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### CURRENT TOPICS.

James J. Hill, the Great Northern railroad magnate, has contributed an article to the New York Independent on our Pacific coast development, which closes as follows: "The farming community constitutes one-half of the patriotic and intelligent population of the country and a large percentage of the capital. What has congress ever really done for the farmers? Looking back upon its history for the last quarter of a century we do not find any independent legislation to benefit the farming community. This cannot continue indefinitely. If something is not done for this great rural world, producers of so much of natural wealth, the country will hear from them." Coming from a great railroad promoter this admission is decidedly startling unless Mr. Hill is talking through his hat. If congress has done nothing for the farmers it is because the railroad managers would not let their attorneys in congress do something for the farmers besides mailing them congressional apple sauce in the shape of cabbage seeds for flower beds and horse chestnuts for chestnut horses. It is an open secret that the corporations control or own most of the lawyers and two out of three congressmen and senators are lawyers. For this state of affairs, however, the farmers have themselves to blame. They take as naturally to oily-tongued and silver-throated lawyers as a red-headed girl does to a white horse. This is manifest in every legislative body and political convention, and no change need be expected until the farmers assert themselves and force to the forefront the most clear-headed and clean-handed men of their class. That does not mean fancy farmers, who let their farm work out, and political wise-aces who make hay while whittling in front of the country grocery, but men who have good schooling and yet are not ashamed to do their own plowing and reaping. It is the substantial class of real farmers the country will welcome in the halls of legislation and in position of trust that demand inflexible integrity coupled with good horse sense.

The folly of bond voting by towns or counties for private enterprises was never more fully shown than in the results in Kansas counties when towns voted bonds to help build cane and beet sugar mills. Years ago there was a boom in the business and a score or more mills were built at a cost, in some instances, of less than the amount of the bonds given for them. A few years proved that Kansas soil was not adapted to the successful culture of the sugar beet, while the sorghum cane was equally valueless for sugar. Lately the experimental station directors reported in favor of wholly abandoning all experiments. But the aftermath? Naturally, default in interest and court processes to compel the people of various towns to pay

up. Two little places in one county, where \$90,000 worth of bonds were voted, have been called upon to \$8,000 interest money. At one time these were towns of some importance, with thousands of people residing in them. This was in their "boom" days. Now there are less hundreds than there were thousands, the others moved away and the few that are left must shoulder the interest bearing burden. There are some townships, according to the Kansas City Star, where taxpayers will have to pay nearly \$200 each, just on interest account. How will it be when the principal becomes due? "Verily the last stage of that man will be worse than the first," unless he, too, has moved away and left the burden to the jackrabbit reserve. Why the earlier experiments with the sugar beet proved successful enough to justify factory building, while of late years practical results have proven to the contrary, does not clearly appear. But the folly of bounty giving along industrial lines is plain enough. The inevitable result is bankruptcy and a bad name, by which whole communities, and even the entire commonwealth suffer.

Congressman Spalding, of Michigan, has introduced a bill to prohibit the sale of malt or spirituous liquors at any army post or upon any premises used for military purposes. Its provisions are sweeping, and, if enacted, would turn every military reservation into a "prohibition" community. It would not, however, prevent the soldier from crossing the government line and drowning himself in the various brands of bad liquor made especially for his consumption and distraction. Acts of congress or of legislatures cannot alter the appetite of man. The best they can do is to restrict it. Absolute prohibition of the sale of liquor has been a failure wherever attempted. Regulation is the only practicable method of dealing with the drink question. The drinking of intoxicants cannot be suppressed entirely. To reduce it to a minimum is the only sensible object of legislation. It is the almost unanimous opinion of army officers that the post "canteen" is a promoter of temperance in drinking among enlisted men. If the men can get their liquor at home they are less liable to go to excess. If they are obliged to go to "town" for the liquor they fall into dives where wretched stuff is sold them, and where the temptation to drink more than they really desire is greater. The canteen is the enlisted man's "club." Whatever profits are made from the sale of liquor are shared by the "mess." Each man has an interest in the business. Practically, he obtains his liquor at cost. That is the economical side of the canteen system. Considered from the moral standpoint, it is the observation of army officers that less drunkenness and disorder obtain among the men where they drink at the post than where they frequent the saloons. Instead of aiding the cause of abstinence among our soldiers, the abolition of the canteen would increase intemperance. The fact is so thoroughly understood by men who have given the question any attention, that Mr. Spalding's bill will receive small consideration.

It will surprise a great many people to be told that fully \$16,000,000,000 of capital is invested in the farming industry of our country. Yet such is the fact, according to Prof. John F. Crowell of New York, who testified before the industrial commission the other day. He called attention also to census figures which show, according to the latest accounting, that in the varied fields of agriculture nearly 5,000,000 workers are employed. Some reasons why "the farms are left" by the young are indicated in Prof. Crowell's interesting statement to the industrial commission. Thus, while in manufacturing the product per capita is \$893, and in mining \$740, in farming it was only \$290. It is true that when wear and tear and worry are taken into the account of "man on the farm," who has no mortgage to fret him gets a vast deal more out of life than some of his fellow citizens, the annual net product of whose work in cold cash is considerably larger than his own. What Prof. Crowell said as to the need of a proper distributing system of our agricultural products, effective through the markets of Europe, as well as his emphatic remarks regarding over-taxation of the farmer, may well give the industrial commission food for serious thought. It is the farmer who is the mainstay of us all.

With Cecil Rhodes besieged in Kimberley and \$30,000,000 worth of diamonds stored there, according to current report, no wonder the Boers are beleaguering that city so stubbornly. Diamonds are not quite as convenient as gold, but \$30,000,000 worth of any salable article would form a good substitute for a war-chest for any nation. One of the most fantastic features of this picturesque Boer war is the way that man's most precious commodities figure in it. The mines of the Rand, which produce a quarter of all the gold harvest of the world, are already in the possession of the Boers, and here they are besieging the town which yields 95 per cent of the diamonds of the world. And it is only a race of farmers and shepherds that is doing this.

This is too good a retort to pass without mentioning. Senator Hoar provoked several staid senators to smiles by some of his remarks in reply to Senator Beveridge. The latter, in denying the capacity of the Fillipinos, for self-government, said the bulk of them blindly followed their leaders. Senator Hoar tartly replied that Senator Platt of New York and Senator Hanna of Ohio led much larger parties in the United States and their wishes were obeyed with equal zeal.

Governor Lind, of Minnesota, is the only populist in the state house. He is so lonesome in the society of republicans that he has decided to quit when the year is out. There is a string to the determination, however. He can be induced to run again provided the voters agree to elect a few more party associates.

It is stated that 3,000 witnesses will be examined on both sides in the Kentucky gubernatorial contest. Perhaps it would be cheaper for the state of

Kentucky to furnish Goebel with an office than to foot this bill.

The report that Spain will at once fortify the Canary and Balearic islands affords another excellent illustration of the adage about locking the stable door after the horse is stolen.

According to the computation of the Philadelphia Press the price of votes in senatorial contests ranges from \$5,000 in Pennsylvania to \$10,000 in Montana.

When information is wanted about operations of the Treasury department, Secretary Gage is right on hand with the figures.

### WORKINGMEN AND TRUSTS.

It makes us tired to read a lot of anti-trust rot in metropolitan daily newspapers. Some of these great dailies talk awful loud about the iniquitous trust, but you never see a word in one of them about the Associated Press trust—the oldest and cruelest trust in the world. Oh, no! That is different you know. Yet a lot of democratic and republican newspapers and leaders would like to get the members of organized labor tangled up in this fake fight on trusts.

A trust is a combination of men. A union is a combination of men. A law that will prohibit the trust will prohibit the union.

Union men are getting along all right. The past year showed the trades unions more prosperous and their members better paid than any year in a dozen last past. It was also the greatest year for the organization of trusts. A trade unionist would not insist that it was right for him to join a union and wrong for his boss to do the same thing.

The people who are squealing on the trust are the middle men and drummers, neither one of which ever lost any sleep for the troubles of the striking trade unionists.

The two great parties will adopt platforms against the trust this year and then send committees out to "touch" the trust managers for the price to conduct the campaign—and get it, too.

Trades unionists should keep out of this fake fight on the trusts.—Western Laborer.

This is a selfish point of view taken by labor leaders who have not studied the relation of labor to combinations in restraint of trade in all its bearings. They see only the immediate benefit derived by skilled workmen from steady employment at good wages, assuming that the trusts and colossal combinations engaged in industrial enterprises are the chief source of prosperity.

As a matter of fact high wages and steady work simply mean increased consumption and great demand for the product of the factory mill, and increased consumption, as everybody knows, is the consequence of general prosperity. There were trust and syndicate-made fabrics in abundance during the recent era of hard times, but there was light consumption or over production, and hence low wages and little employment at any price.

The baneful effect of the trusts upon wage-workers is exerted in two directions. First, in their ability to close their mills and factories in one locality while running mills and factories producing the same article in another locality. For example, if the tinplate trust should decide to reduce wages it would not make the reduction in all its mills at the same time but would make a beginning with one or two mills, and having closed these mills in case of resistance would continue to operate its other mills in other localities until its rebellious workmen were frozen out or driven in.

In the next place the most serious blow to the interests of labor by trusts is the raising of prices, which always tend to reduce consumption, and consequently reduce the demand for labor, carrying with it a lowering of wages.

The assumption that combinations which control production in any particular line will not attempt to increase

their gains by arbitrarily raising prices is absurd. The raising of wages by the trust concerns has always been followed or preceded by a raise in prices of the trust-made goods and in every instance that increase is very much greater than the increase of the wage fund. The consumer of course always pays the freight and the workmen pay more than their share of the freight because they are more numerous than the employers and middlemen.

The trade unionists may remain indifferent to the abuses of the trust so long as they individually and collectively are not affected, but such a policy would not commend itself to the great mass of toilers on the farm and in the factory who do not belong to the unions.

### France and Reciprocity.

A report from Paris a few days ago stated, on the authority of the French foreign office, that no serious opposition will be made in the Chamber of Deputies to the reciprocity treaty between France and the United States. It was said that the foreign office officials confidently expected the ratification of the treaty. It is a fact, however, that there is considerable opposition to ratification on the part of both the agricultural and the manufacturing interests as well as from the political elements arrayed against the present ministry. It is understood that the agricultural interests object to the clause granting a minimum tariff to imports from the United States, fearing that the vegetable oil industry will be injured, while the manufacturers do not want the competition of American agricultural machinery, bicycles and other forms of American machinery. How much influence this opposition will be able to exert upon the deputies remains to be seen. There is no doubt the cabinet is favorable to ratification. The minister of foreign affairs has so stated and in reporting the official text of the treaty to the chambers he earnestly recommended that it be ratified. It cannot be confidently assumed from this, however, that the treaty is in no danger, since the strength of the opposition has not yet been developed. But perhaps there is greater danger of its failure in the United States senate, where it will probably be confronted by the opposition of several interests which will be more or less affected by it. These, it is to be expected, will unite their forces and their influence and this may prove to be rather formidable. The fact is that interest in trade reciprocity is not so strong as it was a few years ago. The great development in the trade and industry of the country has produced a feeling that the United States has no need to seek the promotion of its foreign trade through reciprocal agreements. The increase of American industrial potency has almost dispelled the fear of foreign competition here and at the same time has created confidence in our ability to successfully compete with foreigners abroad. Hence the reciprocity policy is not now regarded as so important and essential to our commercial expansion as it was thought to be ten years ago.

### Pointed Paragraphs.

The nursery is sometimes a training school for nurses.

The barber accompanies his head work with chin music.

Nervousness is too often but another name for ill-nature.

Don't call a man a fool—he may be foolish enough to fight.

You can always have what you want by wanting only what you have.

A man seldom overrates himself when the tax collector comes around.

The man who wants the earth is invariably the first to growl about his taxes.

The law resembles the ocean in one respect. The greatest trouble is caused by breakers.

Pay as you go—and if you are going to the races hold out enough to buy a return ticket.

Some nervous people with a few dollars and no brains take exercise by making a run on a bank.

A girl may be clever even if she isn't pretty—and at least nine men out of ten will never know the difference.

New Arizona comes to the front with the discovery of a jug filled with petrified whiskey. In after years they'll probably discover a petrified liar in that vicinity.

### Teachers' Examinations.

Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Tillamook County will hold the regular examination of applicants for state papers at his office in Tillamook, on February 14, 15, 16 and 17, as follows:

Commencing Wednesday, February 14, at 9 o'clock a.m., and continuing until Saturday, February 17, at 4 o'clock p.m.

WEDNESDAY.—Penmanship, history, spelling, algebra, reading, school law.

THURSDAY.—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, book-keeping, physics, civil government.

FRIDAY.—Physiology, geography, mental arithmetic, composition, physical geography.

SATURDAY.—Botany, plane geometry, general history, English literature, physiology.

G. B. LAMB,  
 County Superintendent.

"The young Demosthenes from Indiana," as some admirers call Senator Beveridge, recalled memories of Roscoe Conkling in the senate by his speech on the Philippine question. Not since the days of the Utica giant has a written speech been delivered in that body without reference to manuscript or to notes. Senator Beveridge accomplished the rare feat of memory without apparent effort or a serious break. His speech filled seven columns of small type. Washington correspondents who occupied seats in the gallery and followed the orator, having advance copies of the speech, declare that he did not have a note to guide; in every paragraph followed in proper sequence and almost without the change of a single word. The memorizing of a prepared address and its delivery without notes is not in itself an uncommon feat. The difficulty with most noted speakers is to stick closely to their written words. In the excitement of delivery ideas are clothed in garb different from that employed in the cool hours of preparation. Therein lies the secret of a well-controlled memory.

### European Wives of Japanese.

Much has been said about mixed marriages in Japan. On rare occasions they are a success, but this is not generally the case, especially if the wife be the foreigner. I was much interested in a European lady I knew, who had married a Japanese officer. They were a very united couple, and had it not been for the husband's mother, all might have been well. But in Japan a wife is entirely in subjection to her mother-in-law, who makes the most of this authority, in some cases reducing her son's wife into a sort of upper servant. In the present instance, as long as her husband remained at home, his wife was able to do pretty much as she pleased. When, however, the war broke out and he joined his regiment in China, the mother-in-law entirely regained the upper hand. The European daughter had to abandon her European custom, to adopt Japanese dress for herself and her child, to sit on the floor and live principally on Japanese food. So great was the old lady's power and influence that the western woman did not dare to disobey, but had to submit in silence until her husband's return home, when I am glad to say life once more became bearable to her.—Cornhill Magazine.

### TWO LIVE PAPERS.

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and  
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