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Lawyers on Trusts.

The committee on commercial law for the American Bar association made a report on the trust question at the last session of the society. The report was filed and while many of the members of the association took issue with the statements of the report, it was clear that a very large number agreed to it. A Commoner reader asks for the publication of the report:

The committee's report was as follows:

The modern combination's primary object is to control trade and commerce in plain articles of production and to substitute a more or less perfect monopoly in place of a more or less free competition. It changes entirely the basic principle of commercial relations between man and man, and if they are to continue to grow and develop in the future as in the past will render necessary most important changes in the principles of our commercial laws. Combination as an economic force is fast coming to take the place of competition. The competition that still remains is fast disappearing. Workmen are refusing to compete for jobs. Labor unions are enlarging the spheres of their activity and extending their operations. The union of the employers is still stronger and more far-reaching than the union of the workmen.

We are now having combinations of combinations. The United States Steel corporation is a combination of a dozen theretofore competing producers who themselves were combinations of still others. The property which the Amalgamated Copper company now control; was once perhaps a thousand mining claims, each one very likely owned in common by a half dozen miners. The department store trust has combined the business of hundreds of merchants, some portions of which they acquire by purchase and

others in some other way. It is estimated that the Standard Oil company has taken, by contract or by force, the business of 10,000 corporations and merchants in all parts of the Union. The few present great railroad lines of the country have been made up by the combination of hundreds of smaller lines, some extensions of one another and competing lines.

No one knows but that within the next ten years a greater man than J. Pierpont Morgan will arise, who will combine into one organization all the industries of the land, so that the workman who works for wages can find but one possible employer and the purchaser of wares but one possible seller.

A monopoly is economically desirable, that is for the monopolists. The United States Steel corporation can produce, no matter what it sells them for, its goods cheaper than the elements out of which the combination is composed ever produced them. The Standard Oil company is economically holy, for it pays 40 per cent dividends. The sugar trust is economically correct, for whereas the individual sugar refiners lost money on small capitalization, the sugar trust pays big dividends on a large capitalization. The railroad combinations are economically impregnable for they pay. If Mr. Morgan's shipping trust and Mr. Schwab's shipping trust are failures, they are exceptions to the rule. We cannot, therefore, rely on natural forces, on the laws of supply and demand, or on economic considerations. If they are undesirable, if the people of the American nation would be better off without them, they must put those limitations on by the action of their legislatures, their congress and their courts. The American bar must act and the American Bar association must take the lead.

The report proposed the following remedies:

First—We can tax them to death, or if that is too radical a remedy, we can tax them until their growth and enlargement is impeded. There are constitutional provisions requiring direct taxation to be uniform and in view of these provisions it is probably impossible to discriminate in the matter of direct taxation against corporations holding large amounts of taxable property. There is, however, a franchise tax imposed by most of the states on corporations at the time of their incorporation and annually thereafter. This franchise tax is in almost all states in some way graded so as to tax the small corporation at a higher rate than the large one. The first million dollars pays a higher rate than subsequent millions. In our judgment the graduation should be continued, but it should be a grading up instead of down. We would leave perhaps the first hundred thousand free and the first million cheap, and raise the rate with each succeeding million. The United States Steel corporation has a capitalization of over \$1,000,000,000. The graduation stages might be slow and easy enough to please the most conservative, and yet result in a taxation of 10 per cent on the last hundred million. How long would the United States Steel corporation continue under that system of taxation?

Second—We can compel them to render better and cheaper service. If the combination of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern railroads is a great enough public disaster to have warranted the attention which it has attracted, it could have been prevented much easier than by a hundred Sherman anti-trust laws by a single United States statute that required any corporation engaged in interstate commerce to reduce its rates 50 per cent to and from every point where competition has been prevented by combination, merger, common control or agreement. Congress can enact

that any corporation or individual who engages in interstate commerce must furnish its services or supply its goods at lower rates wherever, by any combination, competition is prevented than where competition is left free.

Third—If necessary the state itself can enter the industrial field as a producer, and restore the force of competition to its former supremacy by becoming itself a competitor of the great trusts.

Two Women,

President Roosevelt has, through his postmaster general, removed from the Greenwood, Del., postoffice Miss Huldah B. Todd, on the specious plea that she is "obnoxious" to the mouthpiece of "Gas" Addicks, Senator Allee. Miss Todd had served five years as postmistress at Greenwood and had given the fullest satisfaction to the patrons of the office. She was in no sense obnoxious to them. She was first appointed to a four-year term by President McKinley, and after serving that was reappointed by President Roosevelt. She had served one year under her reappointment when her official head was chopped off to meet the political demands of Addicks and his crowd.

Minnie Cox tendered her resignation as postmistress at Indianola, Miss., but her resignation has not been accepted. For about a year now she has been carried upon the salary roll of the government, on the president's orders, though she has rendered not one cent's worth of service. She was personally obnoxious in her official capacity to the vast majority of the patrons of the office, who had the temerity to say so in resolutions adopted in mass meeting. She recognized the fact that her presence in the postoffice was obnoxious to the vast majority of the patrons of the office, and tendered her resignation.

What explanation can be given of this widely different treatment accorded by President Roosevelt to these two women?

Can it be possible that negro-mania has been carried to the point where the black sister is protected and coddled and fed upon government pap simply because she is black, while the white lady is thrown out of office solely because somebody who is the favorite of some politician wants the job?

These questions are pertinent, not impertinent. The country would like to know the exact attitude of this administration toward women, and it has a right to know.—Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

Three Prayers.

Three Methodist ministers, as they were dining together, talked about short prayers. "A prayer short as 't was irreverent," said the first, "was offered up by a soldier before the battle of Waterloo. It was this: 'O, God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul.'" "That prayer," said the second minister, "resembles one composed by Bishop Atterbury in the early part of the eighteenth century. It was a prayer for the soldiers about to engage in battle, and it was brief and impressive. 'O, God, if it ran, 'if, in the day of battle, I forget Thee, do not Thou forget me.'" The third minister, after a moment of thought, smiled and said: "When I was a lad I one day dined with two strange aunts. They set me at the head of the table and bade me say grace. I was taken aback, for I knew no grace to say, but a text popped into my mind. I rattled it off and after it was over I realized that it was appropriate enough. It was: 'O, Lord, open Thou our lips and our mouths shall show forth Thy praise.'"—Philadelphia Rec-

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