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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9, 1903.

THE BEEF COMBINE.

Although the big meat packing interests are doing business under an injunction which is supposed to restrain them from entering into a combine to control prices, the producer of livestock is unable to discover any improvement in the situation. In a suit brought in a federal court under the anti-trust law, it was proved to the satisfaction of the court that the packers had an agreement that eliminated competition, and a restraining order was issued by which such agreement was declared unlawful and against the public interest.

The situation, however, does not appear to have been changed by the injunction that is in effect. The experience of livestock shippers during the past season has confirmed the suspicion that the beef combine is still in existence, and that it is able to control prices under any conditions that may arise. With the cattle supply not largely in excess of that of last year, prices have been smashed by the packers and many of those who sold at the lower prices experienced a serious loss in consequence. Shipments from the western ranges have not suffered so severely as those from the eastern feed lots, but in each case there has been a remarkable and apparently an unnecessarily heavy decline from the quotations of a year ago. It also appears that the prices paid by meat consumers have not fallen in proportion to the decline in market values—a feature of the situation that explains itself.

It has been alleged that complaints of a combine among the packing interests come from shippers who failed to get the prices expected, and that quotations are regulated entirely by supply and demand. These allegations, however, are not supported by the course of the market, and the inexcusable action of the combine during the past season has had such a disastrous effect as to call for rebuke from some of the leading live stock journals of the country.

There is probably no newspaper in the country that is better acquainted with market conditions than the Chicago Drovers' Journal, and when criticism comes from that source it may be assumed that it is well founded. In a recent issue of that publication appears this reference to the way in which live stock prices have been hammered by interests that were evidently working together:

"If reason and equity are to be consulted by the packing interests of this country, it is high time to call 'halt' upon the forces that are raiding the markets for cattle and hogs. The prices at which meats are selling and the broad and generous demand for them by the American public call for no such clabbing of the market as has been in evidence here the last month. There is a day of reckoning, and as sure as the forces that regulate the outlet for fat cattle and all classes of food animals continue their present policy, just so sure will they bring down disaster and ruin upon many in the branches of industry that have afforded for the packing interests the foundation upon which their business has risen to its present enormous size and power.

"Reason should be employed in all situations, and the present situation in the live stock trade is one that demands it. This boomerang will surely strike back upon packing interests and be deftly turned by them upon the public, which will be compelled to bear another meat famine as the penalty of the discouraging drubbing that the middle men have inflicted upon the industrious feeders who supply the raw material."

It appears from these remarks by a recognized market authority that it is within the power of a packing combine to regulate prices, thus corroborating the charge made by live stock producers that such power has been exercised to their disadvantage and loss on many occasions.

BLACKLISTING THE COURTS.

If the change of judge bill passed by the house of representatives receives the approval of the state senate, litigants in civil suits will be able to make charges of prejudice or bias against two-thirds of the district judges in Montana. Under the terms of the measure passed by the house, each party to the suit may, by making affidavit, secure the disqualification of five judges before whom it is proposed that the case be tried, and if this right be exercised by each litigant ten out of a total of fifteen district judges in Montana will be blacklisted

in that particular case. That appears to be the possible effect of the proposed law, as published in the newspapers.

District judges throughout Montana will be subject to humiliation and embarrassment under the provisions of this measure. Elected by the people of their district, and regarded as men of honor and integrity, they become targets for affidavit men who may make allegations of bias and prejudice in cases upon which they may be called upon to act. Those accused of such prejudice, even if the charges are unfounded, would naturally become objects of suspicion and distrust, and to some extent lose the confidence and respect of their constituents.

While the ends of justice require that a prejudiced court shall not have opportunity to extend favors to any litigant, the proposed law appears to permit entirely too many changes of judge—so many, in fact, that litigation may become unduly protracted and expensive. It is suggested that the provisions of the law may seldom be enforced, but their presence in the statutes conveys the assumption that, among fifteen district judges in Montana, there may be ten who are so biased or prejudiced in certain cases that they should be disqualified from presiding over the court in which such litigation is tried.

The change of judge measure is discussed in a partisan spirit by the Butte Miner, which criticizes the republican members of the legislature for favoring such a bill. The defects or objectionable features of such a bill are the subject of these remarks:

There appears to be a disposition on the part of some to grant to litigants more leeway in the matter of changing judges than a proper respect for our judiciary as a whole will permit. Litigants in the federal court are entitled to three peremptory challenges each, to remove from a jury of twelve men those deemed biased against them and in favor of the opposition, and must take their chances with the balance of the venire. But there are some members of the legislature who would grant to litigants in the district court the power to challenge five or more judges on the grounds of bias, placing the gentlemen on the bench on a lower average in the matter of dispensing justice than the jurors in the box.

A big corporation, when sued by an individual with a well established grievance, should not—through a change of five or six judges—be able to wear out the fighting capacity of the plaintiff, to exhaust his finances and practically destroy his case. Instances of this kind might never occur; and then, again, they might—in which event the wealthy litigant would have the best of the argument, regardless of the actual merits of the cause in issue.

Only a reasonable number of changes of venue should be granted, to the end that the geography of litigation may not at times be more effectual in determining the outcome than the merits of the case. Changes of venue that will enable a distressed litigant to get away from the rulings of a biased judge, without being thrown into the lap of another biased judge, ought to fully cover the scope of a fair trial bill, without granting the privilege of placing a lawsuit on wheels and carting it all over the state.

Brief and Pertinent.

Philadelphia Ledger: A pair of shoes, it seems, was made in Lynn in thirteen minutes. We believe it, as the kind you buy for boys wear out almost as quickly.

New York Press: When two men want to marry the same girl she can have lots of fun fooling each about the other, while she is getting ready to marry somebody else.

Kansas City Times: In France the death rate in the last year has exceeded the birth rate by 25,988. There will be some justification now if President Loubet should take up the peril of race suicide.

Exchange: Mr. Carnegie says the United States should be annexed to Great Britain, but he rather got the cart before the horse. It reminds one of the tramp who asked to have a shirt sewed on his button.

Beggars Plead Guilty.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 5.—Five of the officials charged by Salisbury in his confession to the prosecuting attorney with accepting bribes from him for supporting the project to supply the city with water from Lake Michigan, were heard in the superior court today and pleaded guilty before Judge Newham. They are Cory P. Bissell, ex-member of the board of public works, and Alderman John T. Donovan, Clerk E. Sloan, John McLaughlin and Royner Stonehouse. Bissell was charged with receiving \$200 and the aldermen with receiving \$250 each. Sentence was deferred until next week to give the judge time to give each of the men a private examination. The penalty provided by the statutes is imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed a year or a fine not to exceed \$2,000.

UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

Armed Men Patrol Streets and Several Persons Are Arrested.

CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo., Dec. 5.—The declaration of martial law has paralyzed all business in this city. Heavily armed pickets of the national guard are stationed on all street corners and many residents of the city do not venture upon the streets. Provost Marshal Thomas E. McClelland is occupying the mayor's office and has caused the arrest of several persons. The Western Federation of Miners is preparing through its attorneys today to make a vigorous fight against martial law and in favor of its members who are now confined in the different jails and bull pens.

Tonight a proclamation was issued by Col. Edward Verdeckberg, commanding the troops in the Cripple Creek district, for the guidance of the people during the prevalence of martial law. All persons possessing arms or other munitions of war are requested to surrender them to the military. The assertion is made that "there exist in Teller county one or more organizations controlled by desperate men, who are intimidating the civil authorities and who are setting at defiance the constitution and laws of the state of Colorado," and the order is given that "all persons who may heretofore have given aid and solicitation to any of the heretofore mentioned organizations, or have been in their service, who shall return to peaceful occupation and preserve quiet and order, holding no further correspondence or giving aid or comfort to the heretofore mentioned organizations, will not be disturbed, either in person or property."

In consequence of Governor Peabody's order placing Teller county under martial law, a committee of the women's auxiliary of the labor unions in this city, numbering 700 members, has sent a telegram to President Roosevelt, appealing to him "for protection against the unjust rulings of the governor of the state."

To Arbitrate Labor Disputes.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5.—The creation of a national arbitration tribunal named by the president, to which shall be submitted all disputes between capital and labor, is the aim of Volney W. Foster. He has drawn up a bill, copies of which have been sent to leading business men, manufacturers and labor leaders with a request that they suggest such amendments as they deem necessary to make the bill, if enacted into law, as effective as possible.

The bill provides for a commission of six members at a salary of \$8,000 a year each, with the secretary of commerce and labor as an ex officio member and chairman. The members are not to accept perquisites aside from their salaries, under a penalty of a fine of \$5,000, or two years' imprisonment, or both. The headquarters of the tribunal are to be in Washington.

The proposed bill provides that the tribunal determine all cases, either in the affirmative or negative, on the claims of both parties. It also provides that there shall be no strike or lockout pending the investigation, and both parties to the controversy are to resume and continue their former relations. This condition is to remain until a decision has been rendered.

When you wake up with a bad taste in your mouth, go at once to D. G. Lockwood's drug store and get a free sample of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. One or two doses will make you well. They also cure biliousness, sick headache and constipation.

The Love of Eating.
IS THE AMERICAN BECOMING A GOURMAND?

In our largest centers of population, such as New York and Chicago, we daily see more attention given to the inner man. Cafes and lunch-rooms are filled with men and women who seem to give all their time and attention to thoughts of properly or improperly feeding their stomachs. "It is of course best to eat slowly, but not too much," says Dr. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y. In this 20th century people devote so much time to head work that their brain is fogged and there isn't sufficient blood left to properly take care of the other organs of the body. The stomach must be assisted in its hard work—the liver started into action—by the use of a good stomach tonic, which should be entirely of vegetable ingredients and without alcohol. After years of experience in an active practice, Dr. Pierce discovered a remedy that suited these conditions in a blood-maker and tissue-builder. He called it Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery—an alternative extract that assists in the digestion and assimilation of the food in the stomach—so that the blood gets what it needs for food and oxidation, the liver is at the same time started into activity and there is perfect elimination of waste matter. When the blood is pure and rich, all the organs work without effort, and the body is like a perfect machine.

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