

POOR DEGENERATE VERMONT

What a solid and permanent republican majority can do toward the degeneration of the whole people of a state is shown by some statistics that have been brought out in the triangular fight for governor in Vermont.

That is not the worst of it. Some months ago Dr. Ashbel P. Grinnell of Burlington read a paper before the medico-legal society of New York on the consumption of stimulating drugs in Vermont, which attracted much attention at the time.

That is the condition that fifty years of republican rule has resulted in, in the ancient homes of the Puritans. The same sort of degeneration is observable in the nation at large, though not to the same extent, since the republicans took charge of the national government.

SUBLIME AND AWFUL

To describe the barbaric splendors of the privileged few who have accumulated millions from franchises voted to them by the people, new words have to be invented.

The editor of The Independent has a pretty fair reference library, but neither in dictionaries, cyclopedias or other works could he find out what "consoles" were.

HOW LONG WILL IT FLOAT?

The warnings that the Independent has been giving concerning this credit balloon that the trust promoters and banks have sent kiting ten thousand feet high are being re-echoed in Europe.

"It seems, nevertheless, that for a year past the successful daring of the American financiers has been turning a little into presumption. Their gigantic scaffolds of trusts would hardly seem proof now against every strain.

The constant demand from Wall street for "more money" with which to keep their credit balloon afloat, the desperate and futile efforts of Secretary Shaw to furnish it, together with the fact that for every additional dollar added to the currency there are ten dollars of credit piled on top of it, makes one doubt whether the balloon can be kept afloat for 12 or 18 months.

THE OLD SOPHISTRIES

The remark of Mr. Van Vorhis in last week's Independent that the modern sophistries are hoary with age should be followed with the statement

that all the great, fundamental economic truths are also hoary with age. Some years ago the editor of The Independent in his ardent study of economics often imagined that he had thought out something new, but it was never long afterwards, as he pursued his studies, until he came across the same idea fully and completely stated in some authoritative work on political economy.

It is well to remember how the mind is influenced with meaningless catch phrases. The phrase "sound money" is absolutely meaningless. No sort of study of it enables a man to attach any meaning to it.

"By an unfavorable balance of trade it means that state of things in which importation exceeds exportation. It is said that if a nation continue a commerce like this it must be rendered bankrupt.

It will be seen that what The Independent has said about that republican sophistry is nothing new. It has only been reasserting economic laws long since established and accepted as true by all thinking men.

CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE

The English reviews are making savage criticism of America and Americans. This government is accused of a design to annex Canada and all the South American republics.

"It is unfortunate if not exceptional that the United States cannot be satisfied with the plain, straightforward policy of self-interest without attempting to explain it as a disinterested and highly moral position.

Not long ago The Independent remarked that the Boer war being ended and the United States being no longer necessary as a base of supplies for the British, the soft solder of the British press and British office-holders would come to an end.

ROOSEVELT'S DEFENSE

There has been so much criticism of the speeches of the president on the trust question, he has felt the necessity of making a reply.

"Now, it does not do anybody any good, and it will do most of us a great deal of harm to take steps which will check any proper growth in a corporation. We wish not to penalize but to reward a great captain of industry, or the men banded together in a corporation who have the business forethought and energy necessary to build up a great industrial enterprise.

"If some of those who have seen cause for wonder in what I have said this fall on the subject of great corporations, which are popularly, although with technical accuracy, known as trusts."

"I ask you to ponder on the utter folly of the man who either in a spirit of rancor or in a spirit of folly says, 'Destroy the trusts.'"

That is the position of the president on trusts carefully defined and made in reply to criticism. He will have no part in destroying the trusts or in prosecuting them under the criminal

NERVOUS PROSTRATION CURED BY PE-RU-NA.



J. A. SIMPSON. Sec'y Bd of Education, San Francisco.

Hon. J. A. Simpson, Secretary of the Board of Education of San Francisco, Cal., writes:

"I have found Peruna an ideal tonic. Some months ago I suffered with neurasthenia (systemic catarrh), caused by too close application to office work. My system seemed worn out and I felt far from well. I found Peruna benefited me very much. It built up the entire system and made me feel like a new man. I believe it is well worthy the high praise bestowed upon it."

Systemic catarrh always gives fair warning of its approach, and can be easily warded off by the proper treatment. Floating brown specks before the eyes, mental confusion, fits of nervous headache, sleeplessness, flashes of heat, chilly sensations, palpitation, irritability, despondency; any of these symptoms or all of them should be promptly met by the use of Peruna.

Congressman E. V. Brookshire, from Indiana, in a recent letter from Washington, D. C., says:

"From what my friends say, Peruna is a good tonic and a safe catarrh cure." "Summer Catarrh," a book written by Dr. Hartman, President The Hartman Sanitarium, on the subject of the nervous disturbances peculiar to summer, sent free to any address by The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.

law. He will not enforce the laws on the statute books made for their suppression. It will be seen that the trusts have in President Roosevelt the most astute defender that has yet appeared, and that he, himself, frankly makes the statement in such language that there can be no doubt about it.

"I want you to think of what I have said because it represents all the sincerity and earnestness that I have, and I say to you here from this platform nothing that I have not already stated and nothing that I would not say at a private table with any of the biggest corporation managers of the land."

There is no doubt that President Roosevelt would make those statements to "the biggest" corporation managers in the land. They would likely rise from their seats, reach across the table and all want to shake hands with him at once while they were giving him assurances that they were, first, last and all the time for him for president in 1904 and every year afterwards as long as he should live.

In this same speech he tells what he would have done about the trusts. First of all he wants a constitutional amendment, which perhaps could be obtained sometime toward the last of the century. His further action he states in reply to the one who would do something effective, as follows:

"I will try to find out the evil. I will seek to apply remedies, which I have already outlined in other speeches. But if his policy from whatever motive, whether hatred, fear, panic, or just sheer ignorance, is to destroy the trust in a way that will destroy all our prosperity, no!"

Now every man of common sense knows that it is in the power of the trusts to produce a panic any day. J. Pierpont Morgan could go down to Wall street and issue a few orders any morning that would tumble over the house of cards that the trusts with their watered stock and the banks with their inflation of credit have built. Therefore the position of the president is this: "As long as the trusts will threaten to produce a panic, if any action is taken against them, to every suggestion to do so, I answer, 'no!'"

There is but one conclusion to be reached from all this. If any man honestly believes that the trusts should be overthrown, he cannot support Theodore Roosevelt or his party. To do so is to defeat the very thing that he wishes to see accomplished.

INJURE RELIGION

The Watchman, a Baptist paper, after quoting the words of President Baer, makes the following remarks:

"If this means anything it means that those who control the property interests of the country are Christian men; that God gave them this control because they know better what is for the interest of the people than the people themselves, and that the proper attitude of laboring men toward capitalists is not that of criticism or resistance or refusal to work, or the resort to any means to improve their condition, but humble

acceptance of what the capitalists do for them as the expression of the divine will. Do not wonder that laboring men who imagine that Christianity involves such a conception of God as this, and that capitalists, many of whom have gained their wealth by oppression and iniquitous practices, are his representatives, repudiate the churches and all Christian institutions. President Baer's sentence will do more harm to the cause of religion than he can ever atone for. And we quote his words, not to give them currency, but to repudiate for ourselves all that they assert, and all that they imply."

The Independent does not concur with the Watchman's view that the cant of Baer will injure religion. It will perhaps have a tendency to wake up the church and bring some of the preachers to their senses. They will begin to see where they are drifting, that is, if they are not wholly degenerate.

JOINT DISCUSSIONS

There is a growing demand everywhere that the republicans shall come out of their holes and meet their opponents in joint discussion before the people. The cowardly republicans have for the last eight years been afraid to meet their opponents anywhere. They will resort to anything to avoid meeting an opponent before the people. In every campaign the people are a jury, and all the facts should be presented to them so they may intelligently decide the case. To refuse to discuss public questions is to hold the people in contempt, to sneak away and avoid discussion and endeavor to prevent the people from hearing the questions debated is an attempt to deceive the jury that is to decide the case.

The police courts of the country seem to have more courage than some of the higher courts. The other day a Patterson, N. J. millionaire was fined twice in the police court in one day, once for employing child labor in his factory and the second time for running his devil wagon sixty miles an hour through the streets of the city. For the first offense he was fined \$50 and for the second \$20. When a millionaire appears in the federal courts, the judge takes his hat off to him.

Secretary Shaw's idea of making an elastic currency by getting the banks to issue more notes, has had the effect that every man of common sense knew it would have, of advancing the price of bonds to an unprecedented figure. If a banker gets bonds to secure an additional circulation he will have to pay a price for them that will eat all the interest which he can hope to get on his notes for three years in advance. It will take more patriotism than any banker was ever known to have to go into a business like that.

If labor unions should demand that every employer should pay from two to four more laborers for every one employed, they would be doing only that which capital has been doing for many years. Whenever stock is watered, interest is collected on capital that never existed, and as all the great trusts are watered from 100 to 400 per cent they are doing exactly the same thing as the unions would do if they employed a demand that for every man employed, the trust should pay for two or four more that did not exist.

Plutocracy keeps half of the people in deadly fear that the wage-workers organized into unions will break loose into riots and destruction of property, when the fact is that there is not one riot where there were ten before labor organized. Before unions were made legal in England, all sorts of violence were committed by dissatisfied workmen. Bodies of "machine breakers" broke into the factories and smashed the machinery; belts were cut and engines torn down. When unionism became strong, all this destructiveness ceased at once.

When the managers of the coal roads added the business of mining to the business of common carriers they committed a crime against the laws of Pennsylvania, but they were never prosecuted for it and no militia was ever called out to enforce the law. When the miners violate the law the militia are sent to the spot in a hurry with orders to shoot to kill. From all this it appears that there is one kind of government for the rich and another for the poor. The miners seem to like that sort of thing for they have always voted for the party that administers the government in that way. Perhaps some day they will learn better.

Senator Pritchard owes his two terms as United States senator to the negroes of his state. It was their vote that sent him there. Now he without ceremony kicks them out of his state convention. That shows the stuff that republican senators are made of. He is a fair representative of the whole lot. They have used the negroes as tools to further their political fortunes and now that they can no longer further those fortunes they abandon them. The Independent has often told the negroes the truth about that matter. We are here in Lincoln see the negroes as eager to vote the republican ticket in the future as in the past? Are they all of the sort that the more you kick them the better they like you? Well, hardly.

the courts. A frown from Morgan makes the whole financial world shiver with fear.

Since 1896 the money power has vastly increased its dominion. What are you going to do about it? Shall we shiver and cringe until we are made wage slaves to the trusts or shall we say to these financial moguls: "Liberty or death."

Editorial Notes.

The bicycle trust has "busted." It was organized after the most approved fashion. Its stock was watered to the usual amount and all the other details attended to. It had bonds, preferred stock and common stock and 60 per cent of all the manufacturers combined into one "big corporation," as the president calls a trust. Nevertheless a receiver has been appointed.

If one only styles himself a banker, the people will hand their money over to him without the least security by the thousands. The other day a man appeared at Washington, Ind., gave out his name as Pleasant Durham, "stuck" out a sign of "bank" and the people rushed to him to give him their money. When Durham had gathered a little over \$10,000 he quietly disappeared. Nothing is known of him or his former life.

The editor of one of the leading democratic papers in northeastern Nebraska has engaged in the real estate business and desires to sell his newspaper and plant. The office has power newspaper and job presses, a Fairbanks & Morse gasoline engine, paper cutter, about 130 fonts job and ad. type, 350 pounds body type, and an abundance of slugs, leads and other material. Paper has over 1,000 circulation. \$3,200, half cash, or \$3,000 cash, will buy it.

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All the owners of anthracite coal mines have formed a union. None of them will deal individually with the miners. Then they declare that they will not deal with the miners' union and that each individual miner must make his own contract with them. The coal barons can have unions, but the miners must not. Besides that, if the miners break the law, the state sends the militia swooping down on them. When the coal barons violate the law, the state takes no action against them, even when they have been most notorious violators of the law for years, and still are at the present time. That is the kind of government the republican party has given this country and the miners as a body have supported it with their votes.

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W. M. Morning, attorney, rooms 310 311-312 Richards block, Lincoln, Neb.