

HARDY'S COLUMN

Right wrongs no man and wrong blesses no man. Every deed that works to the injury of health and happiness is wrong. We may wrong self as well as others. Self wrong is not a crime, but a vice. When two or more persons are agreed in any mutual wrongdoing between themselves they are vicious, not criminals. When they inflict the same wrong without consent it becomes a crime. Our vices may be a disgrace to our friends, thus work wrong. Indulgence of appetite and lust is a vicious wrong. Smoking, chewing and drinking are contracted habits, not natural, and they militate against health, shorten life and blur the intellect. They are sometimes called social evils. There seems to be no complete remedy for these wrongs for they have existed ever since history made record. There are special diseases inflicted as a natural penalty, but still appetite and lust heed them not. Retired life in a remote corner is much safer than a social sporting life. If your neighbor will not meet you half way you better meet him where he stops, than to leave him in the dark; better use him better than he uses you. We do not like the term "socialism." Nationalism and individualism are all right. Homes and families are individual possessions and should always remain so. Individual responsibility develops and strengthens humanity much faster than social responsibility. As a rule it is those who never have shouldered individual responsibility that come to poverty. There was a time when no one was permitted to own a local home. Homes were not improved as they are now. Laziness developed. It is so in some portions of the torrid zone today. The industrious man should be permitted to support himself and let the lazy man root hog or die.

Individuals should be left to do what individuals can do, but when the undertaking requires the strength and labor of many, for the good of all, then all should take part. Here is where nationalism and individualism should meet. This would right the great trust wrongs we now are suffering under. The next great wrong is the present system of taxation. Nine-tenths of the government revenue is paid by those who have to work for a living and possess only a small home. Millionaires pay no more than day laborers. What the common people consume is taxed heavily. Wealthy extravagance pays but little. A direct tax upon all the property of each state would right this wrong.

National control of great undertakings would prevent the making of millionaires. No person ever made a million through an honest, just channel.

Another reduction of large fortunes can be made by repealing all laws for collecting interest on money.

A way to prevent a great accumulation of land would be to make all deeds void that do not run to a landless purchaser.

If we rightly understand the Monroe doctrine, the United States has no reason to complain if England and Germany take possession of the ports of entry in Venezuela and collect revenue until their debts are paid. If we remember such a method was adopted in Central America only a few years ago.

The reduction of our standing army to low water mark is certainly commendable.

The republicans begin to see that it will not answer to kick all the negroes away from the ballot box for it may loose them several states in the north.

The standard of burning oil should be raised and a heavy fine imposed for selling oil in the state under standard. Then a reward of \$50 offered to any detective, constable or sheriff who complains of and is the means of convicting a violation of the law. Do away with oil inspectors.

Wonder if they will give Mrs. Grant's boys a pension now? That is the way they treat royal blood over the water. We never thought Mrs. Grant ought to have a pension. Her husband did not die because he was president, but because he smoked.

The time seems near for repealing the law against carrying concealed weapons. The number of highway robberies are on the increase and need something done.

Speaker Thomas B. Reed took the right side of the imperial question, and his anti-republican sentiments

caused him to leave congress and his party.

The great Nile reservoir irrigation dam is now completed. It is located 600 miles above Cairo. It is estimated the dam will hold near a billion and a half cubic yards of water. Enough to irrigate fifty miles wide on each side of the river all the way down. The cost was \$125,000,000. The farmers may soon begin to grow over their water tax. They held a great jubilee December 10 over the first opening of the sluices. The mid-summer drouth is now on in Egypt.

Canada has the same trouble with their referendum law that Nebraska has. A law submitted there must receive more than half as many votes as was cast at the previous election. Too many voters stayed at home the other day when prohibition was voted on.
H. W. HARDY.

BOSSISM

Can the Ward Boss be Eliminated? Should the Standard for Professional Office Holders be Raised?

Editor Independent: I would like to see your paper in every family in the United States. It would do more good and enlighten more voters than any other paper printed.

I have always been a democrat, but I am ready and willing to help any movement that will assist in making more independent voters. The partisan voter is the enemy of good government and is doing more to help build up a government ruled by aristocracy than any other one thing. Everything that can be said and done to destroy the power of bossism and boss rule will be in the interest of a government ruled by the people and for the people.

If the voter can only be made to see the folly of being a slave to a party name, the power of money and greed would be past. We would then see the best men elected to office, who would work to better the condition of all the people, and not in the interest of the few people who have allowed greed for dollars to destroy their sympathy for their fellow men.

I am of the opinion that if there were more money spent in putting in the hands of every voter some paper like The Independent, and less into the hands of office-seekers, we would soon see a change in the management of our politics. Give us The Independent and the voter will do the ward politician.
C. A. RUSH.

Wickliffe, O.
(Mr. Rush's communication has the right ring to it; but right at this place is a good time to quote the observations of one of the ablest sociologists in America—Prof. Richard T. Ely.

In his admirable book, "The Coming City," (Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., N. Y.) Professor Ely reviews the history of past municipal reforms and arrives at the conclusion that, especially for administration of city government, "we must have a class of officeholders." Not the kind of officeholders we have at present—the ward boss and politician, who make their living out of politics—but men trained to do the work of administration, just as men are trained to do certain work in colleges and universities.

He calls attention to the repeated failures of reform movements having such watchwords as these: "Wanted, A municipal administration on purely business principles." "Municipal government is business, not politics," etc. Not that some good was not achieved, but because business men—successful business men—could not afford to drop their private affairs to accept a one- or two-year position of trust and great responsibility, only to be kicked out at the end of the term to make way for some ward politician who had put in his enforced vacation to good advantage.

Professor Ely believes the city council should be large enough to permit a fair representation of all interests; but that the administrative part should be placed in the hands of men, experts in the business, who could make a life work of it, knowing their positions would be secure so long as they gave satisfaction.

The idea is best illustrated in the case of men holding chairs in the great institutions of learning. Almost by common consent there has grown up around them a sort of "civil service" which insures them a permanent tenure of office so long as they continue to render good service. To properly fill the office of mayor is one of our modern cities requires a man with not only great executive ability, but also a good working knowledge of a wide range of subjects. It is a place as difficult to fill as the chancellorship

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The Railroad Trust

It was Havemeyer, the sugar king, who said that the protective tariff was the "mother of trusts." He was undoubtedly speaking in the interest of the sugar trade, of which he is so large an owner. Others there are who contend that railroad monopoly is the mother of trusts. At any rate, that there is a huge railroad trust, or "community of interests," is clearly evident to those who have given the subject some thought and investigation. The great railroad kings have trustified no less than 141,563 miles of railroad into seven groups. In order that our readers may be able to see this trust at a glance we print the following table showing the groups and their increased mileage during the past five years:

	Mileage 1902.	Mileage 1897.
Vanderbilt group.....	19,804	16,909
Penn. R. R. group.....	17,697	8,977
Morgan group.....	50,607	15,173
Gould-Rockefeller gr.	19,133	10,858
Harriman-Kuhn-Loeb	22,821	9,916
Moore group.....	7,200
Pierce group.....	4,301
Total	141,563	61,833

This shows an increase in these seven trusts of 79,730 miles in five years. The above table is based on the reports for July 1, 1902, and since then the Moore syndicate has added several hundred miles to their system.

In New England there are 5,296 miles of railroad, all of which are controlled by two large "trusts." The Atlantic Coast Line, with 4,470 miles, is rumored to have been lately absorbed by the Morgan group.

The small short lines, constituting less than 38,000 miles of road, are largely dependent on the large systems and must act with and for these large systems or become unprofitable. It is shown, then, that more than 90 per cent of the railroad mileage of this nation is controlled by a huge trust, that have a "community of interests," absolutely in the grasp of less than 500 men, of whom the leading representatives are J. P. Morgan, the Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, Goulds, Russell Sage, A. J. Cassatt, E. H. Harriman, James Stillman, S. M. Prevoost, James J. Hill, Jacob H. Schiff, John W. Gates, James Speyer, H. H. Rogers, Marshall Field, Moore Bros., A. R. Flower, the Blair heirs, the Greens, Edwin Hanley, Thomas Ryan, August Belmont, E. B. Morris, Joseph Milbank and some 500 others.

These are our most wealthy citizens. They own large blocks of standard oil, copper, steel, and street railway stocks. They are indeed our kings of finance. They are practical men, brainy, shrewd and resourceful. They all recognize the monopoly principle in the gigantic business of transportation, just as they do in the production of coal, steel, or copper.

It is shown clearly in Henry D. Lloyd's book, "Wealth vs. Commonwealth," that it was railroad monopoly that enabled the Standard Oil company to become a trust. It is hardly possible to grasp the extent, the power and the influence, of the transportation trust. It is the mother of trusts and constitutes the real economic power of this nation.

The nationalization of railroads would do more to destroy monopoly than any and all proposed remedies.—The Shoe Workers' Journal, Boston.

John H. McGary, Maple Plain, Minn., asks where he can procure W. J. Ghent's book, "Our Benevolent Feudalism." The calls for this book are so many that The Independent will undertake to furnish it to any reader direct from this office at \$1.50. It is published by The Macmillan Company, 66 Fifth avenue, New York.

of a university. Yet at present he is at the mercy of present day professional politicians and his tenure of office depends upon his making peace with them, except in rare intervals when misgovernment becomes so unbearable that the people revolt.—Ed. Ind.)

Hall county ought not to be punished for giving Billy Thompson such a handsome majority—but she has to suffer the results of republican incompetency along with others. Her share of the last school apportionment (\$3,758.66) is \$1,037.54 less than the smallest December apportionment ever made by the fusionists.

A Good Specimen

The leaders of the reorganizers, like the leaders of the republican party, are without doubt men of acumen. Except a few of them, possibly all understand the subject of political economy just as the populists do, just as the Bryan democrats do. But they purposely mislead their followers in order to reap the benefit of special privileges. Modern democrats, Bryan democrats, know what they want. They are students of political economy, and while there are various shades of belief from the essentially individualistic single taxers to the man who believes in the collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution—but would be satisfied to go as far as the populist demands, yet each has a reason for the faith that is in him. Unhappily there are a large body of democratic voters who are still voting for Andy Jackson—and it is a ten to one shot that they are supporting the reorganizers. The Independent purposes to show its class in political economy a specimen.

Imagine the appearance of a communication written on the back of the Mt. Carmel (Ill.) Register election supplement, November 6, 1902—a single sheet about 12x22 inches, printed on one side, showing the "healthy" democratic majority of Wabash county! Imagine the other side ruled in lead pencil, free-hand lines, 29 to the page. Then the communication written in pencil as nearly like this as the linotype can "follow copy":

Mr independent i think, you, are lik miss pink you think i cant do with owt you, but i will let you know that i fear bwf little A bowt you asto Give you a dolar For sish a paper as the independent Mr independent i Gest you will think I Am a hellof a fellow For riting on sich apaper as this i down this to show you that i am a democrat and i live in a Democrat county so i rote on this so yow could see for your Self that Wabash county don For Mr. William J. bryan, as he ses so much a bout the that suck corn on election day i think that if all of Wabash county had don that when he run for offes that Would have bin beter off and so i wold bin the same if i had not seen the commoner i am sory i ever sind for the commoner it is like the independent i cind and pade for the commoner jest t please afrend that was geten a clowf of five so i think the commoner no cownt, and the independent is les so stop both i dont car how seun

From Joseph L. McFerian

It is the business of an editor to "dress up" communications before putting them in print—even college professors are careless about spelling at times; but to take such liberties with Mr. McFerian's manuscript would almost amount to profanation. Josh Billings in his palmist days never equalled it. Mr. McFerian is "a democrat"—and objects to Mr. Bryan's criticism of the men who "suck corn" on election day.