

THE SANTIAM NEWS

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Railroads and the People.

A sure and effective way of disposing of a bad law is to rigidly enforce it. In the recent craze for railroad regulation which swept over the country there were a number of laws passed which were highly detrimental to the railroads and of no benefit to the people. The fact that there could be no permanent prosperity for the railroads without the people served by them were also prosperous was for a time lost sight of, and good and bad railroads and other corporations suffered alike in the craze for regulation. The culmination of this regulation fever was reached about a year ago, and the panic revealed in unmistakable clearness, that the people who had prospered with the railroads were also suffering with them. The drastic liquidation through which the country passed was not unattended by good results.

Railroads which were violating their obligations to the people were shown the error of their ways, and abandoned their former objectionable practices. But the people also have profited by the experience and from one end of the land to the other there is a growing tendency to recognize the independence of the railroads and the people. Perhaps the most notable case in which this changed sentiment is apparent is that of Oklahoma, a state where anti-corruptive sentiment ran riot a few years ago. In accord with this sentiment the Oklahoma Legislature passed such drastic laws that capital was frightened out of the state and railroad building came to a standstill. This condition has become so serious that the matter has been taken up by the Oklahoma Federation of Commercial Clubs, which has issued a circular setting forth that "new capital cannot be attracted for investment in the state until the laws are settled upon a fair and conservative basis, so that capital invested may have reason to expect legitimate return."

That the relief asked by the commercial organizations will be granted is almost a foregone conclusion, and with the railroads regarded as a partner instead of an enemy, the financial returns to both Oklahoma and the railroads will be much more satisfactory than they have been since the closed season for railroad building began. Absurd laws in other states, which prohibit the running of farming demonstration trains and the issuance of transportation to immigration agents and others who seek to attract settlers, are also helping to check the spread of this regulation fever.

In Oregon the feud between the railroads and the people have never attained great proportions, the efforts of interested parties to stir up trouble being only partially successful. This state has not always received the consideration from the railroads to which it was entitled, but they have promised to do better, and there is considerable new work actually under way and much more in prospect. The line to Central Oregon is generally regarded as assured, and to the farmers of that long-isolated region it is a matter of indifference what freight rates may be on the Argentine plains or on the Great Lakes. What Oregon needs is railroads, and after it gets them there will be ample

time for regulating them in accordance with a fair return on the investment—Oregonian.

\$50,000 to Defeat Chamberlain.

How much money will it take to beat Geo. E. Chamberlain and elect Charles W. Fulton, United States Senator?

How much is each Statement No. 1 member of the Legislature to receive for going back on his pledge and betraying the people?

Where will the money come from to carry out the job?

Here are a few questions for the people to answer. The People's Press believes that every member of the next Legislature is an honest man, and that Chamberlain will be elected when the first joint ballot is taken at Salem next winter; but the men who are now plotting to defeat the people think otherwise, and they have advanced their plans to the point where the amount to be paid for Statement No. 1 votes is being discussed.

One local politician who is known to be close to the railroads and other big interests which are openly opposed to the Oregon idea of electing United States Senators, has figured out that the very lowest sum required to carry out the plot cannot be less than \$50,000. The politician in question is a pronounced friend of Fulton's; he has been very active since it was known that Taft was elected and he has no hesitation in spreading the news that Chamberlain has no more chance of being chosen by the Legislature than Bryan had of carrying Oregon.

There are seven Statement No. 1 members of the Legislature to be gotten rid of if the scheme is to be carried to success. Five thousand dollars cash in advance for each one of the seven is the price mentioned by the man who represents the interests. The other \$15,000 could be well spent in entertaining the legislators and providing a race-off for the man who handled the money and performed the actual bribery.

It is said by those on the "inside", that there will be no difficulty encountered in securing the amount of money. Even if the local people who are in favor of the game should fail to come up with the necessary assistance, outside interests would willingly aid in defeating Chamberlain, which would be the entering wedge in destroying the system of popular legislation that the people of Oregon have gradually built up. These same outside interests were enlisted in a scheme to block the election of Mr. Bourne after he had received the popular vote for Senator, but the junior Senator was too quick for the plotters, and with the assistance of the best secret service men in the country he exposed the scheme before it was carried out.—People's Press.

A Southern Opinion

It looks as if the democratic party, as a political power, has come to an end. It will continue to exist in some of the states for local purposes, and there will always be a dominant white party in the South, but as a national power the indications are that democracy will play a very subordinate part. Issues are changing with great rapidity. The republican party is the parent of all the great private fortunes in the union, and

of all the vast corporate monopolies and trusts. Under its fostering care a money power has been created and built up, and of necessity the offspring must stand for its parent in a struggle that threatens both.

Realizing, as the American people will, that no constitutional conservative organization like the grand old party of constitutional guarantees and Jeffersonian principles can overthrow a political party entrenched and maintained by a vast consolidation of wealth, the time will come when means will be found, not provided for in the national constitution, to work such changes as the people may and surely will demand.

If Mr. Bryan had been elected to the chief magistracy of the American republic, the possibilities of a tremendous political and social upheaval would have been long postponed, but as matters now stand, they are visibly impending, and those men are but blind guides who in the face of such conditions shall cry peace and safety. For their sudden calamity may fall upon them.—New Orleans-Peayune.

Do Men Ever Understand Women?

There probably never lived a man who didn't flatter himself that he understood women.

"They're a puzzle, of course, to most men," but I think I know a little about them," one hears him say in a lordly, superior sort of way. There is only one answer to be made to this satisfied gentleman. The man who thinks most about women really knows least.

In point of fact, it is impossible for any man, however clever and experienced, truly to understand women. One woman he may learn a little of—very little—and then he is continually taken aback by new developments in her on which he has not calculated; but let him only begin to apply the knowledge so learned to his treatment of another of the same sex, and he will be bewildered and confounded to discover that the same rules will not apply to them both.

Shakespeare, who had a subtler insight into human nature than any writer who ever lived, was right when he said of women: "Time can not staller infinite variety." And it is this very complexity of character, this fleeting change of mood and disposition, which makes her so desperately perplexing to slower-witted men.

To the ordinary man she is a perfectly sealed book.

"I can't make her out at all," "She is a mass of contradictions," "She never does or says what you expect."

These are a few of the plaints made by men about the girls in whom they begin to take a special interest. If she were constructed on the simple lines of a man in mind and heart, her lover would better know how to win her; but in that case, it is to be doubted whether he would care to take the trouble. It is her bewildering and puzzling nature that makes her chief charm in his eyes.

"Do you understand women?" ask a timid youth of a man who had seen the world. "Oh, yes; I understand that there's no understanding them, and that is as far as a man can ever get," was the crushing answer.

Women understand each other with such ease; they read each other's mo-

tives and interpret aright their looks and tones and unspoken speech—it is all such plain sailing to them that they look on with a kind of compassion on a man's blundering ignorance of the sex. That is why a woman who is popular among men is so very often quite the other thing with women. The poor, deluded men who take her precisely at the valuation she intends them to can not comprehend why her own sex can not see her many lovely qualities, and, in their blindness, they completely set down the reason to jealousy. The real fact is that the woman can't deceive women, try as she may. They read her through and through, and estimate her accordingly.

That men never have fully understood women is plain to any one who has made a study of the male novelists' works. Even the foremost names in the profession have this one point of weakness. Their women are admirably painted from the outside. They are charming very often, and attractive and full of grace. They move and walk about the stage and conduct themselves in a lifelike manner enough, but any woman can see that, after all, they are only pasteboard dummies; they lack the touch of Promethean fire that would make them flesh and blood.—Pittsburg Leader.

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