

**STANDARD OIL**

**George Rice Comments on the Recent Trust Robbery**

George Rice, who rendered Attorney General Smyth great service in the case of State of Nebraska vs. The Standard Oil Company of Indiana, has a letter in the New York Times of January 11, which throws considerable light on what the trust has been doing in the past year. Mr. Rice says:

It seems by late press reports that the Standard Oil company, more truly an integral part of the Standard Oil trust, is composed of twenty or more corporations, of which there are five Standard Oil companies of five different states, the New Jersey Standard Oil company being one of the five. The trustees of this trust have deemed it wise at this particular juncture to exploit a little latent rebate philanthropy to their employees, in order to obscure the public vision, to divert attention from the enormous extra monopoly benefits that are now accruing to this gigantic, mammoth trust on account of the coal strike.

Its monopolistic power is well illustrated by taking advantage of the present necessities of the people, to arbitrarily advance within the past three months, since October 7, the price of illuminating oils for lighting and heating purposes 46 per cent, as sold from tank wagon to retail dealers or 3 1/2 cents a gallon, \$1.47 a barrel, or \$10.29 a ton, based on forty-two gallons of crude, of which seven barrels weigh a ton.

The advance in crude petroleum at the well from October 7 last to January 7, 1903, is 27 cents per barrel, which, taken from the advance in the price of illuminating oils, leaves a difference of \$1.20 per barrel, increased, extortionate price ground from the face of the poor. The best possible evidence of what this hydra-headed monopoly is now doing is better illustrated in the following facts and figures:

The average daily production of petroleum for 1901 was 190,107 barrels. Of this amount there is positive proof

that the Standard Oil trust absolutely owns and controls 95 per cent, or 180,602 barrels per day. The additional monopoly revenue thus filched from the people by this illegal trust in consequence of the coal strike amounts to \$216,722 per day, \$6,501,672 per month, \$79,103,530 per annum.

In view of the necessity for this great increase in the price of illuminating oils within the past three months, it might be well to state that the dividend of the Standard Oil trust for 1902 was \$45 per share on par of \$100, amounting to a total of more than \$90,000,000, based upon its present par value capitalization of \$202,253,700, while the market value of its shares on January 6, 1903, was \$750 per share, or a marketable capitalization amounting to the enormous sum of \$1,516,752,000, or more than double the aggregate market value of the United States steel trust.

The market value of Standard Oil shares on October 7, 1902, the day previous to the rise in the price of illuminating oils, was \$655 per share, which, taken from \$750 per share, shows an advance of \$85 per share or \$100 par value, aggregating a total advance within the past three months in the shares of the Standard Oil trust amounting to the sum of \$192,000,000, of which Standard officials are the main recipients. These enormous profits are the effects of the coal strike, whereby, in their dire distress for the want of coal, great suffering is inflicted upon the people through the existence of this oppressive monopoly. Suckling babes, crying children, mothers wail in icy homes! Most monstrous does it seem! Is it not quite evident that such atrocious acts as these breed anarchy?

"Every penny that is taken from the people for which no return is given is a stolen penny, and these stolen pennies, pouched by monopoly," is obtained by criminal conspiracies in the non-observance and non-enforcement of the laws. The question of the hour is, how much longer will the people endure these extortionate and oppressive monopolies that are allowed to rule and ruin with unbridled hand because of the inaction of public officials to properly execute the laws, that is, by criminal action? What does a fine of \$5,000 amount to against stolen millions?

GEORGE RICE.

Marietta, O.

**Jim Hill's Species**

A certain railroad man in Lincoln takes special delight in relating the following story on Jim Hill, whose management of the Burlington railroad since the merger has brought upon him the curses—both loud and deep—of thousands living along the branch lines in Nebraska. Just why this particular railroad man should be delighted with the joke does not appear—but no matter; this is the story:

"Speaking of James J. Hill," said a St. Paul man at the Holland house, the other evening, "I can tell you a story of him.

"It was away back in the '80's, when the late lamented Harry Ives was Mr. Hill's private secretary, and Mr. Hill was giving away pigs of purest breed to the farmers of the northwest in order to encourage stock raising along the line of the Great Northern road, and thus build up its traffic. The state fair was in progress in St. Paul when one September morning Ives opened Mr. Hill's mail and found a letter from a farmer, which read as follows:

"Dear Sir: I went to St. Paul and to the fair, as you told me. I looked for you at your office, and also at the fair grounds. I found plenty of hogs of your species, but could not find you anywhere."

**Political Unity**

Editor Independent: August Comte, in his "Positive Philosophy," says, that is the most enduring government which is "consequent upon itself." This expression would appear to mean, "In harmony with its constitutive principles."

It will probably be admitted that among the organic principles of the government of the United States are freedom of speech and of the press, and political unity. Hence, if Comte be right, whatever is at variance with any of these fundamentals threatens the perpetuity of our government.

During the civil war, an influential journal in the strongly anti-slavery state of Wisconsin published for a year the offer of a reward of \$500 for the assassination of the president, and this with absolute impunity.

But, since September 6, 1901, we have seen a minister of the gospel tarred and feathered because in his pulpit he expressed the opinion that the lately deceased president had been a politician, and that much of the

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- 6 lbs. best rice..... 50
- 6 lbs. California prunes..... 50
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**A STARTLING FACT**

**HALF THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD HAVE STOMACH TROUBLE.**

**A Simple Course of Treatment Told in Every-day Language, Free from Scientific Terms**

Half the people in the world have stomach trouble in a greater or less degree. Usually it comes from irregular or hasty eating—sometimes from other causes. But there is just one way to treat it and that can be found in a booklet which the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y., will send free to any address upon request. Mrs. Edith Benedict, of Groton, Mass., is one of the many who took this course of treatment and was cured. She says:

"I had suffered from constipation ever since about the time my little girl was born, about twelve years ago, and it finally became chronic. It isn't necessary for me to tell you the trouble it gave me, but I suffered all the time. Doctors gave me no permanent relief and I kept getting worse.

"At last, something more than a year ago, when I was all run down and my blood in a horrible condition, my mother told me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, which, she said, had accomplished wonderful results with her. I purchased some and took them according to directions and in a short time saw a decided improvement. I continued their use and they cured me."

If you are suffering from any disorder of the stomach write for their free booklet, entitled "What to Eat and How to Eat." It contains information that should be in the hands of every person who is suffering from a disordered digestion. It treats of the proper selection and preparation of food, the relative value and digestibility of various food products; it contains a chapter on the use of alcohol and gives a course of treatment by which constipation may be overcome without the use of cathartics.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, the medicine which cured Mrs. Benedict and thousands of others, are an unfailing specific for all diseases arising from impoverished blood or weakened, unstrung nerves—two fruitful causes of nearly all the ailments to which mankind is heir. They may be had of any druggist or will be sent postpaid on receipt of price, fifty cents a box; six boxes two dollars and fifty cents, by the Dr. Williams Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

eulogy of him had been insincere. We have seen another minister ousted from his pulpit because, while he spoke feeling of Mrs. McKinley, he failed to eulogize the late chief executive.

We have seen The Nation referring, editorially, and without disapproval, to the probable suppression of another journal and the jailing of its editor, and that journal expressed sooner than it did, after President McKinley's death, the opinion that the president's Buffalo speech signified a deliberate abandonment of the doctrine of high protection. We have seen a United States court issue an injunction restraining the members of a labor union from circulating literature reflecting on a mercantile firm as hostile to organized labor—the first injunction of this sort said ever to have been issued in this country.

These are but a few of similar incidents noted in the cursory reading of a single newspaper since the tragedy at Buffalo. As showing the changed trend of public sentiment, should they not awaken the apprehension of all good citizens?

Again, prior to the recent treaty of Paris, to be an American was to be more than king or emperor. But by that instrument we admitted into the body politic some ten million persons living in a tropical climate, seven thousand miles from our nearest shores, people of a different race, of different language, of different customs, people who in a thousand years would be unable to become identified with our institutions, people who can never share in the glory of our national history or become in any proper sense American citizens. And so how have we admitted them? As subjects—political entities foreign to our political constitution. If Lincoln could truly say, "This nation cannot endure half slave and half free," then we can say today, with equal truth, "This nation cannot endure half citizens and half subject. It was not for such degradation as this that our forefathers fought and bled and died.

Let us, divesting ourselves as far as possible of political partisanship, and considering these matters in a philosophic spirit, ask ourselves the question, Is all this safe? Can the people of this country address themselves to

questions of weightier import than the discouragement of the anarchistic sentiment so prevalent after the assassination of President McKinley, and a return to the principles of American citizenship—not such citizenship as may be invoked by an almost evenly divided supreme court from the letter of the constitution, but such a citizenship as may safely be conferred upon every person under the American flag, a citizenship in harmony with the Declaration of Independence and with the spirit of the constitution of the United States?

JOHN SAMPSON.

Washington, D. C.

**What Made Prosperity**

Editor Independent: I am glad of the opportunity to assist in the education of the masses. I believe we had better all stay at home next presidential election. The g. o. p. are looking anxiously around for some one to unload the next panic upon. So anxious are they, that they are spending more time and space on the re-organization of the democratic party, than on second term of Roosevelt.

They cannot possibly bridge us over for another six years; a crash is inevitable, especially if the Fowler bill is enacted into law, which is undoubtedly their intention. If I can serve you further in this way will willingly do so. Every reformer, in fact every voter ought to know why our country became prosperous, and what causes are being combined to again wreck the country, and rob the industrial classes of the fruits of their labor.

The press, with but few exceptions (one of which is the Nebraska Independent), are saying nothing about this matter. Our own "professed" publications are not availing themselves of the best campaign argument ever proffered them, an administration elected to office on a "gold standard" platform, adopting the populist financial policy and not one editor in a thousand intelligent enough to tell it to their subscribers. It is discouraging to say the least. Find enclosed \$1. How does my individual account stand? Yours truly,

A. J. McCAIN,

Rapid City, S. D.