

methods employed by organized wealth and those who speak for it. It seems that the eastern capitalists are not pleased with the democratic administration in Chicago. That administration, although evidently satisfactory to the people of Chicago, is not acceptable to the New York financiers. The Wall Street Journal, therefore, reads the people of Chicago a lecture on their duty, and winds up with this warning:

"We know the pulse of eastern capitalists toward investments in Chicago about as well as anybody, and we have not hesitated to say that disgust with Chicago has been evident among them all, and it will take very attractive offerings to get investment capital from the east to Chicago again."

The people of Chicago are advised that "the terminal charges of the railroads in Chicago should be carefully scrutinized," and that "capital should be encouraged to come to Chicago." It will be remembered that Mayor Harrison has opposed the ninety-nine-year street railway lease, and insisted upon giving the people of Chicago a chance to speak on the subject of franchises; even the legislature of Illinois was finally compelled to indorse the position taken by Mayor Harrison and his supporters. Having failed to coerce the city, the capitalists now seek to intimidate it with the threat of withdrawing capital. If the New York financiers are not willing to loan money to Chicago, Chicago might issue the bonds in small denominations and sell them to the people of Chicago. It would not be difficult to find a demand for all the bonds that Chicago is compelled to issue, and it would be just as well for those bonds to be held by the people as to have the people's money deposited in savings banks. Whenever any state attempts to reduce the rate of interest or to legislate for the protection of its people, it is always warned, as Chicago is now being warned, that capital must be tenderly dealt with, and laws made for foreign investors rather than for the benefit of the citizens of the state.

If the Wall Street Journal wants to find a legitimate field for its energies let it turn its attention to the watered stock that is being palmed off upon the public and made valuable by extortion practiced on the public; let it arraign the street speculators who are shocked at small gambling, but swindle the public with corners, raids and concerted manipulation of stock. If the people outside of New York were as careful to protect their own interests as the Wall street financiers are to advance theirs, those who are now the masters of commerce would find their power for harm greatly curtailed.

Timely Warning.

The New York Commercial is one of the leading financial publications. In its issue of April 2 the Commercial had an editorial in which it declared that "the principle of arbitration has not been strengthened or popularized by the appointment, the deliberations and the final awards of the anthracite coal strike arbitration commission."

The New York Sun had said: "An arbitration commission is never organized to dispense justice according to the evidence submitted to it, but for compromise, for harmony. The habit of giving each side something seems too deeply rooted to be interrupted."

Quoting this statement by the Sun, the Commercial said that "it is so patent to all unprejudiced observers of the course of arbitration of the past that the wonder is that important questions in the conduct of industry and business continue to be turned over to such tribunals."

Then the Commercial predicts that—

"When the anthracite miners shall have received their back pay and when the new sliding scale of wages shall have been put in operation, the net result of a bitter controversy and its adjustment consuming nearly a whole year will be found to be little more than an advance in the retail price of coal to the consumers. That will very accurately measure the extent to which the public was or is a 'party' to the great coal strike. The public will pay the bills—that's all."

Undoubtedly it is the purpose of the coal barons to require the public to pay the bills; and yet may it not be true that after the laboring men in the mines have obtained some sort of justice at the hands of the coal barons, the public will, sooner or later, find means for protecting itself from the imposition of these men who pretend to believe that they are ordained of God to administer the property of the country?

After the Commercial had made it very clear that it does not indorse the principle of arbitra-

tion, that publication made the most interesting prediction of all. The Commercial said:

"We predict that before the end of this decade employers will be so generally and so effectively organized that no pressure of popular opinion will be strong enough to force them into arbitration when they have nothing to arbitrate."

Every one who has studied the trust system understands that the Commercial has made a fair prediction if that system be permitted to continue. But it is somewhat surprising that that financial publication would take the public so completely into its confidence.

It is true that if the trust system is allowed to flourish and to fatten, long before the end of this decade the trust magnates will be "so generally and so effectively organized that no pressure of popular opinion will be strong enough to force them into arbitration;" and it is also true that they will be "so effectively organized" that no appeal from the people for relief from trust impositions will receive any consideration at the hands of the men responsible for those impositions.

It would seem that the consumers of the country have had ample warning concerning the trust system in the increasing cost of living and in the growing powers of that system. If, however, the situation needs elucidation for the enlightenment of any of these consumers, it may be found in the New York Commercial's candid statement.

Rockefeller's Prayer.

A reader of The Commoner sends in a clipping containing a dispatch from New York reporting a speech made by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to his Bible class. The dispatch stated that Rockefeller "practically stated today that the Standard Oil company was under divine guidance." In the quotation from the speech young Rockefeller is represented as saying: "In one important matter involving big money I prayed every night and morning to God to direct me. The matter was so big it seemed beyond me. Suddenly one day light came, and I saw the proper path clear. God answered my prayer. The consciousness that we are divinely directed gives comfort, courage, strength, and then the way brightens."

Mr. Rockefeller is to be commended for his trust in God, and he is right also in saying that there is comfort and courage in faith. But the fact that he prays is not in itself conclusive evidence that his business is under divine guidance. It is not necessary that all Christian people shall sanction the Rockefeller method of making money merely because Rockefeller prays. In every great war in which Christians have been engaged on both sides, prayer has been offered on both sides, and men of both sides have believed themselves justified in appealing to the God of Battles. In every persecution that has been carried on in the name of religion both those who persecuted and those who were victims, lifted up their voices to God and prayed for help. Mothers have sacrificed their children to appease or to propitiate idols, and mothers have protected their children to please God. There must be intelligence as well as zeal, and the zeal must be directed to righteous ends before it can be commended. Lincoln drew the proper distinction; when asked if he was not anxious to have God on his side, he said that he was anxious rather to be on God's side. Mr. Rockefeller must make this same distinction. He may think that he is doing his full duty when he prays that the Lord will help the Standard Oil company to make an enormous profit by the practice of extortion, but millions of people believe that his prayer would be more in keeping with holy writ if he prayed for strength to resist the temptation to use trust methods—methods which differ in form, but not in principle, from the methods of the robbers upon the highway.

A Real Democrat.

The Chicago Public and the Columbus (O.) Press Press have been giving prominence to the successful fight recently made by Tom Johnson against a democratic aspirant for the legislature who voted with the republicans to give the Cincinnati street car lines a forty-four-year lease. There were eight of these democrats who furthered the interests of the corporations, and they were afterwards known as the "eight black sheep" of the Ohio legislature. Johnson notified them that he would do what he could to prevent their ever representing (or representing) the democratic party again. He told them that he would oppose their renomination, and if they were renominated, would oppose their election. Six of

them were discreet enough not to be candidates. One who aspired to a renomination afterwards gave it up, and the eighth attempted to make the race. Mayor Johnson lubricated his automobile and started for the seat of war. He made a canvass of the county, speaking at a number of places and inviting any friend of the corporation candidate to meet him in debate or ask questions. As a result of his contest the "black sheep", although supported by the local organization, was defeated.

Bravo, Johnson! If we had more democratic leaders like him the democratic party would soon be invincible. The election of undemocratic democrats to office is infinitely worse for the party than defeat. A party can afford to be small if it stands for the right, because then it will grow; but if a party, however large, selects for office men who do the bidding of corporations and then renominates such men after their affiliations are known, that party must, sooner or later, have, as it deserves, the contempt of good citizens. The republican party is controlled by the corporations; we cannot defeat it by putting the democratic party under the same control, but we can defeat it by making the democratic party an honest exponent of honest government.

The democratic party of Ohio is the stronger for the purging it is receiving. The largest part of Tom Johnson's greatness is to be found in the fact that he has faith in the right, faith in the people and the moral courage to put his faith to the test by his acts. He has won his fight in the city of Cleveland because he has had the courage to fight for the people and to appeal to them. He will ultimately win his fight in Ohio in spite of the flurs and slanders of papers like the Cincinnati Enquirer.

In a Monarchy, Too.

The press dispatches report that King Alexander, Queen Draga, his wife, the queen's two brothers, Premier Markovitch, the minister of war, two aides-de-camp, and two other officers, were assassinated in the royal palace at Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. The assassination was the work of high officials in the army. It is reported that the people are very much pleased and that the new dynasty is fully installed.

If this had occurred in a South American republic it would have been heralded by the lovers of arbitrary power as an evidence of the incapacity of the people for self-government and it would have been sagely suggested that the republic should be taken in charge by some European government for the preservation of law and order, but as the assassination, atrocious in its conception and horrible in its details, occurred in a monarchy it will probably be passed over as a matter of little importance.

An English View.

The Daily Mail of London publishes the first of a series of letters from Percival Landon, its special correspondent at Manila. The following item from the press dispatches shows that he agrees with Miles rather than with the administration in regard to present conditions there:

"Landon declares that the American campaign has made no impression in the islands; that the firing line is co-extensive with the coast line and that a feeling of utter insecurity prevails at headquarters. The correspondent asserts that in a country depending entirely upon agriculture for its prosperity the islands are being largely abandoned. He says it is time for the United States to decide whether there might be a reconsideration of its policy of the past few years."

Mr. Hill's Indignation.

A reader of The Commoner calls attention to the argument made by ex-Senator Hill before the court of appeals as attorney for the corporations which are fighting the franchise tax established under Governor Roosevelt's administration. Mr. Hill is quoted as saying that Governor Roosevelt had forced the bill on the legislature at the behest of "certain minor, semi-political and socialistic organizations, self-constituted, irresponsible and noisy associations, mostly of non-taxpayers, assuming a monopoly of the championship of the people's alleged rights." Of course Mr. Hill was indignant. When he was in the senate he did not listen to such organizations, but was entirely subservient to certain major non-political and largely plutocratic organizations, self-constituted, irresponsible and noisy associations, mostly of tax-dodgers, assuming a monopoly of the championship of the business interests of the country.