

"GRASP IT LIKE A MAN OF METTLE"

Attorney General Moody has issued to all United States district attorneys a letter of instruction in which he calls upon them to enforce the anti-rebate law known as the Elkins act.

present to the court the desirability of inflicting the penalty of imprisonment "to the end that these unlawful practices which have received almost universal condemnation may be discouraged and prevented as far as existing laws will accomplish that result."

That is the plainest kind of talk and just at this time it will be entirely agreeable to the American people. Walter Wellman, Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, says that this is "the cracker on the whip which the president is wielding over the railroads," and that officials who may be caught in the net now thrown out are to be prosecuted not under the Elkins law which provides for fine only, but for conspiracy with terms of imprisonment staring them in the face if they are convicted.

It is to be hoped that President Roosevelt will act on such lines as these, not merely for the purpose of winning his point with respect to a particular piece of legislation, but in the effort to require influential men to give some consideration to public interests.

ests are all-powerful, they can not long withstand a determined campaign waged by a faithful public official who is backed by public sentiment. To a feather-duster blow these representatives of special interests retort very smartly and they display a thorough contempt for law and authority.

The president and his attorney general deserve commendation for the order referred to. It is to be hoped they will adhere to this policy all along the line. These rich and influential law breakers deserve no more consideration at the hands of the authorities than the cheapest of criminals.

"Tender handed stroke a nettle And it stings for your pains; Grasp it like a man of mettle And it soft as silk remains."

WHO KNOWS?

The Kansas City Star describes what it calls "an edifying spectacle" when it says:

What an inspiring incident is that of John D. Rockefeller, the great Christian philanthropist, evading the officers of the law, who lay in wait for him with subpoenas requiring his presence in court to tell what he knows about the operations of the Standard Oil trust in Missouri.

What a spectacle for the nation to contemplate is this furtive old man, with more money than any other person in the world, surrounded by a body guard, within the confines of his own estate, and fleeing at the approach of every stranger.

What suspicions of conscious guilt might be created by the hunted look, the apprehensive glance, and the whole humiliating attitude of confession and avoidance if these circumstantial symptoms were manifested by a man not conspicuous as a pietist, not a patron of churches and colleges, and not a guide, counselor and friend of United States senators.

With what reason does the Star undertake to fathom the great purposes of John D. Rockefeller? How does the Star know that Mr. Rockefeller is not doing what is best for public interests when he avoids the service of this writ?

It may be that where the editor of the Kansas City Star can see "suspicions of conscious guilt" there is only consecration to the loftiest patriotism. It may be that where the editor of the Star sees "the hunted look" is only the manifestation of anxiety ever uppermost in the Rockefeller bosom lest the public interests suffer.

A COMPARISON

Several years ago the so-called beef trust indictments were brought against Armour and other packers. After several years of delay the packers have gone to trial.

Several weeks ago representatives of Armour complained that two men had extracted letters from the Armour files and had undertaken to blackmail the Armour company for the return of these letters.

It required only about three weeks for the men who had committed an offense against the Armours to be arrested, tried, and sentenced to thirty days imprisonment in the county jail.

Several years have been consumed in bringing Armour and other packers to trial for the

A MICHIGAN SUGGESTION

Owosso, Mich., Oct. 28.—Did you ever stop to think what we as subscribers to The Commoner could do in the way of extending its usefulness if we only set about it? There are perhaps 150,000 of us taking this paper. Now it stands to reason that we are in sympathy with what it advocates or we would not be taking it.

It would mean practically an endless chain of readers of The Commoner and, in my opinion, in a few months time would double the subscription list. Let's try it.

If you have old copies on hand wrap them up in bunches and hand them out to some one who you think will read them. "Keep them moving."

F. J. M'DANNEL.

PUSH IT ALONG

Nebraska City, Neb., Dec. 15, 1905.—To the Editor of The Commoner: My sentiments fully accord with those expressed by Mr. F. J. McDannel of Owosso, Mich.

The Commoner is doing a great work, and we, the subscribers, should not be so selfish as to keep it to ourselves alone; but we should one and all pass it around from friend to friend in order to spread the glad tidings in store for the true old Jefferson and Jackson democracy, exemplifying the true principles of equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

R. H. MILLER.

offenses they have committed against the general public; and, doubtless, many years will intervene before the Armours and their associate packers are required to pay the penalty for their conspiracy against the lives of the people.

Is it not just a bit significant that the poor, helpless and despicable wretches who undertook to extort money from the Armours were speedily brought to trial and promptly thrown into jail,

while the Armours and their associates, who have for years been guilty of outrageous impositions upon the American people are yet at liberty and are, even in the face of the indictments brought against them, pursuing their abominable conspiracy?

Is it not about time that the American people gave the world to understand that in the American view extortion is extortion, and robbery is robbery—whether it be committed by a poverty stricken wretch embarking upon a career of crime or by a coterie of well dressed men who, while posing as leaders of fashion, as promoters of patriotic thought and as representative men in the commercial world have dedicated their lives to the perpetuation of a gigantic system of plunder.

DEPEW AND CORTELYOU

The New York Press is a republican paper. In a recent issue the Press printed the following editorial:

Those gossipers who breathed scandalous reports to the effect that Chauncey M. Depew has resigned his United States senatorship owe him a most abject apology. It was Depew's Equitable directorship that he had resigned. There was nothing left for him to do but get out of that post or be kicked out. Therein he was too much even for Thomas F. Ryan or Paul Morton to stomach.

These are very bitter words, indeed, but the editor of the Press must not forget that Chauncey M. Depew is one of the "defenders of national honor." On the stump in 1896 Depew, like other republican orators, pleaded for republican victory in order that the funds of the "widows and orphans" might be protected.

Should Depew resign? To be sure he should resign. But why should Cortelyou remain in office? And why should the managers of the republican party turn a deaf ear to the demand "put it back?"

Secretary Wilson announces that there will be no shortage of the lime crop. If he refers to the fruit we are not particularly interested. If he refers to the base for whitewash, we are deeply interested. We had begun to fear that the available supply had been about exhausted on Morton, Loomis, et. al.