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Roosevelt on Regulation of the Trusts.

The visit of the President at Milwaukee was made notable by his exposition of the attitude of the administration on the trust question. An outline of what he said may be presented as follows:

The administration is not "anti-trust" nor "anti-corporation," popularly speaking. Neither does it assume that if a corporation is large enough, it can do wrong.

Our economic evolution has developed giant industrial organizations engaged in commerce between the states. They have brought some good and much evil. We rejoice in the former, and endeavor to curb the latter.

Where an evil is to be remedied, the state, and I need be, the nation must have the right to supervise and control the great corporations which are its creatures. When their acts touch the subject of interstate commerce the nation must be the regulator.

Such control and regulation must be reasonable—not in the interest of the rich as such, nor in the interest of the poor as such, but for the general benefit of the whole people, composed of law-abiding men, both rich and poor.

Acting on these lines, the last Congress has created a Department of Congress and Labor, and charged it with the duty of supervising and investigating the conduct of corporations engaged in interstate commerce. It is a significant contribution to the solution of the trust problem.

The same Congress passed laws intending to revitalize and strengthen the existing statutes under which unjust discriminations and combinations to raise prices which tend toward monopoly may be prevented, and funds have been appropriated to carry the laws into effect.

It is the duty of the President to execute these laws, and the work has begun. Fourteen railroads of the Middle West have been restrained by injunctions from violating the provisions of these statutes. The Northern Securities Company has been prevented by legal action from consummating a merger of two great trans-continental roads detrimental to the interests of the people of the Northwest.

The great packing house companies have been enjoined from combining illegally to raise the prices of meats. The cotton growers, buyers, and shippers have been protected against injury from the methods of Southern railroads, and the Federal Salt Company has been defeated in its purpose to advance the price of salt four hundred per cent.

The President is opposed to drastic measures calculated to "destroy the disease by killing the patient." That is his answer to the proposition to revise the tariff to destroy the trusts.

Making the Dakota Divorce Pleasant.

The citizens of Canton, South Dakota, have held a mass meeting and decided to advertise the town as a desirable place in which citizens of other states may secure divorces. Heretofore Sioux Falls has had a monopoly of the South Dakota divorce business, which is worth nearly \$1,000,000 annually. No wonder the enterprising people of Canton want to share in the profits and are anxious to have the advantages of their town generally known.

It is set forth as one of Canton's good points that newspaper correspondents are barred from the town, so that applicants for divorces need have no fear of figuring in sensational dispatches to their home papers. This will no doubt be regarded by most people who go to South Dakota for divorces as a fine recommendation for Canton, but it would seem that the public spirited citizens of the place might arrange still other attractions to lure the divorce seekers.

A nice golf course, to be at the disposal of the ladies and gentlemen who find it necessary to adjourn there long enough to get decrees, would serve a high and noble purpose. Also it might be well to have a club for the divorce seekers, where dances, card parties, dinners and receptions could be held, and the residents of the town might kindly volunteer to go about blindfolded in order to avoid seeing sensitive soujourners who were anxious to avoid being recognized.

Canton has made a splendid move in the right direction. Everything should be done to make it pleasant for the Dakota divorce hunters, for as matters stand the hardships attending the securing of a decree out there are so terrible that hardly more than three

or four out of every dozen people are willing to undergo them. With the promise of improved conditions Canton can hardly fail to secure a fine trade right at the start.

The President's Appeal to the West.

The speech delivered by President Roosevelt at Chicago was in the main a repetition of the orator's previous utterances. The idea of the strong navy, of peace secured by the preparation for war, is one that he has emphasized in several of his addresses, and the interpretation of the Monroe doctrine had appeared in his annual message. Such additions as were made to the earlier documents were intended to show that the government was carrying out the programme of preparation and that it had applied the doctrine according to the interpretation.

But the motive for the repetition is perfectly clear. The speaker wished to interest the interior of the country in a subject that does not appeal to the interior as it does to the seaboard. For this purpose the more auditors he can reach the better, and his mere presence in the various communities he is visiting will stimulate and broaden the discussion. Persons who do not read annual messages and who pay little attention to speeches delivered a thousand miles from their homes, will be distinctly interested. The people will talk the question over among themselves, and the politicians will take it up for its value on the stump.

The debate, it is true, will not be one-sided. Against the President's contention that if we are to sustain the Monroe doctrine we must make an impressive display of military strength, it will be urged that his method of preserving peace is the European method, which we have always decried, and more complaint will be made about swelling appropriations. But it is manifest that with our long coasts and our new interests in remote islands, and in an isthmian canal, there has been nothing extravagant so far in our naval plans. Nor can we say now when the limit will be reached. That can be determined only by many complicated developments in the future, some of which are undreamed of, as the Cuban war was ten years ago.

Mrs. JACOB H. VANDERBILT, whose husband is a cousin, several degrees removed from the parent head of that house, has opened a shop on Fifth avenue, where she proposes to sell novelties, brew and serve tea, and furnish cigars and cigarettes for swell dinner parties. Well, why not? There is an old saying that it is ordinarily but three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves. Applied to women folk, it might be said that the distance between kitchen apron and kitchen apron, shopkeeping and shopkeeping, is not infrequently covered in less than three generations. The mother of the house of Vanderbilt was a worthy, industrious woman and practical withal—a genuine old-fashioned helpmeet to her husband—the bluff old Commodore. She did not disdain the work incident to keeping a boardinghouse any more than did her husband the work incident to running a ferry. If this young woman who acquired the name of Vanderbilt by marriage makes money in her shopkeeping venture she will follow logically, and, it may be hoped, worthily, in the train of the early Vanderbilts.

BINGER HERMANN, he of the double-handshake, was nominated for congress at Eugene after he had been beaten to a standstill. Each opponent believing that he was going to get the nomination and not getting the opposition united, resulted in Hermann's nomination. In acquaintance with public men and public affairs, and in ability to reach people and results, Hermann is by all odds the best man that could be nominated. He is not a new man at the business, and can do what a new man could not do, at the beginning of his term. The fact that he is at odds with the Secretary of the Interior, is not believed will cut any figure in his election. The convention was unique in that after the leading candidate was hopelessly beaten, his forces rallied and landed their man. Something that seldom happens. It is said that Hermann, and Brownell, who was president of the convention, had left the hall some time before the successful ballot, believing the ex-commissioner out of the race, but came back when his forces rallied. This is the closest shave George C. has had in some time in missing the band wagon. This adds to his reputation of being able to pick the winner under all circumstances.

THE Federal court has held that the merger of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific is unlawful and it is restrained from carrying out the purpose for which it was organized. This was contrary to what the trusts expected and it has caused considerable anxiety in the inner circle of the large corporations of the country. It will be well to bear in mind that it is a Republican administration that is pushing this prosecution against the unlawful combination of capital. Democracy has had much to say about the Republican party and trusts. It is safe to say that this case will not please the Democrats as it disproves so many of their statements.

Mrs. MCKINLEY, whose world went into total and perpetual eclipse when her husband died, still visits daily the tomb where his body lies. This useless indulgence in grief and its outward show would, in a stronger woman, be censurable; in this gentle, child-like widow, conscious only of her great loss, it is only pathetic.

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