

# FIVE MEN CONTROL

# THE PRICE OF GRAIN.

NEW BOOK BY "COIN" HARVEY.

# BRITISH LOSS WAS 437

NEARLY 7,000 MILES OF CABLE.

# A MILITARY MURDER.

## STARTLING ADMISSION MADE BY THE HEAD OF THE ELEVATOR COMBINE OF CHICAGO IN SWORN TESTIMONY.

**Discrimination Granted by Railroads Allow the Organization and Practice of the Monopoly.**

## CONFISCATION IN THE STORAGE

**Board of Trade Is Itself Powerless Under the Iron-Hand of the Storage Trust and the Transportation Lines.**

Chicago, Dec. 5.—Charles Counselman, the head of the Chicago elevator system, in his testimony before the industrial commission last week, admitted that five men met every day near the Chicago Board of Trade and fixed the price to be paid for wheat the next day. He explained that this was done to benefit Chicago by bringing the wheat here for storage.

Further testimony indicated that the elevator "combine" controlled the price of wheat on the Chicago Board of Trade, except on abnormal occasions such as famine in Europe or when a plunger like Joe Leiter comes in and temporarily makes a success. It was the elevator combine and the railroads, indignantly at Leiter's intrusion, that would up that young man with a loss of \$1,000,000. Since then no one has dared to dispute the sway of the "combine."

The chief object of the elevator men is to keep their elevators full of grain, sell it for future delivery, collect the storage, and then the delivery date comes around, mix the wheat with inferior grades so that the purchaser may incur a loss in accepting, thus forcing him to liquidate and leave the wheat with the "combine."

The railway and elevator combine," said Mr. Greeley, "block the natural flow of commerce. Millions upon millions of bushels of wheat are stored at market centers to depress prices, for these men being carriers of grain for storage pending the time of future delivery, or which the product is sold, it is evident that the lower they can get the value of the crop the more insurance, interest and other charges necessary to hold them, consequently the larger profits. The storage charge always remains the same, not declining in proportion to the depreciation in the value of the crop."

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## FIVE MEN CONTROL THE PRICE

Chicago, Dec. 5.—The Industrial Commission, through its sub-committee on transportation has during its recent sessions here established this fact: That the greatest combination in the United States today is the combination that fixes the market price to be paid the farmers of the country for 500,000,000 bushels of spring and winter wheat harvested annually. The proportions of this "combine" wear the Sugar trust, Standard Oil, Federal Steel and the other giants. In the "combine" are four railroad systems with a mileage of 25,000 miles and a total capital stock and bonds amounting to \$1,000,000,000. These railroads are the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Chicago & Northwestern.

There are five men who meet every day in Chicago and fix the maximum price to be paid the farmer next day for his wheat. The principals are Armour & Co., Charles Counselman, Ware & Co., Barlett, Frazier and the Peaveys of Minneapolis. The men who meet are their agents and do their bidding.

"Each one of these firms represent one of the railroads. Armour has the St. Paul, Counselman the Rock Island and the railroads discriminate and rebate in favor of this big elevator 'combine,'" is the testimony of S. H. Greeley.

Such conditions what business is safe? The average business man feels strong enough and acute enough to cope with his competitors on equal terms, but here is a power he cannot compete with and he cannot avoid. This power, like a government, has authority to make tariffs and enforce their civilized government claims, and no sovereign has dared exercise for centuries, of rebating a portion of its tariff, and thus discriminating between its subjects in the collection of the revenues. It is safe to say that if the congress of the United States should enact a law which established on any commodity an unjust duty for one firm and another duty for another firm, the people would resort to arms rather than submit.

The recent reinstatement of A. J. Valentine, Armour's board of trade representative, who was suspended for a criminal offense, indicates a statement of the affair made to the board by John Hill, Jr. It throws a side light on the manipulation of the trust. In this case Cudaby was running a bull campaign in wheat, and Armour's main desire was to get rid of him by making him take the wheat on the assertion that storage had expired.

On May 1, 1896, there was delivered to members of the board of trade, by Armour & Co., fraudulent warehouse receipts to the extent of \$1,200,000 of No. 2 spring wheat. The magnitude of the swindle exposed it; by attracting attention of members to the number of receipts that were just regular on delivery day.

The directory promptly investigated the matter, and when the facts were placed before them, they almost unanimously voted the entire Armour system of elevators irregular.

At the trial before the directory the facts were all admitted, but the three Armours denied knowledge of the issuing of the receipts, and Valentine under oath exonerated them and assumed all the responsibility.

## FAMOUS AUTHOR OF "COIN'S FINANCIAL SCHOOL" ON ISSUE OF THE DAY.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special.)—The Chicago Record says: The national democratic executive committee has gone into the book publishing business, for W. H. Harvey is writing a sequel to "Coin." The chairman of every democratic county committee in the country has received a letter signed by Chairman J. G. Johnson of the executive committee asking him to get hold of a good book agent in his county to push the sale of "Coin's" new book, which, writes Mr. Johnson, "will be as good if not better than 'Coin's Financial School.'"

"Coin" Harvey is hard at work in his office in the Studio building piling up the typewritten copy of "Coin's Trusts and Imperialism." The first chapters of the book are in type, and they show that Mr. Harvey is closely following the style which made "Coin" a marvellous seller in 1895 and 1896. The cover design of the new book shows "Coin" in long trousers instead of the knickerbockers which were familiar to "Coin" followers three years ago. The word "trusts" is spelled out in red-ink letters and "imperialism" is covered with frost and ice.

"Coin's Financial School" was the text-book of the free silver orators in 1896. During the height of its boom 15,000 books were sold in one day. Mr. Harvey hopes that his new book will be the democratic bible next year. The original "Coin" was a private venture. The new book will have the backing and indorsement of the democratic executive committee, which evidently is to publish and market it, for Chairman Johnson's circular letter says the book will be ready January 10 and the prospectus December 1. He requests the chairman of the county committees to "push the subscriptions."

## RICHARDSON WINS IN CAUCUS.

Chosen Leader of Democracy in the House.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Richardson was nominated on the sixth ballot, Sulzer withdrawing in his favor. This makes the Tennessee representative the democratic leader of the house.

The caucus of the democratic members of the house for the selection of candidates or house officers was held in the hall of representatives today. The principal interest centered in the contest for the speakership nomination, which carries with it the democratic leadership on the floor. The candidates were Richardson of Tennessee, DeArmond of Missouri, Bankhead of Alabama and Sulzer of New York. The roll call showed the presence of 138 members. There was considerable wrangling over the selection of a presiding officer. Mr. Hay of Virginia and Mr. McRae of Arkansas were nominated. The friends of the latter made a strong fight against Mr. Hay, who has only served one term in the house. Mr. McRae is the oldest democrat in continuous service now in the house.

A considerable speech making a vote was taken, resulting in the selection of Mr. Hay, who received 77 votes against 62 for Mr. McRae.

Representative-elect Roberts of Utah attended the caucus and voted on the roll call. No question of his right to participate in the proceedings was raised.

The next thing in order was the selection of a candidate for speaker, and the nomination of speakers began.

Mr. Cummings placed Mr. Sulzer of New York in nomination. Mr. Carmack of Tennessee placed in nomination Mr. Richardson.

Bankhead was nominated by Fall of Texas and DeArmond by Burton of Missouri. Several speeches were made in seconding the nominations.

## DETAILS OF MODDER RIVER FIGHT STILL WITHHELD.

Military Situation on the Modder and Tugela is Concealed by London War Office.

London, Dec. 5.—The official list of those killed and wounded at the battle of Modder river has been announced, and totals up 438.

The revised list of Modder River casualties, non-commissioned officers and men, is divided as follows: Killed: One; Wounded: 437. The troops returned today: Engineers, 2 wounded; artillery 3 killed, 25 wounded; Second Coldstreams, 10 killed, 56 wounded; Third Grenadiers, 9 killed, 38 wounded, 4 missing; Scots Guards, 10 killed, 37 wounded, 1 missing; Northumberland Fusiliers, 11 killed, 31 wounded; First Northumberland, 3 wounded; Second Yorkshires, 9 killed, 44 wounded; First North Lancashire, 3 killed, 14 wounded; Argyll and South Highlanders, 15 killed, 95 wounded; 2 missing; First Coldstreams, 29 wounded; South African Reserve, 1 wounded; Medical Corps, 1 wounded.

The war office has received the following from General Forester-Walker, dated at Cape Town Friday: "General Gatacre reports no change in the situation. "General French has made a reconnaissance from Naauwpoort to Rosmead. The troops returned today. "General Methuen's flesh wound is slight. He is remaining at Modder river for the reconstruction of the bridge. Am reinforcing him with Highlanders and a cavalry corps. Horse artillery and the Canadian and Australian contingents and three battalions of infantry moved up to the De Aar and Belmont line."

From General Forester-Walker's dispatch it is proved that all reports of the advance of the British and reports of General Methuen's advance after the battle of Modder river were premature, though, with the railroad working, he should not be long in constructing a temporary bridge. His enforced delay, however, will be of considerable service in giving his hard pushed column needful rest and in allowing the arrival of reinforcements, of which he must be sorely in need. After three such fights, placing hors combat upwards of 1,000 men out of less than 7,000.

General Forester-Walker's announcement that the Canadian marksmen and other reinforcements have been pushed forward to the neighborhood of the Orange river, to protect General Methuen's line of communication, has relieved much anxiety here, where it was fully expected the Boers would attempt to attack the vulnerable points of the line of communication.

Colonel Sumner, the military attaché of the American embassy, says that apart from prisoners the casualties on the British side have not been so heavy in any engagement as they were in the Sanyati battles, where 1,200 men were killed or wounded out of 16,000 engaged.

The latest news from Natal indicates that the bulk of the Ladysmith relief force has arrived at Pieter, though there is considerable conjecture as to the whereabouts of General Clery, whose movements have not been chronicled recently. It is surmised in some quarters that he may reappear in a totally unexpected way.

An eminent Englishman remarked: "We may lack confidence in some of our generals as tacticians, but not in our soldiers as fighting men. They win our battles and never disappoint us."

Evidently, however, it is thought that England cannot stand out too long against the Boers. It is generally believed that the two additional divisions now going out will be enlarged into a full army corps.

It is clear that the continued ignorance in London concerning the details of the fight at Modder river and the resultant situation is not the result of an accident. Apparently, it is assumed in most quarters that Lord Methuen has been relieved of the relief of Kimberley, but there seems to be nothing in the tidings received to warrant such an assumption. The ardor with which Lord Methuen has forced the pace northward confirms conjectures as to the needs of Kimberley.

## PROPOSED LINE OF WIRE ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.—President McKinley will urge congress to authorize the laying of a government cable from San Francisco to the Philippines.

The importance of a military adjunct of prompt communication with America's Pacific possessions—Hawaii, Guam, Samoa and the Philippines—and as an indispensable instrument in the development of our expanding commerce in the far east, particularly with China and Japan, is urged as the motive.

At the present cost of ocean cables for making and laying, about \$1,200 a linear mile, the aggregate expense may be estimated at \$8,168,400. Allowing, however, \$331,000 for equipment and unforeseen contingencies, the total would be \$7,837,400. This seems a tremendous outlay, but experts declare it will be a good business investment, aside from its usefulness as a military adjunct. Since Admiral Dewey's victory at Manila on May 1, 1898, the cable tolls paid by our government on messages to and from the Philippines have been enormous. At present, the government messages to Manila cost \$2.25 a word—only a small reduction from the regular rate of \$2.40, and special rates on particularly pressing messages often run up as high as \$7.10 a word. Besides, the service now obtained is imperfect and unsatisfactory. In the proposed cable not only would our government be free, from these charges and from the annoying supervision and meddling of foreign companies, but it would be free to use the line for the public and by commercial interests would afford invaluable facilities for expanding trade, and yield a good return to the government.

## WOMEN RUN THE TOWN.

Their Administration Proves a Success in East Hampton.

New York, Dec. 5.—The Ladies' Village Improvement society of East Hampton, L. I., has just come out with its first annual report, and they have a great deal to say for themselves. John J. Ingalls, who recently wrote in the Journal that women lack initiative and executive ability.

The report shows that since the women took hold of the town crosswalks have been put down, trees have been planted, the streets sprinkled, roads built and a new opera house planned. The cells in the lockup have been carpeted and texts have been hung in the baggage smasher's room at the railroad station.

When the men run the town they could not raise another cent for improvements either by taxation or subscription. The women have secured up \$500 to expend on the roads. When they get \$1,000 they are going to buy road machines and lay out four miles of new streets. They are showing their originality, too, by their selection of names for the streets. They have already named on Susan B. Anthony avenue.

When East Hampton was governed by men there were no crosswalks, the common was ragged and unkempt and half the time there was no kerosene in the street lamps, and the highways were not sprinkled. The highway commissioner used to sit on an apple barrel in the corner grocery, and while whittling a stick talk about himself and the battle of Antietam.

## HIGH PRICE FOR MATCHMAKING.

Marcus Daly Would Give \$250,000 For a Prince For His Daughter.

Paris, Dec. 5.—Tempestuous gossip has been excited here by the rather inconsiderate boast of Mrs. Stewart Taylor that she has been promised \$250,000 as a commission by Marcus Daly, the Anaconda copper king, to match his daughter, Madge, with a certain Italian prince. Mrs. Taylor spoke thus before a gathering of ten or twelve women in Armand's fashionable dressmaking establishment.

It had been generally understood that Miss Madge Daly was engaged to Dr. Archibald Rieker, a handsome American dentist with a fashionable clientele. Marcus Daly only began to oppose the match during his visit here last summer. The Italian Prince is aged and has a rather unsavory reputation in Paris and Rome, where he has been the hero in several social adventures. Marcus Daly's friends say that he has too much American common sense to have intended the alleged remark to Mrs. Taylor to be taken seriously.

Dr. E. O. Smith, the specialist in the treatment of cancer, will publish a column of testimonials in next week's issue of this paper. If afflicted, do not fail to read them, then write to the parties who wrote them and convince yourself of the merits of Dr. Smith's treatment. Dr. Smith does not accept one cent of pay until you are cured. This is the strongest guarantee that he can give you. After you have satisfied yourself as to whether or not you want to have your life under his care, write to him and he will give you consultation and advice free.

## WHOLE STATE AROUSED OVER KILLING OF PRIVATE MORGAN.

The Affair Presents a Phase of Militarism That is Repugnant to Liberty-Loving Nebraskans.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 5.—Every weekly paper and most of the dailies which come to the governor's office these days have something to say about the affair at LaPlatte in which Private Morgan was shot and killed by two soldiers from Fort Crook who had been sent out to arrest and bring him back to the fort. The large majority of the papers take decided ground in support of the governor and attorney general, who hold that the criminal laws of the state should be obeyed. It is also equally remarkable that the leading republican papers of the state condemn the governor for his declaration that the laws he was elected to enforce must be respected, even if the officers and soldiers be the violators.

The State Journal has on two or three occasions declared that "it is pop politics," and then proceeded to defend the killing on the ground of expediency. It is remarkable that these republican organs declare that the doctrine of the sovereignty of the state and the attorney general that the laws be obeyed is "pop politics." It is something that is striking many republicans as well as democrats and populists as astounding that there should be such alacrity on the part of republican organs to defend the arrogation of such extraordinary powers by the military and proceed to the length of declaring that regular army officers and soldiers can take on themselves the performance of police duties and claim exemption from liability for the result of their acts except to the military authorities. It has not been claimed by the governor nor by any other fusionists that there was any political animus in the case, and if the republicans put themselves on record as their organs have done with the declaration that it is "pop politics" to take a stand for the supremacy of the civil laws and against the doctrine that soldiers are not amenable for violations thereof, it is certain that opponents of republicanism will all agree with good citizens of all classes that it is a mighty good brand of politics for this republic.

## STATE FAIR CLAIM.

State Auditor Cornell has moved for a rehearing of the case in district court in which the order was issued commanding him to pay the claim of the State Fair association. The auditor declined to draw the warrant for the amount on the ground that as no state fair was held either in 1898 or 1899, the association was not entitled to the money. The application was made to the district court for the order to compel the auditor to issue the warrant, and by mistake on his part and his attorney's part as the time of the hearing, he was not represented and the order was granted on default of the defendant. He now asks that the case be reopened and he be given a hearing.

## THRASHING MACHINE TRUST.

Will Capitalize at Sixty Million—Other Trust News.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 5.—A thrashing machine trust will be formed, to control 70 per cent of the business. A. A. McCain, president of the Indianapolis Manufacturing company, is likely to be at the head of the combination. The trust will capitalize at \$60,000,000.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 5.—It has been learned that the combine of the thrasher manufacturers of the United States, which was effected recently in New York with a capitalization of \$60,000,000, will include 70 per cent of the thrasher manufacturers of the United States. The J. I. Case Thrashing Machine company of Racine, Wis., is said to be the largest company outside of the trust and that it is preparing to fight the combine. The plan is to divide the manufacture of separators and thrashers among the different companies and no shutdown of any plant is contemplated.

## WEEKLY RECORD OF TRUSTS.

Nov. 25.—A combination of independent coal operators proposes to build a railroad to Tidewater.

An anti-trust conference to meet in the latter part of January at Chicago will be called in a few days. Governor Pingree and Mr. Bryan are expected to attend.

Nov. 30.—Tobacco trust advances the price of chewing tobacco 10 cents a pound.

The combination in some form of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania and Baltimore & Ohio railroad interests seems to be assured.

## TO TEST THE BIBLE QUESTION.

Some of Gage County Citizens Object to Its Use in Schools.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 5.—Gage county citizens propose to test in the state supreme court a peculiar question, involving, as it does, the legality of the teachers in the public schools reading the bible to the pupils and opening the day's work with prayer. Some of the citizens of that county have objected to this practice, which is general in this state. They have written to the superintendent of public instruction for an opinion and he has held that the teachers may continue, as in the past, to read the bible in school as long as they do not make any comment.

The director of the school district has written a long letter to the state superintendent of public instruction, asking for a ruling, and Superintendent Jackson has replied. In his letter the state superintendent says: "I desire to say in reply that in a district where the sentiment is unanimously in favor of devotional exercises, such as reading the bible and repeating the Lord's Prayer, there can be no question as to the right and propriety of such exercises, especially when the reading of the bible is without any comment. I do not mean to say that it would be proper to require pupils to conform to any religious rite or observance or to go through with religious forms or observances inconsistent with their religious convictions or conscientious scruples. Such a requisition would be a violation of the spirit of the clause in the constitution which prohibits sectarian instruction."

## GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

### ENGLAND REBUKING FRANCE.

London, Dec. 5.—There now seems to be no doubt that England will boycott the Paris exposition as a means of resenting the insults which France has heaped on England since the outbreak of the war in Africa. The social boycott was inaugurated when the Prince of Wales resigned as Royal British Exposition Commissioner. Forty-five large British firms have canceled plans for participating in the exposition.

### IRISH POLITICS.

London, Dec. 5.—John Dillon, M. P., declines to serve on the committee appointed by the recent Dublin meeting to carry on the unity negotiations. In a letter to Timothy Healey he says he believes the country has lost all faith in the possibility of the reconstruction of the United Irish Parliamentary Party by negotiations between the members of parliament, and adds that he does not believe the country will accept a settlement so reached. Hence, while wishing well for the efforts at unity, he declines to serve on the committee.

## BATTLE IS STILL A MYSTERY.

London, Dec. 5.—The delay in the publication of the full details of the battle of Modder river has not only prolonged and deepened the anxiety of the swarms of visitors to the war office but it has also revived criticisms of the shortcomings of the military staff responsible for the organization of the army corps and the direction of the campaign. Lord Methuen's last battle remains a mystery, but it is plain that it would have been won more easily if the British army had been more fully equipped with more horses and field artillery, and especially with howitzer batteries capable of firing lyddite shells. There is much fault finding over the delay in sending out howitzer batteries, and the neglect of the admiralty to supply rapid sea transports.

## INSIST ON HEALTHY FACTORIES.

London, Dec. 5.—Representatives of 80,000 cotton and cloth workers have appealed to the Home Secretary, declaring that they will go on strike unless the provisions of the law regulating the sanitary conditions of factories is enforced. They specify unhealthy violations of the law committed by manufacturers. A vigorous prosecution is promised, and as the men have apparently made reasonable demands, it is not likely the strike will occur.