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SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1909.

Regulation of Monopoly.

The attitude of the Supreme Court on the regulation of public service corporations is indicated in an opinion by Justice Moody in a case coming from a Tennessee court, wherein a water company sought to enjoin rates fixed by the city of Knoxville on the ground that they would be confiscatory. The opinion is an interesting companion to the gas decision, and somewhat amplifies the brief conclusions of that pronouncement. In the Knoxville case bonds and stocks were issued greatly in excess of the true value of the plant, but Justice Moody ruled that issues floated under such conditions "afford neither measure of nor guide to the value of the property." He then proceeded to consider the question of a fair return on the investment:

"Before coming to the question of profit at all, the company is entitled to earn a sufficient sum annually to provide not only for current repairs, but for making good the depreciation and replacing the parts of the property when they come to the end of their life. The company is not bound to see its property gradually waste without making provision out of earnings for its replacement. It is entitled to see that from earnings the value of the property invested is kept unimpaired, so that at the end of any given term of years the original investment remains as it was at the beginning.

"If, however, a company fails to perform this plain duty and to exact sufficient returns to keep the investment unimpaired, whether this is the result of unwarranted dividends upon overissues of securities, or of omission to exact proper prices for the output, the fault is its own. When, therefore, a public regulation of its prices comes under question, the true value of the property then employed for the purpose of earning a return cannot be enhanced by a consideration of the errors in management which have been committed in the past."

But in this case, as in that of the Consolidated Gas Company, no sufficient evidence was presented of confiscation by the rate fixed by public authority, and Justice Moody said that the court would not venture a guess, based on speculations as to the effect of the rate, as to whether it would prove to be confiscatory or not. He found that the net income, in any event, would be 6 per cent, or 2 per cent for depreciation and 4 per cent for profit, a revenue that the court evidently does not consider confiscatory enough to warrant judicial nullification of public regulation. On the general subject of public regulation of corporations performing their duties under conditions of monopoly, Justice Moody says that such regulation "will occur with greater and greater frequency as time goes on," and he offers some suggestive obiter dicta as the court's contribution to the great problem of corporate regulation:

"It is a delicate and dangerous function, and ought to be exercised with a keen sense of justice on the part of the regulating body, met by a frank disclosure on the part of the company to be regulated. The courts ought not to bear the whole burden of saving property from confiscation, though they will not be found wanting where the proof is clear. The legislatures and subordinate bodies, to whom the legislative power has been delegated, ought to do their part.

"Our social system rests largely upon the sanctity of private property, and that State or community which seeks to invade it will soon discover the error in the disaster which follows. The slight gain to the consumer which he would obtain from a reduction in the rates charged by public service corporations is as nothing compared with his share in the ruin which would be brought about by denying to private property its just reward, thus unsettling values and destroying confidence. On the other hand, the companies to be regulated will find it to their lasting interest to furnish freely the information upon which a just regulation can be based."

These expressions, taken in connection with the remainder of the opinion, plainly indicate that public service commissions and other bodies undertaking the rate-making power will be sustained by the court in the performance of their functions where their power is reasonably and sanely exercised, and that something more than mere technicalities and speculative calculations must be relied upon by corporations to prove a case of confiscation. They cannot plead bad management or stock jobbery as an excuse for compelling the public to pay unreasonable prices for their product.

"Will the President please hold out his wrist to the House?" inquires the New York Mail. His "fist," more likely!

When a Rear Admiral Is Not a Rear Admiral.

There are signs of unrest again in the Navy Department. The titles of naval officers are once more the occasion of disturbance, with indications that an order is to be promulgated to the service specifying in no uncertain terms to what extent naval officers may exhibit the titles which show their rank. It has been discovered that some staff officers have been using line titles, and that a staff officer who is a chief of a bureau has been handing out visiting cards containing his corps' designation with that of "rear admiral." The act appears to have aroused much ire on the part of some of the line officers, who believe that "rear admiral" is a title which belongs exclusively to the officer who flies a flag, meaning one who is in command afloat. A staff officer who conducts the important affairs of a naval bureau, who draws in that capacity the pay and allowances of a rear admiral, and who occupies the relative position of that grade is not to be allowed any such titular luxury.

The navy has passed and is passing through many distressing experiences, what with the agitation in favor of departmental reorganization and the allegations of structural defects; but this nonsense concerning titles comes very near to trying the patience of people who want to believe that the naval personnel is composed of gentlemen of liberal views and common sense. So many line officers are known legitimately as rear admirals without having flown any flag of command afloat that the distinction which deprives a staff bureau chief of the casual and unofficial employment of the title is too attenuated for serious contemplation.

"I am glad you all praise me before I go into office," said Mr. Taft to a delegation of Southerners recently. "You all." Sly, not to say foxy, diplomat, Mr. Taft!

Retirement of Teachers.

There is no better way to advance the cause of education in the District of Columbia than by the establishment of a retirement system by which, on account of age or for disability, teachers may be separated from the public service in a humane and dignified manner, their places to be filled by others more efficient on account of youth and more modern preparation. Retirement bills are actuated for the good of the schools and on sound business principles, susceptible of demonstration both in commercial and educational life.

Consider first the commercial side—the Pennsylvania Railroad, for example. This great corporation, the expenditure for whose retirement system runs into the hundred thousands of dollars annually, without cost to the employe, is not charged with spending those vast sums for charity; nor is this charge made against the other trunk roads, the New York Metropolitan Traction Company, the steel trust, or the Standard Oil Company. The officers of these companies will tell you that the retirement of employes on a competence is not primarily for the benefit of the employe, but for the best interests of the road and the company. They will tell you that the retirement plan pays the companies by enabling them to secure a better class of employes, who, realizing the immunity against future wants, work more zealously and much more effectively since it is with peace of mind.

Now to consider the professional side. Beneficial results are being obtained in the school systems of New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and wherever else the plan of retirement of teachers has been placed in operation.

To keep a school system at its best, teachers must be continually energetic, enthusiastic, and strong, and when, by reason of advancing years, teachers cannot maintain these conditions, they must be eliminated from the system. The automatic retirement of the older teachers will give the incentive of more rapid promotion to the younger teachers. This will warrant the constant expenditure for their professional improvement of strength, time, and money when they know that their old age is provided for. Adequate provision for the future of the retired teacher will infuse new life into any school system.

Retirement, of course, means maintenance, but the sum required from the public funds for the maintenance of a retirement system for the teachers of the District, $30,000 annually, is not large. The teachers will supply an almost equal amount from their own salaries. But the expenditure of public money is small compared to the resulting benefits to the system, to the teachers, and consequently to the children of the District.

In writing to Senator Hale, the President speaks of the House of Representatives as the "Lower House." And if that honorable body isn't careful, he will use the superlative degree next time, we imagine.

The 'Possum Feast.

Mr. William Howard Taft approaches that forthcoming 'possum feast down in Dixie somewhat in fear and trembling, we suspect, and well he may, we think. 'Possum and politics have long mingled strenuously, if neither invariably, wisely, nor well, in the land of the palmetto and the pine.

As to the gastronomic virtues of baked 'possum and "taters," we entertain lively and well-founded misgivings. The best we can say for it is to repeat the words of a Georgia backwoods connoisseur, who would commit himself no further than to aver that "them as likes it likes it, and them as don't ain't got a bit of use for it." Far be it from The Washington Herald, however, to throw doubts around or about any social function conceived in such compelling patriotism as was this of which we herein concern ourselves, and, therefore, that we may not be misguided and suffer the honesty of our motives impugned, we hasten frankly to add that tastes differ radically in the matter of 'possum and "taters," and the conclusions of no man or specific set of men anent the same are final or ultimately adjudicative. Happily, the cakes and ale of one partaker's loathing are not of necessity the forbidden morsels of his neighbor's palate.

But as 'possums come and 'possums go, the while 'possum feasts go on forever, the politics of the thing is the factor in each gathering that interests the local environment in the greatest measure. Fate and fame have hung breathless in Dixie, pausing a-many are the times to ascertain the outcome of a 'possum feast before proceeding with their summing up of men and measures down there. And it is in this aspect of the case we view the initiation of Mr. Taft into the mysteries of 'possumdom, attuned to the situation as it exists in relation to statesmen and affairs of state, with wondering anticipation and candid uncertainty.

Mr. Taft has been credited with a desire to convert the South to Republicanism. This is not to be criticised, and should cause no surprise. As he is also master of his own destiny, we are not presumptuous enough to tender gratuitous advice in the premises. But it often happens in this life that those who approach great crises with intent to scoff remain to pray, and Mr. Taft, in joining that festive Democratic aggregation arranged to do honor to the 'possum, should be careful lest his now militant Republican self finds not itself, when the fumes of the feast have cleared away, the noblest and most rampant Democratic shouter of them all.

We say these significant things because we know the Dixie politicians of 'possum affiliations, and they move in a most mysterious way their wonders to perform. They eat, drink, and make merry, and no man knoweth what strange thing one of their feasts may bring forth. Already they have produced numerous eighth wonders of the political world, so to speak.

Mr. Thomas A. Edison has invented—almost—the cheap, light, and compact storage battery again. This cheerful announcement comes along every year as inevitably as the first robin.

District Attorney Sims says, "The Standard Oil Company is not yet out of the woods." Pretty good thing for it these parlous times, we fancy.

A Milwaukee man has married his cook. Now it will be up to her to worry about keeping him at home—which may or may not be a mean revenge.

A Boston doctor says, "Every one should swallow one dozen raw eggs every day." Does the good doctor mistake us for a nation of billionaires?

Poor Emperor William! All Germany seems to have its feelings spread out expecting him to step on them at every opportunity.

"Here lies a man," begins Poet Paul Cook in the Birmingham Age-Herald. Well, we suppose there is always room for one more in the Ananias Club.

If Tennessee goes "dry," as seems quite likely, we suppose the transfer of Southern liquid refreshment headquarters from Chattanooga to Cincinnati will be forewith effected.

Things look dark for those Reelfoot Lake night riders. A number of the leading lights seem fated to be snuffed out.

"Why do men fool with whisky?" asks the Atchison Globe. In a great many instances, because they are told they mustn't, we suspect.

Maj. Theodore Roosevelt is getting ahead rapidly. At his age the colonel was a high private in the rear ranks!

If George Washington had not set that anti-third term precedent, we might now be anticipating the introduction of the millennium about this time next year.

Why not carry the spy system to a conclusion, and provide all departments of the government with detective bureaus for the purpose of watching one another? In this way we might insure a never-ending three-cornered row between the executive, the judicial, and the legislative branches.

That Toledo man with two hearts declares he will never marry. Probably he finds it impossible to fix both hearts' affections on the same lady.

The Roosevelt administration threatens to wind up in a blaze of glory—or something.

Sometimes we are at a loss to understand whether it is the increased cost or the increased pace of living that ails us the more in this country.

If the Chautauqua people had not caught Senator Tillman in the first place, the big stick might not have biffed him in the second. However, this gives him a new topic for next season, "Perils of the unfriend business."

FRANCHISE CAPITALIZATION.

It Operates in a Vicious Circle Against Public Interest.

From the Baltimore Sun.

The question of whether the capitalized value of a franchise may, on the intrinsic merits of the matter, and aside from any special statute bearing on the question, be made part of the basis on which rates are fixed is the most vital issue involved in the case, considered in its largest aspects. To see this, we have only to consider what it is that determines the value of the franchise possessed by a public-service corporation. This value is nothing else than the result of a calculation based upon an estimate of the net revenue which may be obtained from the exercise of the franchise, in the present and the probable future. But this net revenue depends essentially upon the rates the corporation may charge for its service; and if we admit the principle that the State has the power to regulate these rates, the value of the franchise depends essentially upon the rates that the State will permit to be charged. If, now, upon the expectation that the State will pursue a policy of indifference, or a policy of extreme liberality to the corporation, the investing public has come to the conclusion that rates will be high enough to yield a very large net revenue, the valuation of the franchise will be very high, and will be reflected by a correspondingly high value of its shares; and if such market valuation of the franchise—not to speak of fictitious valuations originating simply in the minds of promoters—be permitted to form a basis on which remuneration may be claimed, those high rates that were merely looked upon as pobable by certain investors became a legal necessity, enforceable by the courts. This, surely, is a vicious circle; and when the time comes for a fundamental consideration of the matter, it is not to be supposed that the Supreme Court will give it the stamp of its approval.

Pecuniary Reward of Office.

Gov. Hughes, in Second Inaugural Message.

Of far greater importance than compensation is the proper recognition of the dignity of public service. So far as we may be able to raise the standards of administration, we make easier the task of drawing to the public service men of high capacity and unselfish motive. Conspicuous examples of administrative efficiency and the appropriate tributes won from a grateful people will do more to secure disinterested men of talent for public office and to maintain high standards than either protests against the abuse of criticism or increase of pecuniary rewards.

Time to Slow Up.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The reader who notes the list of assaults and murders that seem a part of every holiday will begin to wonder if it is well for mankind to take a day off.

Not Especially Needed.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Castro announces that he may live in Berlin, although there seems no especially pressing necessity that he live anywhere.

Sufficiently Rewarded.

From the Richmond Times Despatch.

So Charles P. Taft is to get nothing for his $160,000 beyond a kind smile and the consciousness of duty well done.

His System Perfect.

From the Chicago News.

Mr. Carnegie not only gives away library buildings, but he writes books to fill them. Can you beat his system?

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A FAMILIAR TALE.

A life 'mid Western scenes,
Tall cliffs and pines,
Dad delves for pork and beans
And also mines.

Dad makes a wondrous strike,
Accepts a price.
They straight for Paris hike
In half a trice.

A frayed duke active gets,
Would marry Sue.
Dad settles bales of debts
Long overdue.

The match brings much renown
Beyond a doubt.
The biggest sheet in town
Gets extras out.

They find the duke a pest,
A creature coarse.
A hurried hike back West
And a divorce.

They live in New York now,
Sue is a belle.
They're social lions, folks vow,
And all is well.

A Sure Way.

"So he has ceased to be her ideal?"
"He has."
"What disgraceful thing did he do?"
"Married another girl."

No Great Attraction.

"Wouldn't you like to be as perfect as the Venus de Milo?"

"I suppose so," answered Mrs. De Style with enthusiasm. "But I don't think she could wear the 1909 models in gowns."

Just So.

"What's in a name?"

"Not a great deal, when a Republican newspaper is called the Sphere-Democrat."

Trumpet and Drum.

A fireside free from noise,
Once more our lot,
Proclaims that certain toys
Have gone to pot.

Unflinching Woman.

"A woman has a sterner sense of duty than a man."

"As to how?"

"If a man dreaded shopping as much as a woman vows she does, he wouldn't go."

The Bill Outside.

"Why don't you come in occasionally between drinks," demanded the wife, "and see the play?"

"I don't need to," replied the bibulous husband. "The bartender is familiar with the plot, imitates the actors, and knows a lot of gossip about their personal and family affairs."

Give It Up.

Why must we always saddle the New Year with an unsavory murder trial?

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

Connection of the Movement with Economic Problems.

Sydney Brooks, in Harper's Bazar.

There are in Great Britain over 5,000,000 women earning a living. In some trades they outnumber the men. The cotton unions alone have 96,000 women members. It is among this great body of industrial workers that the suffrage movement finds most of its most determined advocates. This is especially the case in the northern counties, where women have organized trade unions and co-operative societies, fasten eagerly upon social and economic problems, largely helped to found the labor party, and at the last general election subscribed enough from their collective funds to pay the expenses of one of the labor representatives. The agitation for the franchise has at least done this much good—it has directed the attention of the country toward the problems of women's work and wages. People are beginning to realize that while sweating is at all times and under all circumstances an abomination, it is ten times more abominable when women are its victims. They are beginning to ask themselves why women who do the same work as men, and do it as well, should be paid much less. The average of women's wages in the cotton trade is $3.50 a week—a sum that even an unskilled male laborer would scorn to accept; and the cotton trade, on the whole, is a well-paid one. The suffragists are undoubtedly right when they urge that one very important reason why the wages of men have risen by from 50 to 100 per cent in the last sixty years is that they have had the vote, and that one very important reason why women's wages have either remained stationary or have grown less is that they have no votes.

Are most English women, are most Englishmen, for or against woman suffrage? Would a plebiscite, taken on that sole issue, show a hostile or a favorable majority? I confess I do not know. I do not believe anybody knows. I get, however, the impression that in England, as in America, the bulk of the women are apathetic and indifferent, and that of the remainder a great majority are vehemently in favor of it and a small minority somewhat less vehemently opposed to it. As for the men, most of them, I fancy, take the facetious view of the whole movement, do not realize its seriousness, but are good-humoredly content to let women have the vote if they really want it. The vital thing is that many thousands of them do want it with an earnestness that might fitly be called a passion, and that minorities, if they are resolute, usually get their own way.

A Comedy Played Out.

From the Indianapolis News.

So this Standard Oil play is played out. Another verdict may be rendered against it in this case, but there will be no fine in excess of a few thousand dollars. Even this is doubtful. As for the $29,000,000 fine, that is as though it never was. Rockefeller was right. He knew what he was talking about, as he usually does. The fine will never be paid, and the people will be richer because of the ruling yesterday. But they will regret that the men guilty of the crime—if a crime was committed—cannot be punished as other criminals are. The idea of punishing the Standard Oil Company or any of its branches by a fine could only, we think, have occurred to a humorist.

Inexperienced in Truth.

From the Dallas News.

Some men never experiment sufficiently with truth to find out whether it pays or not.

RENEWAL.

She was so old, the Year;
So bent with all that bows us more than days!
The wind had swept her green familiar ways
Where summer made sweet cheer.

The snow had blinded her,
Had choked her harp, whose rich and wanton song
Had sent her pulses laughing for so long,
Her blithe, young feet astir.

She was so bent and gray,
We saw her die in blessing, not in grief.
Her rustling shroud knit of the fallen leaf,
Her watcher the dark day!

Now, from the glistening blue,
A kindlier sunlight looks upon the earth;
Now, from the russet shells, in joyous birth,
The living spring leaps new!

Through all the throbbing air
A million songs, a million blossoms break.
O happy Year! that only died to wake
More young, more wondrous fair!

As! So shall I depart,
With broken harp, my laughing songs all sung;
So shall I sleep—to wake more fair, more young,
More rapturous of heart!

—Margaret Houston, in Broadway Magazine.

REVOLT IN THE SENATE.

Progressive Membership Rapidly Coming to the Front.

From the Kansas City Star.

It was inevitable that the revolt against the Senate oligarchy should manifest itself in the Upper House of Congress, just as the revolt against the Speaker developed in the Lower House. The thing opposed is precisely the same in the one instance as in the other. The thing desired by the "insurgents" is the restoration of representative control.

The rebellion in the House has progressed far enough to promise a genuine reform in the rules, with the possibility that Speaker Cannon may be succeeded by a progressive Republican. The present Senate has a number of courageous, progressive, and truly representative members, and this number will be re-enforced by some of the newly elected members of the next Senate. It is reasonable to believe, also, that among those who have hitherto aligned themselves with the reactionaries there are some who will come over to the side of the people, either through an acquisition of moral courage or through fear of their seats. The fate of Foraker, Platt, Ankeny, Fulton, Millard, and others cannot but have impressed the reactionaries with the fact that their days are numbered if they persist in serving the "interests" rather than the people.

There is no mistaking the revolt against the control that has been exercised by special interests in Congress. The uprising in both branches of Congress is but the inevitable sequel of the public movement. The country has taken its stand with Mr. Taft, and if the President-elect should be arbitrarily opposed in his efforts on behalf of the people, as President Roosevelt was opposed in the last session, every conspicuous member of this opposition would be marked. For, bear in mind, the demand for representative rule in Congress must be met.

COMMISSION PLAN PLEASES.

Nonpartisan Government Suits People of Des Moines.

From the Kansas City Star.

"If a proposition to abandon commission government and return to the old ward plan were submitted to the people of Des Moines it would not receive 15 per cent of the vote of that city. I am sure," said Gordon Cowles of the Iowa city yesterday.

Mr. Cowles is publisher of the Des Moines Register and Leader. He was in Kansas City on a business mission.

"Everybody is pleased with the new government after eight months of trial under the commission plan," he said, "business men, property owners, laboring men and the people generally. It is a system that gets the results the citizen naturally expects from municipal government, in striking contrast to the old ward plan that never accomplished anything.

"Last Sunday the Register and Leader published a symposium from a large number of Des Moines citizens on 'What Is the Best Thing that Has Come to Des Moines This Year?' Practically all of them said: 'The Commission Form of Government.'

"What are some of the results of the new government in the eight months of its rule in Des Moines? Well, we have cleaner streets than we ever had before; we are having more streets paved; a much better police service; a more efficient fire department and better public service in every way. And all this has been done at a decreased cost to the taxpayers. Next year our tax levy will be less than it was this year.

"The nonpartisan election," Mr. Cowles continued, "is the strongest feature of the commission plan. It should be extended to cover our county elections also. The people show remarkable discernment in choosing candidates under this system and it removes all influence of political machines. For many years in Des Moines—which is a Republican stronghold—we elected city officers with a view to their connection with the Congressional machine or with some other 'higher up' political organization. But the nonpartisan election under our commission plan eliminated that evil. Our present mayor is a Democrat. But he wasn't elected on a party issue. He was the man the people wanted and there was no political obligations that forced them to vote for any party candidate. The people some day will realize the tremendous benefit to all local government in the nonpartisan primary and election such as we now have in Des Moines."

Labor and the Saloon.

From the Detroit News.

One of the surprises of the campaign in Ohio against the saloon is the fact that in such counties as Perry, Hocking, and Athens the mining classes have helped to furnish the "dry" votes. The contrary was expected, miners, in the popular but uninformed mind, being a bibulously inclined lot and quick to resent any interference by the State with their appetites. Herein is shown one of the greatest triumphs of the union labor movement. In proportion as the hours of labor have been shortened and wages increased, drunkenness has become less common among this class of workers. They have had more respect for themselves and for society. Long hours of toil, with its consequent demand on the vital forces of the workers has heretofore been one of the prime causes of dissipation among wage-workers.

Gov. Hughes and Primaries.

From the New York Tribune.

The argument for the direct primaries system is one of those keen, clear, and able pieces of writing which the public has come to expect from the pen of Gov. Hughes when he is discussing a topic in which he is deeply interested. He is sure to be heard from often upon this subject this year, for it promises to be ardently debated, and no one who reads his message can doubt that he will make as deep a public impression before he finishes his discussion of the importance of having direct accountability of officials to the people as he made two years ago with his speeches upon the necessity for State control of public service corporations, and last year with his appeal to the people for the upholding of the State constitution.

Profit in Eighty-cent Gas.

From the Springfield Republican.

The Brooklyn Union Gas Company also came under the New York 80-cent law, but it submitted to the reduction instead of fighting it in the courts as did the larger Consolidated Company. The consequence is that the United States Supreme Court decision leaves it just where it has been, and without a large amount of money to pay back to consumers. Its stock has been selling in the market around 150, and its dividend rate is 6 per cent—on the basis of 80-cent gas. This further weakens the contention of the Consolidated Company that such a rate for gas is confiscatory.

Protection for the Miner.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The excessive loss of life and the excessive waste of material in the operation of American mines as compared with the lesser losses in the more difficult and habardous work in English and German mines furnishes sufficient cause for active government regulation. The best results may be anticipated from the willing co-operation of humane mine owners. Where there is lack of co-operation compulsory means of relief are fully justified.

TARIFF AND TRUSTS.

Will Lower Duties Increase Power of Monopolies?

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

It is to be hoped that all the trust-busters who rely upon free trade to break up the great combinations of capital will carefully read the testimony of Judge E. H. Gary before the Ways and Means Committee concerning the effect of a low duty on the steel trust. His testimony is that it would result in a monopoly of the steel trade by the United States Steel Corporation, because while it could go on and make a little money the independent concerns, less favorably situated, would go out of business if cash capital were available to pay off their indebtedness, and otherwise go into bankruptcy. Those are not the precise words of Judge Gary, but they express his meaning. The steel trust owns its own ore beds, which are most favorably situated; its own steamers, and its own railroad for conveying the ores to its mills. It has abundant working capital, and the most efficient plants that brains and money can procure. It has an efficient and loyal working force, and by some reduction of wages could meet all possible competition. Or it could, if it chose, close down all operations and wait a quarter of a century for foreign competition to exhaust itself, resuming business whenever the exhaustion of foreign ore beds might enable it to raise the price of steel to a sufficiently remunerative figure. There is no other steel company in the United States in a position to do that or in a position to meet the prices which foreign competitors are able to make by reason of the low wages which they pay.

If we object to trusts we can doubtless make an end of them, but we cannot make an end of them by reducing duties on their product. On the contrary, we should make them an imperative necessity if the industry is to be carried on in this country. There are many very clear-headed men whose interests are with free trade and who consequently favor free trade, but such men all understand perfectly that reducing the tariff would not break up trusts, but on the contrary; and in their attempts to get free trade by playing upon the prejudices of the ignorant, they are as rank demogogues as walk the earth. At any price of steel which will enable the independents to do business at any profit at all, the steel trust can make larger profits, and that is the case in every other industry in which the financially and intellectually strongest men are combined in a corporation which controls a large portion of the output.

CLEVELAND'S GOLDEN RULE.

Excellent Results of a Year's Trial of Police Leniency.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Chief of Police Kohler has prepared some interesting statistics to show the working of his "golden rule" policy. During the past year the Cleveland police have refrained from arresting intoxicated persons, unless absolutely no other means appeared to prevent them from coming to harm or harming others. First offenders caught in petty misdemeanors have been allowed to go free with no punishment other than reprimand and warning by the officers. The result has been that in place of 30,418 arrests of 1907, only 10,085 persons were arrested in 1908.

The chief argues from these figures that the new policy has saved the city material expense, and has saved petty offenders and their families from needless suffering. He states in positive terms that no one has been a loser through the innovation, that crime is no more prevalent because of police leniency, that the police, not having to worry constantly over small things, have more time and energy for the hunting down of dangerous criminals. While there were more than three times as many arrests in 1907 as in 1908, there were 938 arrests for felonies in 1908, as against 1,000 in 1907. In other words, the former year showed 20,333 more arrests for all causes, but only sixty-two more arrests for felonies. Chief Kohler's argument is that this vast discrepancy shows that the police are really much more useful to the community now than ever before.

Incidentally, the chief condemns the practice of issuing warrants by police prosecutors on the evidence of but one party. Over 68 per cent of such arrests, for which the police were in no sense responsible, but which are included in the totals, resulted in police court trials and the dismissal of the defendants. The chief propounds the doctrine that prosecutors should not issue warrants without first hearing from both sides.

On the whole, Chief Kohler deserves congratulation upon the working out of his system. Undoubtedly it possesses many of the merits which he claims for it. It has been noted and watched all over the United States, and has, in a more or less modified form, been adopted in some cities.

Examinations.

From the New York Tribune.

It is sometimes said by officials that the examination system furnishes mediocre employes—persons whose ability to pass an examination is not supplemented by practical capacity and energy. But the main point is that the energy of those who enter the public service is applied, such as it is, to public duties and is not diverted to partisan activities. It would be better to have less active workers than to have workers elected primarily because of their devotion to some interest outside the public service. Yet we are confident that examinations intended to draw recruits from every portion of the Union, from every party and from every element in our population produce an average of capacity really higher than that achieved when the dependents of the political bosses constituted the sole roll of merit from which eligibles were drafted into Federal office.

Impractical Statesmanship.

From the New York Globe.

When he entered public life Theodore Roosevelt emphasized the matter of practicality. He broke company with many of his early associates because he avowed a greater willingness to compromise. But as President he has shown himself in one respect to be most impractical, for no statesman can be considered practical who rushes into controversy with those who are his partners in managing the government's business. Granting that the President is sincere, and that his supreme desire is to promote the public good, and granting also that most of his concrete proposals have been on right lines, nevertheless, it is fortunate, not merely for the sake of peace, but for the sake of reform, that a man of different temperament is to occupy the White House after March 4.

Senator Bailey's Vote.

From the Boston Herald.

Senator Bailey's solitary vote against the appropriation for the relief of the distressed was based on constitutional grounds. It puts him in the class with the scrupulous member for Muffborough, who, in a time of famine, would vote for nothing but toothpicks.

Literary Event.

From the Omaha Bee.

"The Winning of the South," by William Howard Taft, promises to be quite as interesting a volume as "The Winning of the West" by Theodore Roosevelt.

Beware What You Say.

From the New York Evening Post.

Now there is a new crime—lese-Congress.

AT THE HOTELS.

"The loss of a soldier, or rather his desertion, means a real monetary loss to the government, of the soldier's clothing, amounting, in the instance of a full kit, to about $50," said Col. T. R. Hughes, a retired army officer, at the Ebbitt, yesterday.

"His arms are not lost," continued the old, gray-haired son of Mars, "and the man may leave his uniform behind him, but it is of little use to the War Department. After the soldier has been declared a deserter, his effects are put up at auction at the post, and sold to such men as care to buy. The revenue is posted to the credit of the deserter and the balance held against him, to be taken out of his account if he is ever caught and returned to regular duty.

"Lately the government has been sending deserters to jail for short sentences and then restoring them to duty. What the new order of things means remains to be seen. There is about $250,000 offered now as rewards, $50 in each instance, for deserters from the regular army. Up to a very short time ago the United States marshals were supplied with only a printed description of the missing man. Now they get his picture.

"Until some four or five years ago there was in each army post a canteen. At this place everything an ordinary man eats and drinks was kept for sale. This included candies, cakes, buttons, thread, cigars, and all the way to liquors. The profits went to the post supporting the canteen, to be used to provide luxuries for the post. Each company or troop got its proportionate share, and with this money bought luxuries for the mess, vegetables, canned fruit, tableware, or anything else the company might decide to use the money for.

"Enlisted men served short terms as clerks in these canteens, and worked under the supervision of a 'non-com.' Over this 'non-com' was a commissioned officer. He was really in charge of the place. Soldiers did their drinking there. The first sign of excess compelled the orderly, or clerk, to send the man out. If he did not attend to this there was the 'non-com' on hand to do it, and if the 'nom-com' failed, then he was sure to be hauled up by the lieutenant. The lieutenant did not stay at the canteen, but visited it regularly. The result of this was that no soldier ever got drunk at a canteen. The abolishment of the canteen has changed all this, and now there is drunkenness and desertion in the army."

Henry G. Forster, of New York, who has made the labor question a special study, and whose opinions are often quoted, is at the New Willard. Speaking about immigration as affecting wages in the United States, Mr. Forster said yesterday: "Two statements about the effect of immigration on wages in this country are current. One declares that immigration has lowered the general level of wages. The other declares that wages have been raised, because the immigrants by their labor have so much increased the fund from which wages are drawn.

"Neither statement is true. The fund from which wages are paid has indeed been increased, but the increase has not gone to the wage-earners. During the last thirty years most incomes in the United States have risen greatly, but in all those occupations in which immigrants engage, wages have remained stationary, or have risen much less than would otherwise have been the case. This is true notably of unskilled employments—pick and shovel work, coal mining and other mining, quarrying, the clothing, iron and steel, tobacco, cotton and silk industries, and of domestic service.

"The consequence has been, not merely that the capital class has gained, but that all of us have benefited at the direct expense of the wage earners. Our railroads have been built easier and more cheaply. We buy our coal, clothing, and shoes more cheaply, pay less to our servants, pay less in taxes for stone, iron and steel, and other materials, as well as for labor used on public construction. But our gain is offset by the presence in our country of an enormous class of wage-earners, partly native, partly foreign, living necessarily on a low, un-American standard of life."

Count Montgelas, an officer of the German army who has been mentioned as possible minister of war of the German Empire, and who is at the New Willard, discussing the Japanese army, said last night that during the war between China and Japan Japanese mothers and wives wrote to their husbands and sons who were taking part in the campaign either to return home as victors or not come home at all.

"There is nothing like it anywhere in the world; no such patriotism and self-sacrifice for the welfare of the country can be found on the pages of modern history," he said. "Tell me, can a nation which has such mothers be conquered? I say, no. Mothers make or unmake a nation, and the mothers make Japan invincible."

"Universal fireproofing does not sound the death knell of the carpenter," said Charles N. Beaver of Reading, Pa., at the National last night. Mr. Beaver is a practical carpenter, and the business being a "little dull" he took a sight-seeing trip to this city. "We see no reason for the carpenter to be dismayed at the present change and tendency in building construction," continued the Pennsylvanian. "The increasing use of concrete and of terra cotta and of steel presents new problems to the carpenter, but it does not eliminate him; far from it. True, there will be less work for the 'wood butcher,' but more for the skilled wood-worker.

"The fine interior woodwork of a well constructed residence of cement and steel will unquestionably be more valuable to the carpenter than the whole of a cheaply built frame house. His work will be of finer grade, requiring greater skill, and paying him bigger money than ever before. As for the 'wood butcher,' none of us will regret to see him go, nor will we miss him when he's gone. But we must all turn in and dig—to keep out of that class. Satisfaction with present knowledge and skill will not do. Conditions are changing; yet we feel sure that carpentry is here to stay. Our carpenters are the most progressive workmen in the world; they stand ready now to do their share, and more, toward better and more substantial building."

The Courtesy of the Road.

From the Providence Journal.

The reported incidents of Mr. Roosevelt's sharp rebuke to a party of young women who essayed to pass him on horseback, and to a girl of fourteen who hung behind until ordered to cease following and take a by-path, are reminders that the old-fashioned practice of the road in such a situation is little observed nowadays, except perhaps in the occasional old-fashioned community. It used to be not good form to rush past from behind. Upon the driver or rider overtaken rested the gracious duty of signifying a willingness to make way. Observing his deviation to the right of the road, the driver or rider following felt at liberty to pass; and usually a nod of recognition of the courtesy completed the ceremonial according to the lex non scripta of the highway. Of course, where one overtook a person too stupid or ill-humored to share the road for a moment, it was permissible to break or crowd past. But reasonable time and opportunity were bound to be given for the display of the courtesy by the person whose original privilege it was to illustrate it.