, and Bincher, and Wellington, and Gladstone, and Silhouette and Wrougham. There were also General Shrapnel and Derrick the hangman, Mackintosh and Macadam are also thus known to fame. In all these cases the thing has a certain substantiality and permanence.

But the Carson cigarette! Is that a namesake worthy of a great cause? Is the leader of a people to be identified with so slight a thing? Or is it an omen that the formidable anti-Home Rule campaign, after all the sound and fury at Belfast, is to end in smoke?

If yesterday morning was spring's "ethereal mildness," we move for a revision of the dictionary.

The chief Irish question seems to be whether that no longer "most distressful country" will keep its Ulster on or slip it off. In the present state of the thermometer we should advise keeping it on.

They speak of dismantling and rebuilding "old" Washington Market. Yet men who would sharply resent being called anything like old remember when that edifice was built, brand new. Do buildings thus become superannuated much sooner than men?

The exhortation to remember the Triangle fire, which occurred three years ago next Wednesday, is more profitable than pleasant. There is no joy in remembering such a thing, but there would be no wisdom in forgetting it until its lesson had been applied in making its recurrence as impossible as skill and care could make it.

Castro in Trinidad. Violent storm central in southern Caribbean.

NEW YORK FROM THE SUBURBS.

Now it is proposed to have dining cars in the New York subway. The suggestion is perfectly absurd unless it could be arranged to have dancing with the meal. Houstonians journeying in New York would boycott the subway if it did not have dancing at eating time.—Houston Post.

If you want a New York Stock Exchange seat, better buy soon. Seats are already going up. A "seat" means that you will have standing room for rearing like a madman in a padded ward.—Buffalo Courier.

"I intend to stay here [New York] as long as I live."—Charles F. Murphy. Pretty tough on New York, but it doesn't deserve much sympathy; brought it on itself, you know.—Indianapolis News.

The impossible has been accomplished. New York has three-cent nickel theatres.—Toledo Blade.

The latest Deputy Police Commissioner in New York is Mr. Rubin. No doubt Mr. Jay, from Hackensack, will be glad to meet him.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

New York's Democracy is trying to make a Jonah out of Murphy. Hence the wails.—Baltimore American.

The New York bomb artist says he was chosen for the dirty work on account of his nerve. It is to be hoped that the authorities will see fit to give said nerve the electrical treatment provided by New York statutes.—Topsie Daily State Journal.

ON TO ULSTER!



PAT—Sure, 'tis a fine sight to see the ould Lady doin' all this on MY account.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

FREE MUSIC FOR THE CITY

An Appreciative Listener Pleads for More.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: As the chief executive of a great daily newspaper, I feel that you should personally know the entertainment and educational advantages that are being extended thousands of our citizens by the free orchestra concerts the city is giving in the public school auditoriums.

While I occasionally patronize a concert given in one of the centrally located halls, and pay what I can afford for the seats I require, it is not possible for me to patronize all the musical undertakings I should like to; especially is this true of orchestra music, which I so much enjoy.

These winter concerts are giving the people what they need and what they desire. I have noticed that the utmost attention is given to everything performed by the large audiences invariably present and that a keen sense of appreciation is always displayed.

Do you think that it is possible and proper for the city to appropriate a larger amount of money annually for these concerts? Last year and this year we had sixty concerts each. I and many of my friends would like to hear more of these programmes. They are certainly a great boon to the community.

LILLIAN M. PREUSSE, No. 70 Morningside Drive, New York City.

WHO ARE THE IRISH?

St. Patrick's Day Starts a Wild Outcry in Newark.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The "wearers of the green" were out in full force on St. Patrick's Day, to my utter discomfort. Everywhere I went, turn where I would, I met the sons of Erin, the sons of Isaac and Jacob, the sons of Germanicus and the sons of Confucius wearing cheap shamrocks or a piece of green ribbon. I thought I would escape them on Fifth avenue, but even this thoroughfare seemed to be peopled with a vast army of men marching to such nerve-racking tunes as "Old Ireland Shall Be Free" and the "Wearing of the Green."

American chroniclers say, and I believe that, that Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern, thereby causing the great Chicago conflagration, after hearing her mistress whistle "Come Back to Erin." I think it a beastly shame that an American citizen whose forefathers helped lay the foundation of Manhattan should not saunter out on this day for a walk under such glorious skies without having his peace of mind disturbed by a few Irish whose place in history, except political history, is very insignificant.

I should like to ask, Who are the Irish, anyway?

J. DOUGLAS MACROHNNAY, Newark, N. J., March 20, 1914.

WHO DOES INSURE FIREBUGS?

Broker Says No Good Agent Wittingly Does So.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: May I be permitted to take issue with your statement in yesterday's editorial, "To Quench the Firebugs," to the effect that "the present lax conditions may make business for insurance brokers, but they make high insurance rates," etc.? I suppose your assumption is that insurance brokers make capital out of the prevalence of the "bugs." Believe me, the firebug is as big a detriment to our business as he is a pest to the public at large. The districts infested by him make the placing of business there a hard and expensive proposition, and no broker of any standing will wittingly handle a "bug's" account.

Why do you newspaper men delight in

WHEN THE ELEVATOR FALLS

Our Experts Discuss the Scheme of Jumping to Avoid the Shock.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In regard to the possibility of obviating the precaution of jumping when one is in a falling elevator car, it may be said that the shock will be lessened by jumping within one-third of a second before striking, if the car is rapidly accelerating. If, however, the car has reached a uniform velocity the shock will be lessened if the occupant is able to jump at the right time. If he jumps too soon he may strike with a greater force than if he did not jump at all.

For example, if the elevator has reached a uniform velocity of fifty feet a second just before striking, and the occupant jumps about two feet, commencing the jump immediately (within a fifth of a second) before the car strikes the bottom, he will then strike the bottom of the car with a velocity of about forty feet a second. If he commences to jump one-third of a second before the car strikes, the occupant strikes the bottom with a velocity of about fifty feet a second, his efforts having availed him nothing. If, however, he commences to jump two-thirds of a second before the car strikes the bottom he would strike with a velocity of sixty feet a second, which is a greater shock than if he did not jump at all.

It will be seen that it would be almost impossible to estimate the time of commencing to jump so that the occupant would lessen the shock by so doing. The best procedure in a case of this sort is to stand with knees and trunk slightly bent and run no risk of jumping at the wrong time.

R. S. B., New York, March 21, 1914.

THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS

If It Is Not Read in the Home Should It Not Be in Class?

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: A few days ago I read in your paper an article entitled "Why Should the Bible Not Be Read in Our Schools?" Could not the writer find thousands and thousands of passages which would be most instructive and comforting and life-saving?

What must heathen nations think of this so-called Christian country forbidding the reading of the Bible, which is the foundation of our faith and hope and which they so eagerly listen to and love and endure any sacrifice and persecution to get a knowledge of its saving truth?

I think that the young people of this generation are growing up very ignorant of the stories, the miracles and truths of this sacred book, and if they do not get them in their homes, why should they not hear them in the schools? ONE OF YOUR REGULAR READERS, New York, March 20, 1914.

Preserving Our Polar Axis.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your very interesting interview with Commander Evans made me ask myself: Why suffer so much? Does God or man require it of us? And the answer came to me: Yes; God has revealed to man that in past ages great convulsions have changed the face of the earth and destroyed most of the people. Learned men have said these convulsions are caused by vast accumulations of ice at one of the poles, causing a change in the polar axis. In recent years God has revealed many secrets of nature to man; we call them discoveries. May He not reveal to us a method to dislodge enough of the Antarctic ice to maintain our present polar axis for all time and, in the language of Genesis, "subdue it," to be the safe abode of countless generations of wiser and better people than we are? WILLIAM S. CADW, Atholton, Kan., March 18, 1914.

enough for its passengers to look in the mirror to see their own expression of countenance when they are expiring is die in a few seconds. GENEVA LANE, New York, March 21, 1914.

FOR A BROADER HUMANISM

A Generous Attitude toward the Under Dogs Is Urged.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: At this time of the year, when misery and suffering are widespread, and when the economic state of affairs of the toilers is desperate, let me say a few words of appeal in behalf of a broader humanism.

Let's be more generous in our attitude toward those who toil and are down and out—the victims of unemployment. Let us also demand that the state take a deeper interest in our economic welfare and pass a workman's insurance bill, not one with a joker in it, but one that will really insure against unemployment.

I know that there are many sneeters and scoffers at this insurance bill idea, and to these devout Christians, many of whom are social, settlement and charity workers, I would suggest a somewhat similar prayer:

"Good Lord, fill Thou my soul with pity and compassion, fill me with a love for those who toil day in and day out in life's progression, in life's confusion, in life's turmoil.

"Fill me with a fervor—a passion that is burning; fill me with a power—a vigor in fight; fill me with a dream of those that are yearning to flower and blossom in life and light." PHILIP EBERT, New York, March 21, 1914.

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