

the authorities will proceed at once to crush out the tobacco trust system. The Record-Herald correspondent says: "Inquiry recently made by the inland revenue department disclosed the fact that the American Tobacco trust has invaded the provinces to such an extent that within a few months it would have a close monopoly on the trade in case it were not curbed. It has already put out of business three of the five cigar factories that existed in Canada. It has thriven at the expense of a system of regulating selling prices. It has obtained reduced freight charges and is able to undersell the dealers without financial loss. With its \$300,000,000 capital it has managed to put the thumbscrews on the Canadian retailers, and by offering strong inducements it has prevailed on them in many instances to handle its brands exclusively. By its exclusive contracts, whereby retailers pledge themselves not to sell the output of the independent factories, the trust has secured 84 per cent of the cigarette trade, in addition to getting its clutches on the cigar business."

THE growth of the combine in Canada has assumed such menacing proportions that parliament has taken drastic measures to crush it. The Ottawa correspondent says: "An amendment to the revenue act was prepared by Minister Brodeur of the inland revenue department that will enable the excise officials to control the trust by the simple means of canceling its licenses unless it stops the exclusive contract practice. The new act went through with a rush. It was passed by the house of commons on August 5, the day it was introduced. It was passed by the senate on August 6. It is one of the most important anti-trust pieces of legislation ever passed in Canada, and although it is directed primarily against the tobacco trust, it affords a means of summary procedure against any other combine that comes under the inland revenue act. In substance it permits the revocation of excise licenses held by concerns that sell goods on condition that the purchasers shall not handle like goods produced by manufacturers. It reads: 'Resolved, That it is expedient to amend the inland revenue act, in providing that any license authorized by this act may be canceled in any case where a person who, being a manufacturer of any class of goods subject to a duty of excise, either directly or indirectly, makes a sale of any such goods of that class in connection with his own business subject to the condition that the purchaser shall not sell or deal in goods of a like kind produced by or to be obtained from any other manufacturer or dealer, or makes such sales upon equal terms that would, in their application, deprive the purchaser of any profit upon the sale of such goods, if he should sell or deal in goods of a like kind, produced by, or obtained from, or to be obtained from any other manufacturer or dealer, or consigns any such goods to another person for sale upon commission, upon such terms that the consignee can profit by such sale only if he does not sell or deal in goods of a like kind manufactured by or obtained from any other manufacturer or dealer.'

THE legislation against the tobacco trust was asked for by all the independent tobacco companies and dealers in Canada. The Ottawa correspondent says: "After looking into the matter, Minister Brodeur found that the men who had taken out letters patent in Canada were the ones associated in the American Tobacco company. Whenever the company had established a branch store it was found that it was rapidly driving out the smaller manufacturers, and the independent dealers were finding it impossible to make a living. Further inquiry discloses the system of exclusive contracts, and also unearthed evidence that the trust was trying to get a better foothold by the same means it employed in England, where it agreed to spend \$1,000,000 to lay out the local dealers. As soon as the royal assent is given to the bill the inland revenue department will start at once to uproot the trust. The company will be allowed to operate in Canada on the same footing with the independent manufacturers, but the moment it exhibits any trust propensity or any tendency to continue the scheme of exclusive contracts Minister Brodeur says he will at once terminate its excise licenses, which would crowd the trust to the borders at once."

ON THE AUTHORITY of one to whom the New York World refers as "the most influential republican campaign manager," the World says that President Roosevelt has received the assurance of J. Pierpont Morgan's support. The World

explains: "Mr. Morgan was for a long time greatly incensed at President Roosevelt, privately denounced him and threatened to oppose his election. The peace go-betweens were George W. Perkins, of the Morgan firm, and Elihu Root, now Morgan's representative in the Northern Securities suit. The president of a great New York corporation helped. Mr. Roosevelt has promised to be good hereafter. Large profits of government banking operations have been turned over the Morgan firm—the Panama \$40,000,000 transfer, for instance, on which a commission of 1 per cent amounts to \$400,000. Panama also paid commissions to the Morgan firm after President Roosevelt had designated it as this government's agent. The republican campaign managers are greatly cheered by the guarantee of J. P. Morgan's hearty support."

HUMAN beings do not have a monopoly upon the pathetic. A reporter for the New York World relates one of the most pathetic of stories concerning a dumb brute. Here it is: "Two little children whose parents had deserted them were taken in a patrol wagon yesterday from an east-side tenement to the rooms of the society for the prevention of cruelty to children, at Fourth avenue and Twenty-third street. Behind the patrol wagon trotted a wide-awake Scotch terrier that seemed anxious and puzzled at the turn affairs had taken. He was evidently the playmate of the little folks and a family pet, and meant to see that they came to no harm at the hands of the big men in the blue coats and brass buttons who were taking them for a drive. The terrier leaped up at the children and licked their hands when they were taken from the wagon at Twenty-third street, and gave every evidence of affection. They wanted to take him into the offices of the society but the policeman shut him out and ordered him to go home. He remained at a distance until the police came out and the patrol wagon had disappeared. Then he went back to the door and began scratching and whining for admittance. He seemed convinced that something was wrong with his playmates and wanted to go to their assistance. It was not long before the actions of the terrier attracted a small crowd. His distress was so apparent that some one raised the cry of 'Mad dog!' Then a policeman elbowed his way to the door. Nobody knew that the faithful little animal was simply grieved at being parted from his companions. The policeman glanced at the poor brute and accepted the popular verdict, there was a glitter of steel in the sunlight, followed by a flash and a "bang." The little terrier's troubles were at an end."

SPEAKING to a reporter for the New Orleans Times-Democrat, a Louisianan said that there is a comical side to the war in the far east. This gentleman added: "Do you read the stories? If you like comedy, read them. You will find all the funny stuff you want right in the reports which are coming out of the far east today, tomorrow, or any other old day you may select. The way Russian reports begin, or the way they began for a while at least, has passed into the current humor of the day. We all remember that 'I regret to report' which has been going into St. Petersburg since the war began, and we can not have failed to remark the humor resulting from the consistency with which this statement has been used. But the funniest thing I have seen yet was the statement made the other day that the Russian soldiers were complaining of being tired on account of the retreats they have been forced to make under orders. The way the statement was put left no room to doubt that the Russian soldiers meant that they were tired running from the Japs—that the Japs, in fact, in their efforts to catch them, were simply about to run them to death. Yet Russia was going to sign peace terms in Tokio. Funny, isn't it? If this thing keeps up, and the Russians keep on retiring 'in order,' as a result of Japanese aggression, it may happen, in the course of human events, that peace terms will be signed at Harbin instead of Tokio, or it might be that they will be signed at some point still further toward the Russian capital. War plays curious tricks on the judgment of men, and you can never tell just how the dice are going to roll until after the throw has been made, and even then it is wiser to wait until the bones quit rolling."

AN INTERESTING incident in connection with Liberty Bell is told by a New Orleans Times-Democrat reader, who had visited the World's fair. This gentleman said: "With a party of

friends I had been looking at Liberty Bell and we had spent some time here because of a certain patriotic fervor which welled upon account of the old relic, and each had something to say, some little comment to make which seemed appropriate at the moment. I had noticed a serious looking young woman near the big bell, but paid no particular attention to her until we had turned and started away, though I imagined that I had detected an evidence of nervousness or impatience on the part of the young woman while we were still walking around the bell. As soon as we had turned to go away the young woman hurried and excitedly pulled a postal card from a wallet which hung from her wrist, pressed it against the big bell and quicker than I can tell it pressed her lips against the card. She had kissed Liberty Bell. She did not want to be observed while making this sacred offering to the old relic, and that was why she waited until she thought we had turned our backs on her. How long she had remained there watching for a chance to offer this tribute I do not know, but evidently from her manner she had been there for some time. It was a pretty, poetic incident, in a prosaic age, and I could not refrain from reflecting that a country whose women are thus held by that is best and most patriotic in its history, can not but have much to hope for."

AS TEMPORARY chairman of the republican national convention, Elihu Root said that by reason of the aggressiveness of the Roosevelt administration there is "no longer any serious complaint of trust exaction." Mr. Root added: "No investment in lawful business has been jeopardized, no fair and honest enterprise has been injured, but it is certain that wherever the constitutional power of the national government reaches trusts are being practically regulated and curbed within lawful bounds as they never have been before, and the men of small capital are finding in the efficiency and skill of the national department of justice a protection that they never had before against the crushing effect of unlawful combinations."

COMMENTING upon this statements, the Washington Post, that can not, at least, be said to be prejudiced against the republican party, says: "There is nothing in the record to show that the man of small capital is finding any protection against the crushing effect of unlawful combinations." Mr. Root will have no difficulty in discovering that there is no chance for a man of small capital to engage in the business of selling anthracite coal in Washington or any other large city in the country. The prices are fixed and rules for the conduct of the retailer's business made by the trust, and the man who violates any of them is promptly forced out of business. An independent meat market owned and operated by men who refuse to deal with the beef trust and adhere to prices fixed by the trust would be forced to bankruptcy in short order in any city of the country in which the trust seeks to control business. Beef is higher in New York today than at any time since the civil war, although the owner of the cattle is receiving about 30 per cent less than he did two years ago. In Philadelphia the tobacco trust is refusing to sell goods to merchants who will not agree to sell none but trust-made tobaccos. In fact, there has been nothing in the commercial or industrial history of the last year to indicate that the man who wishes to engage in business has any more protection from the trusts than he has had at any time since the era of consolidation and combination began. Political leaders who have been advocating the policies of the administration have heretofore been content to tell us what the party proposes to do in the way of prosecuting the "bad" trusts. We have had notices that Secretary Cortelyou's young men are camping on the trail of the beef trust, and that Attorney General Knox was preparing to begin aggressive action against the coal trust. Then Mr. Cortelyou arranged to resign, and General Knox also resigned, after starting his first assistant to Alaska for the summer. Despite these changes, we have been assured that Mr. Moody will go after the trusts with a sharp stick as soon as he becomes familiar with the affairs of the attorney general's office. But Mr. Root has gone them one better. He assures us that the fight has been made and won, and that the trusts are unable to do us harm any more. It promises to be a campaign of surprises."