The Democrat.

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MANCHESTER, - - IOWA.

Keep to the right and don't get left.

Sagasta is dead, but Weyler is still obnoxiously robust.

About the only kind of business that didn't increase last year was business failures.

"Now for wireless telephony," says a greedy exchange, "and a voice from space declaring that the ether is busy."

The tobacco trust has opened headquarters in Germany, thus adding a little more cement to the friendly relations.

A woman generally has to have a long time to make up her mind, but lightning is slow in comparison when she changes it.

The prices of the base-ball stars range from $7,000 to $10,000 a year. The theological and educational markets continue sluggish.

Bret Harte left an estate valued at $1,800—almost as much as a captain of industry can earn in twenty minutes when conditions are ordinarily favorable.

The man who is ashamed to give a little because it is all he can afford would probably not give much if he could for fear people would think he tried to show off.

Failing to make pupils in public schools better spellers the Illinois teachers are in favor of reforming the spelling itself. Probably they consider this the line of least resistance.

The army of Morocco is commanded by a Scotchman of the name of MacLean. The fact that he seems to be rather timid indicates that he doesn't belong to Mary's branch of the family.

Emperor William is said to have declared that unless existing governments can stop the growth of socialism they must go to the wall. Perhaps he has just heard what the socialists are organized for.

It is now pretty generally agreed that laziness, scientifically known as "ankylostoma," is a disease. It is also pretty generally agreed that oil of birch, mixed with a few drops of extract of hustle, is good for it.

Oklahoma has a larger population to-day than any State now in the Union had at the time of its admission and a population larger than any except Virginia of the original thirteen when they came together to form "a more perfect union."

Among other things the coeds of a well-known university have sworn off sliding down the banisters. They will also fold their napkins and not come down to breakfast in their stocking feet. Why wipe out all the distinguishing features of coeducation at one fell swoop? Surely, one such reform a year would be enough.

Sentiment is a powerful force, but [illegible] augmented with a million and a quarter in [illegible] money it sometimes gives way. That is what has happened in Boston, where the famous Park Street Church, in which "America" was first sung, is to be sold for that amount. The meeting-house, with its many historic associations, will be torn down to give way to a large office-building, and the religious society, endowed with more than a million dollars, is to carry on its work in a different part of the city.

The spirit of speculation has infected the country; farm lands in the West have been bid up by purchasers with borrowed money; too many town lots and new sky scrapers everywhere held at high prices are mortgaged by nominal owners looking for continued prosperity advancing values to "win out" and too many persons are living beyond their means in the expectation that their income will catch up later. In short, there has been too much borrowing and credit is so seriously inflated that a shock of any kind which would cause a sudden demand for the redemption of these credits might have unfortunate consequences.

The eleventh census reveals some facts interesting not only to the economist and sociologist, but to the business man. In classifying the causes for which mortgages have been made, it is shown that 95 per cent of them indicated prosperity rather than adversity. That is to say, 95 per cent of the mortgages were made in order to raise money for the purchase of additional holdings, for larger business operations, etc. Only 5 per cent were given because of adversity—failure in business operations. And it must be said that upon the sequel depends the decision as to whether the increased mortgages—placed with whatever motive—shall be considered exponents of good fortune or misfortune. Some day these mortgages must be paid. Over-speculation has its legitimate pains and penalties.

American youth are not the only ones who have grit enough to overcome all the obstacles in the way of getting an education. The daily newspapers have lately been telling how a Macedonian earned his way through a large Eastern university and through a post-graduate course of three years by waiting on table in a boarding-house, taking care of a furnace, and acting as conductor on a street-car. He studied and attended lectures and recitations in the intervals between these occupations. He received the degree of Master of Arts, and is now in Germany, where he intends to spend two years more studying political law. Then he thinks he will be prepared to serve his native country in her political tribulations. There are not many young men of any race who would undergo such privations for the sake of qualifying themselves for any service, whether public or private, secular or religious.

In its annual review of the statistics of suicides in the United States, the Chicago Tribune finds that they are increasing much more rapidly than the gain in population warrants. The figures for the last few years are as follows:

	Suicides.
1899	5,340
1900	6,755
1901	7,245
1902	8,291

While the increase last year over 1901 is 14 per cent, that for the three years yields the startling percentage of 55, or more than half as many more. Another remarkable fact is noted in the larger proportion of women among the suicides. Previous to 1902 the ratio among suicides was five men to one woman. But last year there were three times as many women as for the year before, making the ratio five men to three women. Among the known causes for suicide despondency ranks first, about one-tenth are traced to domestic infelicity, 433 to ill-health, and 375 to "disappointed love." Fully one-third left no clew to the cause for self-murder, while "liquor" accounts for 136 and "business losses" for 67. Poisons remain the favorite means of dispatch to the unknown, but more than one-third of the suicides shot themselves. Of more interest, however, than the details is the central fact that year by year the number of those who commit suicide is increasing out of proportion to the increase in population. It probably means that the stress of life is more severe in the United States now than its has ever been previously.

Twenty-five years ago any one who had ventured to predict that the young women in coeducational colleges would come to outnumber the young men would have been regarded as a poor prophet; yet that condition promises soon to be realized in many universities; for the number of women students increases faster than that of the men. The changed conditions have led in some cases to repressive measures. College presidents find that the young men are not attracted to an institution in which the women are equal or superior in numbers to themselves. Athletics, no doubt, has something to do with this, but there are other reasons. It has been found that in some colleges the girls show a tendency to monopolize certain groups of studies, notably English literature, and the boys come to look upon that part of the curriculum as "girls' studies," and to avoid it, which is unfortunate for both sexes. The social relations of the young men and the young women, and particularly the housing, are also a problem which becomes more difficult as the number of students increases. A successful solution involves large expense, and few of the State universities, in which coeducation is most prominent, have great financial resources. The discussion has led to a number of experiments. In the University of Chicago "segregation" has been adopted. Women are still admitted as freely as men, and will receive the same education, but under the conditions which render them students of what is almost a separate institution. In Leland Stanford University the number of women is limited to thirty-five per cent of the whole number of students. Whatever may be the outcome of the discussion, the young women need not fear that the doors of the temple of learning will be closed to them. They have shown too plainly that they want education, and have demonstrated too unmistakably their ability to get it on equal terms with their brothers. Conditions may be changed, but their opportunities will not be lessened.

Smallpox Cure.—When Jenner discovered cowpox in England the world of science hurled an avalanche of fame upon his head, but when the most scientific school of medicine in the world, that of Paris, published this recipe as a panacea it passed unheeded. It is harmless when taken by a well person. It will cure scarlet fever. Here is the recipe as I have used it to cure smallpox: Sulphate of zinc, one grain; digitalis, one grain; half a teaspoonful of water. When thoroughly mixed add four ounces of water. A teaspoonful is a dose; for children smaller doses according to age.

A beginning of kidney trouble lies in the fact that people, especially women, do not drink enough water. A tumbler of water sipped in the morning immediately on rising, another at night, are recommended by physicians. Try to drink as little water as possible with meals, but take a glassful half an hour to an hour before eating. This rule persisted in day after day, month after month, the complexion will improve and the general health likewise. Water drunk with meals should be sipped, as well as taken sparingly.

Pneumonia.—Grease the patient's breast with sweet oil. Take lobelia, pulverize and sprinkle on the greased surface all it will retain. Cover with a cloth to prevent displacement and in a few hours all symptoms will have disappeared. Of course it will be understood that treatment must be given before the disease has made much progress.

Cure for Cancer.—Take galangal root, grate or pulverize to a fine powder, add zinc chlorid, make a plaster and apply all over the cancer surface. Renew every day until the cancer begins to give way from the healthy tissue. Generally the plaster can stay on the cancer about four or five days, then remove and apply any good salve.

Told by a Clerk.

Not long ago rubber bands were used only in government buildings, lawyers' offices and by druggists, but now you find them serving in all sorts of shops. Indeed, they are an important adjunct to even the grocery dealer. They answer every purpose as cord and are very much easier to handle. Besides, they make a more symmetrical parcel, and that is the salesman's pride. Take the interesting box of candy, for instance, the pink cord and blue cord which for so long a time marked the bonbon box as its own, has given way to dainty ribbons, and the outside wrapper is bound with rubber bands, sometimes of the narrow thread-like variety, and sometimes of the wider kind. Yes, I think the rubber band has come to stay. I don't know how much the twine and cord industry have been affected by its use, but, as far as I can observe, it must be to a considerable extent.

English Convicts.

There are about 15,000 convicts in the prisons of England, whose maintenance costs about $3,000,000 a year.

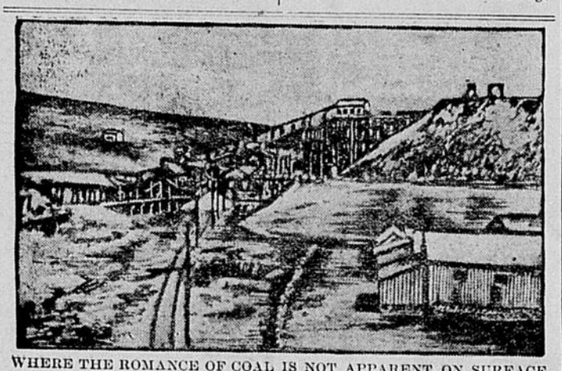
COAL

Wonders and Beauties of Vegetation, and Remarkable Chemical Combinations Revealed; Sunshine of Days When the Earth Was Young Concentrated in the Bright Black Lump Upon Whose Energy a World Depends.

WHEN one speaks of romance coupled with the contents of the coal scuttle, the connection may seem somewhat remote. But it isn't. There are wonders and beauties of vegetation concealed in the coal, with the glory and fervor and sunshine of days that dawned when the earth was young. And while these marvels are not apparent at a casual glance, they are not so deeply hidden as to be visible only to the learned mineralogist working in his well-equipped laboratory. A little manual dexterity readily acquired, a microscope, and a modest amount of study,

FIG. 1—FOSSIL CALAMITE STEMS.

are all the preparation needed to enable one to unfold a record not made by human hands, and to reveal beauties of rare excellence. And there is history — concentrated to a degree which comprehends the activities of millions of years in the piece of mineral you may hold between your fingers. Coal tells much about the earth we live on and delve into, and all it imparts happened long before there was a human being in existence to take note of the terrestrial catastrophes compared with which the mightiest upheavals of present times sink into absolute insignificance.



WHERE THE ROMANCE OF COAL IS NOT APPARENT ON SURFACE.

Coal is a mineral. It is carbon. It is about the only source of carbon on earth available for the extraction of metals from ores, and their subsequent transformations. Millions of years ago it grew, in the literal sense. That period of the earth's existence is styled the carboniferous. Man wasn't due for millions of years. There were few vertebrates of any sort on land. One of the first to make his bow was a chap shaped like a frog and as big as a small ox. And he was amphibious;

FIG. 2 — MODERN CALAMITE AND CLUB MOSS.

that is, not particular whether he swam in the water or moved about on land. He had relatives, and the whole tribe went by the general name of labyrinthodants—the name being of dimensions to correspond with its bearers. Then there were scaly, alligator-like reptiles, and the smaller fry included tree lizards, land snails, large scorpions and spiders, cockroaches, beetles, huge May-flies, and other marsh insects. Among things in the seas were the oyster, and fishes to which the armored sturgeon of to-day bears some resemblance. All these left their trade-marks, so to speak, in coal.

But this is in a manner digression. There were trees in those days. Not the sorts we now have, but those of less complex structure. They were tall—some of them over 200 feet, and correspondingly thick. They have left descendants, but puny ones—horse-tails, club mosses, ferns, are common instances. The construction of these trees tells us that the earth was a very damp place those days. There was water everywhere, and in abundance. Even the air was habitually saturated with it. The sun was hot, and the combination made things grow. Figure 1 shows at its right a fossil root-end of a calamite or horse-tail of the coal period, and figure 2 a modern horse-tail, actual size. Comparison speaks for itself. Club mosses were abundant, in varieties many of which are extinct. These mosses grew 100 feet or more tall, and scattered myriads of seed spores and spore cases; season after season this continued, until deep and dense layers were formed around the roots. To-day we get coal that is more or less completely built up of these resinous spores—the bituminous sort frequently owes its brilliant and glossy appearance to the presence of this resinous matter. These big club mosses are termed lepidodendra. The stem or trunk of a lepidodendron is covered with scars where the leaf stalks were originally attached, and these trunks are often found standing upright in the coal mines, with their striking scars arranged spirally around their whole length. The sandstones and shales found above coal strata often reveal fossilized portions and casts, or impressions of the scaly bark of these great stems.

If we add to the plants already mentioned certain coniferous trees similar to pines and larches, we will comprehend that the forests of the coal period, although largely composed of what we now regard as insignificant weeds, were not by any means insignificant as forests. On the contrary, everything points to the fact that the forests were so dense as to be almost impenetrable through the various plant-growths, individuals striving with one another to get their leaves exposed to the sunlight, just as the living plants in crowded situations do today, for sunlight was just as essential to these early plants as it has always been to all plant life. In among the great stems were undergrowths of ferns, many of which are very similar to sorts which flourish to-day. The frequency with which fronds and frondlets of ferns are seen in coal and shales shows how plentiful the growth must have been. The two central examples in the top row of figure 3 represent cameo and intaglio pieces, and when closed together these become simply a piece of smooth, weather-worn stone, with its secret hidden at the core.

Coal can be made to tell its secrets just as surely as can the sandstones and shales found near it. It would be useless to look at any casual piece of coal to trace its vegetable origin, but by cutting a thin piece and grinding carefully between glass with emery and water until it becomes so thin as to be transparent, and then submitting this to microscopical examination, we discover something as to its structure. So it occurs, by making sections through all kinds of coal, we are almost invariably able to trace their vegetable origin from the softer vegetable and wood structures, until it becomes saturated and consolidated, eventually losing its gaseous constituents, and becoming converted into carbonized coal of various states of purity as it nears the stages of the more pure forms of carbon.

Given, now, that coal is consolidated and carbonized vegetable matter, we have yet to find a reason which shall account for these vast beds of coal being buried so deep beneath the surface of the earth. And more than this, how is it that coal fields are found beneath coal fields, as in South Wales, where no less than eighty distinct beds of coal have been recognized? Sometimes these beds are of great thickness, one of the most noted instances being the famous bed of South Staffordshire, England, which was 30 feet thick. We have glanced at the wonderful fossilized remains of the vegetation of the Carboniferous period and seen how they indicate that the forests of those times developed dense masses of vegetable growth, which, so far as quantity is concerned, would considerably surpass all forests of the present day. For if the whole vegetation of existing woodlands could be converted into coal, it would probably not make a coal field of more than two or three inches deep. Yet the various seams in some coal areas would make a depth of from 200 to 300 feet. From this we can estimate that these great forests of the coal period, which developed and stored these enormous accumulations of carbon, were something almost beyond our imagination. For at present we know of no source of carbon other than that gathered through the agency of the green portions of plants and stored in their trunks, roots, branches, etc. The green leaf absorbs from the atmosphere the carbon dioxide or carbonic acid gas, which is built up of one part of carbon chemically united with two of oxygen. This is decomposed by sunlight in the chemical laboratory of the leaf and the oxygen is given back to the atmosphere for animals to breathe and again consort into this same carbonic acid gas, while the carbon is retained and built into the wood structure of the plant. And as all the myriads of plant leaves of the great carboniferous trees were continually catching and

FIG. 3—COAL SHALES.

storing these particles of carbon from the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere, which in those times, it is thought, was in greater proportion in the air than it is to-day, it naturally follows that great and ever-increasing stores of carbon were being put by, not as pure carbon alone, but chemically combined in the form of starches, oils, etc., essential to plant growth.

But the earth was at this time in a very unsettled condition, and perhaps after these forests had grown and developed their trees and dense foliage and undergrowths for long periods of time a slow and persistent subsidence of the land would take place. As this sinking went on the tides would gradually wash in among these forests deposits of silt and mud, which would increase as time went on, until the once living and flourishing forest was completely submerged. And so a future coal-bed was laid, which the ever-increasing weight above would eventually along with the natural chemical influences, convert into coal as we know it. After a time the land would rest again, and the surface would become suitable once more for plant growth and in the course of time a new forest would spring up, which in due time would once more meet the same fate of submergence. This again would be followed by others until we get coal stratum beneath the coal stratum, each showing the same remarkable order—first a bed of clay, which represents the soil of the ancient forest; next the coal layer itself, representing the accumulations of the once living vegetation, and above this the deposits of sand and mud which have hardened into shales and sandstones. A second time another layer of clay or soil follows, and over it coal and sandstone, the whole to be similarly repeated.

It has been truly and frequently remarked that our stores of coal represent so much fossil sunshine of the Carboniferous period. For the carbon gathered during the sunlight by the plants of this period constitutes the great and chief source of energy contained in coal, and the heat and light given out during combustion is but the warmth and light of the sun's rays absorbed ages ago by the leaves of the strange plants which we have been considering, reasserting itself as it were, after lying dormant through the countless ages.

And as we sit by our fireside and appreciate the glowing embers while reading our newspaper or book with comfort and enjoyment, with our rooms illuminated primarily from this same source, and our surroundings further cheered by the innumerable aesthetic and useful products derived alike from coal, such as the lovely coal-tar colors, exquisite perfumes, and the jet, marbles, slates, and sandstones from the adjoining strata, not to mention the comforts derived from the numerous curative drugs that chemists have learned to compound from the coal-tar products, and even sugar 300 times sweeter than that obtained from the cane—indeed, the wonderful products and benefits obtained primarily from coal would require pages for their mere mention; for the Carboniferous strata was a special one, like none before or after, and yielded more for the progress and service of man than all the other systems put together—we must see how vast and farseeing are Nature's schemes, and, although these great forests grew ages ago apparently without any special purpose, yet on these the progress and social happiness of man to-day largely depends. Nature is one vast whole inseparably related and connected.

WE CAN WHIP THE WORLD.

Lord Beresford's High Opinion of the Power of the United States.

According to Rear Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, of the British navy, this country can whip the world, either from an economic or any other view point. This statement he made in England just before sailing for the United States, where he hopes to promote a community of interests and methods between this counry and Great Britain. He does not believe a political alliance possible and states that the sentiments of both countries borbid it. A business alliance, however, he favors. The coming century, he says, will be one of business, and by the establishment of greater intercommunication of capital and interests between the two countries he believes that it will be a century of peace.

Lord Beresford has strongly criti-

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD.

cised his country for its connection with the Venezuelan muddle, and says emphatically that England should not only support the Monroe doctrine in a moral sense, but fight for it if necessary.

Lord Beresford is the greatest naval captain in the British navy. He commanded the Condor in the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882, and led a naval brigade in the Soudan expedition of 1885. In 1897 he became a rear admiral.

Japan's Musical Insects.

More than 3,000 persons in Japan make a good living by breeding, training and selling what are known as "singing insects." Like crickets, these insects are, and their Japanese names are kusa-hibari and suzu-mushi.

The music which they make resembles that of a silver bell and, though rather monotonous, is very clear and sweet. The Japanese keep insects in tiny bamboo cages, and take quite as good care of them as Americans take of canaries or other pet birds. Some of them prefer the music which is made by a certain species of frog, known as kajika, and they are always ready to pay a high price for frogs which are well bred and well trained. These they can generally obtain, for several persons pass their entire time breeding and training frogs and insects, which they offer for sale every year at fairs held during June in Tokio and other large cities.

U. S. Forest Reserves.

The total area of all the forest reserves in the United States is now 58,850,925 acres. It is interesting to note that the total area of the United States, exclusive of island possessions, is 2,362,960,000 acres. Thus it will be seen that the forest reserves now amount to about one-fortieth of the entire area of the United States. In square miles the area of the reserves is 91,954 or almost twice the size of Pennsylvania.

Prudence.

"I suppose you would like to say or do something that will live in history."

"Well," answered Senator Sorghum, "there are so many things concerning which I should prefer to keep history uninformed that I guess I'd better not take any chances on trying to break in."—Washington Star.

Proof Positive.

Hix—I noticed your wife sitting by the window sewing this morning. I thought you told me yesterday she was ill.

Dix—So she was; but to-day she's on the mend.

POLITICS OF THE DAY

Trusts Will Not Be Harmed.

The New York Press, one of the rock-ribbed G. O. P. organs, is a little worried because of the delay of the Republicans in passing anti-trust bills. Failure to deal with the trust question squarely and promptly, it says, will "tip the political conditions of the nation bottom side up." It then assumes that the passage of an anti-trust bill is assured beyond a doubt, is equivalent to a fact accomplished, and proceeds to congratulate its party on the good results to follow the anti-trust legislation and gives special credit to President Roosevelt, saying "There are very few influences now to dispute his power to get the legislation enacted which he thinks necessary."

The Washington Post, another good G. O. P. organ, takes an entirely different view of the matter. It tells the Press that "There is as yet not a particle of evidence that the leaders in Congress desire to do anything inimical to the interests of monopolistic combines. And who is there that imagines the power of the trusts so decadent that they could not prevent the passage through the Senate, between this date and the 4th of March, of any bill from which they had any reason to apprehend trouble? The chances are a hundred to one against any anti-trust legislation by the Fifty-seventh Congress. The chances are a thousand to one that, if any so-called anti-trust bill goes through, it will be as innocent as a bread pill or a prepared chalk imitation of morphine. The Press shows the credulity of one who was born yesterday."

There is no reason for these two good Republican organs to quarrel. The Washington Star of Jan. 17, the personal organ of the President, settled matters when it said that as the trusts were willing to have legislation pass the Senate, if it were not drastic, and that as the President was not asking for drastic legislation, but simply wanted "some kind of action," an agreement would most likely be reached with the trusts which would "permit the enactment of mild legislation regulating the trusts."

Anti-trust legislation under the auspices of the trusts is on the cards for the next performance at our national capitol.

Helping Cuba.

It is almost impossible for a protectionist organ to play its little piece without getting out of tune with facts. Here is the Washington Post, for instance, saying, "What has become of all that Democratic sympathy for suffernig Cuba? Surely it was not all for political effect?"

The Post knows, full well, that there is no suffering in Cuba now, more than there is in the United States. The sugar trust press agent occasionally manufactures a little suffering for the benefit of Congress, when the reciprocity chariot wheels drag heavily, but this evidence is hardly substantial enough to excite the Democrats who know it is for political effect. The Democrats, if they had the chance, would, instead of fussing over the terms of a questionable reciprocity which the party in power is now doing, so reduce the high protective rates of the tariff, that Cuba and all countries would have equal access to our markets.

Why blame the Democrats because the reciprocity treaty is not ratified? It is a humbug, pure and simple, worked up by the sugar trust, and of no advantage to the United States, and will be but little if any aid to Cuba. The Democrats forced the freeing of Cuba from the despotic yoke of Spain and they have voted money with a free hand to aid her. If the Republicans have made any secret pledges to Cuba they have the political power to redeem them. If aid is needed from the Democrats to carry out the pledges let the Republicans disclose what the pledges are and who made them and, if the United States is bound in honor to redeem them, the Democrats will be found ready to protect the honor of their country. But when it comes to pulling chestnuts out of the fire to help their political opponents, without at the same time helping Uncle Sam, the Democrats are not there.

At Least a Start Has Been Made.

The passage of the free coal bill (for one year) by both branches of Congress was notable for the fact that the Democrats in the Senate did not offer a single amendment, but joined with the Republicans in pushing the bill to an immediate vote. The Democrats at least deserve credit for doing something which the Republicans have said all along they would not do. It is now demonstrated that a tariff bill can be brought before the Senate and quickly passed, notwithstanding that under the Senate rules a tariff bill is subject to endless amendment. It must have been a distressing moment, however, to a number of old tariff reform war horses to see this free coal bill slip by without proposing free everything else. Their self-restraint was admirable, and a shivering nation chatters out its thanks.—Springfield, Mass., Republican.

Republicans Indict the Tariff.

The Republican majority in Congress has submitted convincing proof that it recognizes the present evil of high protection and that free trade is the remedy for that evil. The action of the Senate in placing anthracite coal on the free list furnishes this proof. The confession is made that the Republicans abandon their former position and agree that the removal of the tariff duty on anthracite coal, while containing no menace of lower wages for workingmen, offers relief to consumers by making competition possible. This is the extreme form of the argument, extended all along the line, upon which the advocates of tariff reform urge a revision of the Dingley tariff.—St. Louis Republic.

Negroes in Public Office.

If he really and honestly desires to be understood as holding an equal hand to north and south in his negro policy let him nominate a negro for postmaster in Boston or New York or Cleveland or Chicago. Let him give to his own compatriots an official who will face them every day in government transactions and not try to palm off as a sample of his justice the appointment of a negro employe of Harvard's athletic field to a secondary position, where, if he serves the government at all, it will be in the prosecution of petty criminals. The President should not dodge, but play an open, fair hand!—Atlanta Constitution.

Free Coal with a String to It.

"Didn't we give the people free coal last winter when they were freezing? Didn't we make coal cheap by taking the duty off when the price got too high? Isn't the Republican party always ready to relieve the suffering people?" These are some of the boasts we will hear during the next campaign.

No, the Republicans have not given us free coal. Reluctantly, when mass meetings were being held; when the press was almost unanimous for free coal; when investigating committees were putting impudent questions to the trusts and were probing for bottom facts, and when the winter was half gone, the trust leaders in the Senate and House considered it wise to still the clamor somewhat by pretending to give the people free coal. A bill was fixed up and jammed through both houses of Congress in one day, giving practically no time for debate, and absolutely no time to amend by putting other trust articles on the free list.

The duty of 67 cents per ton will continue in force on bituminous coal, which is practically the only coal that will come in. A rebate, however, will be paid by the Treasury Department to the importer, which will reimburse him for the full amount of the duty paid. As, however, the Secretary of the Treasury made another anarchistic ruling which has nullified the law placing a duty on bituminous coal, when he telegraphed collectors of customs to "Admit all coal imported on and after 15th inst. free of duty, under the act of 15th inst.," coal will virtually be free for one year, and prices will most likely fall much more than the amount of the duty. It may, however, be February before enough coal can be imported to supply the demand and break the trust's prices.

One year from now, without any discussion in Congress, and without any agitation of the tariff question, the Republicans hope, the rebate will cease to be paid, and the trust will continue its graft, temporarily suspended in deference to the overwhelming sentiment of a freezing people. The trusts are still supreme; only their political agents in Congress have become a little frightened, that's all. They expect the people to forget all about $15 coal before the next campaign. Will they?

Farmers and the Trusts.

The cattle men held their annual convention at Kansas City a few days ago, and the question of the beef trust came before them, and the result of the proposed merger of all the packing houses was stated to the convention as follows:

"The raisers of live stock in this country would, if such a merger corporation were formed, be compelled to sell all their products to one purchaser, and that purchaser would fix the prices to be paid, the number of live stock to be purchased, and the places at which they would purchase and pay for the same."

The farmers, in the aggregate, raise ten times the number of beef cattle that are sent to market from the free ranges of the West. The farmers are therefore interested in controlling the beef trust, for they will be more at the mercy of the trust when they market their stock. A large shipper of cattle, like the great cattle barons of the plains, may probably be able to arrange the prices they will receive before the steers are shipped; but the farmer who sends a carload to the Chicago or Kansas Ctiy stock yards is, and will continue to be, entirely dependent upon the price that the beef trust dictates. No class of citizens are more interested in trust busting than the farmers, and yet a majority of them continue to vote for the political party that is allied with the trusts.

The Last Sad Rites.

Coal Tariff Dilemma.

Why did the Republicans take the duty off coal if, as they tell us, the foreigner pays the tariff tax? And why, if the people pay the tariff tax, do the Republicans wish the duty to go back on coal a year from now, unless to protect the monster coal trust? These are the two horns of the coal tariff dilemma. Take your choice, Republicans; the Democrats are well pleased at the object lesson you have been compelled to give the people.

A Ridiculous Contention.

It was very surprising to hear Mr. Payne and Mr. Dalzell argue in the House that the removal of the coal duty would make no appreciable difference in the importations of coal. If that is the case it affords all the better reason why the duty should be removed not only temporarily, but permanently. It is ridiculous to contend for the preservation of a duty that has no effect.—Buffalo Express.

Give the People a Show.

It is about time that the people had a show. The proprietors of the trusts and the men who are paid wages by the trusts form a very small part of the community. The people who buy trust products and pay trust prices are the great majority. Take off the tariff protection from trust products and give the people a chance.—Boston Post.

Addricks Has But One Peer.

The persistency of one Addicks of Delaware in seeking a seat in the United States Senate is akin to that supernatural personage of evil fame, who is alone commended by the most charitable for that one virtue of persistency.—Albany Argus.

TOWERS OF BUSINESS

MAKE VERITABLE CANYONS OF NEW YORK STREETS.

Each One of the Many Huge Office Buildings Is a Community in Itself, in Touch with Distant Parts of the Earth.

Among the multitude of interesting features of New York City, prominent place must be given the towering office buildings, which are more numerous in the lower end of that city than anywhere else in the world. Coming in on a ferry at the Battery or at the south end of West street, there rise up before you monsters of brick, stone and mortar within the walls of any one of which is carried on inside of twenty-four hours a greater volume of business, measured in dollars and cents, than most small cities can show in a month. In the winding, narrow streets which run from Broadway toward the rivers they stand so closely side by side that a gloomy, canyon-like appearance is given the streets and the man who gazes upward toward the fourteenth, eighteenth, twentieth or twenty-second story is made to feel his insignificance.

But it is within that the greatest interest lies. The population of from 1,000 to 1,500 persons is as varied as that of a town. Banking houses handle, behind handsome marble desks, their hundreds of thousands, which go out to mingle with the country's prosperity and develop new projects of industry and ingenuity. Insurance companies pledge their enormous capital to the lives of men in California and Florida, and to the safety of ships rounding the Cape. The tickers in many brokers' offices, over which noisy stock speculators and sober investors touch elbows, click out the news concerning the great mass of world wealth for bits of which thousands

AN OFFICE-BUILDING CANYON.

daily match their wits and their energies. Lawyers make plans in these rooms that will free the innocent and punish the guilty; and promoters sell South American mines and West African land rights. The offices of a great Western railway system bind the East and West with bands of steel and commerce, and exporters send goods from New Hampshire mills to the Orient. An energetic man with military carriage, after an hour's conference, is just completing the sale of an important block of land to the proprietors of a great department store, while directly above him an insignificant looking little man, wheeling nervously in his chair, is outlining to confederate capitalists a scheme that will give them control of a big street railway system. At his left, in turn, separated by a thin partition, an engineer is solving the problem of building a fifteen-story building on a narrow triangular plot of quicksand in such a way that no disturbances of the soil shall shake the foundations of adjoining structures. Typewriters, rapid fire guns of industry, rattle away in every corner of the floors. Bells, each ringing for a purpose, sound in unmusical confusion on every side. Every landing is an eddy in its swirling crowds that hurry up and down, in and out, throughout the long days.

From the time these men enter their offices in the morning until they go at night, many of them need not leave the building. Messenger boys rush in and out with messages. By telegraph, cable and telephone they can talk with London, San Francisco, or 50th street, as they wish. Supplies are there, their restaurant is there, their barber, their newspaper, their bank, their insurance company, their own police and detective service, their own fire department, their broker, their lawyer. It is a complete community in itself.

At night the thousands drift away, the engines are quieted, the outer gates are closed, a single elevator runs irregularly. Outside there is the deathlike stillness of a deserted town, and the tread of the policeman on the pavement echoes bleakly down the cavernous streets. Within only the caretaker and a few helpers remain. But the great machine has scarcely time to rest before it is again throbbing away with its entire strength, straining to handle smoothly the masses of hurrying people that crush upon it. Every day the force it unconsciously, mechanically manufactures reaches further into recesses of unknown lands and increases its grip on world-important affairs. The army of stalwart buildings which is growing up from every corner of the island forms the rampart of American industrial defense, the vanguard of American commercial supremacy. In years to come they may pass one by one and be replaced by others greater than they, but the forces they make to-day are a part of history.

Records of Knotted Cords.

Records are kept with knotted cords in Polynesia. During the early part of the nineteenth century and previously the official taxgatherers on the island of Hawaii, in the Sandwich group, did all their accounts on a rope 2,400 feet long, which was divided into lengths, each corresponding to a district. Loops, knots and feathers tied along the rope served as memoranda for the hogs, pigs and pieces of sandalwood collected from taxpayers.

It is either too hot or too cold for the lazy individual.