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TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain, with brisk gusty southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 38; minimum temperature, 35; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, DEC. 22, 1902.

Some of the labor agitators refuse to see anything commendable in the recent decision to inaugurate the pension system on the Harriman railroads. They allege it to be a device for binding workmen more hopelessly than ever under the merciless grind of combined capital, and are disappointed to find that the railroads are not to collect the pension money from the wages of employes. This is an ungenerous view to take of the matter, and it is not likely to gain much sympathy. So much may be said without regarding the pension in the light of a charity. It is not charity. There are good business reasons underlying the pension movement. The efficiency of most men is materially impaired at 60 years of age, and yet a corporation that should embark on the policy of discharging, simply because they were growing old, employes who had served faithfully through many years, cutting them off without any provision for the future, would be subjected to the severest condemnation. The railroad pension system opens a fair way for rejuvenation of the service, and for keeping it in a condition of vigorous efficiency at all points. It recognizes the moral claim of men who have worn themselves out in railroad work. There is, however, another reason for introducing pensions at this time. It will tend to appease the demand of workmen for larger wages. It will not entirely take the place of an advance in pay, but a disposition on the part of the company to take care of faithful employes must have a good effect down the line; it makes for good nature and tolerance, and in various ways it contributes to a better understanding. Of course, it may be said that the companies will use the pension as a means of whipping the labor unions into line by denying its privileges to men who go on strike, and making other conditions that would to an extent reduce the independence of the employes. But nothing of this sort has yet appeared in the announcements made regarding the pension system. There are other reasons enough to justify it. There will probably be no attempt to force the pension upon unwilling men. Such a move would arouse a mighty wrath, for the American sovereign is much averse to being coerced into anything.

Under the provisions of the initiative and referendum amendment to the constitution, the people reserve the right to order any act of the Legislature submitted to popular vote. Petitions for the referendum may be filed at any time within ninety days after the adjournment of the session at which the act was passed. It follows, therefore, that no act goes into effect until the ninety days have expired, except in the case of acts necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, which acts may be put into effect immediately. It has been said by a number of the newspapers of the state, often upon the authority of well-known attorneys, that if the Legislature sees fit to declare that the public safety requires that a certain act shall take effect immediately, the courts will not go behind this declaration of the Legislature. In other words, that if the Legislature wishes to deprive the people of the right to vote upon any measure, they can do so by attaching a clause declaring that the public peace, health or safety require that it shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor. Thus far no one has attempted to question the soundness of the view of the law as thus expressed, and already there is talk of the Legislature evading the referendum by attaching the emergency clause to acts that it is desired should take effect at once. With due deference to the generally accepted opinion, exception make be taken to that view of the power of the Legislature. It is not probable that the Legislature will try to evade the referendum in such a manner, nor that it could if it wished to do so. It is said, and it is true, that under the former constitutional provisions, an act did not take effect until ninety days after the adjournment, unless an emergency existed, which emergency must be declared in the act. Under this provision all sorts of measures, many of them of the most trivial importance, were put into effect at once by merely attaching the emergency clause. Whenever the question was presented in the courts, it was held that the emergency clause was effective, and that the courts would not go back of the Legislature's declaration that an emergency existed. The courts refused to try the question whether the emergency did in fact exist. Assuming that the courts would make a similar ruling under the new provisions, lawyers have been asserting that the ninety-day limitation can be cut off.

It should be observed, but has not been, that there is a very essential difference between the reason upon which the old law was founded, and that which forms the basis for the new provision. Under the old law providing that acts should not take effect until ninety days after the close of the session, the purpose was to give the people an opportunity to learn the law under which they lived and accommodate their transactions to its provisions. They lost no rights by reason of a law taking effect immediately after its passage. Under the new constitutional provision, the purpose is to give the people an opportunity to demand the referendum if they wish. If, therefore, the Legislature declares that, for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, it is necessary that an act go into effect immediately, and such declaration is not true, the people have been deprived of a right reserved to them by the constitution. If an act should be passed at the coming session of the Legislature bearing the emergency clause, and thereafter any legal voter should bring suit to enjoin proceedings under the law before the expiration of the ninety days, the courts would doubtless inquire into the facts, in order to ascertain whether the emergency did exist. In that case the declaration of the Legislature might be taken as prima facie evidence that the emergency existed, but if this could be overcome by other evidence, the courts would enjoin proceedings until the people had been given an opportunity to exercise their referendum privilege. Lawyers are more competent to pass upon these questions than are newspapers, but it seems that this view of the law is warranted by the difference between the reason for the old law and the reason for the new.

THE SOLID WEST.

The Memphis Commercial-Appeal (Dem.) warns the National Democracy that the recent elections have made it plain that a Republican "solid West" is now to be reckoned with almost as much as is a Democratic solid South. This is true, and because it is true the Democracy has no reasonable ground of hope to elect its candidate in 1904. President Roosevelt has clearly captured the solid West, and is likely to hold it firmly and obtain a re-election. Democratic politicians from the Empire State are quoted as saying that "the only man the Democrats can win with in 1904 is Grover Cleveland." It is quite possible that Grover Cleveland could carry New York, for New York is really a Democratic state, but outside of New York Mr. Cleveland, with no disrespect to him, be it said, is politically a back number. The people have outgrown him in the solid West, and also in Connecticut and New Jersey, once Democratic states. Mr. Cleveland is a steadfast opponent of our Philippine policy, and no man who is openly hostile to that policy has any chance to be elected in 1904. Furthermore, the Presidential election at the North will turn on the workingmen's vote, meaning by that not merely the votes of men who belong to labor unions, but to the mass of the people who work for wages, who are affiliated by sympathy with the cause of labor, when its controversy rests on justice.

The action of President Roosevelt in the matter of the arbitration of the coal strike has commanded both approval and disapproval from intelligent men who differ as to its wisdom as a matter of official wisdom and propriety; but all men of peace and good-will agree that his intervention was prompted by high and generous motives. This is the fact that will be longest remembered, and it will give Mr. Roosevelt the workingmen's vote throughout the solid West, Connecticut and New Jersey, and it would give it to him in New York City if its workingmen's vote was not so largely controlled by Tammany. The Democrats may carry New York, Delaware and Maryland in 1904, but they are not sure of any of these states, and Delaware and Maryland are quite as likely to be Republican as Democratic. But giving them the electoral vote of these states with that of the solid South, they would still be beaten, for only 239 votes are necessary to elect, and the Republicans with the solid West, Connecticut, West Virginia and New Jersey, would have 272 votes. Not one of the Western States has gone Democratic this year. The change is enormous and overwhelming which makes a state like Colorado, which gave Bryan over 29,000 majority in 1900, cast a Republican majority in 1902. Idaho and Montana, which were carried by Bryan in 1900, are also Republican states today.

The spirit of the West is young and progressive. It naturally sympathizes with the policy of expansion sustained by the Republican party in the Philippines, but also with the "strenuous" temperament of President Roosevelt. It likes him none the less because he is a rough rider and a sportsman. It likes him because it believes that Roosevelt obtained his best life discipline when he was a ranchman and a "rough rider," whether in peace or war. It likes him very much as the West liked Andrew Jackson. The great popularity of Mr. Blaine at the West was due to the fact that he was more of a Western-born and bred man than he was a New England man. He was born and bred in Western Pennsylvania, spent his early manhood in Kentucky, had lived in Ohio, and did not go to New England until he was 23 years old. Blaine had the Western manner and methods in politics and social life rather than the New England ways, and the West took to him naturally, even as they take to Roosevelt, despite his New York birth. The West, therefore, is solid for the Republican party for two reasons—it likes its principles and it loves its man.

On the other hand, the Democratic party of today is so completely without any principles or policy that ex-Mayor Hewitt, of New York City, while confessing that he is not a Republican, denies that he is any longer a Democrat, saying that he does not recognize the Democratic party in its present dress. If the Democratic party should nominate Cleveland in 1904, Mr. Hewitt would be a Democrat again; but the Democratic party is not likely to nominate Cleveland, or even Olney, in 1904, and even if it did it could not win, for Cleveland and Olney could neither of them possibly carry the solid West against Roosevelt. Granting that Cleveland and Olney are men of personal ability and worth, they are not in sympathy with the spirit of the West; they are not, so to speak, in "its swim." The people of the West have outgrown these men; they are too conservative, too "mossbacked," to satisfy the solid West, so, whether the conservative Democracy of the East or the radical Democracy of the West names the candidate, it cannot name a man who can possibly win in 1904.

The Republican party has thus far obtained and retained the confidence of the people because it is an "up-to-date" party; it always has a policy that rests on reason and experience, but the Democratic party is generally without a policy; a mere party of negations, or, if it has any policy, as it did in 1896 and 1900, it is a policy born in idiocy and grown to maturity in a madhouse. The last policy of the Democratic party was free silver at 16 to 1 and free riot. The conservative Democracy repudiated this policy, but if it named a policy today it would be nothing but a return to the old policy of negation; it would deny the wisdom of the accomplished Republican policy of expansion and renew its old cry of tariff for revenue only. On either issue it could not break the line of the Republican solid West.

LEGISLATION IS NEEDED.

No measure of greater importance will come before the Legislatures at Salem and Olympia next month than the proposed bill for protecting our forests from destruction by fire. Even under the most drastic methods that may be adopted, it will be impossible to prevent some loss each year by fires which could not well be avoided, but never again should Oregon and Washington face such an enormous loss as was caused by the conflagration which swept over the timber belts of the two states last Fall. The Bureau of Forestry at Washington, from the reports of special agents, places the loss in the two states at $12,700,000, about one-third of this amount being placed against Oregon and the remainder against Washington.

The amount of standing timber destroyed in this state is estimated at over 4,000,000,000 feet, and some idea of the magnitude of this loss can be gleaned from the fact that it would have been sufficient to keep all of the mills in Oregon running for four years.

The packing of Columbia River salmon is one of the great industries of the state, giving employment to thousands of people and annually disbursing large sums of money on both the Oregon and Washington sides of the river; but if this industry was suspended, and not a fish caught for four years, the actual loss to the two states would be less than that suffered in a few weeks last Fall by the wholesale destruction of the forests. This loss is not shown to its fullest extent by the Government figures, as they are supposed to cover only standing timber of a merchantable value at the time of its destruction. It required hundreds of years to bring the giant fir, spruce and cedar trees which perished so quickly to the state of perfection in which the deadly flames found them, and to replace them, if they ever could be replaced, would be the work, not of years and generations, but of centuries.

The timber destroyed in these fires which the Government does not include in its figures consists of thousands, and perhaps millions, of young trees, which eventually would take the place of the merchantable timber as it was removed. The logger, with all of his vandalism in destroying everything that gets in his way, always leaves a pretty fair stand of young trees on the ground. These young trees, if permitted to grow, will in time replace the forests now falling before the logger's ax, but when they are wiped out of existence by the flames, the indifference of mankind toward posterity will prevent their ever being replaced. Just what form of legislation will be the best is yet to be determined. Both the Oregon and Washington Legislatures include a number of men directly interested in the preservation of our forests, and the demand for some protection against a repetition of the awful sacrifice of last Summer and Fall is so urgent that it is hardly probable that much difficulty will be encountered in drafting a measure that will be approved.

The burning of slashings by settlers is generally blamed for the fires which have wrought such destruction, and a law preventing such work during the dry season, and carrying a heavy penalty, would undoubtedly have a good effect. This state now holds the greatest bodies of fine timber that are to be found anywhere in the world, and any measure tending to prevent the destruction of these forests by unnatural means will meet with the hearty approval of every one interested in the growth of the state.

THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox's latest book, "The Heart of the New Thought," is being quite extensively reviewed. Optimistic above all things, Mrs. Wilcox finds readers for whatever she writes, and these readers usually find encouragement in her enjoyment in life and its possibilities. She is emphatically of the belief that it is never too late to make a new start, and says: "If I were 100 years old and in possession of my faculties, I would not hesitate to undertake a new enterprise which offered a hope of bettering my condition." She urges women to keep sentiment alive in their own hearts and in the hearts of their husbands, and adds: "Make your life glorious with sunlight, rich with harvests and bright with color. Believe absolutely in your own God-given power to overcome everything. Desire success so intently that you attract it as the magnet does the steel."

This is cheerful advice, and hopeful as well. And, since we cannot have too much of hopefulness and good cheer in life, it may be well to indorse it, even at the risk of becoming Micawber-like in the daily and hourly expectation for "something to turn up."

Good as this advice is, however, and abounding, as it does, in optimism, which, from Mrs. Wilcox's interpretation, seems to be the "heart of the new thought," she gives better, because more practical, advice a little further on. "Above all," she says, "wear new clothes and take deep breaths." Deep breathing, she affirms, is an aid to religious meditation. And when she becomes specific and adds: "Place your hands tightly upon your knees, close your mouth and eyes, leave your spine free, wear no compressing garments, and then inflate the abdominal regions while you count seven, repeat seven times, and go through the process at least twice a day," she has given a formula for health that discounts the art of the apothecary and the magic of his potions, and at the same time puts the doctrines of the faith curist to flight. Yet the Christian Scientists claim Mrs. Wilcox as one of their late converts.

There is something in her combination of faith and works that suggests the bluff old Christian soldier's exhortation to his troops, "Trust in God and keep your powder dry," as well as in Mother Eddy's advice to her followers to avoid contact with persons who have contagious diseases, while denying the possibility of contracting them. It is thus that the saving grace of common sense comes to the rescue of the votaries of the "new thought," so called, and causes their opinions to be respected and their optimism to be admired and enjoyed. As said by an Eastern reviewer, "Here, sans erreur, is the philosopher's stone. But—painful thought!—isn't it rather like bathing in Jordan? That seven times—those abdominal regions—ah, it is the simple things that are difficult!"

British and German shipowners who are forced to operate their vessels without a subsidy are very much disturbed over the general demoralization of freight rates due to the rapid increase in size of the subsidized French fleet. Rates from Pacific Coast ports to Africa, Australia and the United Kingdom are now down to a figure where it is impossible for a British, German, American or any other unsubsidized ship to sail except at a loss. This, of course, is a very profitable situation for the Pacific Coast producers, and, as they outnumber the shipowners in the ratio of several thousands to one, and are not compelled to pay the subsidy, it is to be hoped that the French taxpayers may keep up the contribution. The present situation undoubtedly had considerable bearing on the action of the British Parliament in rejecting the proposition to subsidize the British merchant marine. The experience of France shows quite plainly that it is not the country paying the subsidy that reaps the benefits resulting from the creation of this artificial trade condition. The shipowner is entitled to remuneration, as the laborer is worthy of his hire, but that remuneration should be fixed and determined by the natural laws of trade, and not by governmental interference in private enterprises. A few French shipowners are growing rich at the expense of the millions of taxpayers of that country. Aside from the few shipowners, the only ones who profit by the unnatural condition are the producers in other parts of the world, and most of these producers have no trade relations whatever with France.

Last Monday the Supreme Court of Oregon affirmed the judgment of the Circuit Court for Marion County sentencing a warehouseman to a term of two years in the penitentiary for larceny of wheat stored in his warehouse. Although a number of criminal cases against warehousemen have been prosecuted in the courts, this is the first conviction that has been had in many years. The execution of the sentence should have a very salutary effect. There is no more reason why a warehouseman who steals wheat should escape than there is why an ordinary hobo should be permitted to go free when he is caught in the act of robbing a store. In the Marion County case farmers had stored some 10,000 bushels of grain in the warehouse, and when they were ready to sell the wheat was gone and the warehouseman could offer no sort of an explanation. His defense to the case brought against him by a farmer who lost 200 bushels was purely a technical one, and, very fortunately, it failed. While the farmers will rejoice over his conviction, it would not be at all surprising if they should a few months hence join in a petition asking for his pardon.

The thirty-seventh annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held in San Francisco next May from the 5th to the 7th, inclusive. The position of commander-in-chief of that body is eagerly sought as a mark of honor and a vantage-ground of influence, and regularly constituted political methods are employed to secure it. General John C. Black, of Chicago, is thus early in the race for this position. He received the indorsement of the Council of Administration at its recent meeting in St. Louis, and his election will be zealously urged. The American citizen who aspires to responsible position in ordinary political life is, if capable and worthy, honored for his ambition. Not the less so is the old soldier who aspires to be the head of the organization known as the Grand Army of the Republic. General Black is no vain carpet knight, but a soldier tried and true, and a brave one withal, else would he not enter upon the campaign now mapped out for him. It may be said even at this distance that if he is chosen commander-in-chief the G. A. R. will have a competent presiding officer.

There is a demand from all sections of the state for the enactment of a corporation tax law which will require corporations to pay the state for the special privileges enjoyed. Any law upon this subject should be very carefully drawn, so that it may not be objectionable from either a business or legal standpoint. The tax should not be heavy enough to drive away any legitimate enterprise. The manner of its collection should be such as to reduce the cost of collection to the minimum. The plan of the tax should be so simple as to involve no difficulty in ascertaining the amount due from any concern, and there should not be incorporated into the law any provision concerning the validity of which there may be any doubt. The privilege of doing business as a corporation has a value, and the privilege should be taxed. The question is not how much the corporations can be made to pay, but how much they ought to pay. If the requirements of the tax are reasonable, they will not be a great burden to any corporation doing a legitimate business.

Young Cornelius Vanderbilt ought not to die, for he is the best Vanderbilt that lives today. He married the woman he loved, even at the sacrifice of his share, as the eldest son, of his father's estate. He has displayed unusual talent in the mechanical department of railroading, having invented an improved locomotive firebox that is highly spoken of by experts. He has lectured on railroading, and the current number of the North American Review contains an article from his pen on the subject of electricity as a motive power of railway transportation. He is the most gifted and promising member of his father's family.

Since Governor Chamberlain is having such a hard time choosing from among the many candidates for the superintendency of the penitentiary, he might solve the problem by adopting a home-rule policy and leave the matter to a vote of the inmates of the institution. However the matter is settled, the gentlemen who wear the striped uniforms will have no fear of losing their jobs.

In Nebraska the State Board of Charities and Corrections is asking the Legislature to pass an act making it a crime for a husband to desert his wife. How foolish to expect a Legislature of men to pass such a law! Acting upon the suggestion, they may pass a law making it a criminal offense for a wife to desert her husband.

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

And They Make No Mistake.

Pendleton Tribune.

When it is war they call on Dewey.

Dignified as They Make 'Em.

Salem Statesman.

The biggest diplomatic joke of several years is the intimation from Japan that John Barrett is not sufficiently dignified for a United States Minister to that country. If he is not, in the name of the great horn spoon, who is?

Occasionally Only.

Albany Democrat.

The Democratic papers from a personal standpoint have no desire to see Mr. Geer elected United States Senator. As a matter of fact Mr. Geer has never been popular with the Democrats of Oregon. What they like is some consistency occasionally.

Reform School Doesn't Reform.

Albany Democrat.

People who are pretty well posted declare that the Reform School doesn't reform at all, in fact, does right the opposite as run in Oregon, and perhaps in some other states; that it is a reform school only in name.

Foundation Stone in Greatness.

Baker City Democrat.

In the commercial walks of life Sol Hirsch was one of the foundation stones upon which the bulwark of Oregon's greatness was builded. A pioneer merchant, his excellent business qualities were the making of a large fortune in a legitimate way, and his wise counsel and steadfast friendship for those who maintained his confidence was the secret of the success of hundreds of men in Oregon who today are enjoying the fruits of his kindly consideration and assistance.

Civilization and the Barons.

Lewiston Tribune.

Mr. Rockefeller has given Chicago University another million, but last week he raised the price of oil 1 cent a gallon, which will net his company $8,000,000 a year. Our trust magnates, though, are great improvements over those of cruder days. Formerly the barons, after confiscating estates and chattels, would throw the victims into a dungeon and slit their throats, but now the fashion is to still keep the victims at work and endow a university or a library with a part of the loot.

Unknown Eastern Oregon Candidate.

Salem Statesman.

If Eastern Oregon has a man who wants to be United States Senator he should have accepted the opportunity presented by the last Legislature and the invitation of Governor Geer to leave the whole matter to the people at the ballot box. We have all been saying for years that we wanted the people given a chance to be heard on the choosing of United States Senators, and with a law on the statute books giving the people this chance, Governor Geer was the only Republican in the state who was willing to risk his chances before the popular tribunal. This recognized the people as being worthy of consideration, and having received a majority of the votes of the state in a contest that was open to all aspirants, he is entitled to the fruits of the victory.

Facilities Here Are Ample.

Albany Herald.

The great rivalry between Coast ports for the Pacific transport trade has finally been settled by dividing the business between Seattle and San Francisco. Portland is left entirely out in the cold so far as any Government shipping is concerned. It must be admitted that neither Portland nor any other Oregon port has the deep sea channel like Seattle and San Francisco, yet there are harbor and channel facilities and water enough to accommodate any of the trans-Pacific ships now doing business at any Coast ports. Few of the transports are as large as some of the tramp steamers coming to Portland or have as deep a draught as the Asiatic liners making regular runs to Portland. The Government supplies can be obtained in Portland as cheap as in any city on the Coast, if not cheaper. Then just why Portland is not considered in the transport trade is not easily understood.

And Yet Oregonians Complain.

Corvallis Times.

A spray of ripe raspberries grown in the open air in a Corvallis garden was on exhibition on the street Monday. In Boston the cold is so intense that street-cars are constantly blockaded, traffic interrupted and the poor are rioting for the coal they have not the means to buy. In portions of New York the public schools have been dismissed on account of the intense cold and the shortage of coal. On the raspberry vine mentioned there are berries in every stage of development, from the blossom to the red berries in the richness of perfect maturity. The bush from which it was taken in the north end of town was covered all over with the fruitage and blossoms that are a mighty contrast with the howling blasts of the icy East. If Webfooters sometimes kick at the rains, it is because they fail to feel the pinch of the icicle or the chill of the cold that now prevails on the other side of the continent.

Growth of Northern Ports.

Tacoma News.

In comparison with this official statement of the foreign commerce handled at the Golden Gate, the following record of Puget Sound's imports and exports presents a striking contrast and shows that the trans-Pacific commerce is taking the route which offers the least resistance and is rapidly concentrating on Puget Sound. For 10 months of 1902 Puget Sound's exports amounted in value to $28,199,974, as compared with $20,147,669 during the corresponding months of 1901. Imports for the same period were valued at $10,366,095 in 1902, as compared with $6,697,748 in 1901. Total foreign commerce for 10 months: $38,566,069 in 1902, $26,845,408 in 1901. Increase, $11,720,661, or at the rate of 43.7 per cent. Portland Or., is also making gains in her foreign commerce, notwithstanding the embarrassements and difficulties which attend her efforts to make a seaport out of an inland town. Portland's foreign commerce, imports and exports combined, for 10 months ending with October, 1902, were valued at $11,327,956, as compared with $9,782,833 in the corresponding months of 1901. Thus Portland's foreign commerce increased $1,545,133, or at the rate of 15.8 per cent, while San Francisco's showed a decline of $911,875, of 1.5 per cent.

Gloomy View of Congress.

Sumner Herald.

Both houses of Congress met last Tuesday. What they met for nobody knows—unless it is because the constitution requires it. The last one spent from one to two millions of dollars, and was in session some six or eight months. There are some things which Congress might do with profit. It might reduce the tariff and lasso the trusts. But it will do neither. The President has said much about bad trusts, especially during the recent campaign. He failed to cite any good trusts. In his message he refers to the evils of trusts, but declares that the evils are neither directly nor indirectly attributable to the high tariff duties which trust-controlled and trust-manufactured articles carry. This view will be recognized as more or less original; also as very sound—by the trusts. There is a popular idea that the surest way to kill a wolf is to shoot him through the heart. The tariff is the heart of the trust wolf; and said wolf, or wolves, may now consider themselves as safe as were the Mississippi bear before and during the President's recent campaign against them in the Southern wilderness—not to imply that the wolves were particularly apprehensive of injury at any time. So the tariff and the trusts have both received a boost rather than a biff, and our Republican Congress will have no difficulty in agreeing that this is as it should be. In very truth, it may be opined that this is its main business.

"GOOD" TRUSTS AND "BAD."

New York Evening Post.

Mr. Carnegie comes home full of approval for the President's plan of dealing with the trusts on a moral basis. He is delighted at the thought of Mr. Roosevelt taking the "bad" trust on his grandmotherly lap for a public chastisement, while giving the "good" ones lollypops. In this Mr. Carnegie is at one with Mr. James J. Hill, of the Northern Securities Company. That gentleman is quoted in the Chicago Record-Herald as gravely indorsing President Roosevelt's "remedy for what are called trusts." That remedy is "all right," affirmed the president of the Great Northern Railway, without a wink—or at least without one visible to the reporter—"assuming that you want to encourage what is good and prevent what is bad."

President Roosevelt's proposals in this line are eminently characteristic. His natural bent is toward moralizing. The late Speaker Reed, with his best air of preternatural innocence, used to speak of Mr. Roosevelt as "our greatest living thinker." He might well have called him our greatest moralist. No one could show more concern about other people's morals than the President does. He has more than his share of Anglo-Saxon "earnestness"—which Walter Bagehot defined as the impulse to go out and take your fellows by the throat in order to compel them to think and act just as you do. Corporations may have no souls, but trusts have a moral nature. Mr. Roosevelt is certain; and it is his burning desire to "draw the line at conduct" in dealing with them. Conduct may be only three-fourths of life, but it is the whole of trusts, as the President sees them.

We regret to observe, however, a ribald spirit manifesting itself in the Western press on the subject of Mr. Roosevelt's moral discriminations in the matter of trusts. The irreverent newspaper cartoonist pictures the President taking the moral pulse of the various monopolies from which the people suffer, and awarding a halo to each one that can assume, for the nonce, a saintly expression. It is pointed out, too, that the moral quality of trusts will necessarily vary with their politics. The chairman of the Republican National Committee, for example, could not fail to certify to the virtues of trusts that had made the proper contributions. Who is to be the examiner in trust morals? What is to be the test of goodness? Shall we ask whether the trusts pay good wages, are regular in church attendance, and are kind to their families?

Such questions sound ludicrous, but they are not more ludicrous than is the whole attempt to settle a question of law, of public policy, by irrelevant distinctions of good and bad. If the trusts are founded upon a dangerous principle, if they operate by methods repugnant to our traditions of equity and of law, then they are all bad. If, on the contrary, their foundation is legal and their methods equitable, they are all good, in the only sense that the legislator can take cognizance of the goodness of a public institution, and should be let alone. To try to mark off the "good" trusts from the "bad," when once you have conceded that their principle is wrong, is like talking of good and bad tyranny, good and bad oppression, good and bad slavery. We cannot legislate upon what is passing in the mind of a man, nor can we know what is passing in the mind of a trust. All that we can ask is, "Are you violating the statute law? Do your operations contravene the prohibition of monopoly in the common law? Is there need of new enactments to head off your cunning in getting around old laws?" Only such questions have point in the premises. By the answers to them alone can legislation be guided. The politician may run off on some such personal issue as will lead him to say of a given trust, in the words of the darkey song, "It certainly was good to me"; but the statesman can look only to legal principles and legislative remedies of universal application.

For a contrast between moral fumbling with trusts and a clear-cut description of evils to be cut out by law, one has only to turn from the President's ineffective lecture on good and bad trusts to Attorney-General Knox's speech at Pittsburg on October 14. In trenchant language he described the abuses committed by trusts in violation of "the rights or recorded will of the people." These are: "Over-capitalization, lack of publicity, discrimination in prices to destroy competition, insufficient personal responsibility of officers and directors, tendency to monopoly and lack of appreciation of their relations to the people." There you have definite specifications. Mr. Knox did not stick in the bark of doubts whether, after all, some trusts guilty of such abuses might not be "good," though some were "bad," but went as lawyer and statesman swiftly to the point of declaring that all combinations involving such, or any such, illegalities and frauds upon the public were of a sort which the Government should "endeavor to destroy." That sounded as if it meant business. Mr. Roosevelt's delicate splitting of moral hairs 'twixt north and northwest side is, in comparison, painfully hesitant and irrelevant.

There is talk of amending the Sherman anti-trust law at this session of Congress. If the thing were to be done in accordance with President Roosevelt's notion of being good to good trusts, the first section of the amended law would read about as follows:

"Every contract entered into for bad purposes, combination of bad men in the form of harmful trust or otherwise, or reprehensible conspiracy in improper restraint of wholesome trade or useful commerce between the several states or foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal if its conduct is bad. Every person, unless he is good, who shall make any such bad contract or engage in any such improper combination or undesirable conspiracy shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor unless it appears that his motives were excellent," etc.

That is what we come to when we "draw the line at conduct" in drafting laws.

Bon Voyage.

H. R. Vynne, in the Inter Ocean.

Good-bye, Tom Reed!
You were, indeed,
A stout man and a'true;
You had the strength
That brought, at length,
The love of men to you.

Good-bye, Tom Reed!
You paid no heed
To ways of little men,
Did what was right,
But in your might
The love of men to you.

Good-bye, Tom Reed!
You sowed the seed
Of manhood where you passed;
Your way was long,
Your hand-grip strong,
Your heart strong—to the last.

'Mid heat of hate,
In the debate,
You saw hate take the lead;
Your brain was sound,
You stood your ground—
You ruled them all, Tom Reed.

They called you Czar;
They cursed you far,
And cursed you near and nigh;
But not a foe
Who cursed you so
But mourns you, now you die.

For as you fought
Your soul was wrought
By no mean thought or slight.
And with your brain
And might and main
You wrestled for the right.

But when 'twas done,
At set of sun,
The foes who fought you fair
Fought face to face
To gain a place
Beside your roomy chair.

The world has ends—
Few men have friends,
But you, Tom Reed, God knows,
Have at the last
No friends more fast
Than those who were your foes.

Therefore you go
Sans pomp or show,
And faithful to your creed;
Your friends were true—
Your foes loved you—
And so good-bye, Tom Reed.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Good morning! Too bad, isn't it?

How many children are so glad that Christmas doesn't come on a Sunday!

It takes a mighty sharp baby to cut its teeth without slashing the family's comfort.

There is some doubt in the minds of scientists as to mistletoe being known in heaven. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Fathers are now enforcing on their children the ancient rule that little people mustn't ask questions—especially about queer packages.

It would be of tremendous interest to know just how many engagements for Thursday dinner were made during the hymns at church yesterday.

A Chicago newspaper man tried to interview "Uncle Joe" Cannon about his Speakership candidacy a few days ago. The Congressman tells the story: "'Young man,' said I, 'this is for your private ear, not for your newspaper ear. When I was a boy the circus came to the county seat, 13 miles away. I wanted to see that circus the worst sort of way. My father had a negro hand named Eph. He wanted to see the circus, too. We scraped enough money together to pay our way in, and I had a little change to spare for gingersnaps and peanuts. Eph carried me on his broad back a part of the way, and at last we paid the entrance fee and were under the big tent. We proceeded past several cages till we came to a big cage containing an enormous ape. "How is you?" said the old black man, bowing before the monstrous ape. No answer. "How is you?" Eph repeated, with another profound bow, and still no answer. Then, after a long pause, Eph exclaimed: "You's right, ole man; keep yo' mouf shet or dey'll put a hoe in yo' hand and make yo' raise cotton." ' " The newspaper writer departed without further questioning.

There is one father in Portland who has sadly shaken his wife's implicit faith. She was going shopping the other day, and adjured him to watch after the children. Ten minutes later, as she disappeared through the door, she remarked: "There will be some packages to come up. Please put them away." Mr. F. assented, and promptly went to sleep, after telling the boy and girl to be good. Late in the afternoon his spouse returned, waked him up and showed him a countenance of terrible wrath. "Why, my dear," he began. "Look here!" she cried. And he looked, and, lo! there were the boy and girl on the floor with an assortment of dolls, baby carriages, candy boxes and gifts of every kind. They were enjoying themselves hugely. The man tried to explain, but his wife cut him off. "I told you the packages would come up, and I asked you to look after the children, and now—!" She swept the scene with a minatory right hand. Later she withdrew the light of her countenance from her husband. Thirty-six hours afterward she received an abject apology in writing from the children (addressed to Santa Claus), and her husband is again eating at home.

As an illustration of the nature of Southern negroes, the Rev. J. D. Sanders, the negro president of Biddle University, of Charlotte, N. C., related the following incident to some members of the Presbyterian General Assembly at a recent meeting. The story is reported in the New York Times.

Negroes are great lovers of pomp and ceremony, of titles and decorations, and the members of a large but ignorant negro congregation in North Carolina conceived the notion that it would add very much to their influence as a church if their pastor could append the initials D. D. to his name.

One of the brethren learned that a certain institution in the North would confer such a degree for a price. He wrote, and got a letter from this institution, stating that $50 would secure the desired honor.

Meantime the members of the congregation went to work to raise the $50, but their utmost efforts failed to secure more than $25.

The committeemen put their heads together, and it was finally decided to send the money, with this message, to the Northern institution:

"Please send our pastor one 'D.,' as we are not able to pay for the other at this time."

While it is inbred habit with men now, it may give a thinker pause to realize that the end of religion and of morality is death. However cleverly this fundamental fact is concealed, however adroitly our minds are tickled with the thought of pleasure in life, sooner or later creeds point to death as the final test of truth and the place of reward or punishment. Did we know anything about this strange phenomenon, this swift disentangler of the knotted thread of life, it would not seem so wonderful. Why should man's warm hopes and throbbing desires lead only to the mysterious portal beyond which lies—who knows what? Many a sermon of yesterday laid strong emphasis on our common end; it is the strongest plea, the final plea that can be made to humanity. And yet death is terrible because of the fullness of this life. Perhaps the very terror of it compels us to believe and trust that there is still life on the other side of the Great Divide. But it is doubtful if our mortal hearts can image any fairer scene than this world offers, can conceive richer joy than is to be found with men, can ponder deeper emotion than swells the bosom here. And yet—in the instant of gladness, in the ecstasy of triumph we blindly feel on the brow the chill winds from the outer dark. Like children we thrust out our arms hoping that somewhere within that gloom warm hands may receive our hands. He is brave and cruel who would say: "There is no one there." But we think on these things but for a moment and lightly. For the greater part we tread fearlessly, smiling though the unfathomed gulf be at our feet. Life cannot conceive of death. It is but a rumor, a tale told in the dawn; we are not mortal. He is dead; and she is gone; but——

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

"Oh, I'm sure she isn't as old as she looks." "Perhaps not, but I'm sure she's older than she thinks she looks."—Philadelphia Press.

She—I would prefer a quiet home wedding, but father is opposed to it. He—I wonder why? She—Oh, he's awfully deaf, you know.—Chicago Daily News.

Gladys—Isn't he awfully flat? Edith—Yes; but he has an "auto," a yacht, and a drag. He's what you might call a flat with all modern improvements.—Judge.

City Nephew—I noticed that the hired man didn't drink coffee for breakfast. Farmer Bentover—No! He's afraid it will keep him awake durin' the day.—Puck.

"Dis is certainly fine, bracin' weather," remarked Weary Raggles to Tired Tatters. "Yes," replied Tatters. "I braced six men for a dime dis mornin', an' on'y got one refusal."—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

"I have never yet deceived my constituents," said the statesman. "That's right," answered Farmer Corntossel. "We have always known what you were up to; but what were we going to do about it?"—Washington Star.