

The New Jersey Judge who proposes to squeeze the water out of the trust stock will not be looked upon as a prosperity promoter in certain quarters.

Municipal ownership has seized the people of Fulton, Mo., and they have voted to purchase a cemetery. This comes very near running municipal ownership into the ground.

The population of the Indian empire, according to the census just taken, is 294 millions. The returns show an increase in British territory of ten millions, and a decrease in native states of three millions.

Members of congress returning from Cuba are relating all sorts of stories concerning the situation down there. All of which but goes to show that a man can find out almost anything he prefers to believe if he will but be persistent.

The toy-making industry of Germany has enjoyed great prosperity during the past few years. Cape Colony, British East India, Eastern Asia, North and South America and Australia buy German toys, and the demand seems to be increasing from year to year.

The legislature of Alabama has passed the much discussed "White House" bill, carrying an appropriation for the purchase and maintenance of the old Jefferson Davis house in Montgomery. This relic of the days of the Confederacy will now be given its proper place and made an interesting feature of the capital city of Alabama.

The death of Baron Satge de Thorent at the age of 97 deprives the Legion of Honor of its oldest member. The baron served for many years in the French army and afterward made his home in Ireland, where he married. One of his sons served in the British army. The baron spent the latter part of his life upon an estate in the Eastern Pyrenees.

A remarkable contrast to the map in precious stones which lately astonished Paris, is the railway map on tiles, put up at York Station, in England, by the Northeastern company. It is made of white tiles, the lines being marked in black and burnt sienna. It is about six feet square, and each tile is eight inches square. The company intends to have similar maps at all important stations on its own system.

Prince Henry, consort of the Queen of Holland, is extremely busy at the present moment getting together a perfect army of sporting guns, mostly of English manufacture, in view of his approaching trip to the island of Java, and to the remainder of the Dutch East Indies. He sails early in the month of June; that is to say, just about the time the honeymoon may reasonably be expected to have begun to wane, and will remain absent until the end of the year.

Scores of old barns in Ohio have floors and mangers of black walnut, put in fifty or seventy-five years ago, when the chief endeavor of the pioneer was to clear the dense forests for crops. So popular is black walnut furniture abroad that English and French agents buy even old barn timbers and fence rails. One of the few walnut fences left in Ohio was sold last month for export as lumber. The largest tree, eight feet in diameter at the scamp, brought twelve hundred dollars.

Many of the coast towns of California instituted last year on Memorial day a unique form of tribute to the memory of our sailor dead whose unknown graves lie in the ocean. Bands of children marched to the water's edge and while singing patriotic songs strewed the sea with flowers. It is now urged that this pretty ceremony be made a national custom, and with this idea in view a circular, signed by Mrs. Armistage S. C. Forbes of Los Angeles, Cal., is being sent about, urging all interested and influential people to concur and assist in perpetuating the ceremony.

Max L. Poldrose, of Bromberger, Germany, was some time ago compelled to leave the Fatherland on account of certain articles which appeared in his paper, the Bromberger Tageblatt, giving deep offence to the crown. Recently his father died and he succeeded to the title of baron and an estate of \$127,000. His brother secured amnesty for him, and he will return to Germany after wedding Miss Anna Franklin at Chattanooga, Tenn. He is about 30 years old and a graduate of Heidelberg. While in this country he worked as a baker, and recently had been employed at Lebanon, Ind.

The preparation of a simple and cheap artificial stone is becoming an important German industry and likely eventually to supplant brickmaking. The ingredients are only lime and sand in the proportion of from four to six parts of the latter. The materials are thoroughly mixed and shaped into blocks of the desired size. The latter are then put in a boiler, which is heated, and submitted to a steam pressure of from 125 to 150 pounds in the steam tank. The process is completed in 24 hours.

INTELLIGENT FRANCE

NO TROUBLE THERE OVER LABOR AND WAGES.

The Various Revolutions Have Taught the Plutocrats a Wholesome Lesson—Injustice to Labor Would Be Resented with the Sword.

The employees on the Paris underground railroad had a strike and have settled their strike.

The terms of the settlement amaze the outside world. Those terms are especially amazing to the American—and well they may be.

The employees of the underground railroad in Paris are government employes.

Their strike inconvenienced the public and even the radical French people were annoyed with the strikers.

In other European countries and in this country, as the news reports very truly say, the strike of those government employes would have been dealt with very summarily. Three engines of civilization would have been brought into play effectively.

"First, the police; second, the cavalry; third, Gatling guns."

But the police, the cavalry and Gatling guns were tried on the French people long ago and that little matter was fought out and settled. The men who govern France know that at a certain stage in the proceedings a courageous people will not stand Gatling guns, cavalry or police.

They have found out in France that the way to deal with striking workmen is just the way the government official would like to be dealt with himself if he were a striking workman instead of a well-paid public officer.

The striking men complained that their day's work was too long and their pay too small. The pay was increased and the day was shortened—which was perfectly right.

Each employe is now allowed one day off in seven, and ten days' vacation every year with full pay—which is perfectly right.

The young men employed on the road are compelled to do twenty days' work in the army each year. Their wages are paid while they are doing this compulsory military work—which is perfectly right.

If a man is ill he gets his pay as long as he is ill up to three hundred and sixty-five days, and the company in whose service he has become ill pays his doctor's bill, his drug store bill and any extra expenses involved—which is perfectly just and fair.

No strike is to be dismissed because of having taken part in the strike. A benefit fund is provided for the employes of this government enterprise—and the company pays the membership subscription to the benefit fund with no deduction from the workman's pay.

The above seems a horrible narrative to the energetic American exploiter of labor.

It would have seemed very stupid, in fact quite incomprehensible, to the French government at any time before the revolution.

But the revolution taught France and some other people that a nation, like any other structure, is insecure when its foundation is agitated. The foundation of a nation is the enormous mass of working people, and that foundation the French have learned to respect and to treat well.

We shall learn as much here some day. Let us hope we shall learn it more peaceably than the French did.

DEMORALIZING THE ARMY.

The revelations of corruption at Manila are peculiarly painful, because they involve so many army officers. We are accustomed to dishonest politicians, but our army and navy, as a rule, have been morally clean.

They have been so, of course, because the atmosphere of the service has tended to keep them so. Army and navy officers are not made of any special clay—they are simply the products of their training and associations. The environment that braces a naturally weak character is hard to build up and easy to break down. It took only a year or two after the Restoration to destroy the moral tone that Cromwell had created in the English army. Prussian officers were said to be models of austere honesty at the time of the Franco-German war; now the German army is honeycombed with corruption.

The American army hitherto has been small. Its officers could all have been accommodated in a single club of moderate size. They have grown up together, like one great family, and the opinion of their order has been a regulating force of tremendous power. Besides, they have been among a huge civilian population, always jealous of a standing army, and they have felt continually under obligations to be on their good behavior.

But now all these old safeguards have been relaxed. The army has been tripled in size. It has been scattered over half the circumference of the earth. It has been diluted with civilian officers, bringing into it the traditions of the stock pit, the real estate market and the law courts. Above all, it has been set down among subject peoples whose public opinion could be ignored, and it has been allowed to suppress the publicity that might have checked transgressions.

METHODS OF TRUSTS.

PAVING THE WAY FOR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

The Promising Toad's Head—It Is the Head of the Trust Toad—End of the Age of Competition—Formation of Labor Unions.

The head of a toad, like the head of a trust, is superficially a hideous thing to look at.

Sometimes it is alleged that valuable jewels are found in a toad's head, and on this account the hideousness even of the far-famed horned toad of the west becomes less repulsive. The trust toad, as you will find by examining it closely and studying events, has a head equipped with jewels of a very fine quality. Many years from now men will be very glad that the trust toad was born, because of the good that will come from it.

Already we see that the trusts are inevitably strengthening labor unions. They are bringing the men into closer relationship and forming them into greater and more closely united bodies of workmen. They are preparing for the inevitable and early forcible increase in wages. The trusts organize admirably the great industries and prepare the day when all of these industries will be owned by the government—that is to say, by the people themselves.

The trusts eliminate competition, which is a stupid, out-of-date form of barbarism, leading to cheating, thievery and adulteration. The trusts do away with the vast armies of middlemen, and by diminishing every day the number of those who live on the work of others, they compel an ever-growing number to enter the fields of useful production.

Just at present the jewel that stands out most prominently in the ugly trust toad's head is "Free Trade." Men have argued and fought and voted, and made speeches, and paraded for Free Trade—and all in vain. The more they talked and paraded the heavier were the duties. But when the trusts want free trade they will have it, for the trusts control legislation. And we shall have free trade, for the trusts will want it very soon. A trust engaged in manufacturing wants to buy as cheaply as it can the raw materials used. The trusts will soon own all the industries, all the manufacturers, and they will want freedom from the duties which are now paid on the material. Already there is in process of formation a great clothing trust. The small man who makes clothing now must pay a duty on wool to protect the American farmer who raises sheep. How long do you think the clothing trust will tolerate this duty on wool? How long do you think the trust engaged in making clothes in America will tolerate a duty on wool that makes the industry so expensive? Some of the duties will be retained, of course—at least until the trusts shall be powerful enough even to despise foreign competition. But one thing after another the trusts will want free from duty, and these things will be freed as fast as the trusts' order is given.

The trusts are going to do a great deal of good to the masses of the people in time. They will end by forcing universal government ownership of monopolies upon the people. Of course this last step is a long way ahead, and there will be considerable stiff fighting before it is taken.

There will be no use in denying that the Platt rider is a complete repudiation of the joint resolution of congress declaring that the people of Cuba were and of right ought to be independent, and that the United States intended to recognize their independence and not to exercise any control over them after the pacifying of the island.

Senator Morgan does not believe in denying that the rider repudiates that resolution, which the president has repeatedly declared we are bound to respect and carry out in good faith. The Alabama senator is opposed to false pretenses and hypocrisy—to the dark and treacherous policy which involved us in war with the civilized and Christian people of the Philippines and won the friendship of none but the polygamous slave-holding and semi-savage Mohammedans of the southern group of the archipelago. Mr. Morgan proposes to be honest and straightforward, and so avoid trouble.

And he proposes to go further. He will advise the committee from the Cuban convention which is about to visit Washington to advise the body they represent to apply directly to congress for admission to the union as a state. He will tell them that congress has repented of the pledge it gave to them and the world in 1898, and is not going to grant them independence. He will show them that they will come far nearer to independence as a state of the union than they can ever come in any other way.

He will show them that as a state they will have two seats in the United States senate, seven or more seats in the house of representatives and con-

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rol of their own affairs except in their relations with foreign countries and in some less important matters, while they will be protected by the constitution against all unauthorized meddling of the general government in their affairs. And when it dawns on them that as a state of the union they can go in debt to any extent and be protected by the United States in repudiation, if they choose to repudiate, they may take Mr. Morgan's advice.

But nothing of this sort will suit the administration Republicans. If Cuba should become a state of the union all Cuban products would have to be admitted free into all the other states of the union. The claim that the constitutional provision respecting uniformity of duties, etc., applies only to states and not to territories would no longer be of avail with respect to Cuba.

Free trade with Cuba is not what the administration Republicans want. It is not what is wanted by the interests which have already demonstrated their power to control the administration. When the Porto Rico bill was pending in the senate Senator Foraker said in effect: "If we cannot lay protection duties on the products of these islands we have taken from Spain, we cannot get out of them too quickly."

That defines the position of the administration Republicans. That is why they contrived the Platt protectorate scheme for Cuba instead of treating it as a territory of the United States without keeping up the false pretense of independence to come. The supreme court might hold that the constitutional provision as to duties applied to territories as well as states. In that case it would never do to have Cuba a territory of the United States. That would break the backs of the sugar and tobacco protectees.

And it would be even worse with Cuba as a state, for there would be no possible way out. Congress can get rid of a territory; it can never get rid of a state. The Morgan plan will never be approved by the McKinley party.

GOD MADE THE COAL—FOR WHOM?

BEHOLD the hire of the LABORERS who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, cruelty, and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth—James v. 4.

Under the earth's surface at various depths, in veins of varying thickness, lies the world's supply of coal. Millions of years before man came here this coal was stored away to supply them with heat, when in the fullness of time they should arrive on earth to fulfill their mysterious and still unexplained errand. During thousands of centuries the coal was stored slowly, and during other thousands of centuries it was packed into a stony condition by the pressure of the weight piled up above it. Today men dig it out and sell it.

In the production of this coal you would naturally say that there were only two great agencies. First, God, who made the coal and stored it away to be used. Second, the men and women and children who work in the mines, living in darkness and grime, and bringing coal to the surface. But there must be some other great agency responsible for this coal—and for this reason: The coal product of Great Britain last year sold for THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. The total amount paid to all men and women and children who dug the coal out of the ground was FIFTY millions of dollars. Two hundred and fifty millions of dollars, five-sixths of the entire product, went to some one else. Of course that "some one else" is the mine owner, the coal speculator.

We do not believe that the power which made the coal and gave it to men is quite satisfied with the conditions under which the coal is dug. We have an idea that a situation which involves extravagant prices for the poor who use the coal, very small pay for the poor who dig it, and two hundred and fifty millions of dollars for men who neither made the coal nor dig it, is not satisfactory to the Maker of coal mines and the Ruler of the world.

We sincerely believe that in His own time He will change a system which needs changing so badly.

We believe that a change will come and that it will be radical. For Divine disapproval of the grab-balls is written too clearly to admit of any varied interpretation:

"Go to now, ye rich men, WEEP and HOWL for your miseries that shall come upon you."

"Your riches are corrupted and your garments are moth-eaten."

"Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."—James v. 1, 2, 3.

The existence of a half-starved miner is not pleasant. The life of a woman working in the mines is horrible—and the stealing of five-sixths of the coal from those who dig it out is abominable. But we have an idea that when the time comes to straighten out accounts the miner will not have the hardest part of the bargain.

Pleas for Iowa Senators.

Sioux City Tribune: The next legislature will have a good time at Des Moines. There is now a surplus in the treasury of about \$1,250,000, and it is hardly to be expected that the rule of scraping the bottom class will be broken.

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Warranted Waterproof. Made to stand hard knocks and rough work. Look for the trade mark. SAWYER'S SLICKERS. KEEP OUT THE WET. In the production of this coal you would naturally say that there were only two great agencies. First, God, who made the coal and stored it away to be used. Second, the men and women and children who work in the mines, living in darkness and grime, and bringing coal to the surface. But there must be some other great agency responsible for this coal—and for this reason: The coal product of Great Britain last year sold for THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. The total amount paid to all men and women and children who dug the coal out of the ground was FIFTY millions of dollars. Two hundred and fifty millions of dollars, five-sixths of the entire product, went to some one else. Of course that "some one else" is the mine owner, the coal speculator.

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