

counting. Corporations are creatures of the state. They have no authority to issue stocks and bonds or securities in any form except as the state vests them with power to issue the same. There should be a law against the issuance and sale of watered securities, unless on the face thereof the amount or percent of water therein is accurately stated."

A GOOD JOKE on a clergyman, Rev. Elmer T. Clark, a University City, Mo., pastor, was told by his ministerial brethren and reported by the St. Louis Republic. The report relates to an address Dr. Clark made before a ministers' conference and the Republic says: Dr. Clark, in his address, which was very scholarly, quoted Sir William Ramsay, one of the greatest living authorities on Asia Minor, to the effect that profanity is a mark of development and a sign of civilization. "Whenever Sir William found a community," he said, "during his travels in Asia, where the people used profanity, he considered that it was a mark of development, because usually the uncivilized natives in expressing their anger used language that was unspeakably vulgar. And as these people became more civilized they dropped their vulgarity and became profane." Just previous to making this address, Dr. Clark went into a barber shop to get a shave. In the course of it he was considerably annoyed by a group of men using profanity. When the shave was over, the clergyman rose very angry. "I hope you will come in again, Doctor," the barber invited. "No, I don't think I shall be likely to come in again," said Dr. Clark, "I don't care to listen to such profanity as I have heard here." After the address of Dr. Clark before the conference had been published in the Republic, the barber cut out the article, underscored it, according to his interpretation of it, and mailed it to Dr. Clark, with the observation, "I think you can come in now, Doctor."

CHARLES A. KEENE of New York, an independent watch dealer, appeared before the house committee on ways and means and urged a flat rate of twenty per cent duty on all watch cases and the unassembled parts of watches. Mr. Keene declared that he had been driven out of business by the watch trust because he bought American watches abroad and sold them in this country at a lower price than they were sold here by the trust. The Washington correspondent for the New York Journal tells the story of Mr. Keene's testimony in this way: Mr. Keene was examined by Representative Rainey, of the committee, who has insisted there exists a watch trust in this country which has taken advantage of the tariff duties to sell in the domestic trade watches at exorbitant prices, while it has exported similar watches and sold them for less than half their cost in this country. Mr. Keene proved a valuable witness. He testified that a year ago he bought American watches in European markets for \$17 which sold in this country for \$28.50. The price to the foreign purchaser is unknown, as they get a published discount of from 3 to 32 per cent, with the addition of an unknown discount. When the American manufacturers learned what he was doing, said Mr. Keene, they made it impossible for him to buy watches abroad, and also refused to sell him in this country.

JOHN J. ETTOR, a labor leader, declares that he was misunderstood when he was charged with saying: "If you are compelled to go back under unsatisfactory conditions go back with your minds made up that it is the safest thing in the world for the capitalist to eat food prepared by members of your union." Ettor says in his letter: "I did not make the remarks alleged nor do I believe the suggestion they (newspapers) claim can be taken out of my talk, as a policy that I advise you to follow, for I am satisfied that the course they insinuate and attribute to me would not bring success but the opposite. Your cause is not to be won by any policy that endangers human life."

PRESIDENT-ELECT WILSON is in favor of doing away with the inaugural ball, if such a thing is possible. In a letter addressed to Mr. Eustis, chairman of the inauguration committee, Mr. Wilson said: "After taking counsel with a great many persons and learning as well as I can general opinion in the matter, I have come to the conclusion that it is my duty to ask you to consider the feasibility of omitting the inaugural ball altogether. I do this with a great deal of hesitation, because I do not wish

to interfere with settled practices or with reasonable expectations of those who usually go to enjoy the inauguration ball, but it has come to wear the aspect of a sort of public duty, because of the large indirect expense upon the government incidental to it and because these balls have ceased to be necessary to the enjoyment of the visitors. I hope most sincerely that this request will in no way embarrass you, and that I have not too long delayed in making the suggestion." The ball has been abandoned.

MR. MUNSEY'S political holding company is referred to by a writer in the New York World in this way: Who but Frank A. Munsey—or maybe George W. Perkins—could have conceived the eminently Armageddonish scheme of reuniting the republican and progressive parties by a "holding party" to take the two organizations over, "as a holding company in the business world takes over and amalgamates competing concerns?" The republican party used to be in the hands of a holding company with Theodore Roosevelt as a voting trust. In those days battling for the Lord was "a perfectly corking time," and the enemy at Armageddon was "slugged over the ropes" and "beaten to a frazzle." Then came a day when the Taft administration, following the rule of reason laid down by the supreme court in the Standard Oil case, undertook to abolish the voting trust and dissolve the holding company. The colonel promptly grabbed all the assets that he could lay his hands on and organized a competing party which manufactured and sold the same old stand-pat goods under a new name. Both concerns are now in a bad way, and it is not surprising that Brother Munsey looks back regretfully to the days of the old political trust. But we fear he is too late. As Mr. Morgan once felicitously remarked, with the consent and approval of the colonel himself, "You can't unscramble eggs."

WHAT CONSTITUTES A HOME?

Think of home, and the mind instinctively wanders back to the old town, the quiet street, the spacious grounds, the cottage hidden among the trees, the gravel walk, the old well, the flowers in bloom, and the air laden with the fragrance of spring.

As the closing day casts its shadows over the world, fading rays of the declining sun pierce through the latticed windows, and over cradled innocence a mother croons her lullaby.

As the breaking dawn calls to activity the waking world, we see him on whom, for her, age never descends—we see them as, locked in each other's embrace, they stroll down the garden walk. Leaning over the gate, he implants upon her brow a parting kiss. As he passes from view, we see her wave aloft her embracing arm, and from the distance comes his response. We say: There is a home. And so it is.

It is not necessary that it be sumptuous to be a home. It is only necessary that Love reign therein.

It is not necessary that it be poor to be a home. It is only important that Kindness shall be the ruling spirit.

A nation that ignores the welfare and the happiness of the home is a nation doomed. Men do not defend tenements.

The only excuse for government and law is to maintain the possibility of the home. We need not machine-made homes nor machine-made men.

For the home we need only Justice to make it possible, Peace to make it whole, Kindness to make it inviting, Companionship to make it blest, Love to make it holy, and the laughter of a little child to make it divine.—Omaha Chancellor.

BUTCHERING THE LANGUAGE

Are either and neither pronounced "eether" and "neether" or "eyether" and "neyther"? This question, much disputed, is answered in favor of "eether" and "neether" by Julian W. Abernathy in a useful little book entitled "Correct Pronunciation," and published by Charles E. Merrill of New York. Not a single modern dictionary gives "eyether" the preference, says the little book and goes on to quote Richard Grant White, who says "eyether" is an affectation and a second rate British affectation at that. Which should hold the "eyether" advocates a while.

And now about the word vase. It's pronounced "vace," whether it comes from the 10-cent store or Tiffany's. "Vaze" is wrong, says the book, and "vawz" is vulgar. Another tally for us old fashioned folks.

Perhaps you've been confused by hearing

people talk about "rice" and finding out afterward that they meant the noun "rise." Well, they were wrong, too. A straw vote of the best modern dictionaries hands the preference to "rize" as the proper pronunciation.

Another word that is frequently mispronounced is depot. It should be "deepo," not "deppo" or "daypo."

Our old friend, Jean Valjean, of course, is properly "Zahn Valzhan," and the great state of Kansas is pronounced as though the first s were a z. The folks who insist on making it soft are all to the bad.

J. Pierpont Morgan is a "fynnaseer," not a "fynaseer."

The Renaissance is pronounced "renesans," accent on the last syllable, not Renaysans, and Salome gets her last syllable pronounced.

Poets are filled with the divine "afflytus," not the divine "afflaatus."

The ruler of Japan is the mikado, with the accent on the second syllable, as all serious minded students of Gilbert and Sullivan know, and never the mickadoo.

Gibberish is pronounced with a hard g, and not "jibberish," and the word flaccid is "flaksid," not "flasid."

Amateur is "amaturr," not "amatoor" or "amachoor."

The Antipodes—Australia, you know—are pronounced "antipodeez."

When the wind soughs 'through the branches it "sows;" never "suffs."

A faucet is a "fawset," not a "fasset."

These are only a few examples. The book contains 2,000 words, which are commonly mispronounced, and 800 proper names, which are frequently improperly spoken. A little study of it will enable you to bawl out almost any of your friends frequently, besides tending to improve your own vocabulary.

"Careless and slipshod enunciation among presumably cultured people," the author says, "is probably more common in the United States than in any other country in the world. A Frenchman is proud of his speech and treats it as a fine art, while an American regards his speech with indifference or contempt."

Probably he is right, as he is a Ph. D. and the author of a book on American literature. At any rate, a study of his little book is likely to prove beneficial to any of us.—Kansas City Star.

KEEP UP THE PROTEST

"Hooper, Neb., Jan. 13.—Editor Commoner: In a late issue of your paper I see you fear the Aldrich currency plan will be passed before March 4. Nebraska farmers are organizing local unions in several parts of the state and if you will send me a copy of resolutions you think we should adopt concerning this proposed currency plan, I will have as many locals as possible adopt them and send some to our law makers from Nebraska. Yours truly, F. E. LISTON."

Make the resolutions simple and to the point and mail or wire them to your senator and congressman. The following form may serve as a suggestion:

Resolved that we condemn the proposed currency legislation known as the "Aldrich plan" and call upon our senators and representatives in congress to aid in the defeat of that measure and of anything similar to it involving particularly the central bank feature or any other method of centralizing control over the money and credit of the country.

A CHALLENGE TO DECENCY

The attempt of the corporation democrats in the Illinois legislature to confer leadership upon a supporter of Lorimer is not only an insult to the democracy of the nation—it is a challenge to decency. Mr. Lorimer's status has been fixed, and in fixing it judgment was passed upon those democrats who voted for him. Our party has important work to do—it can not turn aside to whitewash the democrats who went down with him, whether they were morally guilty or merely misled. The Illinois democrats who are pushing these soiled ex-patriots to the front have a very poor idea of the party's mission and duty.

Mr. Bryan's Selected Speeches. Revised and arranged in a convenient two-volume edition. These books present Mr. Bryan's most notable addresses and orations, and cover the chief important phases and features of his career as an orator and advocate. A familiarly intimate and interesting biographical introduction by Mary Baird Bryan, his wife, opens Volume I. The two volumes, bound in cloth, sent to any address prepaid on receipt of price, \$2.00. The half leather edition, 2 vols., sent for \$3.00, prepaid. Address The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.