

as those corporations confine their business to the state, the federal government can not interfere, but the moment those corporations step across the state line, they come under the supervision of the federal government and congress has power to fix the terms upon which they shall do business. This is a very much better arrangement than to have national corporations superior to and independent of the states. We have trouble enough with overgrown state corporations. We would have still more trouble if we permitted the creation of overgrown national corporations.

The state and the nation—both are necessary—and the doctrine of Jefferson and Jackson is the doctrine that must prevail today. We need no new principles; we only need the courageous application of old-time principles to the new conditions. We need remedies, state and national, but it is not necessary that the nation should encroach upon the rights of the state or the state upon the rights of the nation in order to secure such remedial legislation as is demanded.

### CHINA AWAKENING

A dispatch from Peking announces that an imperial edict was published during the holidays raising Confucius to the same rank as heaven and earth. This edict was issued in order to give the emperor a monopoly of the worship of Confucius. The emperor, acting as the representative of his people, offers sacrifice to heaven and to earth, and the dispatch says that the action of the emperor in issuing this edict is due to the fact that the Christian students in the government colleges object to kow-towing to the tablet of Confucius. Henceforth the emperor will do all the kow-towing and the students will be relieved. When Mr. Bryan was at Shanghai he visited the state school there, and seeing the chapel prepared for the kow-towing which was to take place next morning, he arose early and went out to witness the ceremony. He was disappointed to find that for some reason not given the ceremony did not take place. It was rumored then that it was losing its hold upon the students, and this rumor seems to be substantiated by the edict of the emperor. This edict is an indication of the progress which China is making in the adoption of western ideas. The Christian religion is making headway against the doctrine of Confucius, and in proportion as religion takes the place of Confucianism, China may be expected to rise in civilization. It is the boast of the Chinaman that the Chinese people live up to the ideals of Confucius. That in itself is a sufficient condemnation of those ideals, for an ideal which is fully embodied in the life is not as high as it ought to be. It is the glory of the Christian ideal that struggle as we may, we can only approximate to it, not reach it, for while it is within sight of the lowliest and the humblest, it is so high as to keep the noblest and the best with their faces turned ever upward.

### THE SHIP SUBSIDY

The advocates of a ship subsidy, like the advocates of the asset currency, hope to rush their measure through before public opinion has a chance to act upon it. When Secretary Root went to South America it was generally supposed that the object of his visit was to cultivate more intimate relations between this country and the southern republics. It now seems that the real purpose of his trip was to fortify his arguments in favor of a ship subsidy. Whether the advocates of a subsidy will be content to begin with subsidizing the lines to South America or will insist upon a complete system of subsidies remains to be seen. The democrats will naturally and logically oppose the subsidy scheme whether it is presented by piecemeal or as a whole. There are two kinds of aid which the democrats could consistently favor. There is the aid which could be given through discriminating duties. A deduction of duty on articles brought into the country in American bottoms would give to the ship-owners an advantage without an additional tax upon the people, but those who oppose tariff reduction would, of course, oppose this breach in the tariff wall.

The other plan is to put into transports a part of the money that is now put into warships and let the transports be run to southern ports by the government or leased on terms which are equitable for us in building up a mail and trade line. A few ships will be sufficient to establish regular communication between North and South America. The service on such lines could be made a training school for seamen and public

interests could be properly protected in the contracts.

There are two kinds of government aid to an industry. One kind is illustrated in the agricultural experiment stations. The government at its own expense experiments on matters connected with agriculture, horticulture and stock-raising and gives to the public the benefit of its experiments. The results of its work are open to all and are an instruction to all. This is a legitimate use of government money. The government is under no obligation to continue an experiment when it proves unsuccessful, and no one can monopolize the benefits which flow from a successful experiment. The establishment of a government line of boats either directly or through lessees would be in line with the experiment station. The government's success or failure would be instructive and no one would be able to monopolize the benefits. The second way of giving the government aid is to subsidize. This taxes the public for the benefit of a few, and the few who receive not only monopolize the benefits but insist upon the continuation of the system. The protected industries are now demanding higher duties than were demanded in the beginning of the century. Instead of being strengthened they have been enervated, and the country has to go through a life and death struggle to get the public teats out of the mouth of one of its pampered infants. So it will be if we enter on the subsidy scheme. A little subsidy now will mean a bigger subsidy in a few years, and the steamship lines built up by subsidy will threaten to die if they are left unsupported. A protective tariff and a steamship subsidy are one in principle. Those who believe in taxing the many for the benefit of the few are likely to favor both. Those who believe in the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none will favor neither. The argument that subsidy is only temporary ought not to deceive anyone. The time will never come when a subsidy once granted can be withdrawn without a struggle, and the more successful the subsidy has been in building up the favored industry, the more difficult will it be to repeal the law.

### CIVIL PENSIONS

The National Civil Service Reform League has recently made public the result of its study of the subject of civil pensions. There are now several bills before congress providing for pensions or superannuated government clerks, and the various state governments are continually importuned to provide for pensions for state and municipal employes. The Civil Service Reform League finds that it would cost about twenty-five millions a year to provide pensions for all the employes in the government service, whereas the government's loss from the inefficiency of its employes who are above sixty-five amounts to but one million two hundred thousand a year. The investigation which has been made and the facts brought out will be useful when these bills are considered in the state and nation.

### SAGACITY

The editor of our esteemed contemporary, the Washington Post, was guilty of a mental lapse the other day when he wrote the editorial on "Statesmanship and Sagacity." He said: "Here is Mr. Bryan indorsing the Beveridge child labor bill. He thinks he sees in child labor an evil. Well, given an evil, and Mr. Bryan would abate it by act of congress, however unconstitutional. If congress can curtail interstate commerce by enacting the Beveridge bill, it can eradicate interstate commerce by some other bill. It is madness, from the standpoint of the old-fashioned democrat, to suppose that the constitution clothes congress with such autocratic power. Child labor is an evil, we make no doubt, but not an unmixed evil. A boy ten years old, helping to plant corn and dropping pumpkin seed, is to be envied rather than commiserated. It would be as stupid as it would be despotic to forbid a railroad to carry a bushel of corn from state to state because the seed of which it was the yield had been 'dropped' by a boy of twelve. Had that been the law, Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, Andrew Johnson, and many other of our greatest and best public men would not have received that discipline in childhood that made them pillars of the state in manhood. Mr. Bryan is a brilliant man, and by many looked upon as a matchless statesman and peerless orator. He is the best advertised private citizen in the world, and Mr. Bryan would be a pretty considerable man if nature had not denied him the quality of sagacity. And sagacity is pretty nearly indispensable to a leader of a po-

litical party in a country that adheres to universal manhood suffrage."

If the editor of the Post will take time to read the Beveridge bill, he will find that the child labor at which the bill aims is labor in mines and factories. It does not cover labor upon the farm, and there is a reason for the distinction which is thus drawn between labor in mine and factory on the one side and labor on the farm. In the first place labor upon the farm is not confining like labor in the factory and in the mine. And second, labor on the farm is generally in the summer time when school is not in session. Third, the child is at home and under the care and oversight of parents who have the highest possible interest in his welfare. The work that the child does upon the farm during vacations and before and after school hours is a work that develops; the work that a child does in mines and factories stunts the growth and dwarfs the intellect. It does not require much sagacity to see the difference between the two, and it only requires ordinary care to read and understand the Beveridge bill.

Neither need one be a latitudinarian to favor the exercise of the federal congress in the control of interstate commerce. Instead of having a "supreme contempt for the old democratic gospel that the government at Washington is one of delegated and restricted powers" Mr. Bryan believes thoroughly in that doctrine, but he will not be deceived by those who spend their time looking for reasons to support inaction when a great evil is to be dealt with. Child labor is a great evil, and while each state has a right to deal with the subject as it will, the federal government has a concurrent remedy which it can employ. Senator Beveridge has embodied this remedy in a bill which does not in any way trespass upon the rights of the states. The people of a state can permit the employment of child labor if they will, but congress has a right to say that they shall not use that child labor to make the child labor laws of other states ineffective. The principle embodied in the Beveridge bill is exactly the principle endorsed in the anti-trust plank of the democratic platform of 1900. Every democrat in the senate and house ought to support the Beveridge bill, and then the principle of the Beveridge bill ought to be applied to the trust question. The editor of the Post is respectfully invited to examine the bill and the constitution and then take his position among the supporters of this important and necessary measure.

### DID NOT SAY IT

The Sioux City Journal has an editorial based upon the claim that Mr. Bryan said: "Such a high honor as the presidential nomination is something that no American citizen should decline." The Journal's editorial is all very interesting to be sure. But the sentence quoted by the Journal was not employed by Mr. Bryan. He simply stated in Topeka what he stated elsewhere, that he was not ready to make an announcement on the nomination. Whether a nomination should be declined or accepted depends on conditions under which the offer is made. The platform is a matter to be considered; the character of the organization is also important, and the general line to be pursued in the campaign can not be ignored. The platform ought to fit the issues; the candidate ought to fit the platform, and the party organization should be in harmony with the party's purpose.

### INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

The Referendum News gives a resume of the results accomplished for the public's interest since the adoption of the initiative and referendum in the June election in Oregon. The News says:

"Here is what the voters of Oregon have accomplished since they shook off machine rule by establishing in themselves a veto power through the optional referendum and a power to initiate measures by petition.

"The establishment of the system was completed early in 1904, petitions were immediately circulated by the people, one for a direct nominations system and the other for local option on the liquor license question. At the referendum election both measures were adopted.

"The next election was held in June, for which ten initiative petitions were circulated and sufficient signatures secured for their submission. Five of these were proposed by the People's Power League and are as follows:

"A constitutional amendment for the initiative and referendum for ordinances in cities,