

Degrees of Excellence

"I came near getting whipped the other day," said J. A. Best, a traveling man of Indianola. "I roused a man's ire and I thought he was going to make me worst instead of best before I could assure him that I had not offended him. I went into a little country hotel, and when I went to register my name I noticed that the last name was that of J. A. Goode. I promptly put mine underneath, J. A. Best, in my best handwriting, so everybody could see it best and get the contrast good. I had hardly laid down the pen when J. A. Goode stepped up and looked at the register. He turned fifteen colors at once. He jammed his finger down under my name. 'Did you do that?' he demanded, glaring at me as if he wanted to sweep the floor with me. I banded him a little, but he got so warm I made a 'cold fess' as the West Point boys call it, and assured him my name was Best and that I must insist upon the right to register it that way. I guess he thought some country bumpkin was making

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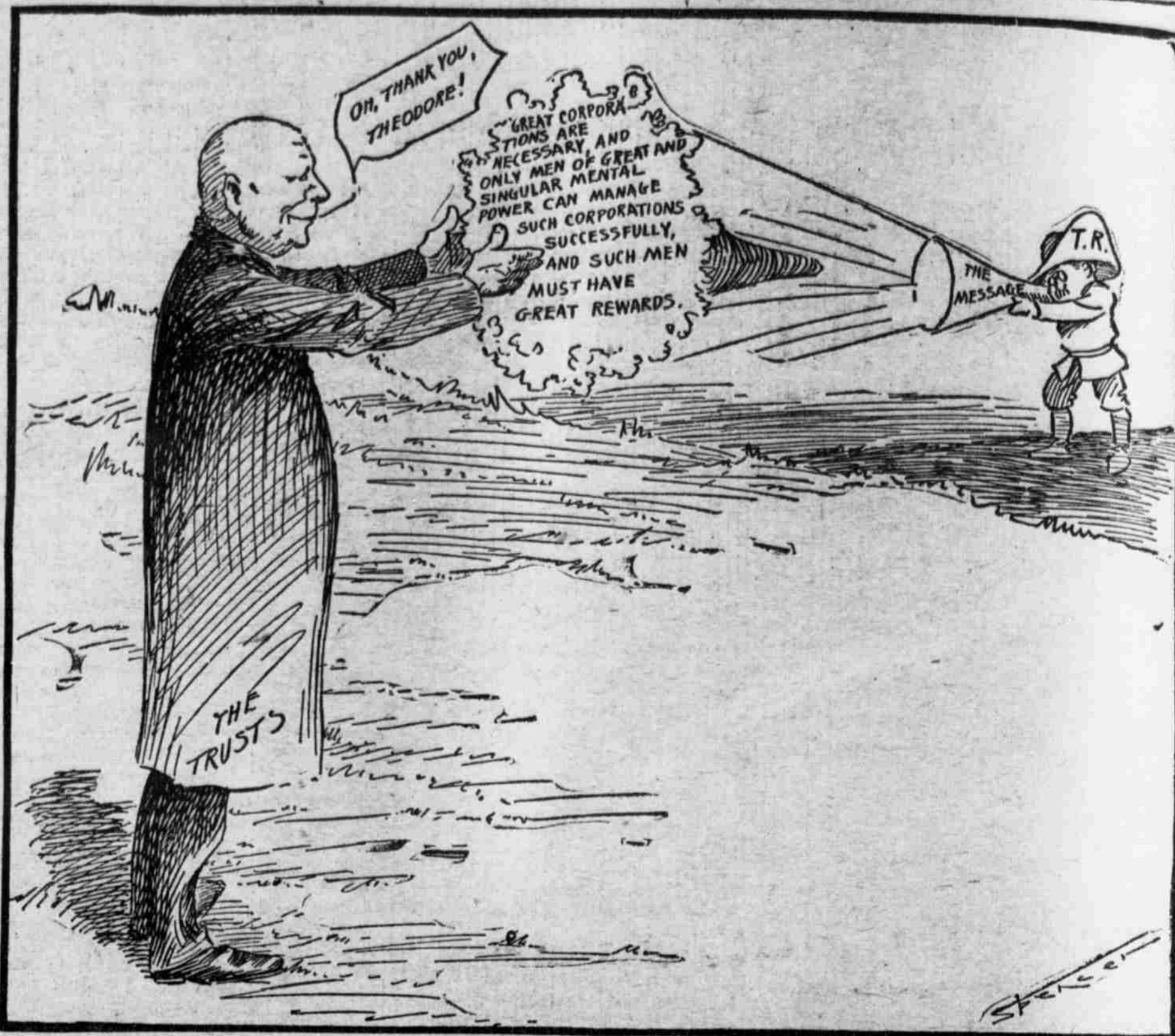
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Some folks claim it was hot shot, but to some it looks like a boquet.

fun of him. At any rate, he proved a very pleasant fellow after the ice was broken.—Des Moines Register and Leader.

An Unheeded Warning

The other day, in a train, one of the numerous clergymen who have recently visited the city of Birmingham entered a third class carriage and sat down in a corner opposite a stout woman, bare-headed, and with a shawl thrown round her shoulders.

The cleric plumped into his seat. "I say, mister," she began just as the He held up his hand.

"My good woman, not another word! I'll have no begging here."

"But, mister—" "I will not hear you. If you insist upon begging from me I'll call the guard."

At the next station the old woman pulled her shawl round her and got out of the carriage. The clergyman looked relieved at her departure. On the platform she turned round, and looking inside the carriage again remarked:

"I say, mister, I just wanted to tell you that a child left his piece of toffee on the seat, and you're sitting on it."—Birmingham (England) Post.

The Mule That Kicked

"You are an hour late this morning, Sam."

"Yes, sah, I know it, sah."

"Well, what excuse have you?"

"I was kicked by a mule on my way here, sah."

"That ought not to have detained you an hour, Sam."

"Well, you see, boss, it wouldn't have if he'd only have kicked me in dis direction, but he kicked me de other way!"—Yonkers Statesman.

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