

the Armstrong committee shows that the maintenance of the 'House of Mirth' at Albany, besides the disbursements of Judge Hamilton and Andy Fields, were paid out of the funds of the big insurance companies."

THE TOPEKA (KAN.) CAPITAL, a republican paper, referring to the democratic nominee for state auditor, says: "It is unlikely that Bill Bowen, who was nominated by the democrats for state auditor, will be elected. Therefore, the people of Topeka will never know what they have missed. Bill is probably the handsomest man in Kansas. He is certainly the champion good looker of northeast Kansas, and has his fellow-townsmen, B. P. Waggener, beaten three ways from the jack. He wears good clothes well, and has perfect taste in the selection of hats, neckties and hosiery. He is young and smart, is a perfect dancer, an unusually clever amateur actor, and is the best judge of a show in his town. In addition he is 'up' in literature, tells a good story unusually well, and knows the batting and fielding averages of every player in the big leagues. They say that since his baby was born he talks too much about it, but otherwise he is an ideal candidate. In three months he would be one of the 'show places' of Topeka, and it is to be regretted that he is a democrat and will be defeated." Maybe he won't be defeated. It is no secret that the republican politicians in Kansas are "sitting up and taking notice" of democratic activity these days.

AT A DINNER GIVEN recently by the New York Civic Federation, William J. Gaynor, one of the justices of New York supreme court, made stern criticism of present day methods of corporation leaders. August Belmont, who was also a guest, made a spirited reply, denying that any of the interests with which he was connected were responsible for violations of law. Among other things Justice Gaynor said: "The community can not, without feeling deep hostility and the necessity for preventive action, look on the doubling, the trebling, of capital put into these enterprises. They are a perpetual tax on the

public. A franchise is granted for 999 years. Think of it! Nine years is a more likely period in these times. Certain rights are given to corporations under the high sounding name of 'public franchises,' which are nothing more than gifts. Dear me, New York is standing a lot of this over-capitalization. These great gifts of the community, which are bonded and stocked and doubled up until the sum is colossal enough to bring the people to realize that something of dishonesty is contained in them, are enough to shock the moral sense of this country. We have just had this great debate on railroads in Washington. The debate was not inspired by hostility to capital, but by the antagonism of the public to gifts being taken away and made perpetual taxes on the community. The iron highways are, and should be in fact, as much public highways as dirt roads are. Realization of this fact is now a thing not to be got out of the minds of the public again. The building of these highways may be by necessity turned over to the management of private individuals. The trouble is that those to whom the gifts have been made should come to the understanding that they are for their own profit first, and the public comes in for second consideration."

REFERRING TO THE trial of Moyer and Haywood, charged with the murder of former Governor Steunenberg of Idaho, Collier's Weekly, says: "So sharply has the public eye been fixed upon this complicated affair that we fancy a fair trial will be assured. Certainly, if the forms of law are not complied with, and if the substance of justice is not done, the country will know of the failure, as plenty of first-class correspondents will watch the progress of the trial. The report of the department of commerce and labor on this case was extremely damaging to the mine owners, practically accusing them not only of lawlessness, but of conspiracy to fasten a crime on labor leaders by perjured testimony. In lawlessness perhaps there is not much to choose between the owners and the workmen, and at any rate the general blame is not in question. It is never wise in the long run to allow popular emotion, local or general to interfere with the course of justice. The case of the Chicago an-

archists is now looked upon rather widely by conservative men as a gross wrong perpetrated to appease a multitude. The Idaho and Colorado situation is notably different, for if the miners are a violent lot nothing better can be said for the owners. The outside world should insist sternly on justice without regard to the relative sins of capital and labor. It is a pure matter of law and evidence relating to a specific crime, and no considerations of sympathy or antipathy, for either body concerned, should be allowed the slightest weight. Idaho has the opportunity to earn considerable credit or immense disgrace. We in no degree prejudice this case. It is complicated and remote. But there are circumstances which raise suspicion of collusion between the mine owners and the authorities, and Idaho owes it to herself that this suspicion should be removed."

THE AMERICAN correspondent for the London National Review gives to his paper the following bit of information: "A few days ago the house of representatives passed the annual pension bill, which carries an appropriation of \$140,000,000, and in presenting the bill to the house the chairman of the committee presented some amazing statistics. Although the war of independence was fought 123 years ago, there are still six pensioners of that war; on account of the second war with Great Britain 8,000 widows are drawing pensions. The civil war is supposed to have cost the country \$6,100,000,000, and already more than half that sum has been expended in pensions. But even more extraordinary is the pension history of the Spanish war. There are now on the rolls more pensioners than the full strength of Shafter's army in Cuba, the only army that heard a Spanish bullet. In the Spanish war there were 6,610 deaths from all causes, including disease, and 9,378 casualties of every description. Yet there have already been filed 69,687 applications for pensions, and the pension office seldom rejects an application. There is no adequate explanation of this anomaly, except the true one, that the pension roll instead of being a roll of honor, is honeycombed with fraud, and that men are drawing pensions who are in nowise properly entitled to them."

President Says:--- "Packing House Conditions are Revolting"

On Monday, June 4, the president sent to congress the packing house report, accompanied by the following message:

"The Senate and House of Representatives: I transmit herewith the report of Mr. James Bronson Reynolds and Commissioner Charles P. Neill, the special committee whom I appointed to investigate into the conditions of the stock yards in Chicago and report thereon to me. This report is of a preliminary nature. I submit it to you now because it shows the urgent need of immediate action by the congress in the direction of providing a drastic and thoroughgoing inspection by the federal government of all stock yards and packing houses and of their products so far as the latter enter into interstate or foreign commerce.

"The conditions shown by even this short inspection, to exist in the Chicago stock yards are revolting. It is imperatively necessary in the interest of health and decency that they should be radically changed. Under the existing law it is wholly impossible to secure satisfactory results.

"The evil seems to be much less in the sale of dressed carcasses than in the sale of canned and other prepared products; and vary much less as regards products sent abroad than as regards those used at home.

"I urge the immediate enactment into law of provisions which will enable the department of agriculture adequately to inspect the meat and meat food products entering into the interstate commerce and to supervise the methods of preparing the same and to prescribe the sanitary conditions under which the work shall be performed. I therefore commend to your favorable consideration and urge the enactment of substantially the provisions known as senate amendment No. 29 to the act making appropriations for the department of agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1907, as passed by the senate, this amendment being commonly known as the Beveridge amendment.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

"The White House, June 4, 1906."

The report is very long and parts of it really

unprintable. According to a synopsis made by the Associated Press the report says that two and one-half weeks were spent in the investigation in Chicago, during which "we went through the principal packing houses in the stock yards district together with a few of the smaller ones. A day was spent by Mr. Reynolds in New York city in the investigation of its leading slaughter houses."

The report says that in many of the rooms where water is used freely the floors are soaked and slimy and the dark and dingy rooms are naturally not kept clean. An absence of cleanliness was found everywhere in the handling of meat being prepared for the various meat food products. The parts that are sent from the cooling room to these departments where various forms of meat products are prepared, are handled with no regard whatever for cleanliness. The workers climb over heaps of meat, select the pieces they wish and frequently throw them down upon the dirty floor beside their bench.

The report says that the radical defect in the inspection system is that passing on the healthfulness of animals at the time of killing, but that the meat that is used in sausage and the various forms of canned products and other prepared foods goes through many processes, in all of which there is possibility of contamination through insanitary handling and further danger through the use of chemicals. During all these processes there is no government inspection although these products when sent out bear a label stating that they have been passed upon by government inspectors.

The report arraigns the sanitary provisions in the buildings as abominable and says the men and women plunge their unwashed hands into the meat to be converted into food products. The report says the burden of protecting the cleanliness and wholesomeness of the products and the health of the workers and improving the conditions must fall upon the national government.

Department superintendents "seem to ignore all considerations except the account book," and proper care of the products and health and comfort of the employes is impossible and the con-

sumer consequently suffers. Tuberculosis victims expectorate on the spongy wooden floors of the dark workrooms from which falling scraps of meat are later shoveled up to be later converted into food products.

"Even the ordinary decencies of life are completely ignored," says the report in discussing the arrangements for men and women employes. The report says:

"The whole situation as we saw it in these huge establishments tends necessarily and inevitably to the moral degradation of thousands of workers, who are forced to spend their working hours under conditions that are entirely unnecessary and unpardonable and which are a constant menace not only to their own health, but to the health of those who use the food products prepared by them."

"In a word," the report adds, "we saw meat shoveled from filthy wooden floors, piled on tables rarely washed, pushed from room to room in rotten box carts, in all of which processes it was in the way of gathering dirt, splinters, floor filth. It was always the reply that this meat would afterwards be cooked and that sterilization would prevent any danger from its use. A very considerable portion of the meat so handled is sent out as smoked products and in the form of sausages, which are prepared to be eaten without being cooked.

"A particularly glaring instance of uncleanness was found in a room where the best grade of sausage was being prepared for export."

The report urged compulsory examination after slaughter; increase of inspectors for night inspection and special work; legislation prohibiting declarations of government inspection on food products unless subject to government inspection at every stage of preparation; prohibiting interstate transportation of any meat or meat food products not inspected and labeled; urges considering the question of specific labeling of all carcasses sold as fresh meat which upon examination after slaughtering shows signs of disease but are still deemed suitable for food; and recommends study of inspection standards of other countries.