

Turning the Tables.

The strike at Omaha has developed a new phase of the "government by injunction" process. The employers, as they are in the habit of doing, rushed into court and secured a sweeping injunction against the employes—that is now so common an occurrence that it did not attract much attention. The strikers, however, conceived the idea that the injunction rule might be made to work both ways, so through their attorney they prayed for an injunction against the Business Men's association, and to the great surprise of the latter it was granted. The temporary order enjoining the members of the Business Men's association will be found on another page.

The employers will learn more about government by injunction in a few days now than they have learned in years—when the laboring men were defendants in injunction suits—and to this extent it may do some good, but the laboring men must not relax their effort to prohibit the use of the courts for such purposes. The use of this equity process to deprive a citizen of trial by jury is wrong, whether it is used against employer or employee. It is no defense that it may occasionally be used at the request of the laborer.



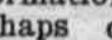
An Iowa republican paper says that the announcement that Senator Allison will write the next platform for the Iowa republicans is an indication that there will be no "step backward." Is it not also an indication that there will be no step in any direction? Is it not reasonable to believe that it will simply be another case of treading on egg shells?



The democratic state committee of Ohio has suggested that the state convention indorse a candidate for United States senator. Many republican leaders claim to be in favor of the popular election of senators; and yet it is to be observed that the republican party is not showing any disposition to trust the people by permitting them to select the republican candidate for senator.



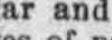
Referring to the scandals in the postal department, the Chicago Tribune says: "There have been numerous stories about scandals in the department, but no facts. When is any definite information to be given out?"



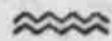
Perhaps definite information may be more readily obtainable when it is demonstrated that exposure of corruption will not be construed as disloyalty to the republican party. The Tribune calls for rigid investigation and vigorous prosecution and yet it will occur to a great many people that the postmaster general is not applying to the postoffice scandals the vigor and energy that characterizes his efforts as a politician.



Seymour W. Tulloch, former cashier of the Washington city postoffice, referring to his statements relating to the postoffice scandals, says: "If any attempt is made by Postmaster General Payne to brand me as a liar and calumniator, in con-



sequence of my charges of postoffice irregularities, I will make revelations as to the acts of certain officials and former officials of the postoffice department that will shock the moral sense of the country as it has not been shocked since the exposure of the star route frauds." If Tulloch is in possession of such facts, he should not wait for an attempt to brand him as a liar. He should be willing to tell the truth for the truth's sake.



Percival Landon, the Manila correspondent for the London Daily Mail, has sent to his paper a letter in which he declares that the American campaign has made no impression on the islands; that the firing line is co-extensive with the coast line and that a feeling of utter insecurity prevails at headquarters. Mr. Landon asserts that in a country depending entirely upon agriculture for its prosperity, the land is being largely abandoned, and he says it is time for the United States to decide whether there might be a reconsideration of its policy of the past five years. Little by little the truth concerning the Philippines is being forced upon the American people.

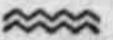
The Commoner.

The Philadelphia Inquirer asks: "Isn't it about time that we run that modern Sodom and Gomorrah out of the sisterhood of states and start it in afresh?"

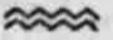
Starting in Afresh. There are a great many people who are inclined to the opinion that it will be well for the people of Philadelphia to "start in afresh." And it must not be forgotten that in the same good book where we find reference to Sodom and Gomorrah, something is said about taking the beam out of one's own eye before undertaking to remove the mote from his brother's optic.



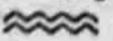
Democrats have recently received much advice from the Brooklyn Eagle and the impression exists in some quarters that that hated thing which the Eagle calls "Bryanism" is the only thing that has kept the editor of the Eagle from supporting the democratic party. But the Brooklyn Citizen throws a bit of light on the Eagle's attitude when it says that no matter what the issue has been either in city or state for the past twelve years, the Eagle and its editor "have always found some pretext for lying about the democratic party and aiding its adversary."



The Chicago Inter-Ocean reports that one of the oldest letter carriers of the Jefferson (Ky.) postoffice has been arrested for failing to account for 2 cents collected a year ago as an overcharge on postage. It seems strange that a letter carrier should be arrested for the embezzlement of so small a sum. Why didn't Attorney General Knox ask the court to enjoin him from embezzling any more? If we are going to recognize the doctrine of equality before the law it is hardly fair to commence a criminal prosecution against a man who steals 2 cents and then deal so tenderly with trust magnates who take hundreds of millions in violation of the law.



Mr. Baer has at last defined competition. He says the railroads actually compete with each other, but in explaining this, he says: "In the sense of building lines to the collieries they do compete; in the sense of underselling each other they do not." And then he adds: "I do not believe in trying to take business where the action entails a loss to an existing company without any certainty of profit to the newcomer. The world is big enough for all of us to make a living." The trouble with Mr. Baer is that he insists on dividing the world up among a few of his friends, and his friends are then able to make a big profit out of the people who make a poor living.



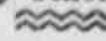
The organs of the reorganizers insist that but for the intervention of the editor of The Commoner, the Chicago platform would have been repudiated at Kansas City. These organs have forgotten, or they prefer to forget, the fact that while a majority of the resolutions committee was in favor of inserting a specific 16 to 1 plank in the platform of 1900, the minority, while anxious to omit a specific 16 to 1 plank, wanted to insert in the Kansas City platform a plank reaffirming the platform of 1896. Those who opposed the specific 16 to 1 plank assured their fellow democrats that they had no desire whatever to repudiate the Chicago platform in the 1900 platform.



The Philadelphia North American says: "While much irritation has been caused by President Baer's defiant announcement that he controls the price of coal and purposes to advance the price to dealers to \$5 a ton, it should not be overlooked that

he has rendered a distinct service to the public. His remarks have cleared the atmosphere. Mystery and speculation are at an end. The price of coal is arbitrarily fixed by one group of men, and they admit it. From this point it ought to be possible to work backward and discover whether the arbitrary price named by them is or is not excessive." It will be remembered, however, that Judge Thayer in his opinion in the Northern Securities case, said in effect that the question as to the reasonableness of rates, or prices, was not the question. The evil was in the power to fix the rates or prices; and so while some may find entertainment in "working backward" in the effort to discover whether the arbitrary price made

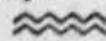
by the coal barons is or is not excessive, the real benefits are to be obtained by those who strike vigorous and persistent blows in the effort to destroy the power held by one man or by a coterie of men to arbitrarily fix the price of coal or, indeed, the price of any other commodity.



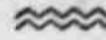
"The needful equipment" is a potent factor upon which the reorganizers depend in their effort to republicanize the democratic party. The reorganizers dare not reveal their platform to the democrats; and yet every democrat must understand that a platform written by the reorganizers would be so similar to the republican platform that there would be small choice between the two platforms and little reason why a voter should jump out of the frying pan into the fire.



The Chicago Tribune, a republican paper, says that the mention of Mr. Cleveland's name for the democratic nomination in 1904 is "an evidence of the return to sanity of democracy," and that it is "a preliminary confession that the party was altogether in the wrong and that he (Cleveland) was altogether in the right in 1896." By "the return to sanity," the Tribune means a return to republican policies, and the "confession" that Mr. Cleveland was right in 1896 is gratifying to the Tribune because it is a confession that the republican party was right. However agreeable to republican organs such a confession and such a return might be, there are many democrats who are not yet prepared to subscribe to the policies of the republican party.



In one of his speeches, Mr. Roosevelt said: "No law will ever make a coward brave, a fool wise, or a weakling strong. All that the law can do is to shape things that no injustice shall be done by one to another and so that each man shall be given the chance to show the stuff that is in him." And yet Mr. Roosevelt is the faithful champion of a tariff law that takes money out of the pockets of the many to replenish the pockets of the few. He objects to the destruction of the shelter which the trusts find in the tariff and he does not appear to be disturbed because under republican administration the law is molded to shape things so that injustice is done, to the benefit of a comparatively small number of men and to the great disadvantage of the masses.



The Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph says: "Love of gambling in one form or another seems to be in the American blood and the American boy is easily led astray by temptations to 'take chances' on the various gambling schemes that have been allowed to become a part of the ordinary merchandise of the shops that he frequents. These things should be put out of the reach of our school children." It might be well, also, for the Chronicle-Telegraph to direct its shafts at the gambling schemes carried on by different newspapers in the country in the form of "guessing contests." These things are brought directly within the reach of children, as well as adults, and the very fact that newspapers stand sponsor for such gambling schemes has a tendency among grown folks, as well as among children, to give character to that form of speculation and to cultivate the love of gambling.



While insisting that the Hawkeye republicans are still devoted to the "Iowa idea," the Des Moines Register and Leader says: "It may not suit the purposes of the democrats and independents in the coming national campaign to admit that Attorney General Knox, backed by President Roosevelt, has removed the trust issue from present day politics as effectually as Governor Taft's administration at Manila has removed the Philippine question. But the country at large knows that he has and that the trust issue is futile, unless some new development that is not now anticipated revitalizes it." The "Iowa idea" is represented in the plank in the Iowa platform protesting against the shelter which the trusts find in the tariff. Will the Register and Leader be good enough to inform its readers what Attorney General Knox backed by President Roosevelt has done to interfere with the trusts' shelter in the tariff?