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Professor Jenks' Idea.
The weight of authoritative opinion is coming to hold that congress has all the power needed for regulation of the trusts without recourse to the tedious and uncertain process of constitutional amendment. Influenced doubtless by Attorney General Knox, the president who not longer ago than last summer did not have much confidence in legislation without increased constitutional authority, seems now to be of the opinion that congress has not by any means exhausted its constitutional rights in dealing with the problem.

In a careful article in the Outlook Professor Jeremiah W. Jenks takes the ground that the constitutional question has been eliminated and that the only question now is, What action by congress will be wisest? Three general courses of legislation have been recommended by authorities on the trust question:
Attorney General Knox seems to favor an extension of the scope of the Sherman anti-trust act.
The United States industrial commission recommends the imposition of a tax upon corporations or individuals engaged in an interstate business, and thereby securing a supervisory control of such business.

The plan advocated by James B. Dill and others of requiring the federal incorporation of corporations doing an interstate business.
Professor Jenks seems inclined to favor legislation which will put the "big corporations called trusts" as well as others doing an interstate business under the control of the federal government, without imposing very many definite restrictions at first. He considers this proceeding with wise caution, because it is so difficult to foretell how near any law will come to working the results expected of it.

Human experience is full of proofs that laws often strengthen a tendency or practice they are intended to check or abolish. Take the matter of local or class discrimination in prices, which is a favorite means of ruining a small competitor. There has been a general agreement in trust discussion that the practice should be abolished, yet Professor Jenks raises a question whether it might not in some cases injure a small business to enact such a law. He illustrates his question with the following hypothetical case:
A small flouring mill in southern New York sells flour, let us say, in its own town, in Oswego and Elmira, N. Y., in Wilkesbarre and Scranton, Pa., and in Philadelphia and New York city. It must sell in face of the competition of the great Minneapolis mills and of the so-called flour trust. Freight rates from Minneapolis are substantially the same to all these points; in them all four of the same brand sells at practically the same price. The local New York mill must meet these prices, freights included. In consequence, as his freights differ, he sells to each town at a different rate. His profits from each differ. He does not sell to all at the same rate and then add the freight, as does his great rival. If the law of no discrimination is enforced on him in the same way as on the trust—and the law is enforced in all sections of the country, and would stop thousands of men in other lines. Yet possibly his may be a less evil than discriminations of the trusts.

But the more difficulties that can be pointed out, the more urgent is the situation.

IN A NUTSHELL....

In What Does a Peaceful Blockade Consist?—Socalled Peaceful Blockades in the Past.

In the British house of commons yesterday Premier Balfour admitted that a state of war existed between England and Venezuela, and that there is no such thing as a peaceful blockade. This announcement will doubtless be of great interest to the authorities at Washington, for assuming that there is such a thing as a peaceful blockade, the attitude of the United States would be very different towards it than towards a warlike blockade. The fact that the Venezuelan navy has been destroyed in this case would seem to make it difficult to maintain that the blockade is peaceful. If it is, it can be binding only on the ships and commerce of Venezuela, Germany and Great Britain. Nations like the United States—not directly interested in the Venezuelan dispute—will refuse to admit that in a time of supposed peace, their commerce with Venezuela can be interfered with. So far as the United States is concerned the condition must be one of peace or war. If it be peace the United States will insist on having all the rights and privileges of peace for its citizens. It may not, therefore, accept Balfour's statement that a state of war exists, but may insist on a formal declaration of war and refuse to respect the blockade until such declaration is made.

Among the so-called peaceful blockades of history, says a correspondent of the New York Tribune, are: That of 1827, by Great Britain, France and Russia, of the coasts of Greece, occupied by Turkish troops; that of 1831, by France, of the Tagus; that of 1835, by Great Britain and France, of the coast of Holland; that of 1836, by Great Britain, of the coast of Greece; that of 1838, by France, of Mexico; that of 1838-40, by France, of La Plata; that of 1845-46, by Great Britain and France, of La Plata; that of 1850, by Great Britain, of Greece; that of 1857, by Great Britain, of the coast of Brazil; that of 1858, by France, of the coast of Mexico; that of 1858, by Great Britain, of the coast of Italy; that of 1858, by Greece, and that of 1857, by the principal powers of Europe, of Crete.

In the blockade of Mexican ports in 1838 France took the ground that vessels of a third power entering the blockade might be confiscated. Writers on international law generally condemn that course. At the time of the blockade of La Plata in 1846 by Great Britain and France, Lord Palmerston said that unless war existed the blockaders had no right to interfere with the vessels of a third power or even with merchant vessels of their own flags. In the blockades of Greece in 1830 and in 1858 Greek vessels only were detained. In the blockade of Crete in 1857 it was made applicable not only to the ships of the six powers concerned, but also to the cargo of the cargo ships. The blockade of the coast of Greece in 1858, by Great Britain, France and Russia, was an equally extensive blockade theory to Formosa in 1854, and the English refused to recognize it.

out under their authority is an excellent one. It is also well to make it easy for the governor to remove commissioners who do not toe the mark of strict integrity and accuracy in their use of county funds. The county commissioner is a very important official, who has not hitherto been checked and safeguarded in proportion to the importance of his office.

The land dealers testified in the merger case yesterday that railroad competition means higher prices for lands and that railroad merger means depressed prices. Of course, but it was necessary to have the matter in court that the fact might have legal force and be made available before the court.

The Way Out.
To-day's news from the seat of the "Pacific war" England and Germany are waging against Venezuela indicates that Venezuela is ready to take her medicine. The people of the United States will earnestly hope that such is the case, for once a war begins nobody can tell what it will lead to or how soon nations neutral at the start will be drawn into it. So long as we stand by the Monroe doctrine we cannot escape a feeling of nervousness whenever an American and a European state come into conflict. It is reported that the Venezuelans, while agreeing to the claims of the allies, desire to have Minister Bowen represent their country in the arrangements that will have to be made with the allies precedent to the full satisfaction of their demands, including the settlement of details of claims and the method of meeting them.

We can see no reason why Minister Bowen should not be authorized to discharge this friendly office. He seems to have demonstrated the possession of a good head and good judgment. His conduct so far has reflected credit upon the United States, and his performance of the duties of a sort of mediator between the powers and Venezuela would add to American prestige and offset in some degree such lack of confidence in the Monroe doctrine as some of the South American states may have experienced through erroneous ideas as to its scope.

Inasmuch as one large, healthy gray wolf takes the South Dakota stockmen about \$250 a year for support in the way of calves and lambs, the logic of the stockmen, in reasoning that they can pay \$10 for his destruction, is good.

County Division Tangle.
Minnesota has had a large quantity and great variety of county division experience, but it has not yet learned how to dispose of county division questions without legal tangles. At the last election Polk and Beltrami counties voted on several division questions, and no man can tell what is the result. Ultimately the courts will decide what ought to be decided by the voters.

Under the terms of the law the state canvassing board has had to declare that three conflicting propositions for the division of Polk county have been adopted by the voters. That is equivalent to saying that the voters of Polk county have voted to create the same territorial area into three separate counties, under the three names of Columbia, Nelson and Star, with the three county seats of McIntosh, Fosston and Erskine.

The board did the best it could and passed the puzzle up to the governor, who will roll it along to the court, whatever he does. Beltrami county is not so badly tangled, because the canvassing board has declared that under the law only one of the three propositions submitted to the voters has been carried. But an appeal from this decision may be made to the courts. One county division proposition at a time ought to be enough for any county.

The division of Polk county reduces that county to a symmetrical, fair-sized county, by taking off its eastern wing. The Beltrami division, creating Clearwater county, is geographically absurd. It leaves Beltrami, the county seat of Beltrami, away down in one end of a county big enough for a state.

The democrats of the south are preparing to take control of the democratic party and dominate the next democratic national convention. And why not? The south furnishes the bulk of the democratic electorates and would boss the work of making nominations. It is the same principle which would reduce the representation of the south in the republican national convention to correspond with the republican vote in the south. The nomination of a southern man by the next democratic convention is not an improbability and in view of the scarcity of available democratic material in the north might be very good politics. The south has some able men on the democratic side.

The trouble with the oleomargarin crowd is that they never know when they are outwitted. They are now suspected of mixing oil with good creamy butter, the latter being of so deep a yellow as to stand much mixture with the light-colored oil. At the same time it is worth noting that it is maintained that the demand for oleo and butter is such

Books and Authors

DICTATION AND DIFFUSION
By ALBERT FOSTER

Herbert Spencer says that his own experience in dictating his books and articles—a practice which he has followed since 1870—leads him to conclude that it begets large diffuseness of language which personal work with a pen prevents. He has chosen for his subject for the next volume of the "Principles of Psychology" the matter of dictation. Repetitions are noticeable in his last book, "Facts and Comments," the last which he expects to publish. Diffuseness, however, is not a necessary sequence of dictation. Diffuseness is congenial with many writers, and it develops in the mind of a typewriter. The agency is dictation, a pen or a typewriter. Mr. Spencer has naturally a large command of language and redundancy would appear if he used a typewriter or a hammered a typewriter himself. It is possible that a writer in the habit of putting his thoughts directly on paper through the keyboard of a typewriter might find them getting away from his control like an ambitious span of horses, if he is a rapid manipulator of keys. The mere mechanical exertion, however, is not less than in the use of the pen. For the necessity of striking the right key entails more work on the brain and the muscles of the hand than the continuous movement of the hand from left to right does. There are comparatively few writers who do not find, when they finish the manuscript of a chapter or a book, that they have cut out a considerable amount of unnecessary verbiage. The Hindoo tale of the king who ordered a reduction of the size of the legal code of his kingdom, which was contained in volumes which required the services of 40 camels to carry out, and cut them down to a single hand volume, apt for reference, has large suggestion to all writers with a redundant style.

NEW BOOKS.
SPAIN AND HER PEOPLE. By Jeremiah Zimmerman, J. D. B. Illustrated from photographs. Published by G. P. Putnam & Co., New York. Price \$1.50.
Spanish history and Spanish conditions are of peculiar interest to Americans in these times because of the Spanish-American war. The author of this book has undertaken to present to the reader a view of that country acquired by his own personal observation. This is in one sense a book of travels, but more than that, it is an analysis of Spanish life and character. There are interesting and instructive descriptions of the cities and provinces of Spain, some account of the Moorish invasions and a discussion of the decline of Spain. The book will be found of especial value to those contemplating a visit to that country. It is handsomely bound in red and gold.

THE GOLDBERG LEGENDS, OR MIRTH AND MAYHEM. By Thomas Ingeblow. Equine. Illustrated by Herbert C. Lane. New York: Lane. Price \$1.50.
This edition of the familiar Ingeblow legends is a handsomely bound volume in red and gold, graphically illustrated and altogether a very attractive volume from a bookmaker's standpoint. The Ingeblow legends are classic and never lose their charm. I have received many severe shocks in my life and have, I trust, borne them with Christian fortitude, or at least with pagan stoicism. I have been turned out of berth in an ocean liner in the middle of the night to shiver and scorch by turns in an open boat in the middle of a sailless ocean. I have been held up and courteously relieved of all my valuables by Greek brigands. I have even withstood with equanimity the charge of a brigade of Swiss hotel keepers but all these were as a fall of feathers to me. I have, however, experienced when Ellen, the little girl, came into the parlor of the cottage to give me a dutiful greeting. I had left behind me a scraggy old fellow, a little old man, a frightened, I found myself shaking hands with a beautiful young lady, slender, erect, with a calmness and self-possession infinitely greater than my own.

In the days that followed my wonderment only deepened. A French count marked genuine, the son and sole heir of a railway magnate, a mining baron from the fact that he was a Frenchman, and a young man, and a newly risen but still rising politician with his eyes on the United States senate and his feet planted firmly on money, all these were as a fall of feathers to me. I have, however, experienced when Ellen, the little girl, came into the parlor of the cottage to give me a dutiful greeting. I had left behind me a scraggy old fellow, a little old man, a frightened, I found myself shaking hands with a beautiful young lady, slender, erect, with a calmness and self-possession infinitely greater than my own.

A NONSENSE ANTHOLOGY. Collected by Carolyn Wells. New York: Charles Scribner & Sons. For sale by McCarthy. Price \$1.25.
This is, as its name indicates, a collection of nonsense and humor from all sources, old and new. Much of it is anonymous, but in the list of contents appear a good many names famous in literature. "On a topographical map of literature," says the collector, "would be represented by a small and sparsely settled country, neglected by the average tourist, but affording keen delight to the few enlightened travelers who sojourn within its borders." This neglect is accounted for on the ground that the majority of the reading world does not appreciate or enjoy literary nonsense, and by the fact that they are not unable to discriminate between nonsense of integral merit and simply chaff. Carolyn Wells collects her nonsense from Shakespeare as well as from Burns, from old ballads written before the reformation to current and present day jingles and the absurdities of Goethe. Nonsense is afforded, however, by some of the very best people. A competition was recently inaugurated by the London Academy. Among the rhymes submitted were the following:
If half the road was made of pie
The other half of bread,
How very nice my walks would be,
There are some of the old families in this collection but a great many new to the average reader.

TOLSTOI AS MAN AND ARTIST. With an Introduction by Boris de Moreville. Translated by M. J. Putnam & Sons. For sale by McCarthy. Price \$1.50.
It is claimed for this book that it is the most complete story of the great Russian from the pen of a fellow countryman. The subject is treated from a new psychological point of view. The writer analyzes the various traits, traces the growth of character, reveals the innermost motives of the great reformer, describes his methods and shows where his intellectual power falls and where lies the peculiar greatness of the man.

BRIDGE WHIST, OR HOW TO PLAY IT. By Lewis Leitch. Philadelphia: Henry T. Coates & Co., price \$1.
Mr. Leigh is an authority on whist and in the book presents a concise and lucid description of the game, and a better code of laws for bridge whist, the need of which has been recognized by player generally.

THE LAST DAYS OF PEKIN. Translated from the French of Pierre Loti by Myrtle L. Jones. Illustrated from photographs and drawings by Jessie B. Jones. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
The translator says that Loti as Julien Viaud ranks in the French navy as a tenant de vaisseau. His experiences in China first appeared in the form of letters written to the Figaro from notes taken on the spot during his memorable days when he was serving on board one of the French warships. His literary success provoked the jealousy of his naval superiors and so, after a time, he was abruptly retired. He secured reinstatement, however, and has pursued his literary work. He has acquired a personal style, and it presents a vivid picture of certain phases of China. He writes as one having a deep interest in the subject at hand, and this book is of value as a contribution to the large amount of writing and printing done these days about China.

A HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE. By William Vaughn Moody and R. N. Lovell of the University of Chicago. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Minneapolis: McCarthy. Price \$1.25.
The authors of this volume are assistant professors of English literature and of English respectively in the University of Chicago. Their purpose was to prepare a history of English literature within the apprehension of young students and

DAILY DIVERSION
Terrapin and Seraphim.—At a recent meeting of graduates of Yale in the class of '77, resident in New York city, Walter Brooks was appointed chairman of one of the committees to arrange a class dinner at New Haven to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of graduation next commencement. His particular duties were outlined as "to look after luxuries, including music."
"Yes," he said, "I'm chairman of the committee on terrapin and seraphim."
The people of New York buy daily the milk produced by 140,000 cows.

Way of a Guardian

By ALBERT FOSTER

(Copyright, 1902, by T. C. McClure.)
My friend Thatcher was very inconsiderate of my feelings the time that he chose for his departure for the next world. If he could only have waited until his daughter Ellen was a little better able to take care of herself, I should have been saved a lot of worry and bother. As it was I had to postpone my trip to Egypt for a whole month until I could get her settled with Thatcher's two maiden aunts, for of course he had made me her guardian. The fact that I was only thirty while she was fourteen was of no importance in his eyes.

When once appetite for wandering had laid hold on a man, he knows no time nor place to rest, so my year of travel dragged itself out to six. Letters came at intervals from one or the other of the aunts telling me that Ellen was well and happy. Once or twice in the earlier years I had a letter from her. After luncheon the aunts cornered me in the library and asked me flatly what I thought about Ellen's matrimonial future. I protested that I hadn't thought about it, didn't know that it was any concern of a guardian's anyway.

"Of course it's some concern of yours," said Miss Henrietta, the elder, taking up the last point that I had made and going through my argument backward, woman fashion. "She's a fine girl, and she must marry well," meaning, as I guessed, that she must induce Dan Cupid to lead her in the direction of a well-to-do man. "Well, what do you think of the count?" asked Miss Angela, the younger. I replied that I would rather not think of him if she didn't mind. I didn't object to counts for my mind, but I didn't object to counts for my money, but I preferred men for myself. Miss Angela sniffed and asked my opinion of the offering of the railway magnate. I replied that I considered his whole claim to the respect and gratitude of mankind to lie in the fact that he was not a count. Two of a kind, that at least would have been a good deal too much for a long suffering world to bear. The mining baron, as I informed the good ladies, might much better be preparing for use the next world. The aunts were silent.

"Then what do you say to Mr. Cavendish?" inquired Miss Henrietta. "Folks like that are all right if he is well shod and doesn't mind muddy roads, but the woman who travels with him is apt to get splashed a bit." Another snort from the aunts.
The other candidates were trotted out in turn, and all seemed to me equally undesirable. Apparently the aunts were surprised, for after they had gone over the most likely of the applicants they found that my opinion of them grew steadily more unfriendly. Miss Henrietta turned upon me with as near a glare as her regard for the observances of politeness would permit and remarked in an icy tone: "Well, Mr. Crossley, it would appear that your regard for the other members of your own sex is a little more than for your own kind. The piece is very low. Perhaps you are thinking of applying for the vacancy yourself."

This was a bombshell, and with a vengeance. I eyed it steadily for at least ten seconds. Then I said, with polite emphasis, "Madam, it is little short of an insult to accuse me of so far presuming upon your relative position as to find fault in love with her." After which I bowed in my very best manner and went out.

In the hall I came face to face with Miss Ellen herself, apparently in a great hurry to get away from somewhere. I stopped and stared at her. She stared back and looked her head a little queer. "I wouldn't stop here if I were you," she said. "Some one might insult you by thinking that you were talking to me." "Ellen, you heard," I gasped. "She nodded." "The young lady," she replied calmly. "Since it was my future that was being discussed it seems to me that I had a slight interest in the matter. But I never expected—here she began to bristle up again—"I never expected to hear a man say that it was an insult to be told to have it your way." "The Prince," she said. "Actually there were tears in her eyes. This would never do.

"But, my dear girl, don't you understand that I was trying to tell you to stand the fact that I am already your slave." The last words came with a rush. "There it is. Now it's your turn to be insulted."

She looked down and then up at me. "If your love is an insult," she said very slowly, "I think that the best that I can do is to accept the insult, don't you?" And I agreed with her.

AMUSEMENTS
Foyer Chat.
The Grace Company Opera company will begin an engagement of three nights and Saturday matinee at the Metropolitan tonight, presenting for the first time here the comic opera in two acts, "The Prince of Pilsen," by Charles Gounod and William Furst entitled, "A Normandy Wedding." Included in Miss Cameron's supporting company are Joseph W. Standish, Stephen R. Pennington, Sylvia Langlois, Genevieve Reynolds, Daisy King and a large and well drilled chorus.

Few of the so-called comic operas produced in recent years are so near the genuine thing as "The Prince of Pilsen," which is unquestionably called a musical comedy. The "Prince of Pilsen" is a clean and wholesome performance and with the delightful melodies and the gorgeous costumes and mountings it is one of the most successful musical stage productions known in America. It is scheduled for local appearance at the Metropolitan all of Christmas week, opening next Sunday evening.

The big laughing success "Happy Holligan" coming to the Bijou next week, with its cast of great artists, is a roistering torrent of wit and fun, and is a merry and melodious farce comedy. If the eye with the beauty of the scenery and the kaleidoscope of costumes and magnificent costumes and wardrobe.

"The Fatal Wedding," the current attraction at the Bijou is meeting with much favor; two large audiences saw the play yesterday afternoon and evening and gave evidence of their feeling by enthusiastic applause. On Saturday afternoon, the final matinee performance will be given.

One of the largest Thursday matinee audiences of the season witnessed the Ferris production of "Ten Nights in a Barroom," at the Lyceum to-day. For Christmas week, the Ferris Stock company will be seen in a new comedy-drama, "The Plunger." Dick Ferris appearing in the character of Digit. New Year's week the Ferris company will remove to the Metropolitan for one week, where it will present "Gaustrak," this change being caused by the booking of "Ben Hur" at the Lyceum.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
St. Cloud Journal-Press.
We stop the press to announce that Dr. Babcock, while claiming all the votes he needs, is not yet ready for a caucus.

SUFFICIENT.
Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald.
"But if you love me, Madeleine, why set the happy day two years away?"
The maiden bowed her head in blushing confusion.

"Because, Horace, it will take me fully that long to use up my monogram stationery."