

Mr. Roosevelt objects to the removal of the tariff as a measure against trusts because such removal "would inevitably result in ruin to the weaker competitors who are struggling against them;" and yet in the same message Mr. Roosevelt recommends "the removal of the tariff on coal." What about the "weaker competitors" otherwise known as the independent operators? Will they not be "ruined" by the removal of the coal tariff?

The Weaker Competitors.

Mr. Roosevelt says: "Great fortunes have been accumulated and yet in the aggregate these fortunes are small indeed when compared to the wealth of the people as a whole." Did Mr. Roosevelt expect that the handful of men who have grown enormously rich through the favor of the republican party would be able to gobble up all of the wealth of the people during six years of a republican administration? Give them time, Mr. Roosevelt, give them time, and under republican policies there will be no room for complaint on this line.

Give Them Time.

The Cleveland Leader says that "the Union Pacific Railroad company is to pay pensions to its employes amounting to \$300,000 a year. That is generosity on the part of a corporation which must be commended." Pensions for employes in their old age are all very well in their way; but would it not be better if this corporation paid to all of its employes wages proportionate with the service they render and the corporation's profits? Would it not be better if the employes of all corporations could be paid wages sufficient for them to care for and educate their families and lay by, through their own careful management, a competence for their old age?

Pensions and Wages.

In a speech before the New York chamber of commerce Mr. Roosevelt said: "It is a pleasure to address a body whose members possess to an eminent degree the traditional American self-reliance of spirit which makes them scorn to ask from the government, whether of state or of nation, anything but a fair field and no favor; who confide not in being helped by others but in their own skill, energy and business capacity to achieve success." If Mr. Roosevelt were really as strenuous as his friends would have us believe he would have said something like this in his message, applying it, as he might well have done, to the horde of trust magnates who are clamoring at the doors of the national capitol for the maintenance of the favors they already enjoy and for the bestowal of new favors at the expense of the people.

He Forgot It.

"Ours is not the creed of the weakling and the coward," says Mr. Roosevelt in his message, "ours is the gospel of hope and of triumphant endeavor. We do not shrink from the struggle before us." We have heard much from Mr. Roosevelt concerning this "weakling and coward" business. If Mr. Roosevelt's creed is not that of the weakling and the coward, then why does he hesitate to require his attorney general to deal with the rich rascals in the trusts even as the humblest law-breaker is dealt with? If his gospel is one of hope and of triumphant endeavor, why in his so-called campaign against the trusts has he not provided the people with some genuine reason for hope as to the results of that campaign? If he does not shrink from the struggle before him, why does he not issue instructions to his attorney general to begin proceedings against the violators of the anti-trust law under the criminal clause of that statute?

About Weaklings Et al.

The Boston Post says: "Mr. Roosevelt's idea is to put the screws upon the trusts by proceedings under existing laws and to strengthen the law where it may be found necessary by additional legislation. But this, while eminently desirable, is a slow and long process. There is a shorter way to secure protection for the public against present extortion in the matter of prices, and this is to remove at once the tariff duties on articles controlled by trusts. This would put a stop to the robbery of the people, and meanwhile the president could go ahead with his plan of regulation and publicity." But Mr. Roosevelt is lame even

Mr. Roosevelt's Idea.

on the proposition to put the screws upon the trusts by proceeding under the existing law. He has made no effort to enforce the criminal clause of the Sherman law which is the chief feature of that measure; and although Mr. Roosevelt has pretended to discuss the trust question on the stump and his attorney general has also pretended to take the people into his confidence, neither of these gentlemen, nor any one representing them, has undertaken to explain to the people why the criminal indictment was not employed as a weapon against men who conspire in restraint of trade.

Monopoly Works Ills.

Mr. Roosevelt says that "Of course if in any case it be found that a given rate of duty does promote a monopoly which works ill, no protectionist would object to such reduction of duty as would equalize competition." The American student has been taught that private monopolies work ill and are therefore intolerable; but Mr. Roosevelt who has often pretended to discriminate between good and bad trusts, without ever accepting the challenge to name a few "good" trusts, has fallen into the habit of apologizing for any unpleasant reference to monopolies—hence the reference to "a monopoly which works ill."

Lieutenant Niblack of the navy read a paper before the Institute of Naval Architecture, in which he declared that "guns and methods good enough for 1898 are an invitation today to disastrous and bitter defeat." The guns and methods used by this nation in 1898 appeared to be very effective; but if it be true that those guns and methods are today an invitation to disastrous and bitter defeat, then in the observation of that fact we may begin to realize the remarkable evolution of a world power and the immense activity required on the part of a nation whose talents and energies are to be devoted to war and conquest.

World Power Indeed.

Senator Hanna says: "The tariff is good enough as it is." Senator Allison says: "No tariff legislation will be enacted at the coming session." Senator Allison says that even the duty on coal, which a member of the president's cabinet told us had been smuggled into the tariff, would not be repealed because "it would lead to other propositions for amendment and would open the tariff question up to endless debate." And yet some of the champions of the "Iowa idea" in the Hawkeye State are proceeding under the cheerful impression that the republican congress really intends to do something by way of depriving the trusts of the shelter they find in the tariff.

On one interesting and current topic President Roosevelt's message is strangely silent. The ship subsidy bill passed the senate at the last session. A newspaper dispatch recently announced that Congressman Grosvenor of Ohio had gone to Washington at an early day in order to begin the work of pushing this measure in the house. If this measure is as represented by Mr. Hanna and its other supporters, then it is a good thing and the people should have it. If the measure is as represented by the democrats then it deserves ignominious defeat. In either event it is a very important proposition and was entitled to consideration in the president's message. But not one word relating to the ship subsidy bill will be found in Mr. Roosevelt's recent address to congress. Is it not fair to conclude that Mr. Roosevelt's failure to say something on the ship subsidy bill indicates a willingness on his part to help this bill become a law?

What About the Subsidy?

The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune relates this interesting story: "Speaker Henderson and Representatives Payne and Dalzell were inspecting this morning the improvements which Superintendent Elliott Woods has effected in the house in the recess, and with Mr. Dalzell were a constituent and his nine-year-old son. The little chap was much interested in the chamber and its furnishings, and finally asked what the speaker's rostrum was for. Mr. Dalzell explained, and told the little fellow to go up and sit in the speaker's chair. In a moment the boy returned, his face beaming, and exclaimed, 'It's fine and dandy up there, ain't it?' 'You bet it is, my son,' replied Mr. Dalzell, and then, turning

"Hard to Get There."

to the father, added, 'It's hard to get there, too.'" One may better appreciate Mr. Dalzell's fine humor when he is told that although a few weeks ago he was thought to be one of the leading candidates, if not the leading candidate, for speaker, he has withdrawn from the race recognizing that Mr. Cannon of Illinois, having the aid of Mark Hanna, does not find it "hard to get there."

Once a man asked a neighbor to pasture a calf for him. The neighbor consented, no price being agreed upon. At the end of several months the owner went after the calf and asked the owner of the pasture what he owed him for pasturing the animal. "You owe me \$12," said the owner of the pasture. "That's more than the calf is worth," said the owner of the animal. "All right, I'll take the calf in full payment," said he of the pasture. "No, I'll tell you what I'll do," said he of the calf. "If you'll pasture the calf another month I'll give it to you." The point of this story is that the government pays more rent for mail cars than the cars cost to build.

A High Rent for Mail Cars.

A deputy United States marshal for North Dakota has been sentenced to two years in the penitentiary on the charge of collecting mileage from the federal government when in fact he rode on a pass. It is strange that the government's representatives must go all the way to North Dakota in search of an object lesson, selecting, also, a subordinate official for the sacrifice. It is generally believed that there are many officers in the federal service who charge the government with mileage while enjoying the privilege of free rides. It might be well for an investigation along this line; and if this inquiry resulted in the punishment of influential wrong-doers it would have a far better effect on the service generally than the conviction of an obscure deputy.

Punish the Big Ones.

The Sioux City Journal, a republican paper, says: "There seems to be nothing startling in the suggestion that J. Pierpont Morgan has undertaken to bring order out of financial chaos in Venezuela. If the European powers cannot get the guarantee of Uncle Sam it is not unlikely that they would look upon 'O. K. Morgan' as something almost equally good." Perhaps the republican editor finds nothing startling in the suggestion that the "O. K." of one individual is "something almost equally good" as the guarantee of the great United States government; but there are many thoughtful men who, if they be not startled by this suggestion, will at least recognize in it a very bad sign.

There is Nothing Startling.

The biggest gun in the world will be displayed at Sandy Hook in a few days. This monster weapon is thus described in the New York World: "Without its carriage it weighs 130 tons—260,000 pounds. It will use 1,000 pounds of powder at a discharge to send twenty-one miles a shell weighing 2,370 pounds. A company of soldiers could use it for breastworks if it lay flat on the ground, for it is more than forty-nine feet long and is fifty inches in diameter at the breech. This gun has cost about \$130,000 in the making. Transportation will add \$5,400." This is another and a mighty indication of our rapid advancement toward the position of a "world power." Now we are prepared to kill and slay and the heart of every American citizen must swell with pride.

Now for the Slaughter.

The Washington Post says: "It is hardly known outside of Rhode Island's little bailiwick that the election of a democratic governor there is a defeat for one of the most solidly constructed political machines to be found on this continent. Many years has the republican machine held hard and fast to all that was worth holding. The fact has been generally lost sight of in the hullabaloo over machine methods in such great commonwealths as New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Some people predict that more democratic days are coming for Rhode Island, stronghold that it has been for the republican faith. That may or may not be true, but for a while the Rhode Island republican bosses will have very meager pickings." And it might also be well to remember that this desirable result was accomplished in spite of the fact that the democratic candidate for governor ran upon the much abused Kansas City platform.

The Rhode Island Victory.