

the view of this republican paper, the claims of the territories are good and there is no danger to apprehend from their admission and it will be a relief to the country to have done with this business once for all.

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT OFFENSES to deal with is that of bribery and the skill with which Circuit Attorney Folk of St. Louis has surmounted obstacles in dealing with this offense has won for him the admiration of the public. In certain of the cases which Mr. Folk is presenting to the criminal court, not only has he introduced the testimony of the men who were employed to give the bribes, but he has actually introduced as a part of the testimony the money that was deposited for payment.

PHILIP STOCK WAS THE AGENT OF A street railroad company. This company set aside the sum of \$135,000 to be used for the purpose of bribing the members of the municipal assembly. In four cases Stock testified as to the methods he employed in contracting for a certain number of votes on the street railroad bill for which he was to pay \$60,000 to one man and \$75,000 to another, all to be divided among certain members of the assembly. The \$60,000 was placed in one safety deposit box; the \$75,000 was placed in another. In each case Stock, as the representative of the street railroad company, held a key and another was given to the representatives of the assembly members whose votes were to be purchased. In the four cases referred to the \$60,000 was introduced in evidence and actually counted by Stock in the presence of the jury. In another trial subsequently held the entire \$135,000 was introduced in evidence and then in the presence of the jury was counted by Stock. Mr. Folk has met with remarkable success in his campaign against corruption in the municipal assembly and it cannot be doubted that the example of industry, integrity and the high order of ability he has displayed will serve as an inspiration to men in other municipalities who have imagined themselves helpless in the presence of corruption for which influential men and corporations were responsible.

MEMBERS OF THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE are interested, although not seriously, in a bill introduced by Representative Ware, who, by the way, is a practicing physician. Dr. Ware's bill seeks to make promiscuous kissing a misdemeanor. The father of this measure does not have high hopes of its passage, but he contents himself with the statement that it deserves a place on the statute books. Dr. Ware's novel bill is as follows: "Whereas, kissing has been decided by the medical profession to be a medium by which contagious and infectious diseases are transmitted from one person to another, and whereas the prohibiting of such an offense will be a great preventive to the spreading of such diseases as pulmonary tuberculosis, diphtheria and many other dangerous diseases; therefore, be it enacted by the general assembly of Virginia: 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person to kiss another unless he can prove by his family physician that he has not any contagious or infectious disease. 2. If the physician testifies that the defendant has weak lungs he shall be found guilty of a misdemeanor, and the same penalty shall be imposed as if he had some contagious or infectious disease. 3. Any person violating the provisions of the first and second sections of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not less than \$1 nor more than \$5 for each offense."

AN ACT OF HEROISM ON THE PART OF A sixteen-year-old lad is reported from LaPorte, Ind. Wesley Reynolds, a sixteen-year-old clerk in the Westville, Ind., bank engaged in battle with two robbers who had gained entrance to the building early in the morning of November 30. The brave boy, in the parlance of the street, fought the robbers to a stand-still and finally fell with a bullet in his heart. The LaPorte correspondent of the New York World describes the battle in this way: "As the robbers advanced on him he emptied one revolver. Two bullets from their pistols pierced his body before he threw down his empty weapon and reached for another. The robbers took advantage of the boy's defenseless condition and shot him dead. His body was found several hours later. The robbers fled in a stolen horse and wagon, which has been recovered. Blood on the vehicle showed that the boy's aim had been

true. Citizens quickly raised a reward of \$1,000 for the capture of the robbers."

ALTHOUGH IN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Uncle Sam displays a fine contempt for anything less than millions, he is not averse to showing in every-day affairs a fine concern for the penny. The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, writing under a recent date, says: "Secretary Shaw feels like a man who has found a full pocketbook. He received today from the North American Commercial company a check for over \$57,000, which has been due on account of sealskins taken on the Prybiloff islands in the winter of 1889-90. In that year there were 4,158 skins taken by the natives from seals killed for food. The contract of the old Alaska Commercial company expired on May 1, 1890, and the contract with the North American company went into effect on that date. Both companies claimed the skins. Legal proceedings were instituted to determine their ownership, and pending the decision of the court the government did not press its claim for rental. The suit was finally settled by the North American company securing the skins, but the treasury department was not informed of the settlement, and as the years passed the claim of the government was completely lost sight of. About a year ago the officials of the department discovered that the claim was in existence. Payment was pressed, and today a check for over \$57,000, representing the original claim with interest, was received."

NEW JERSEY, THE HOME OF THE TRUSTS, provides the newspapers with an interesting story relating to the manner in which a labor union has turned the tables upon a great corporation. The story relates to the method adopted by the New Jersey glass blowers in their contest with the great company of that state. The labor union has gone into court and asked that the glass company be enjoined from interfering with the labor union's business. The representatives of the union assert that theirs is an organization having for its purpose the sale of the labor of its members, that the glass company being in competition with it has violated the laws of the state and the labor market and has prevented by force the union's business of selling labor; that the corporation is engaged in an illegal alliance for the purpose of preventing men from leaving its employ.

THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A LABOR union has ever asked a state for an injunction against a corporation is a fact pointed out by a writer in the Boston Globe. The Globe writer says that "as this labor union is a powerful one, the case will probably be carried to the highest tribunal in the land for decision. This case is anomalous, since the glass blowers assume the position of capitalists who are being interfered with while on strike, and they ask that the company show cause why its interference with its late employes shall not cease. Hearing of the arguments in this application for an injunction will be before the greatest lawyers of the state. The allegations of the labor union have all been carefully drawn and the issue will be carried as far as it can be legally. The case assumes that the labor union has exactly the same legal status as the corporation, and is a unique case of labor's turning the tables squarely on its adversary, as they have frequently been turned on it. The final decision will be interesting."

IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT A BOOK, OTHER than one written by a representative of influential interests, is considered of sufficient importance to be dealt with in an Associated press cablegram. One of the exceptions relates to the book issued recently by DeWet, the great Boer general. A London cablegram devotes considerable space to the description of the DeWet book. It is said that the keynote of this book is obtained in this statement: "Had not so many of our burghers proved false to their own colors, England, as the great Bismarck foretold, would have found her grave in South Africa."

GENERAL DEWET'S BOOK IS DEDICATED "To my fellow subjects of the British empire." It is said that the author spares no one, Boer and Britain coming equally under the lash. He pays a generous tribute to the much criticized British general, Buller, when he says that whatever the English people may have to say in discredit of this officer, he had to operate against

stronger positions than any other British general. General DeWet has little praise to bestow upon Lord Roberts or Lord Kitchener. He pays a fine tribute to the British General Knox, to whom he refers as a commander with real military genius. He also has many kind words to say of the rank and file of the British soldiery and he gives an explanation of his own escape entirely characteristic of the Boers when he says: "If any reader, eager to know how it was I kept out of the enemy's hands, I can only answer, although I may not be understood, that I ascribed it to nothing else than this—it was not God's will that I should fall into their hands. Let those who rejoice at my miraculous escapes give all the praise to God."

SOME OF THE SECRETS OF THE BOER WAR are revealed when General DeWet, referring to the war against women and the misuse of the white flag by the British, says: "That much direct and indirect murder should have been committed against defenseless women and children is a thing I would have staked my head would have never happened in a war conducted by a civilized English nation, but yet it happened." Referring to his own forces, DeWet explains: "It was far easier to fight against the great English army than against the treachery among my own people, and an iron will was required to fight against both. Once, if only our orders had been carried out a little more strictly and if only the most elementary rules of strategy had been observed in our efforts to break the British lines of communications, Lord Roberts and his thousands of troops would have found themselves shut up in Pretoria, where they would have perished of hunger. It was not the skill of their commander-in-chief that saved them."

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW RELATING TO the prospects of congressional action, Senator Hale of Maine said: "There will be no meddling with the present tariff." The senator further said: "The Dingley act has given the people of the United States more revenue, more business, more trade and more prosperity than any bill ever before enacted." Referring to the Hale interview, a writer in the New York World presents some instructive figures. On the "more revenue" point this writer shows that for the fiscal year of 1897 the total receipts of the government were \$347,721,905, of which customs duties, collected under the Wilson tariff, yielded \$176,554,126—more than one-half. For the fiscal year 1902 the total receipts of the government were \$562,478,233, of which customs duties, levied under the Dingley tariff, yielded \$254,444,708—or \$54,000,000 less than one-half. According to this writer, it was only necessary in 1897, under the Wilson tariff, to raise \$146,688,774 by internal taxation. In 1902 it was necessary, under the Dingley tariff, to collect \$271,880,122 by internal taxation—nearly twice as much as in 1897.

ON THE POINT OF "MORE BUSINESS, MORE trade, more prosperity," the World writer shows that while in 1897 our exports amounted to \$1,050,993,556, in 1902, under the Dingley tariff, they amounted to \$1,381,719,401, an increase of \$330,725,845 in five years. It is further pointed out that under the Wilson tariff the total value of our exports increased from \$892,140,572 in 1894 to \$1,050,993,556 in 1897—an increase of \$158,852,984 in three years. In other words, the total yearly value of our exports has increased only a very little faster under the Dingley than under the Wilson tariff, and that slight increase is due to the more rapid growth of our unprotected agricultural exports, not to the growth of our exports of protected manufactures.

THIS SAME WRITER SHOWS THAT UNDER the Wilson tariff exports of manufactures increased from 19.02 per cent of our total exports in 1893 to 26.87 per cent of our total exports in 1897—an increase of nearly 8 per cent in four years. Under the Dingley tariff exports of manufactures have increased from 26.87 per cent of our total exports in 1897 to 29.80 per cent of the total in 1902—an increase of only 3 per cent in five years. After presenting these very interesting figures, the World writer observes: "But for the unprotected farmer and planter, whose exported products have increased by nearly \$300,000,000 a year since 1896, while protected manufacturers have only added a little more than \$175,000,000 to their total export values in the same period, the 'more trade and more prosperity' of which Senator Hale speaks would be a minus quantity."