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OBSERVATIONS.

The Tariff and the Trusts.

It is frequently said that the tariff is a dead issue. It was never more alive, and anti-protectionist sentiments are growing and keeping step with the trusts. The 35,000 traveling men whom the trusts have thrown out of a job are reinforced and outnumbered by every country landlord, every provincial theatre manager, every dealer in goods, and every purveyor of amusements which the traveling men patronize. A trust based on a protected market is bound to charge a price for its product as high as the trade will stand. The price should be based on the cost of production and distribution. When the monopolies are the only dealers in the market, prices will be entirely artificial. They can of course be advanced to that price at which consumers will use a substitute or stop using the goods altogether. Such a course is the only protection consumers have, but it is only resorted to as a matter of necessity except in rare cases, such as the resolutions against the use of tea (and its final destruction in Boston harbor), which were made by the Revolutionary patriots. Any artificial combination intended to shut out the competition of the world and enrich a few at the cost of millions of consumers can not last because just as soon as the millions find out what it is that is shutting off their supplies and turning them into the coffers of the promoters and monopolists they are going to use those constitutional rights which are said to insure liberty and an unobstructed

pursuit of happiness. Not that the trusts are to be destroyed. They conserve energy, cheapen production and distribution and prevent war which is as wasteful in commerce as it is of men. The conference at The Hague is nothing but the consideration of plans for a trust among the nations, for the purpose of an amicable settlement of differences and the agreement to a non-compulsory arbitration board seems likely to be accepted. With the firm establishment of the arbitration principle the Chinese wall we have built around our country will be so much in the way that we will probably have the courage to tear it down

A New Chancellor.

In selecting a man to take Chancellor MacLean's place, the board of regents has a task before it, complicated by the reasons which have led to the resignation of the five chancellors who have severally undertaken and resigned the leadership of the State university. A man of affairs, of experience, of scholarship, of knowledge, of good judgement and with magnetism and force enough to convince a hundred or more legislators every two years that his judgement and discretion are infallible, is the man the regents are looking for. It is not certain they will find him. A man so divinely gifted is worth more than five thousand dollars a year. And such a man, if he be willing to take the salary will hesitate before accepting a mission in which five men of very much more than average ability and scholarship have been misunderstood, have been the victims of politics or of an animosity as persistent as it, is undeserved. The chancellorship of the university of Nebraska, or of any State university, is not an easy job, and the man so heaven endowed as to be qualified for the duties will hesitate a long time before risking the dangers of the position. I do not overestimate the difficulties which the board of regents is looking for a man to conquer. With an exigent faculty, two thousand or more undergraduates steeped in the doctrine that the university is theirs to be governed by them either by resolutions, or in mobs, with a public inclined and urged to oppose this chancellor or that on political grounds by discharged employes, with a legislature whose composition changes every two years, whose knowledge of the needs of a university is always limited and crude, whose willingness to vote the appropriations is tempered and sometimes destroyed by a desire to be known as economical and opposed to appropriations and which has snubbed Chancellor Canfield and Chancellor MacLean because they were so anxious for the welfare of the institution that they were willing to devote their whole time while the legislature was in session to the enlightenment of the various committees

on the needs of the university, its growth, services to the state, and comparative rank among the universities of the country, with all these obstacles in the way of success, it is only prudent in even a confident and capable scholar to pause and reflect. On the other hand, to encourage the man who will finally accept the invitation of the regents, there is the board of regents itself—a devoted body of men who have loyally supported Chancellor MacLean, who, so far as I know has never allowed politics to influence either its discussions or conclusions, and who are absolutely and without reservation to be depended on while it remains as it is at present constituted. But the next election may effect a change. The student body too, while lacking the savoir faire of the more sophisticated eastern schools is composed of earnest young men and women, whose scholarship is as sound as that of the undergraduates of any eastern school in the same grade. Then the people of the state are in favor of higher education. Hundreds of high schools are accredited, which means that their graduates enter the university with no additional examination. At the high school commencement exercises all over the state, every year the principals urge the members of the class to enter the university and the good will of the audiences towards the university is apparent. The faculty of the university is working harmoniously and among its number is an unusual proportion of distinguished men as well as those whose youth is the only reason of their present and temporary obscurity. With these elements in accord, the development of the university is sure and the man who can stay long enough with us to add the impetus of a powerful personality to these forces will deserve his inevitable reward. It is not surprising, however, in view of the number of men who have tried the place and have not entirely succeeded, that the man of genius, who is the only man who can succeed, refuses when he reflects upon the number of his predecessors, to consider the advantages of the invitation the regents will extend to him.

There are certain characteristics which a chancellor, of all men, should possess. The first of these is an ability to get through with an overwhelming amount of business in a short time. A man with a talent for leaving out everything but the essentials of a problem and presenting the subject thus stripped, either to an audience or to a legislative committee or to the faculty, or to a deputation of students, will have already conquered the approaches to the situation. Diplomacy is no longer either so popular or so successful as it was before the entire resources of language had been discovered and its limitations reached. International diplomacy is no longer a straining and coloring of words and

the plain United States ministers have done as much as anyone to demonstrate the value of plain and frank statements. We have passed the youthful stage when we can not bear the truth and the man who adopts, however honest and single hearted he may be, the words and the ways of diplomacy is sure to incur the suspicion of underestimating our Nebraska intelligence. In short, there are certain accomplishments which a chancellor must possess, even if he be lame in dead languages and shockingly uncertain about dates and first editions. He must in addition to the attainments mentioned, know men and that which is neither a boy nor a man, a girl nor a woman—an undergraduate. He needs tact in moderation. (if he uses it intemperately he will acquire the fame of a diplomatist.) He needs courage, confidence and a modest degree of scholarship and an unselfish and constant love of letters. I do not know that we can hire such a man to come and live among us, but whatever honest and gifted man is elected let us determine to encourage him with our loyalty, to let his enemies be our enemies, if their enmity effects the institution, and all in order that we may not add another mortifying page to the history of the chancellors of the university of Nebraska.

The Foot of the Class.

Children who are slow in developing need special attention. In a schoolroom crowded with fifty or sixty pupils it is impossible for even the most conscientious teacher to take the time necessary to quicken the lazy brains into average activity. Superintendent Saylor in his farewell report to the board of education recommends that something should be done for these children. It has been frequently demonstrated that the children to whom figures and letters are mere abstractions, take hold of the responsibilities of life with unexpected firmness and capacity when they leave the schoolroom to earn their own living. For such children the manual training which is slowly being introduced is of great value. They lack imagination and they can not see what the multiplication table and the spelling book have to do with their own lives. To be sure their parents are forever warning them that they will be sure to need just the kind of knowledge the teacher is trying to teach them, but parents are always exhorting and in consequence their offspring becomes biase and almost immune to warnings, rebukes and urgings. But through their fingers, through the actual experience with concrete phenomena, these children who are at the foot of the class, have learned things that no one has taken any pains to teach them. Through the work of their hands they will comprehend the relation of numbers to their own activities and return from