

granted the men a schedule of increased wages together with a new system of working rules to govern the employment and promotion of the men.

These officers were chosen at the convention of railroad commissioners: President, John V. Smith, Alabama; first vice president, William H. McCollum, Missouri; secretary, Edward A. Moseley of Washington.

A tornado visited Streator, Ill., July 17, killing five persons, injuring a score of others, and causing a property loss estimated at \$2,000,000.

At Mendota, Ill., four persons were killed and ten others seriously injured by the tornado. Other towns in Illinois were struck doubtless by the same storm.

James Abbott McNeill Whistler, the American artist, died July 17 at Chelsea, England.

Another revolution is on in Venezuela. The revolutionary forces are commanded by General Rolando.

The United States postoffice department has issued the following statement: "There seems to be a wide misunderstanding as to the present attitude of the department regarding rural free delivery. The statement has been published quite generally, particularly in the west, that rural routes that do not handle 3,000 pieces of mail per month and supply 100 families are to be discontinued. It is not the purpose of the department to disturb routes already established unless they are manifestly unnecessary. There are now on file in the department petitions for more routes that will supply more than 100 families than can be established with the present appropriation. This being the case, the department does not feel it wise, equitable or just to establish a route supplying less than 100 families to the exclusion of routes that will supply more than 100 families, the greatest good to the greatest number being the fundamental principle upon which rural free delivery is being established. As long as all the routes asked for cannot be established because of the lack of sufficient money, the routes that will supply the greater number of families should certainly have preference."

Berlin dispatches report that a number of officers of the Fifth Portuguese infantry have been arrested on the charge of a conspiracy against King Charles. It is believed that a widespread conspiracy against the dynasty exists.

On July 17, a bench warrant was issued for the arrest of Geo. W. Beavers, former chief of the division of salaries and expenses of the postoffice department. As a result of the investigation into the Beavers' administration, 3,046 promotions that have been passed on by him to take effect at postoffices throughout the country, have been cancelled.

A correspondent for the London Daily Mail says that France intends to transfer her possessions in the Eastern Pacific to the United States. The French possessions in the Eastern Pacific consists of the Society islands, the most important of which are Tahiti and Moorea; the Tuamotu islands, where the recent disastrous tidal wave occurred; the Leeward islands, comprising Raiatea, Tahaa, Huahine and Borabora; the Tubuai and Raiavavae groups, the island of Rapa, the Gambier islands, the islands of Rurutu and Rimatara and the Marquesas islands. Their total area is about 1,520 square miles and their population about 29,000.

The Keystone of the Republic.

(Continued from Page 11.)

monstrate, we must appeal to the authority of the fathers and seek for the nation the safe old paths of prudence, justice and humanity. No foreign alliances, no foreign wars, no war debts and no increase of the standing army should be the demand of patriotic Americans for the next score of Independence Days.

Again: The doctrine of equality laid down in the Declaration of Independence, and as expounded by its author, utterly repelled all idea of legislation granting special privileges to individuals.

The equality of opportunity for all citizens under the law was not new when independence was declared. Long before, Jefferson, steering the course of Virginia as he afterward did that of the general government, had accomplished in his colony the disestablishment of religion and the repeal of the laws of primogeniture and entail, and had reformed the methods of taxation so as to apparently prevent the possibility of the concentration of great wealth in a few hands. Though the primitive condition of society at that time, in which none of our citizens were very rich and but few very poor, did not invite ready alarm upon that subject; yet, Jefferson, with that far vision that characterized him, anticipated the time when the multimillionaire might become a menace to the republic; and, when the constitution was being formed, he wrote again and again from Paris, where he then was, urging that a section be inserted expressly forbidding all kinds and degrees of monopoly. In a letter to James Madison in 1789, he said of the constitution:

"I like the declaration of rights as far as it goes, but I should have been for going further. For instance, the following alterations and additions would have pleased me: Article 9. Monopolies may be allowed to persons for their own productions in literature and their own inventions in the arts for a term not exceeding years, but for no longer term, and for no other purpose."

Copyright and patent right for a limited number of years—these were the only kinds of monopoly which his mind could tolerate, and he wished to have that idea drafted into the supreme law of the land as a constitutional bulwark against all special privileges being granted by law. Happy would have been the event if Jefferson's suggestion had been acted upon, and an early and provident alarm upon this question prevented the greatest peril to which our republic has ever been exposed—the presence and rapid growth among us of huge corporations which derive their power from privileges granted by law—corporations which were at first creatures of the law, but are now rapidly becoming creators of the law!

It was not long until the monopolistic spirit which had for years oppressed the old world appeared here. The first great monopoly in point of time and importance was the money monopoly. Hamilton, whose services in the field had been as meritorious as his acts in the cabinet had been injurious, got his United States Bank established. It was called the United States Bank, but as a matter of fact it was a private bank—the general government having but a minority of the directors and a minority of the stock. Thus early the greatest function of the people's sovereignty was taken away from the people and conferred upon a few favored individuals. A handful of persons obtained possession of the greatest of all instruments of civil society, the currency. Jefferson, who had declared that banks of issue were more dangerous to the republic than standing armies, fought Hamilton's bank and scotched it—but

it revived. Jackson fought it and for a time thought that he had snuffed it—but it revived. Hundreds of able and fearless reformers have from time to time tried to restore to the people—to all the people—their sovereign money function; but today the money monopoly wields a power of which even Hamilton never dreamed. Step by step this mother of monopolies has gone on until the great national bank trust finds itself so powerful as scarcely to require disguise for its purposes. They have erected the single gold standard, acquired the sole right of issuing paper money, and, when they shall have achieved the remaining steps now impending, an elastic currency and an asset currency, the conspiracy will be full accomplished, the people will have been robbed of the last vestige of control and a bank aristocracy richer and more powerful than all of the monarchs of the civilized world, will dictate war and peace, control commerce, direct elections, influence the courts and legislatures and make of America one great estate whose usufruct they will collect. They will have no rival depositories in the trusts. They are the trusts. The same men who own the banks own the trusts—in fact the trusts could not have existed but for the Rothschild, Rockefeller and Morgan banks which financed them. My fellow citizens, the money question is here and here to stay until either the bank trust is wiped out or the masses of the American people have dumbly sunken to be mere tenants at will in the land purchased by their fathers' blood!

The monopoly of the nation's highways, too, has come insidiously—year after year advancing in wealth and power until no man can measure fully the mischief that has been done toward the destruction of American equality. The railroads and telegraphs have not only a monopoly of our internal carriage and communication, but have seized and held vast tracts of the people's domain, the land purchased by the valor of our soldiers and the patience of our pioneers and that ought to have been held for the homes of the people. They, too have contributed their full share toward creating the industrial trusts. In truth one trust has bred another, by a circular propagation, until nearly all the avenues of profitable employment have been shut to the ordinary citizen and he is driven to strive among many competitors for the privilege of employment by some of the great corporations.

The tariff is another instance of special privilege granted by law. It is called the "American system," but it is a system for a few Americans only! It is called protective, but it protects only a small number of persons and they generally of a class who need no protection. It, too, has had its large share in the creation of the trusts—so much so that today if you should threaten the tariff in any serious way every great corporation in the country would sound the alarm and hurry to the field.

It may seem, my friends, that I exaggerate the gravity of the situation; but I am made confident by most honorable company. In 1825 Jefferson wrote to William B. Giles these prophetic words:

"The younger generation, having nothing in them of the feelings or principles of 1776, now look to a single and splendid government of an aristocracy founded on banking institutions and moneyed incorporations under the guise and cloak of their favored branches of manufacturers, commerce and navigation, riding and ruling over the plundered ploughman and beggared yeomanry. This will be to them a next blessing to the monarchy of their first aim, and perhaps the surest stepping stone to it." Lincoln, in his last days, in 1864,

looking upon the rising and threatening phenomenon of the corporations said in a letter to William F. Elkins:

"As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign of working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed."

In a speech in the Grand Lodge of the Knights of St. Crispin made in 1872, Wendell Phillips, speaking of (Continued on Page 15.)

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