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Walter Wellman speaks of "the western or second rate" senators. If he had in mind the specimens furnished from Nebraska the phrase is very applicable.

The harvester trust has raised the price of all kinds of harvesting machines \$5 each. That's another of those trusts that made a combine to reduce expenses and lower prices.

Leo Vincent has joined the democratic party. If Dave Hill controls the next democratic national convention and Judge Parker or some man like him is nominated, what will Leo Vincent be then?

Who established the Chicago university? Not Rockefeller. It was the toiling housewives all over the country who had to scrimp and save to furnish the money paid over by them to the oil trust.

This county keeps one major general and six brigadier generals all the time in the Philippines. Nevertheless the "ladrones" seem to be increasing in numbers. Last week three school teachers were killed and the native police put to flight.

J. Pierpont Morgan issued a check the other day for \$22,500,000. It didn't go to protest either. If a man should sit down to count 22,500,000 and count as fast as he could, or at the rate of 100 a minute, ten hours a day, it would take him 375 days to do it.

The traitor McLaurin did not get even one vote in the South Carolina legislature. Now unless Roosevelt gives him an office he is done for. Asbury C. Latimer was elected to succeed McLaurin, receiving every vote in both branches of the legislature.

Levy Ankeny, whom the republicans elected United States senator from Oregon, is president of six national banks. They have got a man who will stand without hitching this time such enough. He can issue enough asset notes from his six banks to run the whole state.

It will be remembered that The Independent declared last summer that the coal trust would make an immense amount out of the strike. Who doubts that fact now, when anthracite has been selling for months at the seaboard for three times its former price?

Sixty-eight square miles of oil claims have been staked out near Chadron in this state. They say they have discovered an oil field up there that runs all the way through Nebraska and into Wyoming and South Dakota. Rockefeller will soon have it, and kerosene oil will go up a notch or two higher.

THE RIGHT TO WORK

The saintly Baer made a speech at a public dinner in New York the other day to a lot of millionaires who cheered and clapped their hands until they were tired. The burden of Baer's speech was an attack upon the authorities for not enforcing the laws. He declared that "today we have the spectacle of citizens born right in this country not being protected in their right to work, the very smallest of the natural rights for the protection of which the government was founded."

The hypocrisy of this speech is beyond anything heretofore attained in that line. The falsehood of the position is equally astounding. At Baer's request the whole military force of the state was called out. Every man among the workmen proven guilty of any crime was most severely punished by the courts. Baer brought the whole force of the state government, including the courts as well as the military, to aid him. What more could he demand?

But supposing that all the laws as well as the law providing the "right to work," had been enforced. In this connection let us quote the words of Richard Olney, regarded by all men as a lawyer of the most distinguished ability. Mr. Olney, in speaking of Baer and his methods, said:

"Who are they who are so insistent on suppression of lawlessness in the mining regions?"

"Why, the most unblushing and persistent of lawbreakers."

"For years they have defied the law of Pennsylvania, which forbids carriers engaging in the business of mining."

"For years they have discriminated between customers in the freight charges on their railroads, in violation of the interstate commerce law."

"For years they have unlawfully monopolized interstate commerce, in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law."

"Indeed, the very best excuse and explanation of their attitude is that, having violated so many laws for so long and so many times, they may rightfully think they are wholly immune from either punishment or reproach."

Think of the height of impudence that Baer reached when he upbraided the government for not enforcing the laws while he himself was one of the most flagrant violators of law in the whole land.

But a few days ago, George F. Edmunds, another of the most distinguished lawyers in the whole United States, in an article which he published over his own signature, declared that the Sherman anti-trust law, if enforced, would dissolve every trust in the whole country. He declared that it covered the whole subject and was sufficient of itself to stop the aggressions and piracies of all these trust robbers. Remembering that, reflect upon the dubious and unconstitutional way that the president adopted to prevent death and destruction all over the land resulting from the acts of this worst lawbreaker of them all, the saintly Baer. Clothed with all the authority that eighty million of people could confer upon him and by the use of which he could have brought this lawbreaker to terms at any time, the president refused to use that authority and went outside of the constitution and the law to appoint an arbitration commission that is still sitting. Why did not the president enforce the law? He well knew that if he brought one case, that the whole row of trusts would go crumbling down.

Baer had to be checked, but in doing it a way had to be devised that would not endanger the other trusts. If Baer had gone on for a few weeks longer, the coal famine that would have followed would have resulted in something akin to anarchy. Stopped when he was, the results were death and suffering of many hundred thousands. All this forms proof sufficient that this administration does not intend to interfere with the trusts. The call for more laws, when the best

lawyers in the land all declare that there are enough now on the statute books to repress them, is nothing but political chicanery.

The claim of Baer that the "right to work" "for the protection of which this government was founded" is about as silly twaddle as ever a set of millionaires exhausted themselves in cheering. The right to work is a slave's right and the African slave enjoyed it to the fullest extent. The right to the possession of what a worker produces by his labor is the essential thing, and to protect that right this government was founded. Baer's idea is that a man has the right to work, but it is the right of the trust magnate to take what the worker produces and claim it for his own.

FRUIT GROWING

"Will it pay?" is the question invariably asked when the suggestion is made that Nebraska farmers should engage in fruit growing. And the answer is, Yes.

But we should understand that "pay" is not always in the form of gold and silver coins or credit at the bank. It "pays" to have a good, healthy body. It "pays" to have a contented wife and family. And in this sense, fruit-growing certainly "pays," because, while not a panacea, it assists in bringing and keeping good health and contentment.

Fruit-growing for commercial profit is a branch of industry as distinct as fine stock raising. Men should not blindly rush into it without previous training. But every farmer can grow some fruit for his own use—and ought to do it. The work of caring for the trees and vines and plants will break the monotony of his life. The fruit he gets may be nearly as expensive as Horace Greeley's potatoes—but it will "pay" nevertheless.

Better plant something this spring. Try it. Buy your trees and plants of The Independent's advertisers. The associate editor is personally acquainted with Marshall Bros., Arlington; George B. Galbraith, Fairbury; Carl Sonderegger, Beatrice; J. W. Stevenson, North Bend; and J. A. Gage, Beatrice. Every man of them is a man whose word is as good as his bond, and within reasonable limits his bond is worth a hundred cents on the dollar. Whatever any of these gentlemen agree to do, will be done to the letter. None of them could afford to stoop to take petty little advantages of their customers—and none of them are inclined that way even if it should pay. Patronize Nebraska nurseries. Keep your money in the state. And don't forget that advertisers like to know the papers that do them good. Tell them you read The Independent.

The legislature could do a great service to the people by compelling all telephone companies to connect their lines with each other at all the cities and towns in the state, just as railroads are compelled to take freight and passengers from competing lines. But this corporation legislature will do nothing of the kind.

An agent of the harvester trust told a member of the Kansas legislature that if any bill was passed inimical to the trust, not a harvester would be sent into the state this year. The republicans down there will have to take a very big dose of their own medicine. Their party has built up the trusts and their national administration dare not antagonize them. Put up the \$5 and shut up.

The Independent was away off when it said that the recent rise in oil would be followed by another gift to the Chicago university of \$1,000,000. The gift is seven millions instead of one, and goes to the medical department. The loot gathered in from the poor during the last few months must have been larger than usual.

COAL COMBINATIONS

There is not a city in the union that has not now, or has had, a coal trust which existed in direct violation of law. These combines have reduced production, side-tracked cars, refused to sell coal from their yards except at exorbitant prices and done numerous other things which were in restraint of trade and against good public policy, yet not a United States attorney has raised his little finger toward bringing a case to enforce the law, anywhere, in any judicial district of the United States. That many of these attorneys were willing to bring such cases and would have done so if they had not been restrained by orders from the attorney general at Washington no man can doubt. In a few instances state attorneys have begun cases under state laws, and as soon as such cases were brought, or threatened to be brought, the combines have dissolved, as in Omaha and Detroit, which shows that there is no lack of law to stop these robberies of the poor, but a refusal of executive officers to do their sworn duty.

A "Get Coal" convention was held in Washington last week with representatives from nineteen states present. That convention passed unanimously the following resolution:

"Companies in the form of trusts and conspiracies exist in restraint of trade, especially in the production, transportation, distribution and sale of coal, tending to create a monopoly of one of the necessities of life, occasioning suffering to millions; that combinations and conspiracies exist between transportation companies whereby special rates, rebates, etc., are allowed some shippers, and exorbitant rates charged others; that these conspiracies are in violation of the interstate commerce and anti-trust acts."

The convention also resolved "that the president, whose duty it is to see that the laws are faithfully executed, be requested to direct the attorney general to cause to be instituted civil proceedings, in the circuit courts where the law is being violated, to restrain illegal combinations and conspiracies and strictly enforce the several remedies provided by existing law and that the president be requested to direct the attorney general to cause grand juries to be summoned in the judicial districts where the unlawful acts are being perpetrated, for the indictment and punishment of persons found guilty of violating the law."

The Independent does not doubt the honesty of President Roosevelt, but he is surrounded by the worst pack of scoundrels that ever led an honest man astray. He relies upon the advice of Attorney General Knox, who has constantly asserted and advised the president that there was no law under which a conviction against trusts could be secured.

When this trouble about coal first began it was pointed out to the president by private parties that there was a coal trust in the anthracite regions which existed in direct violation to the constitution of the state of Pennsylvania, the law of that state, the interstate commerce law and the Sherman anti-trust act. The president referred the matter to Attorney General Knox, who reported to the president that the contracts by which this trust existed had been drawn up by such eminent and skillful lawyers that there was no way of attacking them in the courts, and the president believed this agent of satan and trusts and appealed to congress for more laws.

From that moment little coal trusts began to spring up in every state in the union, where coal was needed, like mushrooms after a rainy night. They have gone on unhindered except in a few cases where they have been held in restraint by a threat of appealing to state law.

Some men have advocated the impeachment of Attorney General Knox. But how can he be impeached when