

be any other entity; and the identity of experience is the key to its storehouse. Is it possible that we have to be aroused to its value?

Math. Schwartz, St. Henry, Ind.—The people do not get what they want because they do not rule; it is the republican party that rules—the party of the trusts and of the special privilege classes, and as long as the republican party is in power the people need not expect to get what they want. Because it is in the interest of the rich that the working masses are kept down, for if the working masses become independent then they will not work for the rich at, or for, starving wages. If the American people were not quite so humbugged as they are they might get what they want.

George W. Taylor, McKinney, Tex.—One of the main reasons why the people fail "to get what they want" is attributable to "lobbying and bribery." It is said often of our representatives and congressmen, when they commence campaigning for a position, that they are duly honest and men of integrity. But when they go to state capitals and the national capital where they are exposed to these experts in the lobby business they are so often led to forget their promises to the loved ones at home, we are almost ready to decide with the fellow who said: "A man can not go to the legislature or congress and make any money unless he sells out." But when a fellow goes and comes home with a bank account two or three times as large as his salary, people wonder "how he got so much for his influence." It seems that the influence brought to bear upon our men is too powerful for resistance. For that reason I favor electing men to these offices and protecting them from the lobbyist during their entire stay as representatives either state or national. On with your fight for reformation. Abundant success to The Commoner.

D. W. Hunt, Glendale, Calif.—A most pertinent and pointed question, as well as reasonable in a supposed republic-democratic government. First, this government was, is, an ideal star in the direction of a government for the people, but as Washington and our forefathers too well knew Washington became fully aware that the populace were not at all prepared for or able to appreciate the new era he had in store for them, as was plainly evidenced by his dropping the intended United States and leaving us only a confederation of colonies (states) as we had existed

under the king, to which position the south strictly adhered, until the civil war, which settled the question and cemented us together as a United States. Again, second, we are and never have been anything only a representative government, allowing our representatives, officials, to think and act for us, trusting to him implicitly and abiding by his judgment, and he has done his best from his standpoint, but we are learning, developing, and hence demanding of our officials, first, a statement of principles as enunciated in the party platforms, and, secondly, a strict compliance with these statements as an official in his service for the public—nothing more fully points out this awakening than of the public, even among the higher ups, than does Colonel Roosevelt's conversion and his swinging from the tail of Bryan's kite, in his recent statements of needed reforms and practical changes in the demands we ought to make such as the holding of our representatives strictly responsible for the rights of the whole people, in the construction of law, and if such is not in line with a republican democracy, should be so changed as to be consistent with our best interests of the masses, moreover that such officials should be under the rigid inspection of the public at all times during his official acts—his recent demand for nationalism is in the same line, also the very same that Mr. Bryan outlined in his New York speech on his return from his continental tour, which so disgusted the central national democratic committee that they endeavored to prevent his delivering it. The fact that within three months after these remarkable statements of Bryan in his speech no less than five or six railroad presidents came to the president of the United States, asking protection of their interests, proved most conclusively that Bryan was level headed and knew what his statements meant to the business of our country. Very recently Mr. Morgan's financial manager, Mr. George Perkins, in a talk he made in a business men's gathering, said the time had come for the government control of large corporate interests. There is so much greed and one-sided thinking, selfish financing measures, but a demonstrated fact that we must have an unbiased control of the public's rights in the interest of all concerned. This he would not have said six years ago, but now demands it as the only fair way of administration. When this comes to pass, then and not until then, can we bravely assert we are a government of the people, an ideal democracy, the people getting what they want through righteous representation.

combined wealth of these two great corporations sinks into utter insignificance in comparison to that represented by the 1,198 other corporations and their 8,110 subsidiary companies, every one of which is prima facie in defiance and under the ban of the Sherman anti-trust" act in identically the same way as are the two corporations against which the government has brought suit.

It therefore follows that an order dissolving these two would mean the dissolution of 1,198 other corporations. These 1,198 other corporations have a capitalization that reaches to the gigantic sum of \$13,000,000,000—an amount equal to about one-third of the total wealth of the German empire.

Largest Corporations Affected Upon the fate of the Standard Oil and the Tobacco trust hangs that of the United States Steel corporation with its \$950,000,000 of capital and its eighty-nine subsidiary corporations; upon the outcome of the two suits depends the continuance or disintegration of the Amalgamated Copper company and its \$155,000,000, the International Mercantile Marine and its \$120,000,000, the American Smelting and Refining company and its \$100,000,000, the sugar trust and its \$90,000,000, the American Telephone and Telegraph company and its \$300,000,000, the Interborough and its \$155,000,000, the Western Union and its \$125,000,000 the Consolidated Gas company and its \$100,000,000, the General Electric and its \$80,000,000 the Mackay companies and their \$100,000,000, the Pullman company and its \$100,000,000, the Westinghouse Electric and its \$60,000,000 and so on throughout the eleven hundred and odd others who are equally involved with the Standard Oil and the tobacco trust.

These, then, are the tremendous amounts which depend upon the supreme court's interpretation of the Sherman anti-trust act. Section 1 says:

"Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy in restraint of trade or commerce among the several states or with foreign nations is hereby declared to be illegal. Every person who shall make any such contract or engage in any such combination or conspiracy shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the court."

From this it will be noted that every contract or combination in the form of trust or otherwise is illegal, if in restraint of trade. Furthermore fine and imprisonment are decreed against every person who shall monopolize, or attempt to monopolize or combine or conspire to monopolize any part of the trade or commerce among the several states or with foreign nations. Of the 1,198 corporations whose future now depends upon the decision of the supreme court, few, if any, confine their activities to a single state.

For a matter of twenty years the Sherman anti-trust act has been upon the federal statute books. In previous cases the courts, while sustaining the constitutionality of the law, have limited their observations to the cases in hand and gave no clue to the application of the act in other cases, actual or possible. But now the issue has been made clean cut. Random suits have hitherto been instituted but now for the first time comes the broad test which means the enforcement of the non-enforcement of the act. Mr. Roosevelt's dictum, when he was president, that only "bad trusts" should be prosecuted and the "good trusts" excused, is thus commented upon by

the American Banker in a recent issue:

"That criminals of any kind should be divided into 'bad' and 'good' is a solecism in itself. That, further, any official, whether actuated by ex parte information, dislike of persons, popular prejudice, blind obligation to friends or supporters or even personal interest, should be in the post-

BEST BUSINESS on earth for Agents. Non-Explosive Safety Lamp Burner. Sample Free. 50 other new fast sellers. Phoenix Mfg. Co., Newark, N. J.

Christmas Post Cards Free Send me two 5c stamps and I'll send you 10 beautiful Christmas Cards and tell you about my big SURPRISE. E. T. MEREDITH, 719 Success Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa

PATENTS SECURED OR REF. RETURNED. Free report as to Patentability. Illustrated Guide Book, and List of Inventions Wanted, sent free. VICTOR J. EVANS & CO., Washington, D.C.

ECZEMA CAN BE CURED. My mild, soothing, guaranteed cure does it and FEEL: AMPLE proves it. STOPS THE ITCHING and cures to stay. WRITE NOW—TODAY. DR. CANNADAY, 174 PARK SQUARE, SEDALIA, MO

ASTHMA CATARRH CURED! 50c Package FREE!



If you suffer with Catarrh or Asthma, I want you to try, at my expense, my "Home Treatment," which is making so many wonderful cures of chronic and acute cases. I know what it will do and am therefore willing to stand the expense of proving my claims. I could not afford this if my remedy did not cure. No matter what you have tried, don't despair but send me your name AT ONCE. My remedy will cleanse your system of all impurities and stop that dripping in throat, hawking and spitting, heal the scabs in nose, prevent gasping for breath and sleepless nights. The deadly germs of consumption breed nowhere so easily as in the foul slimy of Catarrh and Asthma. Send your name and address and I will mail you FREE a 50c package in plain wrapper and book. T. GORHAM, 1026 Gorham Bldg., Battle Creek, Mich.

FREE TO THE RUPTURED

A New Home Cure That Anyone Can Use Without Operation, Pain, Danger or Loss of Time.

I have a new Method that cures rupture and I want you to use it at my expense. I am not trying to sell you a Truss, but offer you a cure that stays cured and ends all truss wearing and danger of strangulation forever. No matter whether you have a single, double or navel rupture or one following an operation, my Method is an absolute cure. No matter what your age nor how hard your work, my Method will certainly cure you. I especially want to send it free to those apparently hopeless cases where all forms of trusses, treatments and operations have failed. I want to show everyone at my own expense, that my Method will end all rupture suffering and truss-wearing for all time. This means better health, increased physical ability and longer life. My free offer is too important to neglect a single day. Write now and begin your cure at once. Send no money. Simply mail coupon below.

Free Treatment Coupon Age..... Where Ruptured..... Cause of Rupture..... DR. W. S. RICE 63 Main St., Adams, N. Y. Send me your free Rupture Treatment Name..... Address.....

Oil and Tobacco Trust Cases

Involving \$13,000,000,000 and Applying to 1,198 Big Corporations and 8,110 Subsidiary Companies Before the October Term of U. S. Supreme Court

(From the New York World) Consequences so enormous that they can hardly be appreciated or fully comprehended depend upon the outcome of two suits which are on the calendar of the United States supreme court for the October term, but which may go over another term on account of the recent death of Solicitor General Lloyd Bowers. The vast and varied extent of the interests involved makes these two suits the most important of any that have appealed to this court of last resort. The suits are the ones which the United States government recently instituted against the tobacco trust

and the Standard Oil. If only the corporate existence of these two corporations were involved, if only the dissolution or the integrity of the two depended upon the issue, the result, great as these two corporations are, would be comparatively of little consequence—would be relatively as nothing in comparison with what an adverse decision would mean to the numerous other "holding" companies of this country. When one thinks of the enormous accumulation of wealth the mind reverts instinctively to the Standard Oil and its subsidiaries. The capital of the tobacco trust also runs into the hundred millions. But even the