

The governor of Minnesota is taking steps to prevent the consolidation of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern or any other competing lines in the state. There are indications at hand going to show that Nebraska will be required to meet this same question in a short time. What will Governor Savage do? What will the republican attorney general of the state do?

It is strange that in spite of the many errors made by Joseph Chamberlain, errors that are apparent to outsiders as well as to English people, Mr. Chamberlain is stronger today in British official circles than he ever was before. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the chancellor of the exchequer, has always been regarded as a man of great strength, and yet Chamberlain seems to have persuaded Balfour and Lord Salisbury that the chancellor of the exchequer is not up to the standard. London dispatches indicate that Hicks-Beach may be forced to resign, and it is predicted that in the event of his resignation, Chamberlain will become chancellor of the exchequer.

It is not surprising that the Illinois corporations found a judge ready and willing to enjoin the enforcement of a decision of the supreme court to the effect that corporations chartered in Illinois must pay taxes on a basis of the value of their stocks and franchises. Having unbounded financial resources the corporations will be able to keep up the fight until they wear the people out. The trouble with the public is that it is content to rest when it achieves one advantage, thereby soon losing it. Is it any wonder that people are sometimes tempted to express a contempt for the courts when they see a lower court nullifying the decisions of a superior tribunal?

The death rate among children confined in the British concentration camps in South Africa is 433 in every thousand. This means that during the months of June, July, August and September of the present year 5,209 children died in these camps. Miss Emily Hobhouse, the young English woman who went to South Africa to nurse the sick and made these figures known, has been banished by order of Joseph Chamberlain. The annual death rate of children in London is 18 per thousand. Despite the efforts of the British authorities the facts about the South African situation are becoming known, and the civilized world stands aghast at the accumulating horrors. And this great republic, which has never before hesitated to express sympathy for all people struggling for their rights, must not interfere, although it may allow British agents to visit this republic and purchase munitions of war.

Modesty seems to have been a characteristic of Admiral Schley. The testimony before the court of inquiry showed that he had never, in any of his reports, attempted to make his own part in the great battle of Santiago Bay conspicuous. The Lincoln (Neb.) Journal recalls an interesting fact which occurred in 1871, when Schley was lieutenant commander and acted as adjutant of the landing party which demolished the Korean forts. According to the official reports, Schley was the second officer within the forts and engaged in the desperate hand-to-hand struggle which routed the Koreans. In reporting this action, Commander L. A. Kimberly, now a rear admiral says: "The citadel was captured, but dearly so, as the gallant and brave McKee, the first to enter over the parapet, fell, mortally wounded with two wounds. He has since died, and the navy lost one of the

noblest and bravest sons. Lieutenant Commander Schley was the next officer in the fort, and killed the Korean who wounded McKee." Schley's report of the occurrence is in the following modest language: "The same brave one who had speared McKee rushed upon me, but the spear passed between my left arm and my body, and, before he could withdraw it for a second trial he was shot dead and fell lifeless at my feet."

The court of last resort has finally decided that the express companies must furnish the stamp. This would be a great victory for the people were it not for the fact that the necessity for attaching a revenue stamp to express receipts was removed some time ago. It will be noted that the express companies managed to stave off the decision until it was useless. This is a way the corporations have. But the man who mentions this interesting fact in a tone of criticism is at once dubbed an "anarchist" and accused of "attacking the courts."

The census for 1900 shows that there are 21,329,819 men of voting age in this country. Of this number 2,326,295 are illiterates. Is not this rather a large percentage of illiterates, in a nation priding itself upon its intelligence, boasting that its mission is to enlighten the world, insisting that it is "destiny" that it should instruct the people of the Orient? Just now the United States government is calling for volunteers who will go to the Philippines and teach. Already a large number of teachers have answered the call. It would seem that when more than 10 per cent of the voters of this country are illiterates, that the American people have an educational problem at their own doors, a problem which they should solve, and to the solution of which they should devote the energies which they are now exerting to the subjugation of a people who aspire to self-government.

Lord Rosebury in a speech at Edinburg recently said that he would like to see an "experiment for a year of a government formed entirely of business men," and mentioned Mr. Carnegie and Sir Thomas Lipton as examples of the business men he would like to see in control. We have seen something of the influence of the so-called "business men" in politics, and it has not always been wholesome. The high tariff was written by them, the bank currency is issued in their interest, the trusts are organized for their enrichment and imperialism taxes the people for their benefit. If the term "business men" is defined to mean all who by brain or muscle contribute to the strength and welfare of the nation, then the "business men" ought to be in control. But if the term is defined to include only speculators and the men who manage large business enterprises, there is no reason to believe that they would resist the temptation to turn the instrumentalities of the government to private advantage.

A St. Petersburg dispatch to the Chicago Tribune calls attention to the annual statement of the ministry of agriculture. This statement shows that in Russia all crops are below the average and in some parts of the east and south "they are bad, and in places very bad." The staple grain, rye, is particularly deficient. This report shows that the total estimated yield of various grains in European Russia, including cis-Caucasia and Poland, was as follows: Rye, 1,100,895,000 poods (a pood equals 36 pounds average); wheat, 551,747,000; oats, 536,674,000; barley, 304,289,000; millet, 92,857,000. The Red Cross will open free eating-houses and direct the medical re-

lief. The greatest difficulty is anticipated from the Tartars and the Finnish tribe known as Mordva. The Tartars rent their lands to Russians and are destitute. The cases of scurvy and typhoid are increasing. Grain is being distributed at the rate of two poods of rye per month per adult. A thousand free meal tickets are issued daily. The distress has been increased by a fire which destroyed 1,300 huts.

"Reciprocity" and "enlarged opportunities" were good enough campaign material for the republican leaders, but these leaders are now preparing to betray the people who believed they were sincere. Congressman Grosvenor boldly declares that the tariff will not be touched, and Senator Hale openly declares that he does not believe in "commissioning vagrant negotiators to hunt up reciprocity treaties," and that he "does not believe congress will be much troubled by such treaties." Considering the hold the tariff benefited trusts have upon the congressional majority the outlook for a modification of the tariff is dark indeed. What is the use of expending millions to elect a congress if that congress turns around and legislates against the contributors? With a friendly attorney general to interpret the anti-trust laws, and a congress indebted to them, the trusts have nothing to fear for two years more.

Judge Hanecy of Chicago has committed Mr. A. M. Lawrence and Mr. H. S. Canfield, members of the staff of Hearst's Chicago American, for contempt because that paper published a criticism of the judge's ruling in the gas trust case. The rendered an oral opinion, but before his decision had been made a matter of record. Ex-Governor Altgeld, one of counsel for defendants, insisted that the judge was guarding the shadow rather than the substance of justice and demanded a trial by jury. Judge Dunne has granted a writ of habeas corpus returnable at an early day. While it is proper that a court should protect itself while a case is under consideration it is certainly straining the law to punish for contempt merely because an oral decision has not been entered on the record. It looks very much as if Judge Hanecy was trying to silence criticism by the exercise of arbitrary authority. If he has been libeled he has an action at law, but he seems to prefer to try the case before himself rather than before a jury.

The iron and steel interests announced that they would not be represented at the reciprocity convention held at Washington city. It was stated that the representatives of these interests believed in "letting well enough alone." A presidential election having been won on that shibboleth, it seems to have become so popular that it is made to do service on all occasions and in all emergencies. Commenting on the "let well enough alone" suggestion of the iron and steel magnates, the New York World says: "'Well enough' for whom? For the government, which maintains duties on steel from which it gets no revenue owing to their prohibitory highness? For the consumers of steel, who are charged, as President Schwab admitted to the industrial commission, higher prices than are charged by the trust abroad? For individual manufacturers, who are being gradually crushed out by the mammoth steel corporation? No doubt the present tariff is 'well enough' for the steel trust and for the foreign consumers to whom it is selling its products in competition with rivals who are shut out of this market both by our tariff and by the capacity of our mills to make steel cheaper. But is it 'well enough' for the tax-burdened and monopoly-ridden people of the United States?"

What Will Nebraska do?

Breeding Contempt for Courts.

Murdering the Innocents.

A Characteristic Schley Report.

Corporations Profit by Delay.

An Educational Problem at Home.

Straining the Law.

Business Men in Politics.

Why not Restore Confidence in Russia?