

point, with respect to the impositions of other trusts, has been considered by other people. But the point does not appear to be considered by many of the judges; and who would have the temerity to criticise the conduct of a judge since we have so often been told, particularly in the campaign of 1896, that the courts were above criticism?

DEATH CLAIMS TWO GREAT MEN

The Commoner is called upon to chronicle the death of two illustrious democrats, men eminent both in statecraft and in party service—men whom the editor of The Commoner was pleased to count within the circle of his personal friends.

Judge John H. Reagan of Texas was the last survivor of the cabinet officers of the confederacy, and, as such, had a warm place in the hearts of the people of the south, but his service to the Union was even more conspicuous than his service to the confederacy. As a member of the United States senate he was largely instrumental in securing the passage of the interstate commerce law. He was a firm supporter of the doctrine that the government has, and should exercise, the right to regulate the railroads, and, on retiring from the senate, he accepted a position as railway commissioner of his state, a position which he occupied until his death. He was a notable figure at the national conventions of his party and was loved by all who knew him. He died full of honors and the world seems darker because his light has gone out.

Senator Bate of Tennessee, whose death has just been announced, was in the same class with Judge Reagan. He went from the military service of the confederacy into official life, first in his state and afterwards in the nation. His was a rare combination of modesty and strength—of sweetness of disposition and force of character. He was not prominent in debate but he had an instinct for the right, and undoubted courage, and was always faithful to the people.

Judge Reagan and Senator Bate were splendid representatives of the highest type of the public servant—alert, able, steadfast and faithful. The democratic party and the nation suffer irreparable loss in their death.

BUT BREWER SAID IT, TOO.

The members of the Brooklyn Bar Association recently greeted with applause the following statement made in an address by Father Edward W. McCarty:

"Aggregations of capital have fastened themselves like filthy toads upon the handsome face of our glorious country. They threaten the manhood of America, and when we can say with truth that corporate interest can throttle legislation, both in state and nation, then is the future of America in peril. Even today, in trying to shake off its poisonous pests from the nation's face, we can see indications of the centralization that looks like empire. After all, if we have to make a choice between Caesar and Washington and corporations here and there over the land, is it not better that we have Caesar, especially if there be red blood in his veins, which is not true of corporations? But we want neither Caesar nor the corporations, and we appeal to your profession, gentlemen, to save us from both."

The Wall Street Journal declares that it does not know whether to be more surprised "by such language from a man of Father McCarty's character, scholarship and eloquence, than at the fact that the members of the bar association greeted it with loud applause." The Journal says that "Father McCarty may safely be trusted in his own calling, but when he undertakes to discuss political economy he soon gets into waters too deep for him." If Father McCarty has drawn a fairly accurate picture, then who will say that it is not the duty of the pulpit, as well as of the press and of all good citizens, to protest?

The Journal intimates that this clergyman stated the case too strongly. But did he state it more strongly than it was described by David J. Brewer, associate justice of the United States supreme court? When in referring to the power and influence which these vast aggregations of wealth are wielding in public affairs—Justice Brewer used language almost identical with that employed by Father McCarty, to whose remarks the Journal takes exception.

Distinguished clergymen have repeatedly defended trusts. They have repeatedly championed, from their pulpits, the policies advocated by the trusts and the candidates nominated by the trusts.

Yet, unless memory is at fault, the Journal has not rebuked these clergymen. The Journal has not insisted that these men refrain from discussing questions of a political character. But when, as occasionally—and sad to say not frequently—a clergyman speaks out in protest against these powerful interests that are preying upon the necessities of the people, they are reminded that "the shoemaker must stick to his last."

When a man whose life has been dedicated to the service of the Master speaks in behalf of an oppressed people, he is "in his own calling," and such "waters" are never too "deep" for any one who has taken to his heart the great principles taught by the Nazarene.

"MASTERS OF THE PEOPLE"

The Philadelphia North American says that intimations have been given that the senators who are hostile to railroad reform believe the public demand for such legislation will have lost its fervor before autumn comes. But the North American reminds these gentlemen that:

"The day has come when the railroads, creatures of the state, do actually in many states control their creators; and there is no hope for redress unless the people use the powers of their own government at Washington. This they are resolute to do. The matter will not blow over. The campaign is not ended. The railroads, in one way or another, this year or next year, are going to be put into the place of servants, instead of remaining masters of the people."

Of course the "campaign is not ended," but these "hostile senators" know just as every other intelligent man knows, that the railroads or the trusts, will not be put "into the place of servants" so long as the people elect to office candidates chosen by the corporations. They know that these men will remain "masters of the people" so long as they are masters of the people's representatives.

The North American has made some strong protests—between election days. If it would make its unquestioned power felt, let it employ its great ability during a political campaign against the party that derives its campaign funds from the trusts and is therefore under pledge to carry out the decrees of the trust magnates.

THE GAMBLING VICE

Of all the vices that afflict the race it is doubtful if any vice is more demoralizing than the vice of gambling for it impoverishes the mind and the morals as well as the purse. A press dispatch tells of a raid recently made on a New York pool-room in which some twenty women were found among the patrons. They are described as "well dressed," "most of them married," "one a white-haired grandmother" and one "the wife of a millionaire." It happens to be women this time, but the papers are full of such items in which men are the principals. Until a few years ago lotteries were chartered in some of the states and permitted to use the mails, and it is but a few months since the guessing contest was prohibited. Even now lotteries are licensed in some European nations and in some of the republics of South and Central America. Missouri has just put an end to licensed betting on horse racing and Ohio did the same thing a year earlier. The stock exchanges are still permitted to rob the unwary but recent investigations are awakening the public conscience and these exchanges will sooner or later be compelled to purge themselves of their speculative features.

The evil of gambling, in whatever form it may appear, is that it cultivates a desire to get something for nothing and substitutes the law of chance for God's law of "reward earned by service." Some bad habits effect only the body, at least in their beginning, but gambling immediately attacks the will and undermines the character. It is a heart disease and paralyzes one's energy. The man who becomes addicted to this vice soon ceases to be a producer because he can not content himself with the slow returns of legitimate effort; then he neglects those dependent upon him and wastes that which he has already accumulated. By this time he is ready to go a step further and use trust funds and cheat those whom he entices into a game. Some times the cheating is done with loaded dice or marked cards; some times by shells and slight of hand; some times it is done on a larger scale by grain corners, wash-sales or by the manipulation of stocks. After swindling comes disgrace and often suicide. Nothing but a higher ideal will prevent one's falling into the habit and nothing but moral

regeneration will restore one who has fallen into the habit. No malady is so difficult to cure as one that attacks the will. Parents ought to warn their children against gambling; ministers ought to warn their congregations against it, and newspapers ought to point out its evils to their readers. Only when one is willing to give to society a dollar's worth of service for a dollar's worth of pay and is as careful to give good measure as he is to demand good measure is he on solid ground. An honest purpose begets honest methods and the two give peace of mind and the best assurance of success in every walk of life.

"SURE," SAID PATRICK

The Wall Street Journal expresses the opinion that if the senate's railroad investigating committee "starts out with the idea of obtaining reasons why there should be no rate regulation, its investigation will be colored by the motive which inspires it."

Has the Journal forgotten that old story wherein Pat took Mike to a cathedral and sought to impress upon him the beauties of the structure? Mike, duly impressed, exclaimed: "Pat, this bates the devil."

Pat replied: "Sure, that's what it's intinded for."

If anyone has any idea that the investigation referred to will not be "colored by the motive which inspires it," he has studied to poor advantage the methods of corporation-owned public officials and the results of "investigations" inspired by such officials.

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