

# THE O'NEILL FRONTIER

D. H. CRONIN, Publisher.

YNEILL, NEBRASKA

Boston is still digging up Paul Revere relics. Workmen employed in restoring the old Revere house at the North End uncovered in the back yard the old Paul Revere well. It shows a diameter of four feet and six inches, while its depth is not yet determined, as, of course, it had been filled up completely. It proves to be entirely planked in vertically, like an ordinary water tank, with oak-hewn planks. In connection with the work that has been going on there have been also some other discoveries. Two pieces of old Lowestoft china have been found, one a part of a cup and the other a part of a saucer. In some excavating in the cellar there was found an old half-dollar, also a big copper cent of 1844.

West Virginia is to make an experiment in a film. This city has been laid out near Charleston, the capital of the state, and it is expected that within a year it will contain a population of several thousand. No child is to be permitted to reside within its limits or to own property therein. In the midst of this little Africa is situated the state colored high school. Educational facilities will be ample and there will be electric light, sewerage and parks. The city will be governed, of course, by the negro inhabitants, and the whole state will watch with interest the progress of the experiment as testing the capacity of the negro for self government.

The administration of the Prussian railroads has recently experimented with wireless telegraphic signals on the line between Berlin and Beetz, employing a train of four cars carrying antennae and receiving apparatus, the transmitting apparatus being installed between Berlin and Sangerhausen. The transmitting wire was suspended upon telegraph poles for a distance of 200 feet, about a foot beneath the ordinary telegraph wires. The distance between about seven and a half miles on each side of the transmitting station, the signals were clearly and distinctly received on the moving train.

All the principal railway companies of Great Britain issue railway tickets made entirely of gold, which entitle the holder to travel free by any class of car and train, on any line and by any system in the British Isles. They are the size of a 50-cent piece, but oval in shape, and engraved with the railway company's coat of arms, with the holder's name beneath, and are intended to be worn on watch chains. These tickets can not be bought, but are presented by the directors to persons who have earned the railway companies' gratitude.

The heaviest stag which has been killed this season in Scotland was a royal, which scaled 371 pounds. This immense beast was shot in Arran deer forest by one of Lord and Lady Graham's guests at Brodick castle. The stags in Arran are remarkable both for size and quality, and the forest carries a heavy stock of red deer, and affords first-rate sport. The shooting lodge on the west side of the island, where the best stalking is obtained during the first month of the season, is covered outside with over 200 pairs of deer horns.

The Empress Eugenie treasures a pen made from the quill of a golden eagle's wing, which she mounted with diamonds and gold, which was used at her request by the fourteen plenipotentiaries who signed the Treaty of Paris in 1856. When the Hon. Mr. Arundel, eldest son of Lord Bangor, was married some time since, the register was signed with a quill pen which was used by the high contracting powers in signing the Treaty of Vienna, and which has several times been utilized at weddings in the Ward family.

The Pennsylvania state nurseries, in 1906, sent out no fewer than 160,000 white pine seedlings, besides 400,000 pounds of seed, to be planted last spring. This is in addition to the extensive forestry work under way at the forest reserves of the Pennsylvania railroad at Altoona, and of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company in Schuylkill and Carbon counties, and the work upon the state's own reservations. This is a good beginning for one of the states which now have reservations.

Thackeray's favorite poets were Goldsmith and the sweet lyric singers. Prior, whom he thought the easiest, the richest, the most charmingly humorous of English lyrical poets, and Gay, the force of whose melody and artless ringing laughter he appreciated. He admitted Pope, too, but while admitting Milton's greatness thought him "such a bore that no one could read him." It is not surprising, therefore, that Thackeray never essayed the "big bowwow kind" of poetry.

Five hundred and fifty pounds was paid by a nobleman at the beginning of the eighteenth century for a dog collar of gold. A collar of silver, with four stones set in it, costing 200 guineas, was sold to a society for her pet pug dog. It is fashionable in France to put gold bracelets studded with jewels on the forelegs of poodles. The cost of such jewelry is not high, as the cost of no less than 200 guineas for jeweled collars run to £100. The bracelets cost from £2 to £70 each.

Seventeen pounds is a long price to pay for a key, but this sum has been given by a member of the Rothschild family for what may be said to be the most valuable key in the world. It is marked with the arms of the Strozzi family and is believed to be the work of the great Italian artist, Benvenuto Cellini, who flourished in the sixteenth century. The key is chiseled out of a teque female figure and ornamented with various scrolls.

Lord Kingsburgh, lord justice clerk of Scotland, has attained high rank among public benefactors. From the circumference of his having initiated more than forty years ago, when a young and little known man at the Scotch bar, the agitation for the halfpenny post card system in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Singer, of sewing machine fame, paid \$60,000 for a pair of opera glasses. The lenses are, of course, the best obtainable. The fact that the "glasses" were of solid gold, surrounded by a lyre incrustured with diamonds and sapphires, that accounted for the price.

A Saxon firm has introduced a new road-binding process for preventing dust. It is called "poko-kon," and is a mixture of the heavier residual oil obtained in the distillation of coal tar with high boiling hydrocarbons.

Taken by rail from Ballarat north to Melbourne, a collier appeared three weeks later at its old home, having found its way over 104 miles of road, which it had never traveled before.

The wreck record of the Baltic sea is greater than that of any other body of water in the world. The average is one a day throughout the year.

## ROOSEVELT STANDS FOR REGULATION OF BIG CORPORATIONS

In Message Delivered Tuesday He Urges a National Incorporation Act.

### MONEY REFORM IS NEEDED

He Leaves It to Congress to Select Plan, but Inclines Toward Guaranty Fund for Protection—Many Points Covered.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 3.—President Roosevelt today sent his annual message to the senate congress, and the assembly. In part the message is as follows:

The Senate and House of Representatives: No nation has greater resources than ours, and I think it can be truthfully said that the citizens of no nation possess greater energy and industrial ability. In no nation are the fundamental business conditions sounder than in ours at this very moment; and it is foolish, when such is the case, for people to hoard money instead of investing it in sound banks; for it is such hoarding that is the immediate occasion of money stringency. Moreover, as a rule, the business of our people is conducted with honesty and probity, and this applies alike to farms and factories, to railroads and banks, to all our legitimate commercial enterprises.

In any large body of men, however, there are certain to be some who are dishonest, and if these conditions are not corrected, these men prosper or commit their misdeeds with impunity, their example is a very evil thing for the community. Where these men are business men of great sagacity and of temperance, their unscrupulous and unprincipled behavior, where the conditions are such that they act without supervision or control and at first without effective check from public opinion, they delude many innocent people into making investments or embarking in kinds of business that are really unsound. When the misdeeds of these successfully dishonest men are discovered, suffering comes not only upon them, but upon the innocent men whom they have misled. It is a painful awakening, whenever it occurs, and naturally, when it does occur those who suffer are apt to forget that the longer it was deferred the more painful it would be. In the effort to punish the guilty it is both wise and proper to endeavor so far as possible to relieve the distress of those who have been misled by the guilty. Yet it is not possible to refrain because of such distress from striving to put an end to the misdeeds that are the ultimate cause of the sufferings, and, as a means to this end, where possible to punish those responsible for them. There may be honest differences of opinion as to many governmental policies; but surely there can be no such difference of opinion as to the need of such persistence in the war against successful dishonesty.

(Here the president quotes from his 1905 message his declaration for the square deal between corporations and people and for the regulations of interstate commerce to this end.)

I have called your attention to these quotations to what I have already said because I am satisfied that it is the duty of the national government to embody in action the principles thus expressed.

### Interstate Commerce.

No small part of the trouble that we have come from carrying to an extreme the doctrine of laissez faire, of independence in initiative and action. It is wise to conserve this virtue and to provide for its fullest exercise, compatible with seeing that liberty does not become a liberty to wrong others. The freedom of initiative and action, which is the kind of liberty that the lack of all effective regulation inevitably breeds. The founders of the constitution provided that the national government should have complete and sole control of interstate commerce. This exists under practically no interstate business save such as was conducted by water, and this the national government at once proceeded to regulate in thoroughgoing and effective fashion.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the interstate commerce which was changed to the interstate commerce by water is insignificant compared with the amount that goes by land, and almost all big business concerns are now engaged in interstate commerce. As a result it can be but partially and imperfectly controlled or regulated by the action of any one of the several states; such action inevitably tending to be either too drastic or else too lax, and in either case ineffective in the name of justice. Only the national government can in thoroughgoing fashion exercise the needed control. This does not mean that there should be any extension of federal authority, for such authority already exists under the constitution in amplest and most far-reaching form but it does mean that there should be an extension of federal activity. This is not advocating centralization. It is merely saying that the facts in the face of realizing that centralization in business has already come and cannot be avoided or undone, and that the public at large can only protect itself from certain evils by the national incorporation act or a law licensing railway companies to engage in interstate commerce upon certain conditions. THE LAW SHOULD BE SO FRAMED AS TO GIVE TO THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION POWER TO PASS UPON THE FUTURE ISSUE OF SECURITIES, WHILE AMPLE MEANS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO ENABLE THE COMMISSION, WHENEVER IN ITS JUDGMENT IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE A PHYSICAL VALUATION OF ANY RAILROAD.

### Should Permit Pooling.

As I stated in my message to the congress a year ago, railroads should be given power to enter into agreements, subject to these agreements being made public in minute detail and

to the consent of the interstate Commerce commission being first obtained. Until the national government assumes proper control of interstate commerce, in the exercise of the authority it already possesses, it will be impossible either to give to or to get from the railroads full justice.

### Sherman Anti-Trust Law.

Moreover, in my judgment there should be additional legislation looking to the proper control of the great business concerns engaged in interstate business, this control to be exercised for their own benefit and prosperity no less than for the protection of investors and of the general public. As I have repeatedly said in messages to the congress and elsewhere, experience has definitely shown not merely the unwisdom but the futility of endeavoring to put a stop to all business combinations. Modern industrial conditions are such that combination is not only necessary but inevitable. It is so in the world of business just as it is in the world of labor, and it is equally true that an end to all combinations, to all big combinations of capital, as to desire to put an end to the combinations of labor. Corporation and labor union alike have come to stay. Each, if properly managed is a source of good and not evil. Whenever in either case it should be promptly held to account; but it should receive hearty encouragement so long as it is properly managed. It is profoundly immoral to put or keep on the statute books a law, nominal in the interest of public morality, that really puts a premium upon public immorality, by undertaking to forbid honest men from doing what must be done under modern business conditions, so that the law itself provides that its own infraction must be a condition precedent upon business success. To aim at the accomplishment of too much usually means the accomplishment of too little, and often the doing of positive damage.

### Prevent the Evil Combination.

(Here the president cited previous expressions to the effect that the Sherman anti-trust act is so framed that the business of the country cannot be conducted without breaking it.)

The anti-trust law should not be repealed; but it should be made both more efficient and more in harmony with actual conditions. It should be amended so as to forbid the combination of public utility which does harm to the general public, such amendment to be accompanied by, or to be an incident of, a grant of supervisory power to the government over these big concerns. The Sherman anti-trust law, this should be accompanied by provision for the compulsory publication of accounts and the subjecting of books and papers to the inspection of the government. Such a law, if it has already been made for such supervision by the establishment of the bureau of corporations.

The anti-trust law should not prohibit combinations that do no injury to the public, still less those the existence of which is on the whole a benefit to the public. But even if this feature of the law were abolished, there would remain an equally objectionable feature, the difficulty and delay now incident to its enforcement. The government must now submit to irksome and repeated delay before obtaining a final decision of the courts upon proceedings instituted, and even a favorable decision may mean only a victory. Moreover, to attempt to control these corporations by law suits means to impose upon both the department of justice and the courts an impossible burden. It is not feasible to carry on this kind of litigation of such suits. Such a law to be really effective must of course be administered by an executive body, and not merely by means of law suits. The design should be to prevent the abuses of the Sherman law, instead of waiting until they are in existence and then attempting to destroy them by civil or criminal proceedings.

### Condemns Trusts in Necessities.

A combination should not be tolerated which features the difficulty and delay now incident to its enforcement. The government must now submit to irksome and repeated delay before obtaining a final decision of the courts upon proceedings instituted, and even a favorable decision may mean only a victory. Moreover, to attempt to control these corporations by law suits means to impose upon both the department of justice and the courts an impossible burden. It is not feasible to carry on this kind of litigation of such suits. Such a law to be really effective must of course be administered by an executive body, and not merely by means of law suits. The design should be to prevent the abuses of the Sherman law, instead of waiting until they are in existence and then attempting to destroy them by civil or criminal proceedings.

### THE CONGRESS HAS THE POWER TO CHARTER CORPORATIONS TO ENGAGE IN INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE, AND A GENERAL LAW CAN BE ENACTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH EXISTING CORPORATIONS COULD TAKE OUT FEDERAL CHARTERS AND NEW FEDERAL CORPORATIONS COULD BE CREATED.

### License as an Alternative.

An essential provision of such a law should be a method of predetermining by some federal board or commission whether the applicant for a federal charter was an association or combination of persons, or whether the federal law. Provision should also be made for complete publicity in all matters affecting the public and complete protection to the investing public and the shareholders in the matter of issuing corporate securities. Such an incorporation law is not deemed advisable, a license act for big interstate corporations might be enacted; or a combination of the two might be tried. The supervision established might be analogous to that now exercised over national banks. At least, the anti-trust act should be supplemented by specific prohibitions of the methods which experience has shown have been of most service to the business community. Combinations to crush out competition. The real owners of a corporation should be compelled to do business in their own name. The right to hold stock in other corporations should be restricted to those admitted to interstate corporations unless on approval by the proper government officials, and a prerequisite to such approval should be the listing with the

government of all owners and stockholders, and by the corporation owning such stock and by the corporation in which such stock is owned.

To confer upon the national government, in connection with the amendment I advocate in the anti-trust law, powers of supervision over big business concerns engaged in interstate commerce, would benefit them as it has benefited the national banks. In the recent business crisis it is noteworthy that the institutions which failed were those which were not under the supervision and control of the national government. Those which were under national control stood the test.

### Would Help the Railroads.

National control of the kind above advocated would be to the benefit of every well managed railway. From the standpoint of the public there is need for additional tracks, additional terminals, and improvements in the actual handling of the railroads, and all this as rapidly as possible. Ample, safe and speedy transportation facilities are even more necessary than power to regulate the business. There is need for the investment of money which will provide for all these things while at the same time securing as far as is possible better wages and shorter hours for their employees. Therefore, with these two ends in view, a reasonable regulation of rates would be the first to protest against any arbitrary and unthinking movement to cut them down without the fullest and most careful consideration of all interests concerned. Only a national government under authority conferred upon it by the congress is competent to pass judgment on such a matter.

### Pure Food Law a Success.

Those who fear, from any reason, the extension of federal activity will do well to study the history not only of the national banking act, but of the pure food law, and notably the meat inspection law recently enacted. The pure food law was opposed so violently that its passage was delayed for a decade; yet it has proved a most successful and a most good. The meat inspection law was even more violently assailed; and the same men who now denounce the attitude of the national government in seeking to control the workings of interstate common carriers and business concerns, then asserted that we were "discrediting and ruining a great American industry." Two years have not elapsed, and it has become an axiom that the great benefit the law confers upon the public is accomplished by an equal benefit to the reputable packing establishments. The latter are better off under the law than they were before it. The benefit to interstate common carriers and business concerns from the legislation I advocate would be equally marked.

### Currency Reform Needed.

In my message to the congress a year ago I called your attention to the currency. I especially call your attention to the condition of our currency laws. The national bank act has ably served a great purpose in aiding the enormous business development of the country, but it has become an obstacle to an increase in circulation per capita from \$21.41 to \$33.08. For several years evidence has been accumulating that additional legislation is needed. The recurrence of each crop season emphasizes the defects of the present law. There must soon be a revision of them because to leave them as they are means to incur liability of business disaster. Since your body adjourned there has been a fluctuation in the interest rates, 2 per cent, and the fluctuation was even greater during the preceding six months. The secretary of the treasury had to step in and by wise action put a stop to this most violent period of oscillation. Even worse than such fluctuation is the advance in commercial rates and the uncertainty felt in the insufficiency of credit even at high rates. All commercial interests suffer from the high rates of interest. The rates for call money in New York attract money from the interior banks into the speculative field. This depletes the fund that would otherwise be available for commercial uses, and commercial rates are forced to rise to abnormal rates, so that each fall a tax, in the shape of increased interest charges, is placed on the whole commerce of the country. The mere statement of these facts shows that our present system is seriously defective. There is need of a change. It must never be forgotten that this question concerns business men generally quite as much as bankers; especially is this true of stockmen, farmers and business men in the west, for at present at certain seasons of the year the difference in interest rates between the east and west is from 6 to 10 per cent, whereas in Canada the corresponding difference is but 2 per cent.

I again urge on the congress the need of immediate attention to this matter. We need a greater elasticity in our currency; provided, of course, that we retain the present advantage of a safe and secure currency. There must always be the most rigid examination by the national authorities.

### Should Be Elastic System.

Provision should be made for an emergency currency. The emergency issue should, of course, be made with effective guaranty, and upon conditions carefully prescribed by the government. Such an emergency issue should be based on adequate securities approved by the government, and must be issued under a heavy tax. This would permit the government to issue the emergency currency when the demand for it is urgent, while securing its retirement as the demand fell off. It is worth investigating to determine whether officers and directors of national banks should be allowed to loan to the government, or whether they should be subject to the same supervision as banks; legislation to this effect should be enacted for the District of Columbia and the territories.

Yet we must also remember that even the wisest legislation on the subject can only accomplish a certain amount. No legislation can by any possibility guard against the business community against the results of speculative folly any more than it can guarantee an individual against the results of his extravagance. When an individual mortgages his house to buy an automobile he invites disaster; and when wealthy men, or men who pose as such, or unscrupulously or foolishly eager to become such, indulge in reckless speculation—especially if it is accomplished only through the use of borrowed money—their own future, but the future of all their innocent fellow citizens, for they expose the whole business community to panic and distress.

### The Tariff.

The tariff should be definitely committed to the protective system and any effort to uproot it could not but cause widespread industrial disaster. In other words, the prin-

ciple of the present tariff law could not with wisdom be changed. The minimum of protection and opening growth as ours it is probably well that every dozen years or so the tariff laws should be carefully scrutinized so as to see that no excessive or improper benefits are conferred thereby, although the revenue is provided, and that our foreign trade is encouraged. There must always be as a minimum a tariff which will not only allow for the collection of an ample revenue, but which will at least make good the difference in cost of production here and abroad; that is, the difference in the labor cost here and abroad, for the well being of the wage earners must ever be the cardinal point of American policy. The question should be approached purely from a business standpoint; both the time and the manner of the change being such as to arouse no disturbance in the business world, and to give the least play for selfish and factional motives. The sole consideration should be to see that the sum total of changes represented by the tariff be such that the subject can not with wisdom be dealt with in the year preceding a presidential election, because as a matter of fact experience has conclusively shown that at such a time it is impossible to get men to treat it from the standpoint of the public good. In my judgment the wise time to deal with the matter is immediately after such election.

### Income Tax and Inheritance Tax.

When our tax laws are revised the question of an income tax and an inheritance tax should receive the careful attention of our legislators. In my judgment both of these taxes should be part of the system of federal taxation. I speak definitely about the income tax because one scheme for an income tax was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court; while in addition it is a difficult tax to administer, and the practical working and great care would have to be expended to see that it was not evaded by the very men whom it was most desirable to have taxed, for if so evaded it would, of course, be worse than no tax at all; and the desirable of such a tax is the tax which bears heavily upon the honest man. Nevertheless, a graduated income tax of the proper type would be a desirable feature of federal taxation, and I have no doubt that one may be devised which the supreme court will declare constitutional. The inheritance tax, however, is both a far better method of taxation, and far more important for the purpose of having the effect of increasing in size the corresponding increase and burden of taxation.

The government has the absolute right to decide as to the terms upon which a man shall receive property, and in this point in the devolution of property is especially appropriate for the imposition of a tax. Laws imposing such taxes have been repeatedly placed upon the national statute books and as repeatedly declared constitutional by the courts; and these laws contained the progressive principle, that is, after a certain amount has been received by a man, or a gift, in life or death, is increasingly burdened and the rate of taxation is increased in proportion to the remoteness of blood of the man receiving the bequest.

### Behind the European Countries.

The principles are recognized already in the leading civilized nations of the world. In Great Britain all the estates worth \$5,000 or less are practically exempt from death duties, while the increase is such that when an estate exceeds \$5,000,000 in value and passes to a distant kinsman or stranger in blood the government receives all told an amount equivalent to nearly a fifth of the whole estate. In France a man of an inheritance as exceeds \$10,000,000 pays over a fifth to the state if it passes to a distant relative.

The German law is especially interesting because it bears more heavily upon inheritance tax an imperial measure while allotting to the individual states of the empire a portion of the proceeds and permitting them to impose taxes in addition to those imposed by the imperial government. Such inheritances are exempt, but the tax is so sharply progressive that when the inheritance is still not very large, provided it is not an agricultural or a forest land, it is taxed at the rate of 25 per cent, showing that our present system is seriously defective. There is need of a change. It must never be forgotten that this question concerns business men generally quite as much as bankers; especially is this true of stockmen, farmers and business men in the west, for at present at certain seasons of the year the difference in interest rates between the east and west is from 6 to 10 per cent, whereas in Canada the corresponding difference is but 2 per cent.

### Enforcement of the Law.

A few years ago there was loud complaint against the law courts because there is no such complaint now. The course of the department of justice during the last few years has been such as to make it evident that no man stands above the law, that no corporation is so wealthy that it cannot be held to account. But the laws themselves need strengthening in more than one important point, they should be made more definite, so that no honest man would be led unwittingly to break them, and so that the real wrongdoer can be readily punished.

Moreover, there must be the public opinion back of the law, and the laws themselves will be of no avail. At present, while the average jurymen undoubtedly wishes to see trusts broken up, and is quite ready to fine the corporation, he is very reluctant to find the facts proven beyond a reasonable doubt when it comes to sending to jail a member of the business community for indulging in practices which are profoundly unwholesome, but which, unfortunately, the business community has grown to recognize as well nigh normal. Both the present condition of the law and the present attitude of the public render it a task of extreme difficulty to get at the real wrongdoer in any such case, especially by imprisonment. Yet it is from every standpoint far preferable to punish the principle offender by imprisonment rather than to fine the corporation, with the attendant damage to stockholders.

### Accidents.

The loss of life and limb from railroad accidents in this country has become appalling. It is a subject of which the national government should take supervision. It might be well to begin by providing for a federal inspector of interstate railroads, some of whose lines of federal inspection of steamboats, although not so far; perhaps at first all that it would be necessary to have would be some officers whose duty it would be to investigate all accidents on interstate railroads and report in detail the causes thereof.

### Employers' Liability.

Congress should adopt legislation providing limited but definite compensation for accidents to all workmen within the scope of the federal power, including employees of navy yards and arsenals. In other words, a model employers' liability act, far reaching and thoroughgoing, should be enacted which should apply to all positions, public and private, over which the national government has jurisdiction. The law should be made such that the payment for accidents to the employer would be automatic instead of being a matter for lawsuits. Workmen should receive certain and definite compensation for all accidents in industry irrespective of negligence.

By the proposed law, employers would gain a desirable certainty of obligation and get rid of litigation to determine it, while the workman and his family would be relieved from a crushing loss. The constitutionality of the employers' liability act passed by the preceding congress has been carried before the courts. In the event that the court should affirm the constitutionality of the act, I urge that legislation along the lines advocated in my message to the preceding congress. Since 1895 practically every country of Europe, together with Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, British Columbia, and the Cape of Good Hope has enacted legislation embodying in one form or another the complete recognition of the principle which places upon the employer the entire trade risk in the various lines of industry.

### Eight-Hour Law.

The principle of the eight-hour day should be rapidly and as far as practicable be extended to all workmen carried on by the government; and the present law should be amended to embrace contracts on those public works which the present wording of the act has been construed to exclude.

### Investigation of Industrial Disputes.

Strikes are a serious and a constant loss and suffering, continuing to increase. For the five years ending December 31, 1905, the number of strikes was greater than those in any previous ten years and was double the number in the preceding five years. The figures indicate the increasing need of providing some machinery to deal with this class of disturbances in the interest alike of the employer, the employee, and the general public. I renew my previous recommendation that the congress favorably consider the matter of creating the machinery for compulsory investigation of such industrial controversies as are of sufficient magnitude and of sufficient concern to the people of the country as a whole to warrant the federal government in taking action.

### Employment of Women and Children.

A thorough and comprehensive measure should be adopted at this session of the congress relating to the employment of women and children in the District of Columbia and the territories. The investigation into the condition of women and children wage-earners recently authorized and directed by the congress is now being carried on in the various states, and I recommend that the congress make last year for the beginning of this work be renewed, in order that we may have the thorough and comprehensive investigation which the subject demands. The national government has an ultimate right to control the child labor use of the interstate commerce clause to prevent the products of child labor from entering into interstate commerce. But before using this it ought certainly to enact model laws on the subject for the territories under its own immediate control.

### The Really Dangerous Criminals.

Vice in its cruder and more archaic forms shocks everybody; but there is very urgent need that public opinion should be just as severe in condemnation of the vice which hides itself behind a class or profession of law, or which denies that it is vice if it can escape conviction in the courts.

Swindling in stocks, corrupting legislators, making fortunes by the inflation of securities, wrecking railroads, by destroying competitors through rebates—these forms of wrongdoing in the capitalist are for more infamous than any ordinary form of embezzlement or forgery; yet it is a matter of extreme difficulty to secure the punishment of the man most guilty of them, most responsible for them. The business man who condones such conduct stands on a level with the labor man who deliberately supports a corrupt demagogue and agitator, whether head of a union or head of some municipality, because he is said to have "stood by the union." The members of the business community, the educators, or clergymen, who condone and encourage the first kind of wrongdoing, are no more dangerous to the community, but are morally even worse, than the latter. The quality of the second type of wrongdoing, because less is to be pardoned those who have no such excuse as is furnished either by ignorance or by dire need.

### Farmers and Wage Workers.

The national government, through the department of agriculture, should do all it can by joining with the state governments and with independent associations of farmers to encourage growth in the open farming country of such institutional and social movements as will meet the demand of the best type of farmers, both for the improvement of their farms and for the betterment of the life itself. The farmer must not lose his independence, his initiative, his rugged self reliance, yet he must learn to work in the heartiest co-operation with his fellows, exactly as the business man has learned to work; and he must prepare to use to constantly better advantage the knowledge that can be obtained from agricultural colleges, while he must insist upon a practical curriculum in the schools in which his children are taught.

### Inland Waterways.

The conservation of our natural resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life. We must endeavor for our civilization the adequate material