

**Best Form of Giving and Receiving.** On August 6th the Standard Oil Company declared a dividend of 8 per cent. This brings the dividends for this company for the year 1901 up to 40 per cent. It is estimated that the dividends for this year will reach 50 per cent. John D. Rockefeller's share in the dividend of August 6th is said to have been \$3,200,000. Not long ago Mr. Rockefeller said that the best form of giving was the payment of wages. It cannot be doubted that Mr. Rockefeller is fully convinced that the best form of receiving is Standard Oil dividends.

**Neely Will Probably Go Free.** The United States District Attorney announces that he does not think that Neely, the republican politician charged with Cuban frauds, can be convicted. It has been discovered that there is no authority to require witnesses to go to Cuba to testify against Neely and the witnesses decline to go. It will be remembered that during the campaign it was repeatedly stated by republican politicians that the prosecution of Neely would be carried on with all possible vigor. At the same time, however, it was freely predicted that Neely would not be convicted. These predictions appear to have had good foundation.

**Senator Cullom Probably Right.** Congressman Babcock says the republican party must do something with the tariff question, but Senator Cullom, after having paid a visit to President McKinley, announces that there will be no tariff legislation. Mr. Hanna happened to be present at the time Mr. Cullom called on the President.

It is not difficult to believe that Senator Cullom is in better position to say what the republican party will or will not do than Congressman Babcock is.

It was, however, hardly necessary that any assurance be given that the republican party would not interfere with the privileges enjoyed by the tariff barons.

**The Apple Crop an Important Factor.** The general public has always shown alarm when any damage was threatened to the corn crop. Yet, according to a statement given out by the Independent, the apple crop is a very important feature. This statement places the value of the corn crop of 1899 at \$629,210,110, the value of the hay crop at \$411,926,187, the value of the wheat crop at \$319,545,250, the value of the cotton crop at \$305,467,041 and the value of the oats crop at \$198,167,975, while the value of the apple crop for 1900 is given in round figures at \$430,000,000. It will be seen that in point of monetary value the apple crop was second only to the corn crop.

**Trade and the Flag?** The imperialists' claim that trade follows the flag has received a severe blow by the publication of figures showing our cotton goods trade with Cuba. In 1899 Great Britain sold to Cuba cotton goods to the value of \$2,

102,025. In 1900 the value of the cotton goods sold in Cuba was \$2,965,307. This was an increase of \$773,282. In 1899 the United States sold to Cuba cotton goods to the value of \$1,337,741. In 1900 the value of cotton goods sold by the United States to Cuba was \$420,142. This was a decrease of \$917,599. It is explained that the reason for this difference in favor of England is that the Cubans prefer the English made goods.

It is a very difficult matter to establish the claim that trade follows the flag. As a matter of fact trade follows the people who will produce the best goods for the smallest amount of money.

**Railroad Combinations.** In a recent issue the Chicago Chronicle gives some interesting facts concerning railroad combinations. The Chronicle says:

The community of interests in railroads, while often made a subject of levity, is quietly working out and the ultimate grouping of the railways of the country is not far distant. Already three-fifths of the capitalization of the railroads has passed into the control of the five great interests and the extensions now under consideration will absorb one-fifth more of the capitalization. The south and southwestern systems will probably form two more groups, and within a brief period the railway systems will be controlled by seven distinct but not rival interests, for at least four of the interests now in control are working in harmony. The only discord is between the Goulds' Wabash line and the Pennsylvania.

The Vanderbilts and Pennsylvania, for instance, are jointly interested in Chesapeake and Ohio and are pledged to maintain harmony and stability of rates in trunk lines territory.

Mr. Morgan is an influential factor in most of the Vanderbilt lines, and both Mr. Vanderbilt and Mr. Gould have most cordial relations with Mr. Harriman and his associates. The Rockefellers are identified in a greater or less degree with the Vanderbilts, Mr. Harriman, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Gould.

The following is a summary of the capitalization, bonded indebtedness and mileage of the five railroad groups dealt with:

Group—	Capital.	Bonds.	Miles.
Vanderbilt . . . . .	\$ 483,648,000	\$ 673,556,727	18,744
Pennsylvania . . . . .	654,453,800	687,400,000	16,422
Gould . . . . .	388,000,000	422,500,000	14,170
Morgan-Hill . . . . .	976,943,000	1,269,000,000	33,500
Harriman . . . . .	544,833,700	502,000,000	20,921

Totals . . . . . \$3,047,878,500 \$3,554,456,727 103,757  
The aggregate capitalization of all the railroads in the United States is something less than \$5,000,000,000 and the aggregate mileage is about 200,000 miles.

**The Greatest Need of Cuba.** A recent issue of the Chicago Tribune contains an editorial under the caption of "Cuba's Needs." It is not necessary

to waste any time reading the editorial in question, for it does not come anywhere near setting forth the chief need of Cuba. That need is expressed clearly and fully in the resolution adopted by congress on April 18, and in the platform adopted by the republican national convention in 1896. The congressional resolution declared that "The people of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent." Continuing the resolution says: "That it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the government of the United States does demand, that the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters."

\* \* \* The United States hereby disclaims

any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination when that is completed to leave the government and control of the island to its people." The republican national platform of 1896 said: "From the hour of achieving their own independence, the people of the United States have regarded with sympathy the struggles of other American peoples to free themselves from European domination. We watch with deep and abiding interest the heroic battle of Cuban patriots against cruelty and oppression, and our best hopes go out to the full success of their determined contest for liberty." What does Cuba need? Merely the fulfillment of a solemn congressional pledge and the carrying out of the platform upon which the present administration rode into power the first time.

**A Victory For Publicity.** The British war office has been compelled by the power of public opinion to recede from its attitude toward the London Daily Mail. The war office took offense because the Mail printed the truth concerning the Boer war, and in order to punish the newspaper, debarred its representatives from all official news, also directing the various news agencies not to supply the Mail with any information obtained from the war office. The English people have made their protest against this plan very effective. They have been deceived in many ways and will not tolerate any deliberate effort to keep the facts from them.

It is probable that if the people of Great Britain knew half the truth concerning the Boer war, a storm of righteous indignation would hover in the vicinity of the British ministry.

**A Foolish Rule.** A young woman who drew one of the prizes in the Oklahoma land lottery was married a day or two after the drawing, and was notified that because of her marriage she would lose her right to the land. The Washington Post very properly condemns the notion that this woman could be deprived of any right which she had fairly acquired because of her marriage. The Post says:

"Now, surely, this is an incredible condition of affairs, for which an enlightened government such as ours is herein made responsible. These two women have apparently complied with the regulations issued by the interior department and have had the luck to draw homesteads under the official process. If they were not eligible they would, presumably, have been excluded. If they were eligible—as must be taken for granted—what right has the government to deprive them of their properly acquired rights? Was there any proviso that the winners in the drawing should ever after lead a celibate and lonely life? If so, we have not heard of it, and in any event it would be so irrational and tyrannical as to invite the condemnation of all just men. The department might as well have said that any prize winner subsequently losing a leg or inheriting a piece of property elsewhere would, ipso facto, forfeit the holding acquired under the drawing. It is well enough to forbid the sale of such property until title shall have been perfected by fourteen months of actual residence, for otherwise the door would be opened to gambling pure and simple. But to say that those who have secured awards shall not marry—the very best guarantee of good faith they could possibly give—is to say a stupid and a cruel thing."