

## DEPARTMENT STORES.

A GREAT EVIL OF MODERN BUSINESS—AN OCTOPUS OF GREED.

Should Be Condemned by All Right Thinking People Throughout the Whole Country—It Is an Institution of Foreign Origin and a Monopoly.

A city is something more than merely a large collection of houses.

A scene of busy, bustling activity, where are erected many homes, where are employed many laboring people in factories, stores, workshops and mills. It is apparent that the farmer whose land lies nearest a prosperous city is in better shape than his fellow-farmer whose possessions are not so favorably situated.

In order to succeed a city must have stores of every kind, and many of them for the sake of competition if nothing else. The more stores in a city the more families to be maintained and the more labor connected therewith, hence the greater demand for farmers' produce of every kind. This being the case, imagine a city in which the mercantile business of a city is all conducted under one roof! The result would be that a hydra-headed monopoly of the worst form would be in control, and in course of time every interest of the city would pass under its direction. There would be no such a thing as competition. That city would be ruined. It should be written all over its every industry, and it would eventually become a monument to man's avaricious greed as represented by that modern devil fish of business life, known as the department store.

The practices of the modern department store are those that we might call "cut-throat games." Its competition is illegitimate, such that no business man of principle can endorse. For instance, "bait" is thrown out to laggard buyers. Twenty-six pounds of granulated sugar is offered for a dollar. Any man acquainted with the price of this commodity knows that no department store can secure sugar any cheaper than the legitimate dealers, however large the quantity they purchase may be. Then who meets this loss—more than 25 cents on every dollar's worth sold? This "bait" is thus thrown out that the public may enter and the loss on sugar will be made up on other articles the public may be induced to buy, the price of which they are not so familiar with as they are with the price of sugar. If this be not the proper solution of this problem then what is? Surely the managers are not so magnanimous as to absolutely give away money! Humanity is not built that way.

As we have said before, the average department store should be opposed by every right-thinking person. Because it is a monopoly. Because it encourages cheap labor. Because it encourages the manufacture of shoddy goods. Because it is illegitimate competition. Because it is an institution of foreign origin that ought not to be countenanced in American soil.

These are some of our reasons for opposing the department store. The department store the world over is a monopoly, or seeks to become such, hence they advertise to "retail everything." It is just as censurable for a few men to control the retail business of a city as it is for Jim Hill to control the two great northern railways across this continent, which attempt has caused such a stir in the judicial and business circles of this state, and the condemnation of everybody except the monopolists.

It is a fact susceptible of the clearest demonstration that coming to this country from Egypt, and from the various cities of continental Europe, every week, are ship-loads after ship-loads of rags, the cast-off clothing of the poor of those countries, whose wearers, in many cases, died of small-pox and other contagious and loathsome diseases. These rags furnish, in a great measure, the raw material that keeps the shoddy mills at work preparing the cloth for the manufacture of garments to be sold "cheap," thus coming in competition with wool growers of the north, and the cotton growers of the south, and whose principal customers are the sweat-shops of the great cities, and factories whose output is sold to managers of department stores. We have it upon the authority of expert microscopists that even after this shoddy material is soaked in hot water and subjected to other treatment it receives before being "made up," that the cuticle of the skin of the original wearers is still retained in the fibre of the cloth, and that the disease germs still lurk therein! Is it not unreasonable to ask dealers in legitimate goods to compete with dealers in these disease-lurking articles?

What has been said of this shoddy cloth may with equal force be said of nearly all the wares for sale by department stores. Products of sweat shops, of penitentiaries. It is strange that public sentiment does not speedily mass itself against an institution so fraught with danger and disaster as that disorganizer of business principles, known as the department store, but which should move properly and correctly speaking, be called the big racket store.

Wherever aggressive capital may hope to be employed department stores are being established. Admitting that they are a success, then what of the future? Under our present system a young man may enter a store as a chore boy, then, as his abilities are recognized, become a clerk. As he saves his money and improves his time there is a possibility of engaging in business on his own account. It may be a small business at first, but gradually develop it until he is a full-fledged merchant. This is the possibility before a young man to-day, in fact, it is the history of many a suc-

cessful man. Hence the incentive to excellency on the part of young men as they first enter the employ of the merchant under existing conditions. How is it in the department store? Over the front door the young man enters, and ambitious to establish a business for himself may see, if he scans closely, these fateful words: "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here." Department stores with all their glare, tinsel and elaborateness, require a great deal of capital such as no business man can accumulate in a life time. Generally speaking, these stores are established on the money of eastern capitalists. For instance, Armour, who has accumulated his millions by questionable methods, such as, in the wheat and beef combine, is now investing his millions in department stores. It is impossible for a young man just beginning life as a clerk ever to become the owner of a department store.

In the event of the success of the department stores, what must become of the thousands of small merchants and the large army of clerks? There is but one opening for them—to enter the channel of productive industry, and that avenue, with the flood gates of immigration wide open, is already filled with more men now than can be profitably employed.

This question of the department store is an important one, and it behooves every person interested in the success of city, state and nation to carefully consider, and promptly discourage. Shut it off before it becomes a power in the land. Let every one realize at once the great danger of this insidious enemy to business and industrial life.—Mankato (Minn.) Journal.

## WILL DO SAME IN OTHER STATES

What the People's Party Has Accomplished in Nebraska.

A people's party handbook, issued by the campaign committee of Nebraska, tells what the people's party has done for that state. The same results will follow the election of the people's party ticket in other states. The reforms enacted by a people's party administration in Nebraska are as follows:

It enacted a maximum freight law, but republican courts suspended its operation.

It cut down extravagant appropriations, but a republican legislature brought them back.

It brought to light the corruption existing in state institutions.

It made possible the passage of the Australian ballot law.

It enacted a law requiring state and county treasurers to make all banks give bond that handle public money, and to collect interest for the use of such money and turn it into the public fund. The last republican legislature sought to repeal this, but the governor sustained it.

It enacted a law requiring intersecting railroads to build transfer switches, and by means of such transfer switches, ship all freight the shortest distance to destination, but a republican board of transportation has nullified it.

It repealed the special bounty given to sugar refiners, which was re-enacted by the last republican legislature.

It enacted the eight-hour law.

It gave the state a warehouse law.

It was instrumental in securing the passage of a law to have the books of all county treasurers examined at least once every two years.

It secured the passage of an anti-trust law.

It secured the passage of an anti-Pinkerton law.

It was instrumental in having passed many other good measures.

It elected the ablest United States senator that ever represented Nebraska.

It elected the ablest and cleanest governor who ever occupied the executive office of the state. Under his administration it saved the state money by the veto of several useless and extravagant appropriations.

## Wall Street and a Third Term.

The Tribune puts the whole question in a nutshell when it says "the business men of Wall street are not unfriendly to the idea of a third term for Mr. Cleveland." This is all there is to the Cleveland third-term movement.

Business men of Wall street would be ninth-power ingrates if they did not remain loyal to Mr. Cleveland. For them he repudiated his party's solemn declarations of faith; for them he broke his party's solemn pledges to the people of the United States; for them he fished the public treasury of millions of dollars.

Some of the business men of Wall street, our contemporary says, "think the objection to a third term is purely a sentimental one. Others do not, but seem to have a feeling that with Mr. Cleveland in the white house there could not be any tampering with the money standard."

With the money standard of Wall street, the Tribune means, the money standard which debases the value of one-half the metal money of the country and appreciates the value of the other half. The patriotic business men of Wall street have no fear that Mr. Cleveland will tamper with their gold money standard.

It is with the money standard of the constitution that Mr. Cleveland tampers. That standard is the silver dollar enjoying all the rights of gold. It recognizes the demands of all sorts and conditions of men instead of just the round-bellied greed of the business sharks of Wall street in tampering with this standard Mr. Cleveland violates his oath of office and slaps in the face a holy tradition of the democratic party.

In so doing he factors his third-term movement on Money Street's street and kills it in the rest of the country.—Chicago Daily Press.

If there is any other brand of property, let us sample it, please.

We must have the Referendum.

## NOT DEAD, BUT VERY SICK.



## NATIONAL MISTAKES.

### BRAZEN IMPUDENCE OF OFFICIAL PROSTITUTES.

A Striking Example of This Official Prostitution to the Money Power Is Found in the Speech of Secretary Carlisle at Boston.

The history of the world could scarcely afford a more humiliating prostitution of the corrupt influences of any age than that which characterizes the acts and utterances of United States officials in these degenerate days. A striking example of this official prostitution to the money power is found in a speech of Secretary Carlisle at a dinner of the Massachusetts Reform club in the city of Boston on Saturday, Oct. 12. In this speech Mr. Carlisle said:

"The first great mistake in our currency legislation was made in the act of March 17, 1862, which authorized the secretary of the treasury to issue United States notes to the amount of \$150,000,000. This was a radical and dangerous departure from true financial principles, if not a serious infraction of the legislation of the United States. This depreciated paper, of course, expelled specie from circulation, but as the government had not promised to redeem it at any particular time, it subjected the treasury department to no serious responsibility or inconvenience."

The above statements are not only at variance with the recorded facts of history, but there are hundreds of thousands of men and women still living to whom those facts are familiar recollections. Mr. Carlisle deliberately states that the depreciated paper issued by authority of the act of March 17, 1862, expelled specie from circulation. The fact is specie payments were suspended by all of the banks December 30, 1861, over three months before the act of authorizing the issue of treasury notes was passed, and there was no specie in circulation from that time until after resumption which took place nominally in 1879. Mr. Carlisle is not ignorant of this fact. When he made the statement that the depreciated treasury notes drove specie from circulation he deliberately stated that which he knew to be false.

There are a few facts bearing upon the financing of the times that may be appropriately recited in this connection. Mr. Casca St. John Cole has collated these facts and published them in so concise a form in his little pamphlet, "Cold Facts," that we shall simply quote and accredit to him. He says:

In the Bankers' Magazine, January, 1876, George S. Cox, president of the American Exchange Bank of New York, tells of the meeting, August 9, 1861, of those who "were supposed to possess or control capital" with Mr. Chase at the house of John J. Cisco, the assistant treasurer of the United States in New York. The result of the meeting was the appointment of a committee consisting of ten bank officers to make arrangements to make the loan. Mr. Cox says:

"It was unanimously agreed that the associated banks of the three cities would take \$50,000,000 of 7-3-10 notes at par, with the privilege of an additional \$50,000,000 in sixty days, and a further amount of \$50,000,000 in sixty days more, making \$150,000,000 in all."

The following figures also show that the financial condition of the banks at this time was one of great strength.

Banks.	Deposits.	Assets.
New York	\$1,200,000,000	\$1,200,000,000
Boston	\$1,000,000,000	\$1,000,000,000
Philadelphia	\$800,000,000	\$800,000,000
Totals	\$3,000,000,000	\$3,000,000,000

"Total liabilities \$142,581,556, against \$63,167,630 coin on hand, equal to 43 per cent of liabilities. Surely such conditions as these, with judicious administration, were adequate to the work required."

These united minted banks had specie enough on hand to pay 43 cents on the dollar of their liabilities; yet they agreed to loan the government \$150,000,000 in specie and \$150,000,000 to do it with. They agreed to pay out more than they could pay in specie. It would certainly require "judicious management," or something else, on the part of a common man to make 45 cents pay 100 cents and then be able to loan 150 cents, wouldn't it?

## THE PASSING SHOW.

### A Few Soap Shots at an Endless Procession.

Of course the recent elections have attracted more attention than anything else in the grand dress parade we are engaged in watching. The Populists were not particularly concerned as to which old party won, since one is as bad as the other, and worse. We are interested in educating the people upon certain principles, but what the boys out of school do we are not responsible for. Let the play go on as it will. The Populists are busy educating and organizing for the coming revolution at the ballot-box in 1894.

"Government by injunction" is being improved upon. The Great Northern railroad, which is raising a private army of thugs and enforcers to make war on its employees, ordered the court to issue an injunction, which was of course immediately issued—but the peculiar urgency of the case

caused this injunction to be hastily telegraphed to the deputies by the railroad company for execution. "Injunctions to order, by telegraph" is the latest form of judicial tyranny.

Here you are. An Associate Press dispatch just after election says: "Since it has been demonstrated that the Democratic party is so badly divided everywhere, especially on the currency question in the south, Democratic leaders in Alabama, where the State campaign, which will culminate in the State election next August, is on the eve of opening, are seriously considering the advisability of stopping all discussion inside the party of currency and turning their attention to renouncing the Democratic party for the coming contest."

This dispatch was from Alabama, and referred to a conference held between Senators Morgan and Pugh and other prominent silver Democrats of the south who have been making a vigorous campaign for free silver. But like many other pretended silver men in the party they regard principle as a subordinate matter.

Democratic silver men must either pull down their signs or get out of the party. The wholesale defeat of the Democratic party renders all talk of reform "inside the party" useless. Even if the party were not divided against itself there would be no hope of its carrying out any measure at all. The people have lost all confidence in its professions and would not give it another chance though it declared by all the angels in heaven that it stood solidly in favor of free silver and all other great national reform principles. The gold-bugs of the east prefer the Republican party, and the true silver men are thoroughly disgusted with Democracy. The Democratic party has been driven from the field in confusion. Neither gold-bugs nor silver men can endorse its vacillating, uncertain, cowardly policy. East, west, north and south the Democratic party is a wreck. One kind of a Democrat cannot be distinguished from another in the general mass of obliteration. The very name Democrat has become a disgrace in the eyes of the people. Come out from among them, if you wish to stand up for principle. Do not call yourself a Democrat any longer, unless you wish to take chances of being buried alive in the same grave with the dead.

The prostitute press dispatches and machine editorial writers made a great noise about the "Farmers' Congress" at Atlanta declaring against silver. While it would not have been surprising for the "farmers by appointment" who composed that congress to have taken such action, the fact of the matter is that they did not make any such declaration as was announced by the telegraphic news item's association. The following resolution was adopted: "Resolved, That we favor the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at an agreed ratio guarded by an import duty upon foreign bullion and foreign coin equal to the difference between the bullion value and the coinage value of the metal at the date of importation, whenever the bullion value of the metal is less than its coin value." It is true that this resolution is almost absolutely meaningless—but it is not a declaration in favor of a single gold standard any more than it is a declaration in favor of anything else.

The misunderstanding between Chairman Taubeneck and Col. Norton, appears now to be satisfactorily settled, so far as they are concerned. In a letter to Col. Norton, Mr. Taubeneck says: "Many good people have been misled in not knowing that you had severed your connection with the 'Weekly Sentinel.' It is due to the public as well as to you and myself that I make this explanation."

"I desire for all to know that I hereby retract every unkind, uncomplimentary word used against you in this discussion and also apologize for the language used and reiterate you from any unfair or unwelcome dealing."

" Hoping that this explanation will, as much as possible, undo the injustice done you, I remain as ever, the discussion in which they were originally engaged will probably be continued without personalities."

## GROVER A HYPOCRITE

PUBLICLY ADVERTISES HIS HYPOCRISY AT ATLANTA.

Not One Public Act of the President Has Been Conspicuous As Tending Toward Promoting the General Welfare—Wholly a Servant of Monopoly.

President Cleveland said in his speech at Atlanta, Ga.:

"We shall walk in the path of patriotic duty if, remembering that our free institutions were established to promote the general welfare, we strive for those things which benefit all our people and each of us is content to receive from a common fund his share of the prosperity thus contributed. We shall miss our duty and forfeit our heritage if, in narrow selfishness, we are heedless of the general welfare and struggle to wrest from the government private advantages which can only be gained at the expense of our fellow countrymen."

The sentiment contained in the above is good, very good, but Mr. Cleveland has acted out the very opposite. What act of Mr. Cleveland since his inauguration has tended to "promote the general welfare?"

Does the establishment of the gold standard promote the "general welfare?" If so, robbing the masses and fattening the class is Mr. Cleveland's idea of serving the "general welfare."

Did the negotiations with a foreign bank syndicate to furnish gold to maintain a useless gold reserve at a profit to the syndicate of not less than \$20,000,000 thereby in addition piling a gold principal and interest debt on future generations, "promote the general welfare," or was it "wresting from the government private advantages?"

Was the act of ordering out the federal army to shoot down laboring men in the Chicago railroad strike inspired by a desire to "promote the general welfare" or the welfare of the railroad corporations?

Not one public act of the present executive has been conspicuous as tending toward promoting the general welfare, but rather to promoting the welfare of trusts and combines, the banks and money combinations.

The success of combinations of capital must come from the depression of the welfare of the people. When combinations of capital are profitable that profit must come from the ruin of some other interest. Combines live from robbing the general welfare, and without robbery they could not exist a day. Mr. Cleveland's course has been wholly devoted to promoting the welfare of the combinations of capital, which necessarily results to the detriment of the public welfare. It could not possibly be otherwise.

After the record Mr. Cleveland has made by his every public act, favoring special welfares instead of the public welfare, it is not only cheeky, but an insult to an intelligent people for him to hypocritically proclaim his devotion to the public welfare.

The people judge a man by his acts rather than by his words. If Mr. Cleveland had followed in the footsteps of the immortal Jackson and seized the money monster by the neck and choked the life out of it, he then could consistently call upon the people to sanction his advocacy and practice of upholding the public welfare. He has done the reverse. He has rather choked the life out of the public, laid waste the heritage of the common people and added plutocracy to enter into the homes of the masses of wealth producers and confiscate them to their use and profit. Then to talk about "striving to do these things which benefit all our people!" Bosh! A man who will thus publicly advertise his hypocrisy should have been hissed from the stand, even though he may, by some ill-fate to the people, hold the office of chief executive. The things that are Caesar's should be rendered unto Caesar, but the things that belong to the people they should demand and enjoy. If Caesar is not content with the things that are his, but seeks to rob, oppress and enslave the people, then the sooner such a Caesar encounters a Brutus, the sooner the people will enjoy their inalienable rights.—Southern Mercury.

It is well that President Cleveland issued his Thanksgiving proclamation before the election returns were in—else he might not have been in a fitting frame of mind to have rendered thanks to the "Giver of every good and perfect gift for the bounteous returns that have rewarded our labors in the fields." He asks the people to remember the poor and needy, "and by deeds of charity let us show the sincerity of our gratitude." Bank hypocrisy—the whole proclamation. It is true that God has bounteously bestowed His good gifts upon the American people—and for that we are thankful. But the people who diverted them have not received the gifts—and Grover Cleveland is one of the conspirators who has prevented God's plans being carried out. Why should he blaspheme God and insult the American people by assuming gratitude to the one and favoring care over the other. The issuing of a Thanksgiving proclamation in a more form and some clerk no doubt composed Mr. Cleveland's epistle after the customary and regular form prescribed in the book of traditional etiquette for the presidents of presidents—but the whole thing is a sham, a pretense, an empty formality. Read gratitude to kind words on writing wax and official signatures.

Ray, you fellows that voted for the Democratic silver-wreckers and prosperity, don't you want to give your party another chance? Come, Ray, don't be foolish, don't you want some more prosperity—the same brand we have been having for two years?