

unfortunate of late in its United States senators. This reflection is induced by the demand started by the Central Federation of Labor of Washington that Senator Borah of Idaho, now under indictment, shall also be put under arrest and forced to give bail. This demand will very shortly be re-echoed by every central labor union in the country, as Borah has brought down upon his head the antagonism of labor unions by his prosecution of Haywood.

Senator Borah was indicted for complicity in land frauds, the indictment, of course, being found by a federal grand jury. The ordinary course of procedure is that the man indicted shall be arrested and held under bail until the trial may be had. Indictment does not necessarily mean guilt or conviction and one of the unfair things about American public sentiment is that too often mere presentment by a grand jury is held to put a stigma upon a man's name. However, it is apparently the purpose of the labor organizers to insist that, pending the termination of his case, he should not be permitted to return to the senate chamber. There is nothing except senatorial etiquette and a certain precedent having no foundation in law that would enable enforcement of this demand. True, the two republican senators, Mitchell of Oregon, and Burton of Kansas, who suffered indictment and conviction did, through motive of some personal self-respect, refrain from attempting to take their seats. But either could have done so prior to conviction had he chosen. Burton went as far in the direction of brazen effrontery as the senate has ever known, by stepping just inside its door in order that he might technically be held in attendance and collect his mileage.

The Borah incident is likely to embarrass the president, as he has it in his power to demand that the regular process of law in the United States court of the district of Idaho shall be complied with even though a prominent republican wheel-horse and the boss of the party in that state is thereby made to suffer.

The treasury department reports itself "hard up," and towns and cities all over the United States which have been expecting to see ground broken for public buildings this summer are doomed to disappointment. And this although the receipts of the treasury are greater than ever before and with a fair promise that the surplus at the end of the fiscal year will reach \$80,000,000.

Why, then, should appropriations made for public buildings be held up? The treasury officials answer that it is because the bids put in run from twenty-five to fifty per cent higher than in past years. They further say that the money will be saved up until "labor" shall "be begging for jobs instead of jobs going begging for labor."

Let us consider these propositions: An overflowing treasury can not carry out the plain dictates of congress because the tariff has so increased the price of building materials that no building can be put up within the estimated cost. So the administration which applauds this tariff will defer putting up buildings ordered by congress until "labor is begging for a job."

Yet the tariff was created and is maintained for the protection of American labor.

Meanwhile steel magnates, lumber barons, protected persons of high degree are erecting palaces that eclipse those of Europe. Labor cost, and material cost does not bother Carnegie or Schwab, Clark of Montana, Walsh or Frick. Every day's paper tells of a new million dollar residence building for a protected millionaire.

But the United States government is too poor to put up \$50,000 postoffices in western towns because labor is too well paid.

The truth will out. In spite of glowing reports issued by the presidentially appointed governors of our colonial dependency in the Atlantic, it now transpires that all is not well. Porto Rico does not seem to be enjoying the benefits of our benevolent assimilation. The promises of General Miles when he invaded Porto Rico have not been fulfilled. In the first place Porto Rico by casting in her lot with the United States became commercially an out-cast from Spain and countries with whom Spain had tariff arrangements. She expected to offset this trade law by the new markets that she would find in the United States. But the republican administration listened to American sugar interests and to the American merchants who previously supplied us with the products that Porto Rico produced. In consequence the constitution did not follow the flag, Porto Rico was not admitted within our custom's boundary, but on the contrary a fifteen per cent tariff was levied against her imports into this country and against our exports to her. Such was our first step in benevolent assimilation. The degree of

self-government allowed to her was similar to the amount of commercial freedom, that we gave her. While she can elect her assembly all measures desired for the people of Porto Rico must first receive the acquiescence of the six Americans appointed by the president to administer the various departments of her government. She is as much a ruled colonial dependency of the United States as India is of England. She has not the self-government of Canada or Australia and today she is on the verge of ruin because of the tariff policy that the United States has pursued as far as she is concerned.

Senor Don Jose de Diego of Porto Rico is here to present to the state department certain claims of the island. He says that many of his countrymen have told the president what he likes to be told but that he will tell him the truth about Porto Rico. He says that in the first place Porto Rico wants citizenship or self-government similar to that given Canada by Great Britain. He further says that if the proposed French tariff law becomes effective it will bring the death to the prosperity of Porto Rico unless Porto Rican coffee is given a preference in American markets over the present importations of that article from other countries.

WILLIS J. ABBOTT.

**A LETTER THAT EXPLAINS A GREAT DEAL**

More and more the real inwardness of the government's railroad and trust policy is coming to light. Each disclosure makes it more apparent that this policy has its origin not so much in conviction as in expediency. It is the work of "practical men." It is formulated by the politician who is feeling the pulse of the people. It is, apparently, not intended so much to regulate the corporations as it is to make a show of doing so, which will head off any real attempt.

Here is an extract from a letter addressed to H. H. Kohlsaat, of Chicago. The letter is dated "Oyster Bay, N. Y., August 7, 1899."

After some personal matters this remarkable epistle says:

"How about trusts? I know this is a very large question, but more and more it seems to me that there will be a good deal of importance to the trust matter in the next campaign, and I want to consult with men whom I trust most as to what line of policy should be pursued.

"During the last few months I have been growing exceedingly alarmed at the growth of popular unrest and popular distrust on this question. It is largely aimless and baseless, but there is a very unpleasant side to this overrun trust development, and what I fear is, if we do not have some consistent policy to advocate then, that the multitudes will follow the crank who advocates an absurd policy, but who does advocate something.

"Have you thought enough about the matter to say whether any legislation, and if so, what, should be undertaken, or whether there is any other remedy that can be wisely applied? Faithfully yours,

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

It will be observed that the distinguished writer is not so much "alarmed" because the trusts are robbing the people as he is that the people are showing "unrest" and "distrust," which, he says, is largely "aimless and baseless," because they are being robbed.

His "fear" is not that the corporations will continue this exploiting policy, but that, if the republicans do not make a play to allay popular discontent, "the multitudes will follow" somebody "who does advocate something."

In the writer's mind, anybody who really did "advocate something" that meant anything would, of course, be a "crank," but this appellation would not apply to any one who merely made a show for the purpose of quieting "popular unrest" and "distrust."

This is the attitude of the opportunist and politician.

That it applies not only to the trusts in general, but to the railroad policy as well, is made plain in this statement, which, Kohlsaat says, was made by his bosom friend Roosevelt:

"I believe the time has come when we must have federal supervision or federal control of railroads. I am utterly opposed to the government ownership of railroads. However, I believe that, if we do not get government supervision or control, the radical demand for government ownership, will come with force and, perhaps, sweep the people along with it."

In other words, the railroads must be regulated not because they are doing wrong, but

because the people may become dissatisfied and clamor for government ownership.

If the people wonder why, after all the noise that has been made, the government has actually done nothing against the trusts and railroads, they have the explanation here.—New York American.



**WHAT DOES IT PROFIT THEM?**

Hear the foolish people grumbling at the wind and at the rain;  
They complain about their losses or the little that they gain;  
They are fretting under burdens that have bent their shoulders low;  
They are mourning for the chances that they missed long, long ago;  
Thinking all the world is drear,  
With sad faces they appear;  
But what profits are they gaining for the sadness that they show?

See the foolish people frowning as they hurry on their ways,  
They have neither time for smiling nor for giving others praise;  
They are thinking of their sorrows, which are always multiplied;  
They are bearing woes that ever in their minds are magnified;  
They are hurrying along,  
Thinking all that is wrong;  
But what profits are they gaining for the joys they put aside?

Hear the foolish people grieving over fancied slights and wrongs;  
They decline to search for gladness and they hum no hopeful songs;  
They are looking out for evils and forgetting in their haste  
To perceive the glowing splendor of the precious days they waste;  
Burdening themselves with hate,  
They are cavilling at Fate;  
But what profits are they gaining for the bitterness they taste?

See the foolish people passing joys they have the right to share;  
They are busy hunting trouble, they are clinging to despair;  
They go peering into corners in their search for sin and shame;  
They are blind to all the beauty that surrounds them; full of blame  
For the man whose look is glad,  
They pass onward, bowed and sad;  
But what profits are they gaining for the glee they will not claim?  
—S. E. Kiser in Chicago Record-Herald.

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