

AN OUTRAGE

It is announced that about 40 coal dealers in Chicago have been indicted for forming a trust and fixing an exorbitant price for coal. That is an outrage. So far as known, none of these men are millionaires and they have only done what the millionaires have done. They employed exactly the same methods by which the price of wire nails was doubled and the price of fencing wire raised to exorbitant figures. They have not employed even all the means that Rockefeller has used to make us pay 100 per cent more for kerosene oil than we ought to pay. They have not stood out in such open violation of the state constitution as the hard coal trust has. They have not had a lobby at Washington to bribe and corrupt legislators as the sugar trust has. It is not even charged that they received rebates on the railroads. And yet these men, for following the example of the millionaires even in a slight degree, are to be hauled up in court and prosecuted. It's an outrage and that is all there is to it. If we are to have trusts an exorbitant prices, the little fellows ought to have the same chance as the big fellows. As long as the saintly Rockefeller, the godly Baer, the captain of industry, Morgan, and the other millionaires and multi-millionaires are allowed to do the same thing, and much worse things than these Chicago men have done and are lauded for it, the Chicago men should not be interfered with. This making a hero of one man and a criminal of another for doing exactly the same thing won't "go down" with the American people. If these Chicago men are criminals, then also are Rockefeller, Morgan, Gates, Baer and some thousands of others who are honored and praised and called "captains of industry." If there is law on the statute book to imprison these Chicago men, there is law to imprison Rockefeller, Morgan, Gates and Baer. If the forming of combinations to destroy competition in coal is illegal and criminal, the forming of combinations to destroy competition in the production of iron, steel, meat, flour, kerosene, agricultural instruments and all other things is criminal. The Independent says, either set those Chicago men free or indict Rockefeller, Morgan, Baer and all the rest who have been doing exactly the same thing.

"How to Find a Gold Mine" is the title of an intensely interesting communication from The Mines Exchange, Ltd., whose advertisement appears on page 3. The various steps in this fascinating business—gold mining—will be told in a series of articles beginning next week.

RIGHT KIND OF TALK

During the campaign the editor of The Independent said that if he were a resident of Wisconsin, as much as he hated the policies and methods of the republican party and notwithstanding that he spent many years of his life fighting the party and its policies, he would vote for La Follette for governor and that in doing so he would be acting the part of a true populist. The message that Governor La Follette read to the Wisconsin legislature the other day was couched in as plain language as The Independent uses. He demands that the railroads and other corporations shall be made to pay their just share of the taxes, and then added:

"It becomes apparent at once that legislation compelling the railroads to pay their proportionate share of taxes will fail utterly in its object unless it be supplemented with legislation protecting the public against increased transportation charges." That is the right kind of talk and La Follette means every word of it.

The Independent acknowledges receipt of "The Social Unrest," a book of "studies in labor and socialist movements," by John Graham Brooks (The Macmillan company, New York; 394 pages, \$1.50). Review is reserved for next week.

Things have got to such a state that the plutocratic federal judge, Grosscup, and the old-time street car magnate Yerkes are both denouncing the trusts. The judge says that the trusts are leading straight to socialism, and Yerkes says that the steel and other trusts charge him too much for material, in trying to pay dividends on watered stocks.

It has been pointed out by several persons that Dr. Bascom's denunciation of Rockefeller while he excuses Carnegie has no solid foundation to rest upon. Mr. Carnegie's great wealth has not been wholly derived from tariff protection. Unless the common understanding is very much at fault,

Mr. Carnegie used to enjoy special railroad favors, such as formed a considerable part of the illegitimate basis of Mr. Rockefeller's fortune. All the great trusts of the day rest upon two things, the tariff and the private ownership of railroads, and of the two, the private ownership of railroads is the most effective in sustaining them.

They are getting after Rockefeller over in Germany. It is proposed to put a discriminating duty on refined petroleum. Dr. Paasche, national liberal, said he thought it was time to get rid of the Standard Oil company's monopoly, which had already cost Germany \$12,500,000. When the question of "the most favored nation" clause in the commercial treaties was mentioned as an obstacle, Count Wehner said that "the United States was no longer entitled to the most favored nation treatment."

There are a good many men in various parts of these states who are coming to the same conclusions that The Independent long since arrived at concerning the plutocratic universities. Arthur McEwing says: "The voice of reason should be the voice of the university, but what we oftener hear from there is the voice of sycophancy, the voice of eminent respectability worshipping the God of Things as They Are, and too seldom the voice of the democracy which is the life of American institutions."

The "personal equation" bears as important a part in government as in domestic affairs and divorces. It is said that Congressman Jenkins had just been outrageously swindled by a coal dealer and from the scrap with the man who extorted an outrageous price for coal, he went to the house and introduced his celebrated resolution for the government ownership of the coal mines and coal railroads. If a few of the plutocratic senators were made to suffer for a while what vast numbers of people suffer, we should immediately have a different order of things. But the trusts see to it that these gentlemen suffer no inconvenience. It was a great oversight to overlook the chairman of the judiciary committee of the house.

The movement among farmers to organize is denounced by the plutocratic dailies as "the formation of another trust." If it is a trust that they are trying to form, it differs in several ways from the steel trust, the coal trust, the sugar trust and every other "beneficial" trust that the dailies have defended. It does not provide for limitation of output, the destruction of competition, stock watering to the hundred million, and enormous salaries for superintendents, but improvement in methods, an increase in the crops, to obtain a fair price for farm products and force a square deal from the railroads. None of the "good trusts" have any of these features. So The Independent is forced to the conclusion that farmers are not organizing a trust at all.

Everywhere that Hanna went in 1896 he declared: "There are no trusts." Now he says: "The trusts are here to stay." Both times the mullet head replied: "Yep, that's so."

Having given the trusts the power to tax they are exercising that right in a most oppressive way. The coal trust has taxed us enough to run the government for a whole year.

The final result of the infamous bargain which Mark Hanna made with the Mormon bishops, a full account of which was published in The Independent at the time, is that an apostle of the Mormon church has been elected United States senator. He can never be ousted from the senate in the way that Roberts was from the house. The senate don't do business in that way.

The way politics is managed by the republican leaders to keep the mullet heads in line so that they will "vote 'er straight" is so shallow and ridiculous that it would seem that it would not deceive a three-year-old child. Senator Hoar introduced an anti-trust bill and made a speech advocating it. He now says that this is no time to pass anti-trust legislation that the question is too big to be solved in a hurry and although he has given much time to a study of the question he is not prepared to vote on an anti-trust measure this session. It is well known that the house passed several bills after an understanding with senators that they will be held up in that body. It was simply for effect. The congressmen will go back into their districts and say: "Look at the measures we adopted for the relief of the people. We voted for them. We are all right. We are genuine re-

formers." The mullet head will "stand pat," shout "Let well enough alone," and "vote 'er straight" as usual. Republican congressmen will know what kind of cattle they have to deal with.

By oversight The Independent failed earlier to make acknowledgements to Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Hodgman of the Lincoln Academy for their holiday greeting—a poster calendar, all Lincoln work from start to finish. Aside from being a neat bit of poster work, it has the distinction of being the first poster done all at home ever exhibited in Lincoln. Professor and Mrs. Hodgman conduct the Lincoln Academy as a preparatory school for students who wish to enter the state university or other college. It is a high grade fitting school for college and is accredited by both our state university and the university of Iowa.

News of the Week

It appears that the trusts got a little uneasy last week over the situation in Washington caused by the excitement that produced the "coal day" legislation, and each of the big ones hurried their ablest men to the imical to their interests. These representatives of the great combines did not stay very long, for they were assured by the leading republican senators that there would be no "trust busting" legislation passed at this session. While the trust representatives were at the capital they assured the senators that they had no objection to any "publicity" law that might be passed and in fact that they were in favor of such legislation. It appears that as soon as Senator Hoar found that the trusts were opposed to that portion of his bill which provided penalties for selling goods below cost to drive out competition and then raising prices to a point where enormous profits would be made, he announced that he was not ready to vote on his own bill at this session of congress.

There is a famine in the northern part of Sweden affecting a population of over 30,000. It is an extension of the same distress that afflicts the adjoining Russian provinces of which an account was given in The Independent not long ago. Over \$12,000 have already been sent by the Swedes of this country to relieve the suffering and more is being constantly contributed. It is feared that all the northern, hardy cattle will die and leave the peasants in the same condition as the Filipinos, without means of cultivating their land.

The interstate commerce commission having collected evidence that proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Pennsylvania railroad had been giving rebates to favored shippers and there being no way of successfully denying that fact, it came into court and admitted that during the six months ended January 1, 1902, it participated in the payment of rebates on shipments originating at points west of Pittsburg to the extent of approximately \$110,000. Was the law applied and the penalties inflicted? Not at all. Under republican rule railroads are not subject to criminal laws.

The result of millionaire rule and plutocratic tendencies in New York city is described by a gentleman of that city as follows: "During the course of the past six or seven years New York has developed into a sordid hell with a blue sky and impracticable streets for attractions. Today ugliness, constructive and destructive, circumadjacently abound. Against the submergence of aesthetics there is never a protest. In any event beauty, ousted by progress, some day will everywhere become extinct. When that day arrives there will be but trusts and machinery. Only in books shall the story of beauty survive. And that story the Tom Paines and Ingersolls of a latter age will declare wholly legendary, very amusing and quite untrue."

In the report of the committee on agriculture of the Colorado state grange, the following passage occurs: "If football tends to the development of the physical faculties better than the plow and the hoe, the reaper and the mower, the bucksaw and the cross-cut, then let us have football in all its modern beauties, although it may lame and maim and kill now and then a boy, so long as that one is not our boy. This age demands and will have the highest, the brightest and the best in all things."

American plutocrats want to import Chinese coolies into the Philippines to cultivate the land and the English

Flower Seeds From California.

Flower seeds mature to perfection in the balmy climate of California; and that land of flowers is the natural seed warehouse for the Easter garden. We make a business of supplying flower seeds, and our packets are made up exclusively of California-grown seeds which will grow readily in cooler climates. Many of them are natives of the State, and include some of the most beautiful flowers known. We put up a package of ten of the very choicest kinds at 50c. Some should be planted early in boxes, indoors, and transplanted later. Send us an order from two of your neighbors, and we will mail you three packages for the dollar—one to pay you for your trouble. Wanted—Reliable agent at once, in each town. Liberal pay, cash. Send for complete list of our seeds.

NOTE—The supply of seeds for our Special Packet, mentioned above, is limited, and all who desire to avail themselves of this remarkable offer should write for them immediately. Address

CALIFORNIA FLOWER SEED CO. Dept. L, 3148 Kingsley St. Seed Merchants, Los Angeles, Cal.

PILES

We have the only absolute successful and best treatment for itching, bleeding, protruding piles and other rectal diseases. We know it, because we have cured thousands of men and women during the last twenty years and can produce testimonials as proof.

A pile operation by knife, injection of poisonous acids, crushing clamps, ligature or cauterizing with red hot irons in raw sores is filled with death danger and never cures.

The Hermit Treatment is a Home Treatment easy to use and always successful. Never fails. Our statements are truthful. We do as we promise. We refer to former pile sufferers cured by our treatment.

If you have been deceived before or spent money for an unsuccessful operation, write or call on us.

WITNESSES.—We will give names on request. Case 1207.—This is to certify that the Hermit Rectal Home Treatment can, will and does cure any case of piles. I have had piles since 1861, and have tried dozens of remedies, but none helped me until I received your treatment. (Cognac, Kan.)

Case 1205.—Did not expect a cure in such a short time. (Ronaliss, N. Y.)

Case 1202.—I am happy to inform you I am entirely cured. (Bryson, Mi.s.)

Case 1176.—Although I have doubted all along I now know your treatment cured me. (Randolph, Ill.)

Case 1174.—After using your treatment two months am perfectly cured. Was treated by doctors for three years. No relief. (Chicago, Ills.)

Case 1144.—I am well, and your treatment cured me. (Leland, Oregon.)

Case 1154.—Your treatment acted like a charm. I am entirely cured. (Chicago, Ill.)

Case 1153.—Six years of pile pain, paid one doctor \$75.00 for a miserable failure, but your treatment cured me at once. (Chicago, Ill.)

Hermit Remedy Co.

738 Adams Express Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

Cancers Cured; why suffer from cancer? Dr. T. O'Connor cures cancers, tumors and wens; no knife, blood or plaster. Address 1306 O St., Lincoln, Nebraska.

DRUNKARDS

CURED SECRETLY. Box Sent FREE.

Any woman can cure her husband, son or brother of liquor drinking, by secretly placing this remedy in his coffee, tea or food without his knowledge, as it is entirely odorless and tasteless. Any good and faithful woman can wipe out this fearful evil and permanently stop the craving for liquor, as did Mrs. R. L. Townsend, of Selma, La. For years she prayed to her husband to quit drinking, but found that he could not do so of his own free will, and learning of this remarkable cure, she determined to try it. Mrs. Townsend says that before she gave her husband half a box of Milo Tablets he lost all desire for whisky; the sight or odor of whisky and beer now makes him deathly sick. Mrs. Townsend's word of gratitude is only one of the thousands in possession of this company. Anyone who will send their name & address to the Milo Drug Co., 150 Milo Building, St. Louis, Mo., will receive by mail, sealed in plain wrapper, a free package of this wonderful remedy and full instructions how to use the "drink" habit. It costs nothing to try it.

plutocrats want to import them into South Africa to work the mines. The proposition of the Rand mine owners to import coolies, made personally to Chamberlain at Johannesburg, has created a great uproar in England.

The steel trust paid 7 per cent on its preferred stock and 4 per cent on its common stock last year and had a surplus of \$33,841,565 left over with which to buy out the remaining competing companies.

The usual fabulous placer mines are being discovered in Alaska which always occur at this time of the year ever since gold was found up there. The Independent must say that the art of advertising has been brought to the highest point of development by the steamboat lines which run between the Pacific coast points of the United States and its territory of Alaska. The last placer mine discovered, according to the statements in these advertisements, which are run as reading matter and sometimes as special dispatches, is a district of vast proportions and has a pay streak eight feet thick, running 25 cents to the pan.

The day that Smoot was elected