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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 64; minimum, 52; fair.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Probably fair; warmer; northwesterly winds.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21.

LAW FOR THE TRUSTS.

In its duration and magnitude, the steel strike has already made inevitable the introduction of regulative measures in Congress, and made probable the enactment of some of them into law. If there were no widespread sympathy with the strikers, there is political strength enough in the ranks of organized labor to insure lively motions in their ostensible behalf from every professional champion of "the toiling masses." We shall have proposals for constitutional amendments, for compulsory arbitration, for National labor commissions and for prohibition and punishment of monopoly.

It is hard to see which of these plans is best, and quite unprofitable to speculate as to which will obtain the favor of our disinterested and inscrutable Congress. The worst plan is reasonably certain not to be the least likely of adoption. To begin with, few schemes are more attractive than compulsory arbitration. For this there are many reasons, chief of them being that compulsory arbitration is a contradiction in terms and a thing impossible. Its qualifications are therefore indisputable for approval by those minds that love to revel in such ennobling ideas as the salvation of American labor through high tariff, the kind of protection that leads to free trade, and the enthronement of the gold standard without prejudice to silver.

Of constitutional amendments several proposals are in the air. First in status is the one already considered in the Fifty-sixth Congress, and voted upon in the House of Representatives on the 1st day of June, 1900. The measure provided:

> Congress shall have power to define, regulate, prohibit or dissolve trusts, monopolies or combinations, whether existing in the form of trusts or otherwise. The several states may continue to exercise such power in any manner not in conflict with the laws of the United States.

Upon the resolution carrying this amendment there were 154 ayes, all Republicans, and 122 nays, of which 120 were Democrats and Populists. The resolution lacked the necessary two-thirds of the House, and consequently failed to pass. The Republicans made much to do about their heroic assault on the trust, and the Democrats hooted back charges of buncombe—as to which were correct it is unnecessary, at this distance of time and in view of the thermometer, to become anxious.

Among all the plans suggested, perhaps no better one has appeared than one offered by Mr. Charles Francis Adams in a letter to the New York Evening Post. He proposes a Federal commission which shall have power to summon before it both parties to a labor controversy and require them to present their side of the case in its strongest light. Upon the hearing the commission is to render a decision, trusting to public sentiment for enforcement of the decree. The usual device of applications to be filed by one of the parties to the controversy is abandoned in favor of a command laid upon the commission to take the initiative itself.

We shall be unreasonable enough to stand by this plan of Mr. Adams, not for any great achievement it seems to promise, but because of his wise forbearance in avoiding the visionary and impossible, and for his rare apprehension of the force of public opinion. There are no grim penalties to be imposed upon labor or capital, which would be as impossible of enforcement as was the English law prescribing capital punishment for the theft of 15 shillings. Mr. Adams trenchantly says that if public sentiment cannot enforce a decree in settlement of a strike, then a Federal commission itself, armed with whatsoever power, cannot. He holds that the powerful force of public opinion is superior to statutes, and that it is in reality the living, breathing thing that alone makes law. In a popular government, effective. So he boldly offers to throw this decree of his Federal commission upon public opinion for its enforcement, and estimates its power to be great enough to compel each party to present its case in the first place, and to abide by the decision in the end. The man who talks like this creates unimpeachable presumptive evidence that whatever he proposes is all right. Mr. Adams can have our support for a perpetual motion machine or a railroad to Mars.

The credit for the saving of $85,000 a year in the administration of the affairs of Multnomah County is distributable, properly, among several descriptions of our citizens. The basis of it is the legislation of the session of last Winter, carried through by the delegation sent to the Legislature from Multnomah. Suggestions of value came from the Taxpayers' League, and much has been done by the Circuit Judges, particularly by Judge Cleland. These reforms, all of which are reasonable, were long overdue.

LIGHT ON THE WOOLEN MILLS.

Fancy the woolen manufacturers advocating a reduction in duties on their wares! Yet just this they are doing, if one can believe reports from Massachusetts that are accounted trustworthy. This is not what we are accustomed to. The astute manipulators who had their will with the Democratic tariff tinkers of 1894 elucidated a highly diverting programme of free wool and protected woolens, free lumber and protected furniture, free hides and protected shoes. Such has hitherto been the philanthropic notions entertained by the same and kindred interests touching tariff reform in the twentieth century. But a change seems to be coming over the woolen miller's dream. He wants free wool so badly that he will undertake to abide free woolens.

The way he proposes to go about it is to bid for the support of the woolgrower. If the farmer and stockman can be persuaded that free wool is good for the grower, the thing is as good as done. The arguments he offers are at once ingenious and impressive. We have grown familiar here in Oregon with the assertion that the duty on wool hurts the grower, because it narrows his market through encouragement of shoddy and cotton. It has found readier acceptance here than elsewhere because our Oregon growers have been in the front rank of enlightenment on the tariff. They have always resisted the extreme demands of the Ohio protectionists. This encouragement of substitutes for wool falls with crushing force on the woolen mill because it contracts its sales, while the high cost of raw materials prevents him from exporting to the foreign markets. While the average consumption of raw wool from 1891 to 1895 inclusive was 462,300,000 pounds a year, from 1896 to 1900 inclusive the average consumption was only 453,150,000 pounds a year.

No business is more densely hidden under a web of technicalities than is the woolen industry; and in many of these details the tariff on raw wool is said to operate with great disadvantage. It is said not only to restrict the market, but to induce such carelessness on the part of the grower that he sacrifices most of his advantages. The bulk of the domestic wool supply comes to the mills in very bad shape, unscoured and filled with dirt. This arises, no doubt, from the fact that the scale upon which the sheep industry is carried on in the West and Southwest, while it does not preclude care of the fleece before and after shearing or careful breeding for wool, tends to sacrifice quality to quantity. With wool admitted free of duty, the clean and finely grown wools of Australia would force the grower to pay more attention to quality or stand the loss. And in fact the neglect in breeding and in caring for the fleece has forced the importation of much more foreign wool than the tariff rate would justify if the sheepraisers wanted to take full advantage of the opportunity and supply the mills with good, clean, home-grown wools.

Perhaps the most impressive of all the mill's complaints is its rising ambition for foreign markets and its unrest under its present deprivation. Here, then, is another infant industry feeling its growing pains, another eaglet of New World production losing the film from its eyes and growing quill feathers on its wings. Give us free wool, the mills say, and we can put our goods into Europe just as the locomotive and implement men are doing today, and we won't ask any tariff to protect us, either. Probably a string of more or less cohesiveness will be found attached to this offer of free trade in woolens. But if it is made, it might be well to take the mills at their word. Under present conditions the woolgrower is not apt to be seriously afraid that any change in tariffs will be for the worse. But if he gives up protection for his wool he doesn't want protected woolens.

THE CAUSE NOT FAR TO SEEK.

The story that comes from Vancouver of a boy of 16 years, who was plied with liquor at a country dance a few miles from that place, Saturday night, and is now in jail charged with burglary of the circumstances of which, as he asserts, he has no recollection, is a tale that arraigns the parents and the citizens of Clark County generally upon a crime of far greater magnitude than that of which the boy is charged—the crime of indifference to the influence that surrounds their boys and of failure to discharge an important duty of citizenship. There is upon the statutes of the State of Washington a law forbidding, under proper penalty, the sale or gift of intoxicating liquors to minors. Why is this law not enforced? Simply because public sentiment is lax and parental responsibility is at a low ebb. Why primarily is a lad of immature years permitted to go to a dance of the type that turns those who attend it out at an early hour Sunday morning, irresponsible from drink, fatigue and loss of sleep; the moral sense blunted in every way, the pocket empty, and the appetite calling for further stimulant? Why but because parents are criminally derelict in their duty and fail utterly to throw the common safeguards of decency around their young sons and daughters?

The writer had occasion to spend a recent Sunday in one of the river hamlets of Clark County. Utterly disregarding the Sunday-closing law and the law that forbids purveyors of liquors to sell or give drink to minors, or even to allow them to visit their places of business, the saloon in this place was kept open all day, and no doubt the greater portion of the night, the rendezvous of men and boys of all ages, while toward midnight the shrieks of a hysterical woman trying to induce her half-drunken husband to go home—their little boy a witness of the scene—burdened the air for an hour, inciting the derisive laughter and jeers of "the crowd."

Is it any wonder that where public sentiment is so dead as to permit the enactment of scenes of this kind, in direct defiance of law, three boys have been arraigned within a year before the courts of Vancouver—the county seat and trade center of the county—for crimes of grave magnitude, or that one of these youthful offenders is now doing time in the penitentiary at Walla Walla, while the others await in jail, with, as now appears, evidence sufficient to convict and send them to the penitentiary, the action of the Superior Court?

The question, Who has sinned; this boy or his parents? is a pertinent one just here, and to it there can be but one answer. He, fresh from the debasing influence of the all-night country dance, dazed with the whisky that he had there imbibed, and perhaps a thirst for another drink, or they who had been sleeping the sleep of the indifferent and irresponsible, while these influences of destruction were at work upon the physical, mental and moral nature of their boy? There is no effect without cause, and truly the cause in this instance is not far to seek.

A RATIONAL REFORM.

The establishment of roof gardens is suggested as a rational reform demanded by the fearfully destructive heat waves that break over the cities of the Atlantic seaboard and the Middle West. That is to say, a reform in American architecture is suggested that will utilize the roofs of city houses for a retreat from the furnace heat of the street and the rooms of the great buildings. "Instead of building sky-scrapers," says a Boston paper, "we should have sky-facers," adding: "Let us put an end by statute to the erection of any building more than six stories high, and require that in all cases the roof be readily reached, so that it may be utilized for recreation and sleep." This probably refers to the tenement district, more especially since it is further said that the women could do all their work—except possibly washing—on the housetops; babes could get fresh air, and the sick escape the torture of rooms where ventilation is impossible.

It is evident that the architecture of our great cities was not designed with an outlook toward the comfort of the enormously congested population of modern municipalities. The commodious roofs, surrounded by strong parapets and covered by awnings, which could be stored in Winter, would do much to solve for the perspiring masses who are hived in tenement buildings the problem of fresh air during the stifling weeks in which it is not possible to secure it in the heated rooms below. It should be beyond the compelling power of philanthropy to compass a reform of this kind in the construction of hives for housing the working people of the great cities. From the first the struggle of man has been with the elements. If he has not succeeded in fighting successfully the discomforts of extreme heat and cold in civilized communities, this dereliction must be charged against his thoughtlessness or parsimony rather than against his intelligence or ingenuity. Since first of all things human beings must breathe, air space should be provided for them. The development of parks in great cities is in line with this idea, and since there are thousands who cannot reach these retreats from the stifling heat of the down-town or manufacturing districts, the roof garden suggests relief for them that may well be designated "a rational reform."

UNWISE ECONOMY.

The Philadelphia Ledger, in pleading the cause of the privates in the United States Army as that of brave men engaged in an honorable vocation, says:

> The War Department, in conducting military operations, should be very careful to do nothing which would cause an impression to get abroad that it considers any part of the service inferior from the standpoint of dignity and honor. . . . It is to be regretted that a mistake of this character has been made by the officials in discontinuing the cable reports of casualties among the troops serving in the Philippines. Economy is the motive which is said to have governed the War Department in taking this action, and had there been no distinctions made in the matter, in all probability there would have been little or no public criticism. But a distinction was made. The order discontinuing cabled reports of casualties, it appears, applies to privates only; the names of officers who have died of disease, been killed or wounded, are still sent over the wires.

That journal is right in estimating that a discrimination of this character cannot but be displeasing to the American people. Whatever distinctions between men and officers is made necessary in life by the requirements of military discipline, it is well said that death is a leveler of official rank, and it is unjust for the authorities to keep relatives and friends of a private ignorant of his death until a letter can reach them, while those of a commissioned officer are promptly notified by cable.

There are places in which necessary and commendable economy may be practiced without grating harshly upon the feeling that makes one mother's son as good as another's in death. It may be added that discrimination of this kind will have a tendency to subdue the spirit of patriotism in homes, which it is the duty and should be the pride of the Government to cherish and foster. Hence, the discontinuance of the cable reports of casualties to privates and noncommissioned officers in the Philippines cannot be regarded by the American people as a wise or proper exercise of the virtue of economy.

THE CONTAGION OF CRUELTY.

Seven years ago, when a negro was burned at Paris, Tex., the whole country was moved by the announcement, and it was made the subject of extended comment by European journals and magazines; but burnings have become so frequent as to no longer excite more than passing attention. The chief reason for this disagreeable fact is that the North has been silenced, so far as the South is concerned, by the recent negro-burnings of its own—in Kansas, Colorado, and Indiana. The recent negro-burnings in Alabama and Georgia were marked by no more barbarity in details than the Terre Haute burning in Indiana a few months past. The two sections are on a level in the matter of inhuman mob murders; the Northern pot is too black to jeer at the color of the Southern kettle. To speak frankly, in the South there are signs of a growing spirit of tolerance, moderation and control. In Georgia, the Southern people under the most severe provocation controlled their passions and permitted the law to take its course on two recent occasions. The most-respected citizens no longer participate in these lawless affairs. But at the North not only is the contagion of cruelty spreading, but there is clearly in the great states of Illinois and Ohio an increase of that deadly race prejudice whose worst exhibition is found in the horrible antics of a brutal white mob.

The industrial ostracism which the negro faces at the North, as illustrated by the refusal of an Illinois Sheriff to protect colored men entering the state for the purpose of earning their bread, is a far more serious bar to the advance of the race than the political ostracism which exists at the South. The South says that the negro is not fit to be a voter, but it does not prohibit him from working for a living. The right to earn his bread is the negro's birthright; the right to vote is not a birthright of any man; it is a question of social and political expediency. The Governor of Illinois was appealed to, but refused to interfere and obliged the Sheriff of Melrose Park to do his duty. The colored men of Ohio, who represent some 25,000 voters, vigorously protested against the action of the G. A. R of that state in attempting to draw the color line on public occasions. The negrophobia of the North is mean and contemptible compared with that of the South, for the Democratic Mayor of the City of Vicksburg, Miss., recently accepted an invitation to preside at a large meeting of whites who were addressed by a graduate of Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute on "The White South's Opportunity and the Negro's New Duties." The Mayor, in the speech with which he opened the meeting, said:

> I may say unreservedly that the young man who is educated under the tutelage of Booker T. Washington is a man who looks facts in the face as they exist, a man who is broad in intellect, who is not affected by race prejudice.

A full report of the black man's speech was published in the leading newspaper of the city, which commended it to the perusal of all "as a most creditable mental product," and declared that "the lessons sought to be taught, the line of thought followed, we deem worthy of the utmost favor and sympathy." The South, despite its mob murders, is gradually growing more rational and humane in its treatment of the race question than its old critic, the North.

Here is the way the United States Investor, a Boston financial publication, puts the case of the great steel strike:

> A sound economic policy would dictate that each party to the contract act with the most scrupulous fairness towards the other party. Capital in this particular case, however, starts in with the presumption in all minds that it does not intend to act fairly. For instance, the capitalization of the United States Steel Corporation has been so excessively inflated that the conviction cannot be avoided that fair business returns cannot be earned on this capitalization year in and year out without depriving the labor involved in the production of steel of its fair and economic proportion of the product.
>
> This touches a vital point. The prodigious quantity of "water" in the capitalization of the steel trust is a menace not only to labor, but also to honest capital. Honest capital is as justly entitled to reward as is honest labor, but "watered" stock is dishonest and harmful in all its relations. It represents no assets whatever, yet claims a full share in the proceeds of operation. It rides upon the back of honest investment in money and labor. It is made the means by which unscrupulous schemers take an undue share of the proceeds of industry. If it were not for that great offense of the steel trust there would be less sympathy with the Amalgamated Association in the present strike. If there be no check to the greed of organized capital in this objectionable form, we are in a bad way.

Newspapers whose sympathies are on the side of the great steel trust make but a sickly effort when they try to moralize against men who have joined the strike, yet had signed an agreement to join no union. It is apparent that no such agreement as this can have any validity in morals or in law. It was extorted under duress; for no man voluntarily abandons his right to join any association, or to limit his freedom of action. The trusts try to make men their serfs or dependents; and so they insist when they can on acceptance by the men of these conditions of servitude. And then the organs of the trusts invoke a hypocritical and spurious morality for support or enforcement of the claim. It may not beat the devil, but it is a close imitation of his policy.

Henry A. Cassel, auditor of the Postoffice Department, has proceeded far enough with his annual report to be able to say that the increase in postal receipts for the present year will exceed $7,000,000. Not having yet received all the returns of the last quarter, the exact amount of the increase is not yet known. Careful estimates, however, show that the postal receipts this year will be at least $111,000,000. In 1890 they were only $60,000,000. Thus an increase of nearly 50 per cent in ten years is shown.

Naval service, too, it seems, is being recruited from the ranks of temperance. Of the 428 men and boys on the training-ship Monongahela, now in New York harbor, 291 are total abstainers. This means a naval equipment strong in all that goes to make up manly men—courage, self-control and physical effectiveness. In full command of themselves, these men will be able to command others, and in coming years will be found at the head of the list of effective men who man the Nation's ships.

The Toronto Globe advises Canada not to accept any gifts of libraries from Carnegie. The Globe says that Canada is a very rich country, where the average individual wealth is greater than that in the United States. If libraries are desired there is abundant money to build and support them. Towns that need libraries should provide them. Towns which do not see the need of libraries should be above spending Carnegie's money for what seems to them a needless and extravagant purpose.

Pay-day at Fort Sheridan, on the 14th inst., was celebrated by the soldiers with gambling and drinking at the Highwood saloons. At roll-call in the evening 36 men were missing, and 58 in the guardhouse for drunkenness. A similar condition of drunkenness prevailed on pay-day at Vancouver Barracks. Between Vancouver and Portland there was at least one drunken soldier to every mile, and in some places they could be found in groups, like skirmishers.

The attempt to establish woman suffrage in Alabama by a clause in the new constitution has failed. The constitutional convention adopted, by a vote of 65 to 45, a motion to permit women residing in cities and paying taxes on $500 worth of real estate to vote on questions of municipalities incurring debt or issuing bonds. But on the following day this action was reconsidered, and the proposal was defeated by an overwhelming vote.

Vice-President Roosevelt is advertised in the Minnesota country papers as the chief attraction at the coming state fair. One of the advertisements says: "Teddy, the idol alike of New York reformers and Western plainsmen, and one of the most-loved men in the country, without respect to party, has accepted an invitation to make the opening address."

WHAT THE TRUST DOES.

The Independent.

When socialism about the middle of the 19th century began to assume definiteness as an economic and political programme, and to command a measure of popular attention, its realization seemed to conservative minds to be forbidden by those deep instincts of human nature which crave the utmost freedom for individual enterprise. It did not happen to occur to the conservative minds of 1850 that by 1901 individual enterprise, without any help from socialism, would have built a gigantic wall around the vast world of industrial opportunity and locked itself not in but out! Until 1850 the animal that "looks before and after" had not looked after very far, nor before to much purpose. Thanks to Mr. Darwin and his contemporaries, the vision backward has been prolonged, but the outlook ahead is still foreshortened. Perhaps we are as much in the dark today about the future of individual opportunity as were the men of 1850.

But, even if we are, it is well to observe the direction of such tendencies as we can see. The unexpected may head them off, and then again it may not. What if the unexpected this time should be the unhindered flow of the tendencies that just now are bearing business, politics and social "swelldom" into new and startling relations?

One of these tendencies is converting the great middle class, which so long has been regarded as more stable than the everlasting hills, from a class of employers into a class of employes. The middle class includes farmers, tradesmen and manufacturers on a small scale. All these have been regarded, and have regarded themselves, as sympathizing on the whole with Capital, with a big C, rather than with Labor, with a big L. They have been conducting independent business enterprises which they have owned, and in which they have employed subordinates. What more natural than that they should complacently think of themselves as belonging to the happy pack of upper dogs, at whom the unhappy under dogs might snarl and snap, but would hardly dare to spring?

But now has come the Trust. The small manufacturers it has absorbed, and converted into employes pure and simple. The tradesmen and the farmers it is converting into dependents, by practically absorbing the economic rent of land and opportunity not less effectually, if less openly, than the English or the Irish landlord absorbed it from his tenants. In the present generation the middle class may not fully comprehend its changed position, but the revolution it is undergoing will be made clear enough to the ambitious boys as they attempt to make new places in life for themselves. Instead of carving out independent business careers, as their fathers did before them, they must go into the employ of corporations as salaried dependents.

What will be the effect of this mighty revolution upon the attitude of the middle class toward the questions of socialism and of individualism? It is all very well to say that business cannot be conducted "on the town meeting plan" if you happen to be an independent business man, and prospering well enough to lay by a snug sum every year. But when your business has been remorselessly crushed, and when the combination that has "walked over you" magnanimously gives you a job at so much a month and "mind you obey orders"—well, that's another story! Possibly you would just as soon work for a "town meeting" as to work for a "general manager," who is not at all likely to ask you to drop around to his club, and whose wife, it is absolutely certain, will never invite you and your wife to dinner.

The middle class has never yet voted with Labor, with a big L. But when the "trusts" and the "magnates" have crushed every business and social ambition of the middle class, will the middle class continue to vote with Capital, with a big C?

Another tendency worth observing is that which is changing the relative magnitudes of the "big" and the "small" business enterprises and grouping the big ones in a very distinct class by themselves. A business that employs a capital of half a million dollars is no longer "big." To be "big" it must grow up to at least $10,000,000, and aspire to $50,000,000 or $100,000,000. The small business enterprises are still in many instances, and may continue to be, conducted by individuals or partnerships. But, as we have said, they are no longer independent in the old-fashioned sense of the word. They are either dependent upon the great corporations, or in some way tributary to them. The great corporations are necessarily managed by agents. All that intensely personal motive which formerly went into the building up of business reputations and "old-established houses" has disappeared. Here, then, is a possible line of division between a field for individualism and a field for socialism. A generation ago, when there was practically no such thing as a business worth more than $1,000,000, the social ownership of capital would necessarily have meant the extinction of individual business. But today, if all the capital of the great corporations—yclept the trusts—should be "socialized," there could still be left to the individual a field of opportunity as big as individualism has ever enjoyed in its most flourishing days. What, then, if somebody should propose a compromise between socialism and individualism, permitting the individual to accomplish whatever he can with a capital of, say, not more than $5,000,000, and converting into social enterprises all undertakings employing capital in greater amounts?

"Ah, yes; but," the conservative man will say, "look at the rottenness of our city governments, at the imbecility of our state governments, and at the slow, clumsy pottering of our National Administration. Can the great business of the world be done by any such machinery?" And the answer, of course, is that it cannot be. But right here appears the significance of the third present tendency to which we would call attention. Everywhere the people are waking up as never before in the history of the human race to the imperativeness and the immeasurable importance of civic duty. The reform of state and municipal administration has not yet progressed far, but the universal interest in its possibilities, and the magnificent work that is being accomplished by those who are marshaling the forces, give certain promise of great achievements in the future. In these reforms lies the whole question of the practicability of a juster and nobler social system than that which we enjoy today. The municipal problem is the practical problem of the whole human race at this moment. It contains within itself every possibility of a more just distribution of wealth, of a wider opportunity for every ambitious individual. If the municipal problem can be solved the problem of a relative economic equality and the problem of a relative social equality can be solved also. If the municipal problem is insoluble, republics are a failure and "liberty, equality and fraternity" will never be attained by the human race.

Wake up then and be a Citizen, in order that you also may be a Man!

About Time.

New York Journal.

The American people were taxed a cent and a half a pound to establish a tinplate industry for the benefit of American labor. Then the manufacturers brought over Welsh workmen to make the tinplate, on the ground that American workmen did not know how. Now the Welsh workmen are out on strike, the mills are closed and the Steel Trust, which has absorbed the Tinplate Trust, is importing plates from Wales to fill its orders. Is it not about time for that duty to come off?

A Mistake in Babcock.

Kalamazoo Gazette.

Congressman Babcock maintains that it is "a part of the policy of protection to protect the consumers." A grave mistake has been made in Congressman Babcock. He is not a statesman. He is a humorist.

RATHER SERIOUS, IF TRUE.

San Francisco Bulletin.

Very early in the history of his administration of the office of president of the Southern Pacific Company Charles M. Hays was made the recipient of a banquet at the hands of the Manufacturers' and Producers' Association, of San Francisco. Each of the speakers on the occasion alluded to Mr. Hays in flattering terms, and a pleasing, harmonious atmosphere of cordial welcome pervaded the convivialities. The last speaker of the evening was General W. H. L. Barnes, who in thoughtful mood imitated the Roman who walked at the chariot wheel of a conqueror, who had been accorded by the Senate a triumphal entry into Rome, with the admonition, "Remember that thou art mortal."

General Barnes cautioned the new president of the Southern Pacific Company not to be too far deceived with the demonstrative good-will which had been so manifest since his arrival in the city of San Francisco. The Demosthenes of the Pacific took occasion to say:

"It gratifies me, gentlemen, to observe that Mr. Hays' coming has calmed all the storms in our commercial and industrial atmosphere. He has been received with a cordiality creditable to us and gratifying, if not flattering, to him. But, men and brethren, how long is this condition to last? The prophet of evil performs an ungracious task; but I will not resist the temptation of admonishing the new president of the Southern Pacific Company that the dead calm which surrounds us may be the precursor of a storm which may ultimately break upon his devoted head. It is all serene now, because his administration is too young to have been guilty of any acts of disobedience to the commands of the San Francisco press. While he listens to all suggestions, gives hospitable welcome to all instructions, accords polite acquiescence to all interference in his policy, he will be praised as a very prince of good fellows and as a veritable Napoleon in railroad administration; but the time will come—and it is not far distant, I fear—when he may find it necessary to draw the bold outlines of an independent policy. Let me warn him that this self-respecting and independent policy will be resented as an impeachment of the judgment of all those who have advised him, and as treason to the flattering proffer of friendship on the part of all those who have extended him the glad hand of welcome. Then the heavens will be hung in black. There will be blood on the moon; and if he does not arrive at that unfortunate mental condition in which he will naturally wish he had not been born, he will at least reach that condition in which he will have reason to wish that the achievement of the presidency of the Southern Pacific Company had not been one of the decrees of his unfortunate destiny."

There is no reason to doubt that these expressions were the result of a very high prevision on the part of the orator who delivered them. The morning press of this city has declared that he is dissatisfied with his position, and whether this be true or not, he certainly has reason to be dissatisfied with the constant, persistent and malignant spirit of mediocreness which has beset his administration from the day of his induction into the office he holds.

The provincialism of the San Francisco press has been strongly manifested in its treatment of the affairs of the Southern Pacific Company. It has manufactured rumors concerning the relations between the president of the company and his staff, comprising the heads of departments, which could have no other result than to produce in the mind of the new president of the Southern Pacific Company the utmost disgust for this species of journalism.

Mr. Hays declared that he had come to the Pacific Coast for the purpose of managing its system of transportation with due respect to both the rights of the shipper and carrier; with a proper regard for the rights of all, and the conservation of the revenues of the corporation by which he was employed. But he was not to be permitted to maintain this commendable, manly and dignified position. The road was not to be permitted to assume a normal relation to the industrial and commercial interests of the people of the State of California. The busybodies of the press vied with each other in flattering Mr. Hays, but accompanied that flattery with idle and injurious gossip concerning the affairs of the company, a great deal of which related to inconsiderable things. Their unoriginal and uninventive malevolence moves on the low plane of the village busybody, and could have no other effect than that of producing in the mind of the new executive the utmost feeling of aversion and disgust.

After a long and most persistent season of prediction as to the appointment and removal of officers, matters in which the public has no concern whatever, these tattling rumors have reached up to the president himself, and their reiteration is accompanied by a spirit so wanting in respectful consideration as to be fitly characterized as brutal.

If the people of California are indulging the belief that these wide departures from the legitimate standards of honorable journalism are not interfering with the growth and development of the City of San Francisco and the State of California, they are self-deceived.

It is a fair presumption that no self-respecting man of first-class ability will seek or accept any administration in any field of commercial activity in this state. The brutality of metropolitan journalism has driven self-respecting men out of the field of politics. When it accomplishes a like result for the commercial interests of the state, it cannot do otherwise than inflict an injury upon the prosperity of the state.

These are matters of serious import to every man who owns a dollar of property in the commonwealth.

McKinley Knows All About Him.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

Sapp began openly violating the civil service laws soon after his appointment to the collectorship, but he has never been in any danger of removal on that score. If the President is contemplating the Collector's removal now it is not because of his old sins against the civil service, but because he has set the Republicans of Kentucky by the ears and has destroyed the Republican party in Louisville.

Farmer Doing Right Well.

Chicago Post.

In the large wheat crop the United States sees compensation for the partial failure in corn. It may not be much comfort to the farmer who has grown little or no wheat and planted largely of corn to know that wheat is likely to bring a good price; but the general effect will be gratifying. Taken as a whole the year is not likely to prove bad for the farmer in the United States.

Old Issues All Dead.

Omaha Bee.

Every Democratic state convention held so far this year has either actually repudiated the heresies of the past two National platforms or ignored those fulminations entirely. In most instances they have elected to conduct the fight on state issues, leaving themselves in position, as usual, to fall in with temporary expedients which have served Democracy in the place of a creed for several campaigns.

Bribery Does Not Work.

Washington Star.

If there ever was any idea of quieting the Filipinos by bribing their leaders its impracticability is now demonstrated. Evidently every time one leader was disposed of another would be certain to appear with open palm.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Captain Bob Evans perhaps went too far in using his sailors' leg for a battering-ram.

Pugilist Fitzsimmons, who is on the lecture platform, will no doubt make a very striking talk.

King Edward is said to be badly in need of rest, but there is no ground for the rumor that he is going to resign.

Now that J. P. Morgan has a new grandchild, he will learn what it is to go up against something he cannot manage.

Let us hope that after all these speed trials, the yachtsmen do not become so up-to-date as to pull off a breezeless cup race.

Governor Odell is demonstrating that the Colonel is not the only man who is fit to be on deck during a strenuous squall.

The City of New York might apply to the Standard Oil Company for a supply of kerosene sufficient to exterminate its city government.

There are still one or two eminent lawyers who have not been engaged as counsel by Admiral Schley, but their ranks are rapidly thinning.

A mail bag containing two shells has been sent from Panama. People at their destination are advised not to bet their money on either of them.

The fact that J. P. Morgan is going to San Francisco as a delegate to the Episcopal convention insures harmony to the deliberations of that body.

The time-honored custom of flipping a quarter seems to be the only way satisfactorily to settle the contest between the Columbia and the Constitution.

The Massachusetts cats, who eat cucumbers, are merely endeavoring to acquire manners as cool as those of the rest of the population of the state.

The new town of Lawton, in Oklahoma, begins life with 60 saloons and three banks. The list of banks, however, would be largely increased by counting in the faro variety.

Before any of the seething Central American states offer any affront to this country it is likely that they will gaze at our fleet in the offing and bethink them of the Maine.

Ah, well for old Demosthenes
That he orates no more;
Ah, well for Burke and Chatham that
Their speaking days are o'er,
And Wendell Phillips, Henry Clay
And Daniel Webster, too,
If they were here today would feel
A bright and gaudy blue—
The best and greatest orator
Of this or any age
We'll hear when Bob Fitzsimmons goes
Upon the lecture stage.

The pastor of an African Methodist church in Centerville, O., is credited with a most remarkable and original idea concerning the future life. Sunday night in his sermon he flew directly in the face of common belief as to the part heat enacts in the next world, and asserted that the temperature of heaven was 826 degrees above zero, quoting the Bible to prove his statement. He added that angels are flames of fire, and saints will be made living fire, so they can live in the great heat.

"By the shining Lake of Klamath,
On the Grande Ronde Reservation,
In the Land of Umatilla,
In the County of the Siwash,
In a hundred other countries,
Where the unwashed noble red man
Basks serenely in the sunshine,
There the lovely Indian maidens,
Gentle creatures of some ninety
Or a hundred Springs and Summers,
Spend long hours weaving baskets,
Of all sizes, shapes and colors
And degrees of lack of beauty,
For their eager paleface sisters,
Who will pay therefor large prices,
Prices very, very fancy,
Breaking husbands up in business,
Hocking diamonds and pianos,
That they may possess some dozen
Of these fabrics of the Indians,
Which the same are neither pretty,
Rare nor curious, nor ancient,
Simply being Indian baskets,
Which sufficeth for their buyers."
Thus mused Henry Smith, the paleface,
On his ranch by Klamath water,
By the shining Klamath water,
And so musing forth he wandered,
Gathered willow roots and tules,
Took his seven little children,
Set them all to weaving baskets,
Which next month he carted—
And now, Henry Smith, the paleface,
Owns a yacht and eke an auto,
And is thinking some of going
Next election to the Senate.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS.

"Don't you think Dachsie likes his new collar, John?" "How the deuce do you expect me to tell from here? Go out in the kitchen and see if his tail is wagging."—Life.

"What is a fort?" asked a teacher. "A place to put men in," was the answer. "What is a fortress, then?" The answer was prompt: "A place to put women in."—Tit-Bits.

His Usual Fate.—Gotthere—Did you ever attend any of Miss Budd's 'at-homes'? De Bore (sadly)—N-o, but I've attended a good many of her not-at-homes.—New York Weekly.

Springs of Mis-Conduct.—"You haven't any manners, Jack; why didn't you offer to escort that young woman home?" "Oh, I have manners all right; but I didn't have street-car fare."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Her First Voyage.—Waiter (knocking)—Miss Jenkins, don't you feel like a little cold chicken? Miss Jenkins (from within)—I don't know how a little cold chicken feels, but I'm feeling pretty—ugh, queer.—Brooklyn Life.

Wife (with determined air)—I want to see that letter. Husband—What letter? Wife—That one you just opened. I know by the handwriting that it is from a woman, and you turned pale when you read it. I will see it. Give it to me, sir. Husband—Here it is. It's your milliner's bill.—Fun.

Secret of It.—"Why do you go away for the Summer? You have a nice home near the lake with a big porch and everything possible to make you cool and comfortable." "That's just the trouble. In the Summer we must have some hardships and discomforts in order to make us think we are having a good time. And, besides, they are necessary to make us appreciate home at its true value in the Fall."—Chicago Post.

Boorish.—"Talk about your boorish audiences!" exclaimed the manager of grand opera, just back from touring the provinces. "In one city, and a city of more than one hundred thousand people, too, we had actually to ring down the curtain in the middle of an act on account of the silence of the boxes. The singers were completely confused by it. The name of the place? Oh, Bless me, no! They simply didn't know any better."—Puck.

In August.

William Dean Howells.

All the long August afternoon,
The little drowsy stream
Whispers a melancholy tune,
As if it dreamed of June
And whispered in its dream.

The thistles show beyond the brook
Dust on their down and bloom,
And out of many a weed-grown nook
The aster-flowers look
With eyes of tender gloom.

The silent orchard aisles are sweet
With smell of ripening fruit.
Through the sere grass, in shy retreat,
Flutter, at coming feet,
The robins strange and mute.

There is no wind to stir the leaves,
The harsh leaves overhead;
Only the querulous cricket grieves,
And shrilling locust weaves
A song of Summer dead.