

PLEASE DON'T

The announcement made by a dozen railroads that they would not, until further notice, receive any freight except perishable goods, live stock and coal, and the humility with which it was received by the people marks a new era. The people have become resigned to their condition of servitude to the corporations, and accept any infliction with the same stolidity that the slave received the lash. In the days of our freedom and independence such an announcement as that would have created an uproar from one end of the land to the other. Legislatures would have appointed investigating committee. State attorneys would have started inquiries. Congress would have had a word to say. But now congresses, legislatures, state attorneys and judges are all alike the submissive agents of the corporations and they will continue to be as long as the corporations and trusts elect them to office.

This order by the railroads will bring confusion and loss to business men everywhere, except to the favored ones who were informed in advance what was going to be done and supplied themselves with what goods they needed before the order went into effect. The charter of every road that went into that pool should be annulled. The government should take possession immediately. The slimy excuse given for the order will deceive no man. That the roads, with their splendid equipment, which has been enormously increased during the last four years, cannot do the business of the country if they want to, is an assertion so ridiculous, that the man who believes it, certainly has not common sense.

This state of things has been brought about in this way. The roads are bonded for all that they are worth. What stock there is, is used to control the roads. Much of it is quoted at five cents on the dollar and from that up. A majority of the stock rules the road. All that is necessary to do to continue in possession and control, is to pay the interest on the bonds. In other cases the stock is put in the hands of a security company to hold, and the same game can be played where the stock has been sold at 200. Then the men who control the roads go into all kinds of business which depends for profit on transportation rates. They get coal mines, large industrial plants, go into wholesale merchandising and when it is to their interest to stop trains they stop them. They can raise the price of anything which they have to sell. They can destroy the business of any competing firm and make fortunes, such as the world has never seen before, outside of the rates charged for freight and passengers. All that they need is to keep control of the roads by owning a majority of the stocks or by putting it in a security company.

To that sort of thing the people of the United States submit just as humbly as the slave submitted to the lash. All that they do when the punishment seems unbearable is to say: "Please don't."

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County.—ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the city of Toledo, county and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D., 1886.

(Seal) A. W. GLEASON,

Notary Public.

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After years of experience in voting subsidies to railroad companies, it seems that the suckers are not all dead yet. Three townships in Clark county, Indiana, are about to vote some \$30,000 in bonds to the Cincinnati & Louisville railroad, and strange to say the local democratic paper is sure that "to vote against the railroad seems sheer suicide."

SAY, MR. MADDEN

Once upon a time you interfered with a newspaper publisher who offered to give away half a million sets of dishes in order to get a half a million subscribers. You claimed that was not "legitimate," although any newspaper man knows that the advertising patronage growing out of having half a million subscribers would be so great that the publisher could well afford to give back in premiums more than the entire amount received for subscriptions.

But you wouldn't allow him to do that and enjoy the "subsidy" of second-class rates. Now what do you think of this proposition: The Nebraska State Journal, a thick-and-thin (mostly thin) republican paper in this city, gives away an "approved" \$2 rural mail box with every subscription to the daily if paid in advance at \$4 a year. Is it any more of a violation of your commandments to give away dishes than mail boxes? If so, why?

CALL IT PROSPERITY

Russia has just promulgated a new "fighting tariff" increasing import duties from 50 to 150 per cent. That is the game now going on all over Europe as The Independent said it would be. While the trusts are throwing the whole business of the United States into confusion, especially that of transportation, the tariff is playing deadly havoc with foreign commerce. The fall in the price of silver curtails trade with the orient, the tariff with European countries and the trusts rob and freeze the people at home. Such is the result of the work of the republican leaders, who, mad with greed, have thought that they would overthrow the principles upon which modern society is built, defy the economic laws evolved from the wisdom of all the past and place in the hands of a few men, favored by special privileges, all the wealth of the world. The masses call that thing "prosperity."

SOME TRUST INCONVENIENCES

The want of coal and the impossibility of getting cars to ship the products of the farm are trust inconveniences that have raised a storm of protests, but there are others just as exasperating and in the end will prove as costly. Since the trust has taken control of the manufacture of steel, tools have so deteriorated that the extra labor required to do the work is costing more money than the rise in the price of coal. This inconvenience is affecting the whole population, for all use steel in some form. If a man buys a knife, the first time he undertakes to cut a stick as large as his finger the edge crumbles away or the blade breaks off short. The woman can't use her scissors a week until they won't cut muslin. Then there is the matter of repairs for farm machinery. If some cog-wheel breaks the whole force will have to stop, whether it be a corn-sheller or a threshing machine, until the trust is pleased to send the piece wanted. There being no competition, very often it is a long time before it is sent. Some of the little towns relying on the meat trust for their meat supply are very often without meat for a day or so, because the trust did not see fit to fill the order the day it was received. The meat trust don't care, for there is no competition. So it is with a hundred other trust articles. That is the sort of chaos that the republican party has brought upon us by refusing to enforce the laws against trusts.

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CAPTAIN HOBSON

No matter what a man's profession is nor what his public services may have been, if he is not a sycophant, cringing at the feet of plutocracy, the dailies will hound him from one end of the year to the other. Those who have read the jibes and jeers of Captain Hobson in the daily press, especially those of that disgusting creature, William E. Curtis, concerning him, have no doubt made up their minds that the captain is a poor, silly creature and a man of no ability at all. That is because Captain Hobson has been called a populist. He has for a long time suffered from a disease of the eyes and recently sent in his resignation.

Admiral Taylor, chief of the navigation bureau, has made the following recommendation to the secretary of the navy concerning Captain Hobson's resignation: "The bureau is reluctant to recommend the acceptance of the resignation, believing that time should be given him to reconsider his decision and make a trial of the new duties at the station to which he has been assigned, that the government may retain the services of an officer whose record has been so brilliant."

Senator McMillan introduced and the state senate of Kansas passed a bill to prevent the eating of snakes, lizards, scorpions, centipedes, tarantulas and other reptiles. It is said that the bill is sure to pass the house and that the governor will sign it. It seems that since the state went back to republicanism, something had to be done to prevent a complete reversion to the habits of savages.

A reader of The Independent says: "I find some of the sharpest thrusts and spiciest items scattered here and there through The Independent without heads and stuck in just as if it were done to fill up. Why don't you put all those items together in some good place where every reader would see them?" The "make-up" of The Independent, that is the arranging of the matter in the columns and the general appearance of the paper, has already about worn the life out of two men, because so many things of importance press for space. Both of these men came to the same conclusion and that was that 32 pages could not be crowded into sixteen and that the two classes of citizens who want their "ads" at "the head of a column" or "next to reading matter" both ought to be hung with the benefit of clergy.

Thousands of men are idle by an order of the sugar trust, hundreds of thousands are suffering from the effect of orders issued by big and little coal trusts and \$0,000,000 people are paying extortionate prices for the necessities of life on account of the other trusts. How long the patient people will endure this condition of things which has resulted from the establishment or monopolies we will have to wait to see.

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