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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 78; minimum, 54; fair.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Generally fair; west to north winds.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22.

A TYPICAL TRUST.

Increased population and development of the stock industry have greatly increased the consumption of salt in the United States. Our home production, which was only 14,000,000 barrels in 1896, has mounted year by year until it stands in the neighborhood of 20,000,000 barrels. To this domestic supply must be added the annual importations from abroad, some 400,000,000 pounds, or 14,300,000 barrels. Doubtless some portion of the domestic increase can be attributed to the stimulus afforded by the Dingley tariff of $2 40 a ton, for the most noteworthy developments, those in Louisiana, have been made since the enactment of the Dingley law.

Few persons would nowadays be disposed to exaggerate the importance to the country at large of the gratification of the owners of the Louisiana mines, if their activity be not accompanied by reduced prices to the consuming public. In the case of the salt industry, the contrary is the case. The theoretical benefits of protection are conspicuous by their absence. We continue to import, even in increasing quantities, so that the home production seems unable to keep pace with increasing demands. The tariff, therefore, neither reduces prices nor enables us to keep out foreign supplies.

The reason for this unnatural condition and for the inability of foreign competition to adjust prices to a normal level is supplied in the trust principle, which enables the salt monopoly, with the aid of the tariff, to maintain prices at its will. Proof of the reported connection of our salt trust with English interests has never been adduced, so far as we know, but it is acknowledged by the trade that consignees here of foreign salt invariably follow the prices set by our trust. No other course could be expected, probably, of importers of moderate supplies into a market principally served by domestic producers. In any event, it would be an undertaking of little difficulty for a concern powerful enough to control the salt market of this country to effect arrangements with the English importers to take at satisfactory prices whatever stocks were needed to complement the home supply. The manipulation of prices lately effected by the salt trust is explained at some length elsewhere in this paper.

This illustration from salt is important for more than one reason. In the first place, it shows how thoroughly the trust in its ideal form can lay its hands on every part of our population—here in Oregon on the salmon canner, stockgrower, meat packer and dairy farmer, and everywhere on the table of rich and poor alike. It may serve to remind those who are indifferent on the trust question that it is, after all, a very practical matter, in which every citizen has a real concern. No one man, no single family, consumes a very large quantity of salt in any given year. The individual packer or stockman, moreover, need excite no more general sympathy than the solitary owner of a Louisiana salt mine. But in the well-defined prospect that unrestrained development of the trust principle will eventually give us a monopoly in every great food and clothing staple, with limitless power over prices, there is a prospect that may make the most careless pause.

The theoretical lesson of the salt illustration should not be lost upon those defenders of the trust who imagine the whole problem to be settled when they have assured us that every man has the right to do as he pleases with his money. Jobbers are afraid to buy of such competitive concerns as the trust has graciously permitted to continue in existence, because the resources of the monopolistic trust are so powerful for admonition and reproof that they prefer not to rouse its displeasure. This is the element in trust abuses which our easy-going economists are so ready to ignore. But the case is grave enough to make sure we have no right to let it drift along. It is doubtful how much relief abrogation of the tariff would effect; but there is no doubt whatever that this remedy should be applied as far as it will go. Then an effort must be made to reach the evils that are inherent in the trust principle, even after the tariff iniquity is eradicated.

Judging from reports brought by the latest vessel from Nome, the Government will again be called upon to bring from that far northern mining camp a number of men there stranded, helpless, moneyless and homeless. The situation of men who, in attempting to better their fortunes, find themselves in this condition, calls for compassion, joined with the saving grace of material relief. Of course, it may be said that the exercise of ordinary judgment would have forestalled the possibility of distress of this kind, but, admitting this, the fact still remains that men who, through mistaken judgment, have put themselves beyond the reach of self-help, should not for this reason be allowed to perish of hunger and cold. True, the report of coming destitution in Nome, having been brought out by disappointed men, may be colored by their dark views of a situation that gave them no quarter. If substantiated, however, by later and more specific statements, the Government will no doubt provide for the return of the destitute to the ports of Puget Sound before navigation closes.

EASTERN OREGON'S DANGER.

Objectionable as is the manipulation that despoils the public domain through enormous reserves and lieu land machinations, this is not the whole danger involved in the present public land agitation. One of the most serious menaces of the situation as it stands today is that borne to the transcendent cause of forest protection and conservation of water suppy. Unless something can stay the present resolution of the General Land Office and the popular disgust with the whole reserve policy aroused by discoveries of tricky dealing, the means for prevention of forest denudation and consequent impairment of water supplies will augur most adversely for the future of Eastern Oregon.

It is in perfect keeping with Mr. Hermann's superficial habit of thought and high estimate of political posing that as soon as the lieu land abuses are exposed he should hasten to cry out that he will recommend no more forest reserves. The idea that the water sources of the Cascade and Blue Mountains can be protected from denudation without turning over all the good land in the state to timber and railroad manipulators is too profound and obscure for the Hermannian intellect. Because some reserves have been created under suspicious circumstances and others now proposed are contemplated in unnecessarily large extent, Mr. Hermann is prepared to throw over in petulance the whole reserve policy.

The investigations of Messrs. Newell and Pinchot, of the Government's geological and forestry bureaus, of which The Oregonian has printed information from time to time, show conclusively that at length a day of great promise has dawned for the vast uncultivated tracts of Eastern Oregon. In four of those great counties are comprised as many acres as are contained in the great State of Ohio, and to make naught of their possibilities would be a crime against posterity. The Government is at last in a fair way to undertake three essential preliminaries in the work of subjugating Eastern Oregon to the plow. The first of the three is exploration of the earth's crust through artesian wells, by which the supply of subterranean water will be determined; the second is survey and eventual storage of headwaters of all the streams, and the third is protection of these headwaters by perfection of the reserve system.

It is going to be necessary to ask for some further small reservations in the Cascade and Blue Ranges, and the salvation of Eastern Oregon must not be sacrificed upon the altar of Binger Hermann's desire to gain political advantage by courting the popular distrust of the reserve policy created by recent revelations. It is important, especially, that Eastern Oregon realizes how absolutely essential to its welfare is the conservation of its water supply through forest protection. The awful lessons of Europe in the penalties of forest destruction, the penalties already sustained in our own Eastern States, the periodic wasteful flood and then distressing scantiness of the Ohio River, and even on this Coast the transformation of the San Gabriel from a moderate stream into a torrential freshet a mile wide carrying off in a few days the volume once dispensed slowly and beneficently—all these may admonish Eastern Oregon to look well to the forests at the headwaters of its streams.

THE LAW'S VICIOUS DELAY.

The murderer Nordstrom will doubtless be hanged at Seattle next Friday. His fate calls for no protest, for it has never been pretended by his counsel that he was innocent of the crime for which he is to be executed, but the inexcusable delay of the law deserves denunciation. This man Nordstrom ought to have expiated his guilt upon the gallows eight years ago, and the legal delay that has been possible to interpose in the execution of this murderer is a severe indictment of the methods of legal procedure which make it possible for a murderer to escape the gallows so long upon mere technicalities. If no substantial error has been committed in the trial of a criminal; that is, no error whose correction was necessary to a just and fair consideration of the question of guilt or innocence, then no delay should be granted in shape of stay of execution of sentence.

As we remember the case, the Judges who originally tried Nordstrom were responsible for the beginning of the law's long delay. The evil of all this inexcusable delay lies in the fact that it shakes the confidence of the average man in the machinery of justice. To make capital punishment valuable the murderer, after trial and conviction, should promptly be executed. All great jurists are agreed that punishment should certainly and swiftly follow conviction to obtain its best value as an example. The long delay in the execution of Nordstrom has not only robbed his punishment of its highest exemplary effect, but it has impaired the public confidence in the integrity and usefulness of the machinery of legal justice. It has cost the taxpayers of King County a large sum of money that they never ought to have been forced to expend, and, worst of all, it furnishes every hair-brained, impulsive man in the community a plea for lynch law.

Had Nordstrom's victim been a well-known and popular citizen, it is by no means improbable that the law's delay would have prompted his murder by mob violence; and it is certain that the long delay of execution in this case will be successfully employed as an argument for some deed of mob violence hereafter and urged as a plea in abatement for the crimes of Judge Lynch. A great English Judge not many years ago vigorously defended capital punishment on the ground that its abrogation would multiply acts of mob violence when some particularly cruel and barbarous murder was committed. It is nonsense to pretend that in event of a terrible murder any community would be satisfied with the life imprisonment of the cut-throat. The universal verdict would be that life imprisonment with its possibilities of pardon was "too good" for such a villain. The natural desire is to make such a miscreant suffer something of the anguish he inflicted upon his victim, and the near and dear family or friends of that victim, and such men would be murdered by the mob, said this English Judge, an angry mob that did well to be angry because the law had failed to inflict just and adequate punishment upon the murderer.

SUGGESTIONS TO ADAMS.

It seems strange, on the whole, that Mr. Charles Francis Adams, whose plan for a Federal Labor Commission was favorably noticed in these columns yesterday, should not have included in his proposal a feature of the New Zealand system. When the arbitration courts in that island have made their decision, no attempt is made actually to compel workmen to go to work or to compel a manufacturer to start up his works. The men can remain idle as long as they please, and the employer can keep his plant idle if he chooses, but the law provides that when they do go back to work or when the mill is started up, the resumption of work must be on the basis laid down by the court. This method, which has proved efficient, has a measure of compulsion. Both sides to the labor controversy resume at once when the court's decision has been rendered, because delay is of no advantage to either side.

There are features in the New Zealand law which would be intolerable here, for it prohibits workingmen from leaving their employment, restricts employers from discharging employes, regulates wages, fixes terms of employment, and interferes with the conduct of private business and of labor unions. These provisions violate the rights of the individual, but their omission would not make hopeless the experiment of applying the compulsory principle to the conditions of the United States. One thing certain is that soon or late the American people will not forever endure these disastrous battles between employers and employed, because it touches their pockets so deeply that they cannot afford it. The strike in San Francisco illustrates the costly sacrifices imposed by labor wars upon public interests. Nobody disputes the right of the labor unions to strike when they choose or denies that they had just grievances. Nevertheless, it is clear that this particular quarrel between employers and employed has inflicted heavy losses upon people who had no concern with either side to the conflict. The fruitgrowers are the innocent victims of this strike; the paralysis of transportation facilities, the closing of canneries, have forced them to give away thousands of tons of fruit for hog feed. The great railway strike at Chicago in 1894 inflicted great hardships upon thousands of people who had no concern with the quarrel.

The intensely practical American people will ultimately find a way to stop these disastrous wars between labor and capital. They will insist that the public interest in a great strike is paramount to that of the workmen or the employers engaged in the struggle, and out of this will come a popular demand for a widespread system of compulsory arbitration, and when that demand is loudly and sternly voiced, the necessary legislation for making arbitration efficient and successful will likely be devised. Through such legislation corporations might be placed in the hands of temporary receivers under the authority of the courts. The power of injunction might be invoked to enforce judgments of arbitration tribunals. The laws, of course, would not attempt to prevent men from quitting work, as they do in New Zealand, but the laws could place the whole power of the state behind the men who accepted the places vacated by obdurate strikers. This temporary receivership would be made to continue until the corporation consented to resume its management on the basis decided by the arbitration tribunal. Rather than remain indefinitely out of the control of its property the contumacious corporation would accept the decree of the arbitration court. Self-interest would compel both capital and labor to come to a settlement under the terms of the court. To say that arbitration of this sort is not possible, or, if possible, could not be made effective, is absurd in a country like ours, whose practical people will not forever endure civil war between labor and capital because they cannot afford to, and because they "don't have to."

ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

It is not surprising that Rev. Mr. Coulter's sermon on heaven should disturb the souls of the believers in a material paradise. Nothing in religious history is better attested than the gradual sublimation of early material images. Symbolic, allegorical and mystical interpretation of Scripture passages once taken in a literal sense is common to all the religions of the Aryan race. The Greeks of Plato's time explained allegorically the Homeric stories which hitherto had been taken literally, the later Romans did the same with the fanciful legends of their genesis which were once implicitly believed, just as the unknown author of the Hebrews allegorizes the patriarchal annals, just as today we read Jonah as a fairy tale and Job as a drama and Solomon's song as the relics of a cantata, instead of taking them all at their apparent face value of history.

Mr. Coulter is perhaps at fault in his assertion that he preaches the Scriptures as he finds them, for this is to imply that his opponents do not, and we must all concede that the streets of gold and sea of glass are as definitely affirmed in the apocalypse as the spirituality of the kingdom is by Jesus and the humble element in charity is by Paul. But aside from this possible divagation from good taste, his position is undoubtedly correct, and one would hope not too far in advance of a Methodist congregation of Portland in the twentieth century. The intellectual development of recent years has been so general and rapid that emphasis upon the material aspects of heaven and hell tend rather to alienate the hearer than to edify.

There has been entirely too much preaching about crowns and palms, gold and precious stones, rest from effort and freedom from responsibility, and not enough about the supremacy of character and the necessity of conduct. There is no profounder truth between the lids of the Book of Books than the saying, "The kingdom of heaven is within you." There is no more necessary part of the Christian pulpit's duty in this trying hour than to lay great emphasis, as Mr. Coulter does, upon the life of the individual.

The work of eliminating the drinking man from transportation employments has made substantial progress in late years. There is a belief, apparently well placed, that it has been applied more strenuously to railway than to navigation lines, the "boozy" pilot or sea captain being still at his post, while the tippling locomotive engineer, fireman and train dispatcher have become an unknown quantity in the operations of railroad trains. Very few marine disasters occur the reports of which are unaccompanied by the assertion that those in charge of the vessel were drunk or had been drinking heavily. The ill-fated Islander, that went to the bottom in seventeen minutes after she struck an iceberg off Douglas Island, a few days ago, was, it is said, in charge of a pilot who was drunk when taken aboard, and had not yet had time to "sober up," and of a captain who had been drinking but a few hours before his vessel struck, and who, in his stupefied condition, was incompetent to direct affairs while the ship was filling. If investigation proves these assertions to be true, the great transportation company that sent this vessel out under such conditions has given ghastly and expensive proof that it has not kept up with the spirit of the times which demands the complete elimination of the drinking man from the transportation problem. It should not be more difficult to secure sober men for marine than for railway service, and this latest wreck, even if these reports are not fully substantiated, emphasizes the necessity of so doing, both in the name of humanity and of public confidence in the men who control water transportation lines. The bluff, old sea dog who boasts of his ability to stand upright with a gallon of liquor under his waistcoat, and the pilot, competent otherwise, but reeling with drunkenness, when shipped, must go, and it is to the discredit of the managers of marine transportation companies that they they have not gone long since.

The dispatch of gunboats by our Government to Colon and to Panama is necessary to protect the interests of our citizens in Colombia, and to carry out our duties as defined by treaty. Among our important interests is the Panama Railroad, from Colon, on the Atlantic, to Panama, on the Pacific Coast. In 1885, when Colon was burned by insurgents under General Aizpuru, the United States war vessel Galena landed men at Colon, and the Iroquois landed others at Panama, on account of threatened stoppage of transit across the isthmus. Our action practically put an end to the insurrection. In March, 1895, the Atlanta landed marines and sailors at Bocas del Toro, and the Raleigh at Colon and the Alert at Panama were ready to land others because of the insurrection led by Aveling Rosas. In 1890 we sent a warship to Panama during the insurrection of General Santos and protested against his proposed bombardment of Panama. Without the treaty right on our part to interfere, the operations of the Panama Railroad would have been many times interrupted.

The state of civilization in China is aptly illustrated by the decree of the Emperor postponing the return of the court to Pekin, because of the "impassable condition of the roads." Progress and good roads are nearly allied. Impassable highways are bad enough in their results in a country where there are good, well-equipped railroads. In a country where neither highways nor railways exist, stagnation follows isolation, and in turn begets decay. One reason, therefore, why China is the most dead-alive country on earth is shown in the decree of the Emperor, giving "impassable roads" as the reason why the exiled court does not return to the capital of the empire.

King Edward, sad, worn and in need of rest, tarries at Homburg in the hope of rallying his physical forces so as to be able to discharge properly his new and long-deferred responsibilities. The reign of his mother extended far beyond the period in life in which a sovereign's obligations would have been made easy for him by the pleasure of discharging them. A man already verging upon old age, obese, full-blooded, heavy and subject to rheumatic gout, the old new King of England presents a striking example of the relative worthlessness of the bauble, greatness, when its bestowal is too long withheld.

A large lumber mill in Northern Wisconsin recently stopped operations for lack of timber supply. The white pine supply of Wisconsin has been exhausted as Michigan's had been before. There is some white pine left in Minnesota, but the only great timber tract left at the North is that of Oregon, Washington and California.

She will come home from the beach and devote three strenuous weeks to removing the tan she has spent three strenuous months to acquire. But she is an American institution, the Summer girl, and we take off our hats to her. Long may she wave!

Bryan says it is foolish to ask him if he is still a candidate for President. It is foolish to ask Bryan anything unless the inquirer enjoys basking in a deluge of idealess oratory.

New York is having her annual housecleaning, the police posing as the unwholesome accumulation and the upright citizens as the soap and water.

If Sampson and Schley were delivered from their loving friends, they might in time become very modest, gallant and useful officers.

Perhaps those rings around Saturn are merely fences stretched to preserve the inalienable rights of some Saturnine Carr.

He knows that he is Kipling that wrote this, or by the gods this poem were else his last!

THE PROBLEM OF THE TIME.

The most conservative and thoughtful journals of the country are devoting a great deal of space to problems presented by trust combinations. Foremost among these journals is the New York Independent, always a leader in great problems. On this special subject its columns teem both with editorial and contributed articles of high value. Several of these The Oregonian has reprinted recently. In the current number of the Independent there is an article by ex-Senator William E. Chandler, of New Hampshire, on the new problems presented in our political, social and industrial life by the appearance of the colossal trusts that are rapidly absorbing manufacturing industries of the country. Chandler is a trenchant writer. Of the great steel trust, he says:

A corporation charter, authorizing $250,000,000 of bonds, $550,000,000 of prefered stock and $550,000,000 of common stock, all for the purpose of creating a monopoly in the iron and steel manufactures of the United States, should be repealed by the Legislature of the state which created it, and the voters of the state should elect a Legislature pledged to such repeal.

That such a gigantic monopoly should be created or allowed by any state is a grievous wrong done to 76,000,000 of people. All gain through the economy of production on a large scale is more than overcome by the evil of giving power to the monopolies to fix any price of the product to the consumer which they choose to exact, and any rate of wages to their workmen which they choose to force upon their helpless victims. The increased profits will only go to swell the enormous fortunes of the multi-millionaires, whose enormous wealth already enables them to organize a $1,350,000,000 monopoly.

Mr. Chandler sees a fact which The Oregonian has been setting forth during a long period, that the only present barrier against the greed of these vast combinations is organized labor. Moreover, that combinations and strikes of labor are provoked by this greed of its excesses. And the consumers are waking up, too. We add this somewhat extended quotation from Chandler's article:

Necessarily such a huge combination as the Steel Corporation, employing thousands of laborers, will cause the formation of a huge labor organization. The power of the producers of any of the great staple commodities constituting the necessaries of human life at the present day to fix the prices for the consumers and the wages for their workmen without competition will not be tolerated. Bargains of all kinds should be mutual. There is no mutuality where the consumer can buy of only one producer, and where the workman has only one employer through whom he can earn the daily bread for himself and his family.

So we are to have gigantic struggles between vast aggregations of capital and vast bodies of organized laborers. The last are inevitable if the first exist; and are legitimate and justifiable. If all the manufacturers of iron and steel can combine, then all the laborers skilled only in that kind of work have the right to unite in one labor organization and agree that no one will work unless the wages for all are fixed by the organization and assented to by the manufacturers. Neither employers nor laborers have a right to resort to illegal or unfair means; to violence of any sort. But we all know the tendency.

In 1892 Mr. Carnegie's employes struck, he ran away to Europe, riots took place, Mr. Frick was shot and others killed, the whole National Guard of Pennsylvania was called to arms, and in consequence of this controversy Mr. Cleveland was elected President instead of Mr. Harrison.

Further disturbances of this kind are sure to follow persistency in the attempts to annihilate the rule of competition in business which has governed production and commerce since the dawn of civilization, and thus to revolutionize human affairs without any provision for keeping down the prices of commodities to the consumers and keeping up the rates of wages for the laborers. The ancient and natural law of the business world which has protected consumers and laborers is to be abolished in favor of the capitalists; and no method is to be provided by which the latter are to be kept back from raising prices and lowering wages at their pleasure.

Wild words are not wise; but it may be usefully said that there should be a fearful looking forward to judgment on the part of the men who are doing these things.

What is the remedy for the theatening evils? It is easy and sure; the exercise of Legislative control over corporation organizations. No abolition of competition in any business can take place through agreements of individuals or partnerships of individuals alone. Corporate powers are indispensable. Bonds and stock must be issued and thrust upon the market. But the Legislatures can decide what shall be the quantities of bonds and stocks, and can limit the business which each corporation may do.

Congress can absolutely control the interstate commerce railroads. The state Legislatures can also govern them and all other corporation monopolies, and force them back to the ancient ways. The people have the remedy in their own hands; and if the suffrage is not overcome by corruption, fraud or violence, success will attend the coming counter movement against the 20th century attempt to revolutionize the laws of production and commerce by organizing huge combinations of wealth in the form of corporations, by abolishing competition, by oppressing consumers and laborers, by making the rich enormously richer, while the poor stand still in their poverty, and, above all, by arousing the many poor voters in our Republic into a dangerous crusade against the comparatively few rich voters, which will endanger the stability of the Republic itself.

Captain Ormsby and His Chief.

Salem Statesman.

The Statesman has not asked Superintendent Ormsby, of the forest reserve, about the matter, and the probabilities are that he would say nothing about it to us if we did ask him, but our belief is that in this matter of recommending additional reserves, Captain Ormsby is simply made the scape-goat of the agencies which have been at work in the head office at Washington, and that whatever "recommending" was done by Mr. Ormsby was in response to the wishes of Commissioner Hermann, expressed or understood. Now, when public exposure has brought public opinion into condemnation of the system of indiscriminate "reservation," Mr. Hermann would like to shift the responsibility to a subordinate—to an officer whose functions were never supposed to embrace the power of authoritatively recommending the extension of reservations. Binger Hermann, crawling behind the mistakes of Captain Ormsby, is like a Major-General in the field excusing his failure by the blunders of a Corporal.

Diaphanous Device.

New York Tribune.

Senator Vest is not disposed to grow enthusiastic over the suggestion made by Senator James K. Jones, of Arkansas, that the Democratic party nominate for the Presidency in 1904, "some discreet jurist or obscure business man." This foxy policy, the Missouri leader pointedly declares, "would indicate weakness and would deceive nobody."

The Telephone Girl in London.

St. James's Gazette.

Candidates for the government telephone service who have a strongly marked twang will be rejected.

Let no young girl in proud array
To government apply
If from her ruby lips "today"
Slips sharply as "to-die."

Nil desperandum! Haughty stare
Should practice lingual grace,
And when an aitch is in the air,
Should put him in his place.

With looks of scorn we all avow
Patrician speech should go;
Your duchess don't rap out a "Now"
When what she means is "No."

Let manners sweeten; gently use
Commercial England's prose;
And while you mind your p's and q's
Be careful of your o's.

Ring off the hideous cockney twang,
Ring up a speech that's tidy,
Ring off old arrogance and slang,
Ring up the perfect lidy.

MITCHELL ON UNION CONTRACTS

Chicago Record-Herald.

When the title of president of the United Mine Workers of America is added to his name, John Mitchell, of Indianapolis, needs no other introduction to every man interested in the industrial problem in the United States. Of the 400,000 men and boys employed in the coal mining industry in this country, nearly all are members of the organization of which Mr. Mitchell is president, and that tells the story of the position and influence of the man.

Now, Mr. Mitchell has contributed a paper to the last issue of the New York Independent, in which he discusses at some length the very point at issue between the Amalgamated Association and its two South Chicago lodges. To begin with, he says that there is a class of critics of trade unions who say that a contract made with a labor organization is impractical and valueless, because organizations are not incorporated. They say:

That they have no legal existence, and consequently a contract fixing the wages and regulating the conditions of employment of their employes made with a labor organization would not be observed; or, in other words, the workers would be under no obligation whatever to carry out either the letter or the spirit of the contract, because the labor organization with which the contract was made could neither sue nor be sued.

Mr. Mitchell answers this by saying:

I do contend that the contracts made between them (the unions) and the employers of labor have been and would be observed as sacredly and their provisions carried out as religiously as though it were a penal offense to violate them; and I am sure that experience has demonstrated that in these trades and industries where the employes are best organized and where the trade union is recognized and contracted with strikes and labor disturbances have been least numerous.

Then Mr. Mitchell illustrates his contention from his experience with the two great branches of the coal mining industry—the bituminous and anthracite coal miners. The former number about 250,000, nearly all members of the United Mine Workers' body, a National association, and the latter 150,000, also members of the same organization.

In the bituminous field "the union is recognized by the mineowners, and once every year representatives of the miners' union and representatives of the mineowners meet in interstate convention and enter into an agreement stipulating the wages and fixing the conditions of employment which shall obtain during the life of the contract, or for a period of one year." And Mr. Mitchell continues:

The contract is signed by the officers of the Miners' National Union, and while its provisions cannot be enforced by any court, while there is nothing but the honor and good faith of the parties to make it operative and binding, yet in the three and one-half years in which these contracts have been in existence there is not a single instance in which a violation of contract can be cited, either on the part of the mineowners or of the mineworkers.

By way of contrast Mr. Mitchell cites the conditions prevailing in the anthracite coal fields, where 150,000 men and boys are employed, most of them members of the United Mine Workers of America, but where "specific contracts are not entered into between the mineworkers and the mineowners," and the organization of the men is not recognized by the employers. This is how Mr. Mitchell describes the result:

The conditions there are the exact reverse of those prevailing in the bituminous coal fields; strikes are of frequent occurrence, and neither the miners, the mineowners nor the public have any guarantee that the coal supply of all the Eastern States may not be cut off at almost any moment; and in this district the miners constantly complain that they are being treated unjustly by the mineowners, that wages are reduced without warning and without giving the workers an opportunity to discuss the equity of the action or the necessity for it, and the mineowners as often complain that their mines are closed by strikes inaugurated by the mineworkers without cause or justification.

"What is true of the mining industry," says Mr. Mitchell, "applies with equal force to every other industry of the United States."

Speaking of rigid rules of labor organizations against the violation or evasion of trade agreements during their life he says:

I know of many instances where contracts which were in conflict with the constitution and laws of trade unions have been entered into with employers, and yet the officers and members of the trade organizations have insisted that the contract superseded the constitution and laws and took precedence of them; in fact, I recall several specific cases where the members of a local union connected with a National organization went on strike for the purpose of enforcing a higher rate of wages than was provided for in the contract made between the National organization and an employers' association, in which the officers of the National union promptly filled the places of the strikers with other men in order that the union could not be charged with or convicted of breach of faith.

It is not surprising to find that Mr. Mitchell has arrived at the confident opinion that every great strike which has taken place in our country could have been avoided if each side had been reasonable and honest with the other.

The Sheriff and His Gun.

Atlanta Constitution.

So much depends upon the Sheriff!

The other day Georgia was the scene of what a Sheriff can do. He maintained the law of the land, and the courts came after and administered justice.

The story from Tuscaloosa tells of another in Alabama. He had a prisoner in charge. The courts were in operation, with white men for grand and petit jurors. There was no doubt as to what the courts would do.

That did not restrain private individuals from feeling that they knew more than the Judge and were more to be relied upon than the jurors. They visited the jail at night. The Sheriff had a gun. He knew what the gun was good for.

The mob retired and the Sheriff was master of the situation.

The recent lynching in Carrollton, Miss., has brought out the statement that "the Sheriff was an old man." Then, why did the people elect him to do a young man's duty?

So much depends upon the Sheriff!

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

To Be Envied.—"He seems to be a well-balanced young man." "Oh, yes; his bank account is beyond dispute."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Bliffers—Buncom is a self-made man, isn't he? Wiffers—Yes. What made you think so? Bliffers—He seems to be so well satisfied with the job.—Tit-Bits.

An Inference.—"I wonder why so many Philadelphia girls take the veil and become nuns." "Probably they want a more exciting life than they get at home."—Life.

Foote Lighte—I see the name of a new piece soon to be brought out is "The Spring Roller." Sue Brette—Sounds like a curtain-raiser, doesn't it.—Yonkers Statesman.

The Egotist.—"He thinks he's popular, eh?" "Does he? Why, whenever his name appears in the paper he fancies the public reads it this way: 'John (cheers) Henry (applause) Muggin (loud and continuous cheering).'"—Philadelphia Press.

Volunteer Maneuvers.—Subaltern—Re-tire! Re-tire! Confound those fellows! Corporal—"Tain't any use signalling to them, sir. They're going to stay where they are and get took prisoners comfortable. An' they ain't no bad judge neither!—Punch.

Another Crop Gone Wrong.—"Yes," said the mountain-resort man, "it has been a hard year on the crops." "The crops?" exclaimed the inquisitive stranger. "How in the world do the crops affect you?" "The hay-fever crop is clear below the average."—Chicago Post.

The Son of the Naturalist.—The naturalist was angry at his mischevious son. "Young man," he sharply said, "when I get you in the house I will take great pleasure in giving you a handsome licking." The boy looked around. "You must excuse dad," he said to the assembled guests. "Sometimes he's a little careless in his pronounciation. It's really a lichen that he means to give me. Ain't it, pa?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Denmark wants to borrow $10,000,000, but we haven't the money to spare just now.

The abolition of the canteen is indeed an excellent thing—for the gold cure institutes.

A Kansas woman has been left $8,000,000. Trust a Kansas woman to achieve notoriety in some way or other.

If the hat trust can raise the price of Spring millinery above its present altitude, it will surprise most of us.

Fortunately for William Shakespeare, his works were already fairly established before the arrival of Professor Triggs.

Robin Goodfellow's proposal to put a girdle 'round the earth in 40 minutes, was a project of a magnitude worthy of Funce-Builder Carr.

Dewey was abused very liberally, but every time he thinks about what Maclay didn't say of him he goes out and buys himself a double allowance of grog.

A man in a Chicago music hall receives $1500 a week for singing. There are several singers who ought to be able to earn that much merely by keeping quiet.

The Minnesota man who ordered that his money should be burned, probably feared that it would be dissipated too quickly if it got into the will attorneys' hands.

Boy upon a bicycle,
Scorching down the street;
Much chagrined pedestrian
Knocked from off his feet.
Pedestrian gets up and makes
A rough house of the pike,
Boy departs to land where he
Can scorch without a bike.

Crowds of tourists have gone to see the Hopi snake dance. We understand that the snake has learned a number of new steps, and that it refuses to tread any more measures to rag-time.

Now canopies of stifling smoke have veiled
The distant hills,
And sticky streaks of mud are all that mark
the mountain rills,
The birds have flown to other woods, the
dry and withered flowers
Are rattling on their yellow stalks where
once smiled lovely bowers,
And all that's bright and good and fair is far,
far out of reach,
In this most dull of all the months, when She
is at the beach.

The office air is close and thick, the work is
hard and long,
Downstairs some frog-voiced tenor drones a
nineteen-year-old song,
And fat chaps, wearing handkerchiefs around
their collars, give
A fellow the idea that it's quite too hot to
live.
The laugh of children on the street is turned
a hollow screech,
And everything is desolate now She is at
the beach.

I think of how the sea-breeze blows and
rumples up her hair,
I think of drift-wood fires and I wish that I
was there,
I think of walks along the sand, and sunsets
in the sea,
And other things that nearly tear the heart-
strings out of me,
For she became engaged last June and her
intended each
Day is making love to her down there, while
She is at the beach.

The girls who are being sued by that Evansville music teacher for kissing him against his will ought to be able to make a plea of temporary insanity tolerably effective.

Lars Larsen was a motorman of credit and
renown,
And he stood upon the platform of his car,
When Miss Matilda Hansen, with intent to go
to town,
Waved her parasol to hail him from afar.

He applied the brake full quickly, and he
smiled a winning smile
As Matilda climbed aboard a middle seat,
But he "Con," whose name was Swenson,
was a person full of guile,
With a way with girls uncommon hard to
beat.

So when Miss Matilda Hansen was ensconced
quite comfortably
The conductor handed her the winning stare,
He remarked upon the weather, and, to cap
the climax, he,
Out of his own private fortune, paid her
fare.

Seeing which the man Lars Larsen was con-
sumed with direst rage,
And full frequently elasticed 'round to see
The proceedings, which directly were advanced
to such a stage,
That he said things which must here
omitted be.

While he thus was looking backward, a pro-
digious hardware van
Rumbled slowly on the track before the car,
And a half a second later into it Lars Larsen
ran
With a bump and jump and crash and smash
and jar.

Which explains how Mr. Larsen lost the only
job he had,
And explains, as well, the most ungentle
way
He employed to put "Con" Swenson quite a
distance to the bad
When he met him on his way to work next
day.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press suggests that St. Louis should invite the Kaiser to the exposition and build a special pavilion for him on the Midway. If any copies of the Pioneer Press drift into Germany after this they will be burned at the stake.

These are the days of the dog, the poodle, the
hound and the collie,
The mastiff, the setter, the spitz, the cur and
the scrub and the mongrel.
These are the days when they all go skulking
from corner to corner,
Much marked of the man with the rope, who
seeks to entrap and destroy them.
These are the days when the man whose
slumber is oft interrupted,
By sundry remarks to the moon from the
mouth of his neighbor's old Bruno,
Makes grievous complaint to the man who
drives the small cage-bearing wagon
That the law is but seldom enforced which
requires that dogs wear a license.
And then, when the morrow has dawned, and
the man with the cage-bearing wagon
Goes forth to collect and convey all unlicensed
dogs to the slaughter,
Perchance he may fasten upon the expensive
and full-blooded Dachshund,
The pet of the very same man who complained
that the law was enforced not.
Convey the said dog to the pound, and, en-
closing him tight in a barrel,
Inflate to the full his long lungs, with a big
charge of carbon dioxide.
And in the belief that he's done his duty with
force and directness,
Come round the next day with a smile to re-
port to the growling complainant.
Whereon there ensues such a row, that the
wars of the cats of Kilkenny
Are merely the tiffs of small girls at play in
the yard alongside it.
Which shows that the way that a man should
discharge for the public his duty,
Depends on the dog he selects to make garbage
with carbon dioxide.

And a Wet Blanket.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

It seems that the Virginia Democrats, while ignoring free silver, declared their admiration for the Democratic "leaders from Jefferson to Bryan, who have borne the party's standard in victory and defeat." Instead of a plank, this may be called a blanket of the Virginia platform.