

GREAT STEEL TRUST

Enriched By General Public and Federal Government.

COMPARED TO ROBBER BARON

Generosity of Steel Magnates is With Other Peoples Money—Prosperity of Corporation is Paid by Public Through Watered Stock.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—It is true the gallant Congressmen who boldly tackled the steel octopus in Committee of the Whole and appropriated \$100,000 to start a foundry at the Washington navy yard, turned tail and fled when the matter came up in the House. The octopus, having been struck with the steel tipped shaft, let out a roar that sent the frightened congressmen skurrying to cover, and they promptly made overtures of peace by reversing their action of the preceding day. The wounded beast is still lashing his sides however, and the trembling Congressmen are wondering if he will carry them off to his lair and devour them at his leisure. One thing, they have had their lesson, and it will be some time before they again muster up courage to tackle the steel combination. The manufacture of arms, ordnance and ammunition for the government is a complex proposition, having many different phases. In some cases it is highly desirable for the government to have its arsenals supplemented by factories privately owned and operated. But the necessity is confined almost exclusively to such articles as would be used in large quantities and which would have to be supplied quickly. Of these powder and ammunition easily come first, including shells for the navy, field and coast artillery projectiles, and cartridges for small arms. It is also necessary that there should be private plants to turn out rifles and revolvers, swords and bayonets, etc., for an immense quantity might be needed at any time and it would be impracticable for many reasons for the government to keep an adequate supply on hand. But there is no reason from an emergency point of view why the government should war break out today it would cannon, or its rapid fire guns, from the raw pig iron to the finished product. Should war break out today it would be over before any private manufacturer could turn out a twelve inch gun.

All big guns are turned out in known quantities, are kept on hand until obsolete or deteriorated by practice firing. They are then retired or replaced by new ones. All big guns are made from ingots of steel purchased from the Bethlehem or Midvale Steel Company, and bored, hooped and finished at the Washington navy yard or the Watervliet arsenal. Most of the smaller guns, the three inch, one-pounders, etc., are bought from private manufacturers, of which there are about a half a dozen. They are nearly always behind their contracts.

No combination exists between the Bethlehem and Midvale companies. Officials of both companies are positive on that point. The fact that their bid on forgings are always the same is therefore regarded merely as one of those strange coincidences of competition in these modern times. Another strange coincidence is that the bid on armor plates are always identical. The outcome of this issue is plain. By establishing a foundry at the Washington navy yard, or elsewhere, Congress would take the first step toward government manufacture of its big guns from beginning to end. This would be followed by the manufacture of the smaller guns and gun carriages and finally of projectiles. Even an armor plate mill would be a possibility. It is significant of the tendencies of the great steel magnates that while the price of gun-forgings has steadily

advanced, the price of armor-plate has steadily decreased. This may be explained by the fact that the exactions of the steel kings finally drove Congress to the verge of desperation and the establishment of a government armor-plate works was imminent, when, presto! and the price of armor plate came tumbling down. Some of the millions that are now being devoted to libraries and educational purposes, or lavished on magnificent palaces on Fifth Avenue and Riverside Drive, or which have been squandered at Monte Carlo, or on actresses, might be traced to the bare-faced robbery of the government conducted under a prohibitory tariff.

All the stand-patters preach about its prosperity. When they point to

the dividends on the steel trust stocks and bonds as an evidence, it is well to remember that the public is furnishing the money to pay these dividends on stocks largely watered. The erection of a five million dollar mansion by a Carnegie, a Frick, a Schwab or a Carey, does not spell prosperity except for one individual at the expense of hundreds of thousands. The \$32,000,000 given to education by the coal king was contributed by the poor consumer of coal oil. The money merely passed through Rockefeller's hands. History contains no account of a miserly robber baron. The pirates of the Spanish Main were noted for their prodigality. "Easy come and easy go," as Louis XIV said when his Minister of Finance remonstrated

against the extravagance of the Court. There is also a reference to the widow's mite," somewhere.

There must, sooner or later, be a change in the method of allotting funds in the militia. At present the apportionment is according to the representation in Congress, and it gives rise to all sorts of absurd inequalities. For example, if New York only had one company of militia for each Congressman, it would receive the same amount from the Federal government it does now with a total strength of 14,000. The smaller the number of militiamen the larger the allowance per man, which operates to encourage rather than discourage enlistments.

QUARREL OVER TELEPHONE.
Dispute About Use of Line Leads to Murder.

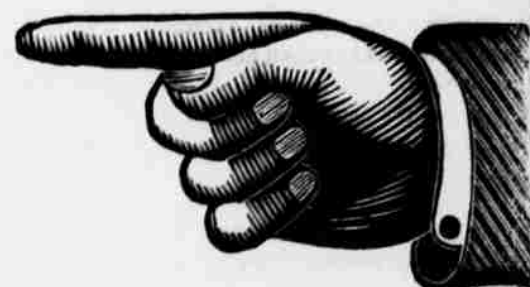
COLORADO, SPRINGS, March, 5.—William F. Doyle, a prominent Democratic Politician was shot but not fatally injured this noon by Richard Irwin, a well known mining man as the result of a quarrel which the former engaged in with the latter wife over the use of a party line telephone.

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There is no case on record of a cough or cold resulting in pneumonia or consumption after Foley's Honey and Tar has been taken, as it will stop your cough and break up your cold quickly. Refuse any but the genuine. Foley's Honey and Tar in a yellow package. Contains no opiates and is safe and sure. T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

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