

PINGREE ON TRUSTS.

HE CONDEMNNS THEM AS AN UNMITIGATED EVIL.

A Review of the Chicago Trust Conference and the Defense Made by the Eloquent Attorney of the Trusts—Favors a Federal Law.

The Chicago trust conference was of great value because it separated the chaff from the wheat. It did much to clarify the subject. It was of educational value.

But its principal benefit, to my mind, was the revelation it gave of the position which the advocates of the trust, or, rather, the trusts themselves, would take.

Even an ordinary observer could not fail to notice that the managers of trusts and their agents, the newspapers, had carefully planned their line of defense at the conference.

It was equally apparent that they recognized that the trust was on trial and that all the arts of the pleader were necessary to save it from conviction and a verdict of capital punishment.

So it was that at the conference the trust was defended, and skillfully, too, by corporation lawyers, professors, economists and theorists generally. On the other hand, the anti-trust side was just as ably presented by practical business men, farmers and leaders of labor interests.

While there were many and thoughtful papers presented, the public undoubtedly looked upon the addresses of W. Bourke Cockran and William J. Bryan as the keynotes respectively of the indictment and the defense of the trust.

This is so not only because of the fame of both men as public men and orators, but because they were given sufficient time to develop a complete indictment and defense. These two orations were on entirely different lines, although the two speakers agreed on many things. Their views were fundamentally opposed.

Mr. Cockran considered the trust a result of natural evolution of industrial conditions and forces that could not be checked. Mr. Bryan regarded it as a result of conditions which man made and which man can change.

Mr. Cockran placed the dollar above the man. That is, such is the logical outcome of his reasoning and his position. Mr. Bryan placed the man above the dollar. The former is the commercial view and therefore selfish and narrow. The latter is the humanitarian view.

Mr. Cockran is undoubtedly an orator. The trusts could hardly have chosen a more effective champion. He had his audience spellbound and charmed by the beauty of his diction. None could have condemned bad corporate management in more scathing terms than he did. He threw bouquets at the laboring men. This was done with a purpose. It is evidently the plan of the trusts, first, to make laboring men believe that their own salvation is the fostering of the trust, and, second, to intimidate them or modify their zeal, by claiming that labor unions are, in fact, trusts and that warfare on trusts is warfare on labor unions. I predict that labor will not be deceived.

Mr. Cockran in his argument built a splendid structure. He divided trusts into good and bad ones. He stated that abundant production fairly distributed made prosperity. He held that with good trusts there would be abundant production and fair distribution. Therefore trusts brought about prosperity. He claimed that trusts could not control prices. He failed, however, to cite any instance in which a trust had lowered prices any more than enough to preserve the monopoly.

He insisted that all the trouble came from restricted competition; that monopolies, if they produced the best article, were beneficial and that monopoly was the very product of free competition. It should therefore be encouraged as long as it continued to give us the best products. Again the commercial view.

Mr. Cockran's political economy may perhaps be unanswerable. The structure of his argument was unquestionably well built, but it will all fall into shapeless ruins because its foundations are built on sand.

He fails to take into account the frailties of man. Philosophy is all right in itself, but it should be kept in the schoolroom. Man's weaknesses, his passion and his greed always upset its beautiful reasoning. Man is not always a reasoning animal. I would subscribe to everything Mr. Cockran and the professors and other theorists said if man were an angel. But the trust is a monstrous commercial deformity. It overthrows all the laws of political economy by the crushing force of immense resources. It has no conscience. There are no good trusts. Human nature makes such a thing impossible. The trust will not reduce prices until it is forced. It cannot be forced if it is a monopoly. It will not raise wages until it is compelled. It cannot be compelled if it is the only employer.

These statements may violate the laws of political economy to which Mr. Cockran and the professors appeal, but human selfishness and greed have a disagreeable habit of setting at naught all the beautiful rules and axioms of political economy.

The complaint is that the trust concentrates wealth. Not being a philanthropic institution, it declines to distribute that wealth among the people. It destroys equality of opportunity. Mr. Bryan's answer to Mr. Cockran that it enthrones money and debases mankind is complete and sufficient. In dealing with the trust, therefore, let us face real conditions. Let us not generalise about some industrial or-

THE BALANCE OF TRADE.

Van Vorhis Continues to Expose the False Arguments of the Goldbugs.

Five or six months ago every morning paper contained dispatches from press agents calling attention to the extraordinary (2) gold import. As the end of the fiscal year came nearer less and less has been said about it. Now it is rarely if ever mentioned. It is very certain that those who were so industrious in circulating, ignorantly, it may be, a falsehood now do not appear to have the slightest interest in giving the public correct information. Such silence on the part of those who pretend to be public instructors is calculated to raise a doubt about their honesty of purpose. If they were mistaken last spring, they know the truth now after June 30, the end of the fiscal year. They know that the gold import during the last fiscal year is less than three-fourths what it was the year before and that the gold export has been two and one-half times greater. The excess of gold imports over exports is less than one-half what it was during the year ending June 30, 1898. See monthly summary of finance for June, page 3,061.

Between June 30, 1897, and June 30, 1899, we have exported more than we have imported:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Merchandise: \$3,720,642,159; Silver: 419,574,479; Total: \$4,140,216,638.

I would like to see these gentlemen who have been throwing up their hats over our great gold import to tell the country how they figure out of this situation anything calculated to make an American citizen exult.

In 1899 the corporation agreed to purchase the electric light plant at a cost of \$2,000,000.

The greatest enterprise undertaken by the corporation was the acquisition in 1876 of an overcrowded and unhealthy area in the heart of the town, 90 acres, with about 4,000 dwellings and 16,596 inhabitants.

The section was one of filthy hovels. The rents received last year from this tract were \$290,000 and \$90,000 from the water and gas rates.

The artisans' dwellings are built in the form of double houses, with entire separate entrances, a ground floor, having a living room 14 by 13 1/2 feet and a front bedroom, joining the living room, of 14 by 8 feet.

Each tenement is provided with a water closet and a scullery, containing a copper or boiler, coal bunk and sink.

How far our American cities would tolerate, under the guise of police power, this socialistic tendency we can only conjecture, but the masses argue that if they must pay rent they want the best equipped homes, the best sanitary regulations and the most conveniences that can be had for the money.

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MUNICIPAL HOUSES.

CITY OWNERSHIP OF WORKINGMEN'S DWELLINGS IN BIRMINGHAM.

What Municipal Ownership Is Doing in That Great English City—Improved Living for the Workers at Lessened Expense.

Attorney General Monnett of Ohio, who has been investigating municipal questions in several of the cities of Great Britain, has written from Birmingham to the Cincinnati Post as follows:

In London the British worship Lord Nelson and honor him by their chief monument in Trafalgar square. In Birmingham the masses turn with great pride to Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M. P., because he has given his life work to preserving lives and health, to advancing education, to increasing the comfort and adding to the happiness of this community through municipal reforms.

Birmingham, with a population of 525,000, in a thickly populated portion of the Midlands, seems to be an appropriate selection for municipal experiment. The new year of municipal rule in Birmingham dates from 1874, when, during Joseph Chamberlain's mayoralty, the two great branches of the common service, the water and gas supplies, were municipalized.

The city council since has extended its control over almost every department of municipal life, having the management of the markets, slaughter houses, street cars, baths and wash-houses, cemeteries, libraries, museum and art gallery, technical school and school of art, artisans' dwellings, sewage farm, hospitals, industrial schools and asylums.

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SCIENTIFIC MONEY.

What It Is, the Service It Performs and How It Should Be Regulated.

Money is merely evidence of debt. How then should it become "legal tender in payment of all debts, public or private?" That's easy. Governments do not as yet produce many material things. They produce protection for each citizen as he produces material things. This protection requires the services of a vast number of men, especially when citizens of the government are scattered to the ends of the earth and must be protected wherever they may be.

The men engaged in the service of the government require material things with which to sustain life. Each citizen protected must contribute his share of the protection extended. In primitive times he contributed his share by service in person. As society became more complex he contributed by proxy. What, then? When a man rendered service to the government, he received a certificate that the government owed him for services performed. Other citizens are notified that they must contribute their share of service—that is, they must pay taxes. So he who has rendered service has the opportunity to sell his certificates of service performed to those taxpayers who cannot or do not wish to render direct service. In exchange for his certificate he receives food, clothing and shelter in due proportion to his labor. The taxpayer, having received the certificates of labor performed, returns them to the government in satisfaction of its claims against him. These certificates of service performed thus become money.

From their foregoing history we conclude that the primary function of money is to enable governments to be carried on without calling on each citizen for his proper share of service to be rendered in person; that the three fundamental movements of money are: First, from the government to its servants to enable them to receive satisfaction for services rendered; second, from the servants of the government to the necessary supporters of government in payment for satisfaction received—in payment, because each party has now received equivalent values, the citizen his protection, the government service the material things he needed, and he has now been paid; third, from the citizen to the government to show that he has indirectly rendered his share of service to the community—that is, he pays his taxes. When money has made this round, it has been issued and redeemed. When it goes out again, it starts on an entirely new but exactly similar mission.

If paper money, so called, were made the only legal tender in payment of public debts, canceled and destroyed whenever received by the government and new bills constantly issued in payment of government debts, this proposition would be most easily understood, but we think with this illustration it is simple enough. What follows? Several most important conclusions—first, the universal existence and need of government, more universal the need for money; second, the more governmental functions are increased the more will the need for money increase; third, that value of money does not depend on its material substance, but upon the universal need which exists for its use; fourth, that it does not and cannot measure value (as a matter of fact, value cannot be measured); fifth, that the use of metallic substances for money is absolute and unnecessary waste of all the human energy needed to produce those substances; sixth, that governments have no right to make any certificate of private debt legal tender, as they do when they authorize the use of bank bills.—Omaha Nonconformist.

Government Should Own Them. From Chicago comes the news that the Harriman syndicate has practically completed plans for a transcontinental railroad system from Chicago to the north Pacific coast and south to the Gulf of Mexico. This system is to embrace seven other vast railroad systems.

The Vanderbilts are also linking newly acquired lines in the west and south. The Gould system already extends to the Gulf, and the management is planning to acquire more roads.

When all these systems are rounded out, the sequel is inevitable. They will combine into one vast pool nine-tenths of the railroad franchises in this country and will conduct business practically under one management.

This will place in the hands of a few men the power to ruin any business enterprise related, however remotely, to railroad traffic.

Many of these railroad systems already discriminate in favor of combinations and will continue to do so until the government steps in and acquires ownership of all American railroads.

Such railway discrimination means ruin to any enterprise that is discriminated against. It means monopoly for any enterprise unjustly favored.

With absolute equality in railway rates no combination or trust could maintain a monopoly for 48 hours. Discrimination could not exist without public ownership of public franchises.

National ownership would enable the merchant conducting a small business to ship his produce to market upon equal terms with any combination of capital, however vast.

In Germany, where the government owns and controls the railways, the poorest merchant in the empire can ship his goods from one end of the country to the other as cheaply as any merchant price.

What horrors are to the bull, what claws are to the tiger and what tentacles are to the devilish railroads are to the trusts? New York Journal.

Salsify may be left out all winter, if freezing is not severe, but it is considered better to dig and store.

FARM FORESTRY.

Tree Planting in the Northeast, the West and the Pine Belts.

Whenever the planter has chosen his trees with intelligence and so succeeded in producing a useful plantation, there has been the real spirit of forestry.

In the spruce lands of the northeast, for example, many lumbermen have come to see that by leaving the small trees standing they can return for a second crop earlier than would otherwise be possible and that this plan pays. In many cases they are leaving the spruce which measures less than 10 inches in diameter and in others that which measures less than 12 inches, because the trees under these sizes can be harvested with greater profit if they are left a few years to gain a larger growth. Similar work has been done in other sections of the United States, as, for instance, in the southern pine belt, where repeated crops of long leaf pine have been cut from the same tract.

By far the greater amount of such work has, however, been done by farmers and other owners of small tracts of woodland. Very many farmers have made a practice of thinning their wood lots with care, first removing the dead, dying or unpromising trees and then letting the remainder stand in order to utilize the growth of the trees and to obtain continually from the wood lot firewood and other material for the farm and occasionally a crop of larger trees for the market. Other farmers, again, devote a number of acres to the production of hard wood sprouts for fuel. They cut over the land every 25 or 30 years and calculate that from one-half to one cord of wood is produced annually by this system of forestry.

Tree planting on waste places on the farm is yet another kind of forestry which has been practiced. Work of this character is now widespread, and much of it has been accomplished. In New England there are numerous instances of planting white pine on waste places with excellent results, and in Massachusetts the planting of larch has proved highly satisfactory. Many farmers have found it profitable to plant locust and red cedar for fence posts, and in more than one case the cultivation of black walnut has brought large returns. In the central west the fast growing catalpa and the alantulus have produced remarkable results in short periods in the hands of private growers.

A distinct branch of tree planting is practiced in the treeless states of the west. There, in addition to the pine to which their wood is put, the improved tree of value in the windbreaks. In these cases results have generally been from the orange orange, catalpa, elm, box elder, Norway spruce, pine and others, according to local conditions.

There is yet another use to a tree planting has been put. Along banks of streams trees have been to fix the fast eroding soil and to prevent the increasing floods, and on cultivated hillsides which have begun to gully from the washing of rain trees have been made to do good service in checking the excessive surface drainage and saving the fertile soil.

The protection of woodlands from fire forms one of the most important branches of forestry which have been practiced in the United States. Indeed, without such protection any efforts to cut the timber with a view to reproduction or to plant new forests are useless. Various measures to guard against forest fires have been adopted in different localities. For example, in the Atlantic pine belt many forest owners burn off the upper layer of leaves and needles in the early spring in order to prevent the spread of fire later in the season.

In Michigan, lumbermen have endeavored to lessen the danger from fire by lopping and burning the brush left after lumbering. The cutting of fire strips along railroads, and even within the forest itself, has been used as a precaution against fires. But a common and a very effective way to guard against fire is careful watching. Many large owners of forest land employ a number of men as a fire patrol, and often an extra crew of watchers is hired during the dangerously dry seasons. In the same way many lumber companies which own logging railroads employ a man to follow the trains and put out any fires that may be started.

The foregoing is extracted from a circular by Gifford Pinchot, forester of the United States department of agriculture. The yearbook of 1899 will consist of a resume of the achievements of this country in every branch of science relating to agriculture and will be prepared with a view to its special distribution at the Paris exposition. The division of forestry will contribute a short history of forestry in the United States and also an account of the efforts of private landowners to apply the principles of forestry. An impression widely prevails abroad that little or nothing has been done in the United States in the way of forestry. This impression, Mr. Pinchot thinks, the yearbook ought to remove, and, in seeking information regarding such forest work as has been described, he earnestly invites correspondence from those who have done any work along the lines of forestry.

What is the value of the land and of the old material. Landlords who refuse the compensation thus offered by the municipality may appeal to an arbitrary court, but this appeal is costly and not often resorted to. As soon as the purchase of the old houses in the condemned district is sufficiently advanced the municipality ascertains whether those about to be displaced desire to live in the neighboring district or in the suburbs. As soon as new accommodation can be found the old tenants move, their removal being aided by a slight compensation, and the old houses are demolished. As soon as possible the new streets are formed, and the site thus obtained for the construction of new dwellings is sold, subject to the conditions that working class dwellings of an improved type, the plans for which have been approved by the municipality and the home secretary, are erected upon the site. The difference between the money expended on the purchase of the old property plus the cost of the new streets and that obtained from the sale of the new sites where the city does not build thereon represents the loss that the city has incurred in the execution of the entire scheme, the theory all the time being that it is for the public health, convenience and welfare that these processes of condemnation be carried out.

Many other English and Scottish cities are following in the footsteps of Birmingham in this respect. Edinburgh last year spent \$450,000 under the working classes act. Douglas spent \$400,000 on sanitary schemes and artisans' dwellings. Liverpool expended about \$3,500 for buildings in one square, other parts of the city having been improved in a similar way. Manchester now owns two blocks of laborers' dwellings. It holds a good many unhealthy dwellings pending removal or reconstruction. At Southampton loans are being applied for, and the corporation is erecting municipal dwelling houses at a cost of \$50,000 and artisans' flats at \$25,000. The former will accommodate 187 people, the latter about 118.

Municipal Waterworks. Whatever may be thought of the claims for municipal ownership of lighting street railway and telephone systems, it is now almost universally admitted, except by those directly interested in private plants, that waterworks should be under public ownership. As is shown by the Manual of American Waterworks for 1897, not only is it true that only nine of the 50 largest cities of the United States are dependent upon private companies for their water supply, but in addition four of these nine have recently taken steps to change to public ownership. New Orleans having actually voted to do so, while San Francisco, Denver and Omaha have the matter under consideration. Of the remaining 41 cities, about half were formerly under private ownership. We started the century with 16 private to one public works and early in 1897 had 1,500 private to 1,700 public works. Besides the changes among the 50 largest cities, there had been enough others to bring the total changes from private to public ownership up to some 200 by 1897, while since then many have been added to the list, and Oakland, Los Angeles, Burlington, Dubuque and Ottumwa, Ia., together with a host of smaller places, are actively striving to reach the same goal. At present many of our ablest engineers, instead of being engaged in new construction, are spending large portions of their time as expert witnesses in arbitration and condemnation proceedings where works are being taken over by cities or in legal controversies over the interpretation and enforcement of water contracts.

New York should take warning from the unfortunate experiences which the Quaker City has had with private water schemes—"water snakes" they are now called. For more than a dozen years the city has been drinking a grossly polluted water supply and seeking for a better one, but it has made no progress because the officials have insisted on dealing with private companies having something to unload on the city, but they have never quite dared to put through any of these schemes conceived for the good of corporations and city officials instead of the public, and the result has been a contract of this sort was headed off and killed by charges of wholesale bribery, which, while not proved, were universally credited.—Engineering News.

The Voice of Webster. Daniel Webster in his great speech in reply to Calhoun in 1838 thus spoke: "But, sir, I have insisted that government is bound to protect and regulate the means of commerce, to see that there is a sound currency for the use of the people. The honorable gentleman asks, What then is the limit? Must congress also furnish all means of commerce? Must it furnish weights and scales and steelyards? Most undoubtedly, sir, it must regulate weights and measures, and it does so. But the answer to the general question is very obvious. Government must do all that for individuals which individuals cannot do for themselves. That is the very end of government. Why else have government? Can individuals make a currency? Can individuals regulate money? The distinction is as broad and plain as Pennsylvania avenue. No man can mistake it or well blunder out of it. . . . They cannot make a currency. They cannot individually decide what shall be the money of the country. That everybody knows is one of the prerogatives and one of the duties of the government and a duty which I think we are most unwisely and improperly neglecting. We may as well leave the people to make war and to make peace, each one for himself, as to leave to individuals the regulation of commerce and currency."



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