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### THE GOLD TRUST.

The great financial powers begin to talk about a gold trust. Its head, as it is proper it should be, is in London. It is stated that it already controls more than three-fourths of the gold fields of the world. It owns a very large majority of the gold mines in this country, practically all in South Africa and Australia and all the prominent mines in Alaska. Within the next year it will be in a position to regulate the output of the gold of the world, just as some of the directors who are in it have regulated the output of the diamond mines.

When that time comes the nations of the world, whether they call themselves empires or republics, will be within its power. It means confining the output of the mines to the wishes of a trust. The volume of money will pass from the control of nations to the control of a few billionaires.

Economists have been looking forward to the time when the money power would have to do something to control the output of gold. The cyanide process and other inventions have so increased the production of gold that the director of the mint announces that the output for 1901 will be greater than was ever known in the history of the world before. He says that it will add about one-eighth to the stock of gold in the world—a stock that has been accumulating since long before history began.

If that is true it means "fifty-cent" dollars sure enough. To add one-eighth to the gold of the world besides the coinage of silver that must be done if we are to trade with South America, Asia and other silver using countries, means a rise in prices greater than was ever advocated by the most rabid populist. With the old conditions which existed under competition it would mean a period of prosperity such as visited the world upon the discovery of America, when the Spanish galleons went back to Spain loaded with the gold of the Incas and the silver of Potosi. Under trust control of all the great industries the result will be different.

Populists have always said that while the gold bugs talked about the "intrinsic value" of gold, if it became too plentiful, they would be the first ones to cry out for its demonization or devise some scheme to diminish the supply. There is evidence on every hand that the money power is frightened at this tremendous output of gold and more badly frightened at the prospect of its increase.

There is no doubt that Beit and the "Barnato crowd," as they are called, can form a trust that will control the output of gold. It would not be as

difficult to do as was the formation of the diamond trust, at the time that it was done, which so completely controlled the production of diamonds and doled them out to the makers of the world in quantities just large enough not to depress the value.

The economic welfare of nations now depends upon two things, which may be resolved into one thing. The first is: Shall monopolies be permitted that can control production and prices? That is the fundamental one. That means the overthrow of all the means of production and distribution to which the world has been accustomed since man began to produce and distribute. If that is to be allowed, then the gold trust can control all the other trusts, all prices and all production, just as long as gold is continued as the only money with which international balances can be settled.

The failure of the money power to stop the coinage of silver and thus prevent the more equal distribution of wealth through an increased volume of money, caused that power to turn its attention to the destruction of competition by the organization of the trusts. Now the trusts are themselves threatened by the organization of the gold trust.

These men when they gained their first victory in 1873 opened a Pandora box. No man can tell what the end will be. The whole world is thrown into confusion. Men who do not think, may imagine that they are floating down a peaceful river in a gaily decked barge of prosperity. But the customs of centuries will not be finally overthrown without commotion. The destruction of competition by the organization of trusts is a complete revolution.

Many of the leading magazines have recently come out with articles boldly advocating the trusts. They all kept very quiet on that subject until the trusts were securely enthroned in power. None of these writers ever stop to think that the acceptance of the trusts as a fixed policy means the overthrow of the common law as administered for two centuries, a complete change in the course of civilization, substituting for free and independent men another and altogether different system, in which the owners of capital hold within their power the lives of all the rest of mankind. There will be but two classes; the owners of the trusts and those whom the trusts employ. As employment will be necessary to life and the owners of the trusts are the only employers, they will hold within their hands the lives of all the employees. That will be tyranny such as the world never saw before.

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### CHRIST AND EMPIRE.

In these modern days, any sort of cruelty, any amount of murdering, any sort of inhuman barbarity can be committed if it is only done in the name of Christianity and the "civilized" nations will look on in silence. It is perfectly proper for any civilized nation to treat an enemy found with arms as bandits, to burn whole villages, to deport or confine in pestilential camps whole families of women and children, to lay waste entire territories, leaving no living thing or useful object in existence, if it is done in the name of Christ. But if such things are done by Turks or Chinese boxers then the "civilized" nations should not only protest, but bring force to bear to stop it. The Turkish massacres of the Armenians were not a whit more cruel than the British devastations in South Africa and were much less so than the rapine and bloodshed attending the operations of the foreign troops in China. But they are operating in the name of Christ and the burning of cities, outraging of women, the murder of non-combatants, is all right and godly if it is only done in that way, provided always, that there is money or empire in it.

The most horrid details of the war of devastation carried on in South Africa by Lord Kitchener are suppressed by the military censor, but what is told of it makes it exceed the ravages of Attila. When the Turks committed crimes far less horrible, all the churches in the United States were aflame with indignation. Now they say not a word, because it is done in the name of Christ and empire. It is well known all over Europe that the South African sky is being reddened by the flames of burning villages and farm houses, and every wind that blows is freighted with the cries of dejected, exiled and homeless men, women and children.

The nervous shock and mental strain aboard a modern battle ship during action is the cause of death to many men who are never touched with a flying splinter, a piece of shell, a bullet or solid shot. The papers have within the last year reported the death of six persons who were aboard the ships during the fights with Spain, by suicide or from nervous prostration, among them Anderson, who reported to Captain Sigby the blowing up of the Maine, and Captain Ridgely. The last poor fellow, a gunner, went around for weeks saying: "I can't get the roar of the guns out of my ears." War is hell, whether on land or sea.

Since the election, Judge, the New York comic paper, which claims that it elected McKinley by inventing the "full dinner pail," has come out in favor of municipal ownership, election of United States senators by the people, government ownership of the Nicaragua canal and several other demands of the populist platform. The Independent has often said that the plutocrats would willingly grant every demand in the populist platform, if by so doing they could control the volume of money. That is the thing upon which the concentration of capital rests and the rich will grant all the reforms that we ask if they can only control the money.

The brutality of the English officers in South Africa exceed the worst that was charged against Weyler, and are equalled only by what has been written about the boxers. The Netherlands Women's League publishes a letter from Mrs. Dewet in which she says: "War is not waged here between soldiers. It is murder, pure and simple murder of women and helpless children. All over the Free State women and children are roaming about without shelter, without clothing, without food and no one can reach them. Little boys from 9 to 14 are taken away from their mothers and sent to Basutoland. The most horrible things are being done."

Some weeks ago W. E. Curtis started a lie which has already become an accepted truth by the subsidized press all over the country. They have adopted the policy of beginning articles with the words: "When Bryan made the contract with Croker to turn over to him the federal patronage," etc., just as though the assertion contained in the phrase was accepted as the truth by the whole population. That phrase has appeared in many eastern dailies within the last few weeks. The object is to store ammunition against Bryan for future use. Bryan is still the man they fear more than all others.

The attention of the readers of The Independent is called to the splendid line of advertisements carried in its columns. It will pay you to read them and buy where you can get the most for your money. When writing mention the fact that you saw the advertisement in The Independent, and you will get fair treatment. If you do not receive proper treatment by any advertiser in these columns write explaining the circumstances, and we will investigate the matter fully.

We wish to suggest to those of our subscribers who have received bills for subscription during the past month, and who have not favored us with a remittance of the amount due, that they do so at this time and save us the labor and expense of sending a second bill. Those who for any reason do not find it convenient to pay at this time should write a letter of explanation and doubtless some satisfactory arrangement can be made for the extension of the time desired. Let us hear from you now, either with a remittance or explanation. Don't wait for a second bill.

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### HARDY'S COLUMN

The President and Parity—Mark Foots the Bill—Ship Subsidy—Bankrupt Prosperity—Death Expense—Why Kick—The Hawaiians Revolt—Dark Cloud—Ball Games.

The president pleads that congress pass further laws in order that the parity between silver and gold be maintained. They must tax the people millions every year and give it to the ship owners. When the people get to living on their own products, within themselves, and railroad business drops off, the railroads will want a subsidy.

It is reported that Mark Hanna pays the coal diggers the 10 per cent rise in wages, up to April first, then the trouble will break out afresh. The republicans feared the continuance of the strike and the sick everybody knows it for miles around and are ready to turn on him and help.

Hanna's ship subsidy will probably be passed by this congress. All they can collect for transporting goods is not enough—they must tax the people millions every year and give it to the ship owners. When the people get to living on their own products, within themselves, and railroad business drops off, the railroads will want a subsidy.

It appears that seventy-one cases in bankruptcy is the alleged share of Beatrice up to date. Forty-four of these bankrupts were farmers. That does not indicate that farmers are living in clover.

Death is an expensive luxury in Lincoln. In the first place you must pay at the rate of twenty-four thousand dollars a acre for a nice lot in the suburbs up to date. Forty-four of these bankrupts were farmers. That does not indicate that farmers are living in clover.

Why should any republican object to making a senator of D. E. Thompson? He is one of the most complete republicans in the state. He never will fight for the trusts and railroads in the courts against the state as Thurston has. Every way he is a better man than Thurston. Of course it will be Thompson first, then the people afterwards. Yes, Thompson and Beswater will cost five to ten dollars every back five and the bears ten. Then if you have a certificate from a licensed doctor that you are dead, the authorities will allow you to be buried.

Now what will McKinley do? The Hawaiians have just elected a congress that is strongly in favor of returning to their old form of government—a monarchy. It is quite a pity that a majority of the natives never petitioned for annexation to the United States. The white people there first captured the government and then petitioned for annexation. The majority should have been consulted, natives as well as whites. If McKinley has given them a better government, why should they want to go back?

The darkest cloud hanging over this republic is the millions of money spent to carry elections. It has got to that pitch that about one voter in every three expects money for his vote. Honor plays no great part in our elections any more. It is the dollar against manhood. There is little use to try to elect a president unless you have a hundred millions to draw on. Hanna knew what he was talking about when he said he had taken Nebraska and South Dakota out of the doubtful column. He knew how much money he had left and from experience he knew how much it would take. Who should the millionaires, trusts, corporations and banks contribute so liberally to election expenses if they did not expect to get their money back from special legislation? They don't spend all their money on the voter, for the congressman must have a big slice of the spoils too must have a slice for their special decisions. The New York courts have already knocked out the law against trusts. Dred Scott decisions, income tax decisions and anti-trust decisions are all on the same line.

We fail to see any good that is to come out of the great football game

that was played Thanksgiving day on the university campus. It had all the gambling and drunkenness usually attending a horse race or prize fight. We do not believe that such lessons are healthy instructions for our young men and young women. They do not tend to civilize or Christianize. Instead of elevating they shockingly degrade. It appears that state universities are the leading mudholes of this wild craze. There would be no objections if such games were confined to the students of our schools, but to travel five hundred or a thousand miles and gather up all the gamblers and outlaw toughs is not elevating or refining to say the least. A little more stretch and Leland-Stanford and Oxford will be brought into the circuit. There is much good sense in oratorical contests. It requires study and thought to frame and deliver a good oration. A cornfield contest would be ten times more sensible than a ball contest. Let fifty bushels of corn be the goal. A surgeon and ambulance would not be needed in the cornfield.

Mother's kitchen was also her dining room, sitting room and parlor; it was really her other work shop. All the rest of the house was sleeping room. Cook stoves had not come into use in our boyhood days. A fire in the old Dutch fireplace did the cooking and warming. It was supplied with a crane which would swing round to one side, on which mother would hang the pots and kettles for boiling potatoes and other food. Coals of fire were drawn out upon the hearth and meat was fried in a long-handled frying pan. Meat, Johnny cake and frye and Indian bread were baked in a bake kettle. This kettle was about the size and shape of a forty-pound one. It had legs four inches long and a double flanged cover, one flange fitting the top of the kettle and the other for holding coals of fire on top. The meat or dough was put into the kettle, the cover put on, fire drawn out upon the hearth, and the kettle set over it, then the cover was filled with more fire so the baking was done. We would travel a mile any day for a slice of rye and Indian bread, such as mother made. Every Saturday a large brick oven was heated and bread and pies for a week were baked. Monday was washing day. We had no canned fruit, but mother made a barrel of sweet apple sauce with boiled cider every fall. Then in the spring the same barrel was filled with maple molasses. District school, summer and winter, was our destiny until we were ten years old and then after that we had to work summers. Why people are so crazy now-a-days to get into cities we cannot see. Farm life is so much more homelike, free and easy. If a man is sick everybody knows it for miles around and are ready to turn on him and help.

### News of the Week

There has been a good deal more excitement around Washington during the week than generally occurs immediately preceding the meeting of congress. The committees have met and arranged beforehand the legislation that will be railroaded through, some of it before the holiday adjournment. There will be appropriations galore. First, for the army which will be increased to 100,000 men. Second, the Hanna ship subsidy bill. Those two things seem certain.

There has been great excitement over the army bill. There will be two or three basketsful of appointments connected with it, among them four or five major generals, twice as many brigadier generals and colonels, and majors, captains and lieutenants too numerous to mention. The contest for these life appointments has been terrific, especially for the higher ones. Mark Hanna will name them and of course the service that they have rendered will be puppet in the White house will be the controlling influence that will settle the matter. The kind of an army that we will have when the appointments have all been made will be perfectly satisfactory to plutocracy.

But the greatest excitement (the Associated press had not a word to say on the subject) was the discovery that a trust on gold was forming. One newspaper man, interviewed a lot of republican congressmen and senators on the subject. What they had to say was so wild and woolly that it is not worth repeating. It stated that Beit, Robinson and others of the Barney Barnato crowd of South Africans have joined with Rockefeller and others of this country to control the gold mines. The visit of Hammond, who has so long been connected with the Rand mine in Colorado is said to be in connection with that matter. It staggers the wisest when they undertake to contemplate the results of such a trust. The principal leaders in this business are the same men who cornered the diamond mines and have for years regulated the price of diamonds.

The news from South Africa has been of the most astounding sort. General Dewet has been fighting almost every day since the last edition of The Independent went to press. In one fight he captured a fortified town and took 400 prisoners and two guns. There

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has been fighting of more or less importance all over the Orange Free State and many of the positions that were held by the Boers at the beginning of the war along the frontier of Natal and Cape Colony have been recaptured. These successes have thrown the London jingoos into the dumps. The Boer party has grown to be so strong and influential that it is outspoken in its sympathy. New recruits have come to its ranks. The most astonishing of all is the London Statist, the old, conservative and authoritative financial organ boldly advocates the recognition of the Boers. It says: "We are losing in every way; losing in prestige and losing in trade. "We are seeing our South African possessions plunged into greater and greater distress, and the opinion is gaining ground abroad that we are incapable of bringing the struggle to a satisfactory termination. "If men like Botha and Dewet voluntarily surrender and bind themselves not to act against us in the future," the Statist will say, "is there any good reason why a promise should not be given not to send them out of

the country? "Mr. J. B. Robinson suggests that Botha and Dewet be invited to take seats in the legislative council that will be established. The suggestion is worthy of approval. The Boers should not be excluded, even from the beginning, from anything which can safely be given them." Senator Stewart of Nevada, to prove his complete treason to those who sent him to the senate, on last Monday introduced a bill providing a supreme court for the Philippines consisting of five members with a salary of \$20,000 each. McKinley still keeps up the coinage of silver dollars. The monthly report of the director of the mint shows that he coined during November 3,130,000 of them, besides \$20,120 of subsidiary silver. In 1896 they told us that the coinage of silver must stop or the United States would go to the demilitation bow-wows. Last month's coinage was nearly twice as much as was ever put out under the Sherman act.

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