

The Philadelphia Press, referring to trusts, says: "Regulation, publicity and the prevention of special privileges or over-capitalization will be prevented. Less would be insufficient. More would be unnecessary." But the Press is not in favor of preventing the special privileges which certain trusts find in the republican tariff.

**The Special Privileges.**

The Chicago Record-Herald says: "The esteemed New York Sun has not as yet seen fit to trot Baer out as its presidential candidate for 1904. Why the delay?" Perhaps the Sun is reserving Baer for second place. Perhaps Mr. Elliot of Harvard, who referred to the strike-breaker as the greatest hero of the age, is the Sun's preferred candidate.

**Elliot and Baer.**

A trust has been organized for the purpose of controlling the orange crop of the country. One of the promoters announces that the purpose is not to control prices, but "to improve systematically the orange industry." Of course, of course! Who ever knew of a trust being organized to control prices? Does not every one understand by this time that these great combinations are consummated for the benefit of the people?

**For Public Benefit.**

One discriminating leader of the republican party has said that "masterly inactivity" will be the republican program in congress during the next two years. There is no good reason to doubt that this leader knows what he is talking about and yet we may confidently expect that the republican organs will make an organized and serious effort to convince the people that their party's "masterly inactivity" is, in truth and fact, "genuine strenuosity."

**Some "Masterly Inactivity."**

News dispatches say that Senators Spooner and Platt visited Washington for the purpose of trying to dissuade Mr. Roosevelt from making radical recommendations in his message to congress concerning trust legislation. It is added that the president does not intend to be persuaded from his determination on this point. As an evidence of his good faith on this subject, he might instruct his attorney general to proceed against the trust magnates under the criminal clause of the law already on the statute books.

**Show Your Good Faith.**

In his address before the Boston Economic club President Elliot of Harvard said that he had "a profound contempt for any man who would not choose to labor every day just as long as his strength would permit." The man who uses his strength to the limit will very soon discover that he has made enormous drafts upon his constitution that must be met sooner or later. The president of a great university should know this and knowing it he should hesitate to express "profound contempt" for men who show a disposition to conserve their strength.

**A Profound Contempt.**

Several weeks prior to the recent election, representatives of the starch trust visited Nebraska City and held out the hope to the people of that community that the starch factory located there would be in operation in a short time. Since the election returns showed that the republican party was victorious, no one has heard of any very industrious efforts in the way of beginning operations in Nebraska City's starch factory. Experience is a dear school and yet there are a very large number of people who seem disposed to bear both the expense and the consequences.

**For Campaign Purposes.**

Whitelaw Reid, the editor of the New York Tribune, recently delivered an address at Carnegie Hall in which address Mr. Reid said: "Not until 1865 was it even established throughout the United States that every man, black or white, has the right to sell his own labor; and in 1902, in your state and in mine, there were still found a great many persons, including a pitiful number of exceptionally ignorant or emotional clergymen, and some people called statesmen, who considered such a right on the part of some white men so doubtful that they were not ashamed to urge, for the sake of peace, and coal, that it should be sub-

mitted to arbitration." Mr. Roosevelt was "not ashamed to urge for the sake of peace, and coal," that the differences between the mine owners and their employes be arbitrated. It cannot be possible that Mr. Reid, who has on several occasions been the beneficiary of Mr. Roosevelt's kindness, intended to include his benefactor among "a pitiful number of exceptionally ignorant or emotional clergymen, and some people called statesmen" in his arraignment of those who favor arbitration.

**Almighty Poor Advice.**

Major General Corbin has expressed the opinion that army officers will be capable of better service if they refrain from matrimony. General Corbin has been married twice and some old crusty bachelors might imagine that the general speaks from experience; but this notion is discouraged by the general understanding that General Corbin has profited by two eminently successful marriage ceremonies; and even if these facts were not known there are thousands of level-headed men throughout the world who can tell the young army officer that on this point General Corbin offers him mighty poor advice.

The readers of The Commoner, especially those who have been assisting in extending the paper's circulation through the "Lots of Five" plan, will be pleased to learn that during the eighteen weeks the plan has been in operation many thousand subscription cards have been ordered by the paper's subscribers and the requests for these cards continue to come in gratifying numbers.

Quite a number of the subscription cards are yet in the hands of those who ordered them, and as the influence of the new subscribers, represented by the outstanding cards, is needed in a work The Commoner is about to inaugurate, the holders of the cards are requested to make a special effort during the next ten days to secure a subscriber for each card in their possession and to return the cards bearing the subscribers' names to The Commoner office, Lincoln, Neb.

The publisher is highly gratified by the hearty co-operation of The Commoner's subscribers in extending the influence of the paper and desires in this public manner to express his appreciation of this token of their approval of the paper's course.

W. J. BRYAN.

Eleven boys and fourteen girls living in the little town of Bertha, Neb., have organized an anti-profanity league. One of the members says that the organization is for the purpose of impressing upon boys the uselessness of the profanity habit.

**A Worthwhile Effort.**

The young people of Bertha are engaged in a good work and it is to be hoped that their efforts will meet with the success they deserve. It is probably true that in most instances profanity is merely a habit and many who indulge in that habit have no evil intent; but it would be well if the boys of today could be trained so that in future generations the use of profanity would be exceptional if, indeed, it could not be abolished altogether.

In his Boston address President Elliot of Harvard sneeringly referred to those who wish to "work as few hours as possible and get as much money as possible." Mr. Elliot's criticism on this point was directed to the wage-earner. It is not difficult to understand why the man who must depend upon manual labor for his living, receiving as he does comparatively small recompense, wishes to "work as few hours as possible and get as much money as possible." But there are in this country today some men who not only wish to get as much money as possible, but whose wish is being gratified and who are piling up millions upon millions of dollars by the sweat of other men's brows and through the favor of unjust laws. These men represent powerful elements and are responsible for evils with which the intelligence of this country must sooner or later grapple in all earnestness. Why did not President Elliot direct his criticism at these men? Why does he reserve his indignation and his "profound contempt" for the wage-earner who must, at least, work eight hours

**Why Not Condemn Others?**

a day and who, at best, cannot derive for his labor more than a bare sufficiency for the necessities of life?

On the evening of November 11 the retail tobacco dealers of Omaha held a meeting for the purpose of effecting an organization whose purpose it was to combat the exactions of the tobacco trust. It is said that a large number of the merchants who met to protest against this infringement upon their rights went to the polls at the recent election and voted the republican ticket. These business men deserve to be encouraged in their organized effort to fight the trust and yet they cannot expect to make progress on this line if they continue to cast their votes for a party that derives its campaign funds from the trusts and in whose continued success the trusts are most deeply interested.

**Must Vote as Well as Talk.**

The Pittsburg Dispatch says: "We have heard something of the German trusts, but there seems to be one feature in the German system that the trust organs do not tell of. An ex-general director of a German manufacturing company has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for violating the laws against monopolizing the markets." There is a very explicit law on the United States statute books whereby men in this country who seek to corner the necessities of life and thus impose upon the people may be sent to jail; but no effort has been made to enforce this law and although the question "Why is the criminal law not enforced?" has repeatedly been asked, no representative of the administration has attempted to provide an explanation.

**Jails in This Country, Too.**

Congressman Babcock of Wisconsin is a candidate for the speakership of the republican house. It is stated that Mr. Babcock has the pledges of the Nebraska and Iowa delegations. In some quarters the claim that Mr. Babcock has the Iowa delegation behind him is interpreted to mean that as speaker of the house Mr. Babcock would seek to carry out his old time plans in favor of removing the tariff from trust-made products; but it must not be forgotten that the large majority of the Iowa delegation openly repudiated the tariff revision plank in the republican state platform of Iowa. It may, therefore, be understood that even though Mr. Babcock should be elected, which, by the way, is not at all probable, the Babcock victory would not necessarily mean that the old time Babcock idea would be emphasized in the speaker's chair.

**"Bab" and the Idea.**

In his speech before the New York chamber of commerce Mr. Roosevelt said: "The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight—that he shall not be a mere passenger, but shall do his share in the work that each generation of us finds ready to hand; and furthermore that in doing his work he shall show not only the capacity for sturdy self-reliance, but self-respecting regard for the rights of others." There are a number of generous contributors to the republican campaign fund who do not measure up to the "first requisite of a good citizen" as stated by Mr. Roosevelt; and, indeed, the republican tariff coach is full of "mere passengers." Mr. Roosevelt could have considerable influence in forcing each of these passengers to "pull his weight" and to show "not only the capacity for sturdy self-help, but self-respecting regard for the rights of others."

**Pulling His Weight.**

The Chicago Chronicle assigns David B. Hill to oblivion after condemning Mr. Hill for the coal plank in the New York democratic platform. The Chronicle says: "Mr. Hill acted instinctively as a demagogue willing to get votes at any sacrifice of principle. The democratic party will continue to suffer from this sort of thing until the real democrats of the country refuse at the very threshold of political campaigns to be thus betrayed and misled. The time to repudiate democratic traitors and trimmers is the instant that they make their appearance." What authority has the Chronicle for reading Mr. Hill out of the list of "the real democrats of the country?" Did not Mr. Hill unite with the Chronicle in refusing to give support to the democratic ticket in 1896? And have we not all along been led to believe that, according to the Chronicle's estimate, "the real democrats of the country" are those who refuse to vote the democratic ticket?

**"The Real Democrats."**