

which Senator Jones is connected has a monopoly of the business of compressing cotton. If this were true and the monopoly rested upon a patent it would not be a trust within the ordinary meaning of the word, but as a matter of fact Mr. Jones' company does not handle ten per cent of the cotton compressed in the United States—it is nearer five per cent. The republicans say nothing about a salt trust that controls ninety-five per cent of the output of salt but make a great ado about a patent which is used in compressing but a small portion of the cotton crop.

The company has been criticised for renting its machines instead of selling them outright, but as the patent law does not prohibit the leasing of a patented article and as this method of realizing on a patent is quite common it does not furnish valid ground for complaint. Senator Jones explains in his letter that, while the company, when desired, buys cotton from those who use the round bale process it does not require them to sell to the company.

In this connection the editor calls attention to a suggestion which he has made on a former occasion, namely, that there should be a value limit as well as a time limit to a patent. In other words, that the patent should expire whenever a reasonable sum (the amount to be fixed by law) has been realized from it. But even if such a law were now in force it would not affect the cotton company, for the owners of the patent have not yet realized any considerable profit on the money invested in the patent.

This matter has been considered at some length because the republicans, unable to defend the attitude of their party on the trust question, have sought to dodge the issue by bringing accusation against Senator Jones, the chairman of the democratic national committee.

During the campaign the only reply made by republicans, when charged with friendliness to trusts, was that Tammany leaders were interested in an ice trust and that Senator Jones was interested in a cotton trust. As soon as the campaign was over it was found that Governor Roosevelt had, for political reasons, suppressed Mayor Van Wyck's answer, and it also developed that the republican senate refused to consider the house anti-trust bill when Senator Jones tried to call it up.

Not a New Convert.

The New York Journal is in error in assuming that Bryan is a new convert to municipal ownership. In a recent issue the Journal said:

"The Philadelphia franchise steal has brought out a welcome declaration from William J. Bryan. Mr. Bryan took advantage of a visit to Philadelphia on Saturday to say:

"If franchises are to be turned over to private individuals or corporations, the transfer should be arranged upon the best terms possible for the city. But I believe that municipal ownership of water plants, lighting plans and street car lines is the best solution of the problem."

The time was when the democratic leader in the last two national campaigns did not appreciate the idea of public ownership. He distrusted

it as a little too much like paternalism for an old-fashioned Jeffersonian democrat.

"But men like Quay and Ashbridge are rapidly extinguishing that type of democracy. They are making it evident that the issue is no longer between one economic theory and another, but between honesty and theft. And on such an issue nobody could doubt Mr. Bryan's position."

Mr. Bryan has always favored the municipal ownership of water and lighting plants and for several years has believed in the municipal ownership of street car lines. THE COMMONER in its issue of March 1st said:

"Some of our contemporaries are discussing the relative merits of an inheritance tax and a tax on franchises. Why not have both? One does not interfere with the other and both are meritorious. In the course of time the cities will own and operate their water systems, their lighting plants and their street car lines, but until that time comes municipal and other franchises ought to be made to contribute to the expenses of government."

This is sufficient proof that Mr. Quay's Philadelphia grab is not responsible for Mr. Bryan's views of this subject.

Mr. Bryan has been dealing with national questions and, while he was his party's candidate, did not feel justified in adding to the reforms enumerated in the platform, but as a citizen he is interested in all questions affecting the government and as an editor he will discuss all questions upon which the people are called to act.

Pan-American Exposition.

During my recent absence from home I visited the Pan-American Exposition and while my stay was brief it was exceedingly pleasant and instructive. The grounds are artistically laid out and the buildings surpass in style and beauty those of any other exposition. Special attention has been given to the color effects and as a result the buildings present a much more attractive appearance than the monotonous structures which gave to the World's Fair the name, "The White City."

For want of statistics I am not able to compare the exhibits with those of previous expositions but they are sufficient to convince one of the wonderful resources of this country. The exhibits of the Federal government, gathered from all the departments and illustrating every phase of national life, will surprise even the citizens of Washington.

The various states present a most interesting assortment of products and give to the visitor an object lesson more valuable than any that could be obtained from books.

As usual, California leads in her display of fruits and nuts but Florida and Idaho present evidence of rapid development in the matter of fruit growing.

Illinois, Missouri, Oregon and Washington have excellent apple exhibits.

Some of the South American countries have a large collection of valuable woods.

One of the most interesting features of the Exposition to me was the dairy contest now in progress. Five of the best cows of each of several breeds are competing. A record is kept of the milk of each cow and the butter made from it, together with the cost of the feed.

At the end of the test it will be possible to form an intelligent opinion as to the relative merits of the various breeds. As butter and milk are necessities in every household I assume that the readers of THE COMMONER will be interested in knowing the result of the contest and I shall obtain and publish the figures.

Owing both to the constant improvement in electrical appliances and to the proximity of Niagara Falls from which the power is secured, the electrical display is far ahead of anything before attempted. Considerable space is given to mobiles and locomobiles—they, too, show great improvement.

The midway, while presenting as much variety as at other expositions, contains less that is objectionable. The Indian congress which brings together many famous Indian chiefs as well as a large number of braves and squaws, is unusually meritorious. It is especially instructive to the young people of the east who have never seen the aborigines in their primitive costumes. Bostock's trained animals come next in importance among the midway attractions. The living picture in which fifteen lions take part shows the perfection which can be attained in the training of wild beasts. The cyclorama showing the crucifixion, the trip to Klondike, the Johnstown flood, the Japanese and Filipino villages, the Hawaiian theatre, the House upside down, with its wonderful illusions, Alt Nueremberg—The streets of Cairo, the little railroad, the canal where children living inland are initiated into the delights of boat riding, the baby hospital, the dwarfs, trained monkeys etc., etc—all these furnish information and many of them amusement. Besides the attractions of the Exposition Buffalo is itself an interesting city and is only a short distance from Chautauqua Lake, the home of the parent Chautauqua, and still nearer to one of the wonders of the world—Niagara Falls. Nearly all who visit the Exposition visit the Falls, unless they have done so before, and Sunday is the day usually set apart for the trip. And where can one worship more reverently than amid those scenes? Every object testifies to the omnipotence of God, every feature speaks of his matchless handiwork, and in the presence of the cataract, the rapids, the whirlpool and the precipitous walls of the gorge one finds himself repeating the enquiry of the Psalmist—"What is man, that thou art mindful, and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

To those who live in the west and south the visit to Buffalo offers an opportunity to see many other places of interest. Toronto, Canada's most progressive city, is just across the lake and from that point the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation company runs a line of passenger boats to Montreal and Quebec. Some time can be saved by taking the boat at Clayton, at the head of the St. Lawrence—a famous fishing resort, by the way—if the tourist has not the leisure to visit Toronto.

The daylight ride from Clayton to Montreal is one of the most picturesque in the world. During the forenoon the boat winds among the thousand islands, nearly all of them beautified by the hand of man and made the sites of sum-