

the men and women, who, through sickness or old age, have been rendered incompetent and dependent upon public charity. He adds: "Poverty is an inevitable condition of civilization. Were poverty done away with, charity would be unnecessary. A certain percentage of all taxation is devoted to the relief of the poor, disabled and insane. Under the present system, or lack of system, each city, county or state must spend large sums of money for charitable purposes. In Europe the subject of state control of charities, including a state old age pension system, has been so satisfactory that the advocates of the system are enthusiastic in desiring to secure the same advantages in America."

A SUMMARY of state insurance in Europe is presented by the News writer. He states: "In Austria the provisions relating to workingmen's insurance include sickness and accident pensions; besides these forms, provident funds for old age pensions are provided for the miners. In Belgium systems of sickness, accident and old age insurance are in operation. In Denmark insurance is provided against sickness, accident and old age, and there is a system of old age pensions in Iceland. In England workingmen's insurance includes provisions in the case of sickness, accident and old age. In Finland, a province of Russia, there are similar provisions. In France sickness, accident and old age insurance is provided for; also compulsory insurance against old age for miners, compulsory superannuation insurance for seamen, and, besides, there are the annuity funds of the Friendly societies. In Germany insurance is provided against sickness, accident and old age. In Holland a law was passed June 2, 1901, making provision for compulsory insurance of work people against accidents in connection with their work. In Hungary there is provision for sickness insurance, and accident and invalidity insurance for agricultural laborers. In Italy provision is made for sickness, accident and old age insurance. In Norway sickness and accident insurance systems are in operation. In Roumania, by the mining law of April 20, 1895, old style, a system of compulsory insurance against sickness, accident, invalidity and old age was inaugurated for work people employed in mines and quarries, and in establishments working in connection with the mining and quarrying industries."

IN THIS same summary it is said: "In Russia no general scheme or provision for old age insurance exists. After a certain number of years' service, pensions are granted to persons employed in the government mining establishments by associations existing in connection with such establishments under a provision made in 1861. The regulations for administering these associations were revised in 1881 and are still in force, though stated to be of a provisional character. In Spain the law regulates the sum to be paid in respect to industrial accidents. Payments must be made by the employe for temporary disablement, for permanent disablement and in case of death. In Sweden sickness insurance is voluntary, as in Norway. There was no provision for accident or old age and invalidity insurance at the time the report of the bureau was published, although the subject was under discussion, and a special commission had reported favorably upon the proposition to make such insurance compulsory under governmental patronage. Many sociologists and philosophers have ventured opinions upon the possibility of eliminating the condition of absolute want. Setting aside the visionary dreams of the socialists, whose theories would result only in the dead level of universal poverty and unproductiveness, the condition of want in the midst of wealth demands serious attention."

DR. H. P. WARREN, state dairy and food commissioner for Pennsylvania, charges that the meat sold in that state by the beef trust is doctored in various ways, and he announces that he will bring criminal prosecution against the trust's representatives in Pennsylvania. The Harrisburg correspondent for the Jamestown, N. Y., Journal, referring to Doctor Warren's declaration, says: "Politicians of state and national prominence have sought to hold up these prosecutions and have gone to the length of making threats that political vengeance will be visited upon the commissioner and his agents if the cases shall be pressed. Dr. Warren has given instructions that no attention is to be paid to these threats, and that the prosecutions are to be pushed vigorously and to the limit of the commission's resources. It has been decided that the first prosecutions will be made here. The chemists of the dairy and food

bureau report that sufficient poisonous color is found in a pound of doctored meat to dye a white sheet to a brilliant crimson. The formaldehyde found by them is exactly the same as the fluid used in embalming human corpses. It is a virulent poison. The various kinds of sulphites they have discovered are stomach irritants which produce dyspepsia and push invalids to their graves. The other preservatives found by the commission's experts are all dangerous to health."

ACCORDING to the Kansas City Journal, a republican paper, the trusts have devised a new means of handicapping any fight which Mr. Roosevelt may be inclined to make against criminal combinations of capital. In the language of the Journal "the trusts are stealing Roosevelt's best men." That newspaper says: "As soon as the chief executive finds an official who has the ability and courage to get the necessary information concerning the trusts, and to press for redress in the courts, or wherever else the fight is to be made, the captains of industry do not make the mistake of opposing the new men. Instead, they convert him from a foe into a friend—better still, they gain him for a hireling. Thus the government service loses a good man, the trusts gain one, and the battle is postponed and made more difficult."

THE JOURNAL names former Attorney General Knox, who through trust influence was made United States senator; James M. Beck, who as assistant attorney general, displayed considerable ability in the prosecution of trusts and was given a place as special counsel for an insurance company with a salary of \$25,000 a year; William A. Day, who, as assistant attorney general, figured conspicuously in the Northern Securities case and the beef trust cases, and was given a \$30,000 a year position with the Equitable; Robert B. Armstrong, assistant secretary of the treasury, who, in the language of the Kansas City Journal "fought the tobacco trust to a standstill on the question of its importation" and was made president of the Casualty Company of America.

THE trans-continental railroads mean to fight the canal project to the bitter end, and so Engineer Wallace suddenly received an offer of a munificent salary. The Journal says: "Wallace could not resist the temptation, and the work of building the canal must be undertaken by a less able man." The Journal says that Paul Morton knew altogether too much about rebates, and so he was given a position in the Equitable. The Journal asks: "Where will President Roosevelt find men to stand by him in the battle for the people when the trusts are so eagerly baiting his assistants with enormous salaries?" The Journal has probably overlooked Mr. Bristow, who, as fourth assistant postmaster general, and later as a special commissioner to investigate corporation imposition at Panama, performed great service to the people. We are told that Mr. Bristow will retire. It has doubtless occurred to many people as strange that at this time when faithful men appear to be so greatly in demand Mr. Bristow is not retained in the public service.

REFERRING to Dean Shepardson's defense of Rockefeller and charge that Faneuil hall was built with tainted money, the Springfield (Mass.) Republican makes a palpable hit when it says: "Faneuil hall built with money, we will say, acquired in the slave trade was afterward used as a center of agitation for the abolition of slavery. Can the Chicago university men, who are defending the Rockefeller millions, assure us that that institution will, with equal or greater effectiveness, be used in forwarding a movement on behalf of such public policies in relation to industry as will forever after make it impossible for any one to acquire a great fortune in the ways charged to the Rockefeller fortune? Dean Shepardson talks on the assumption that the Standard oil millions are tainted. Will he pledge himself that the institution built up by this money will work to prevent the accumulation of further tainted millions? The great evil in gifts of 'tainted money' is that they tend to carry the taint over the recipients to be winked at or apologized for or openly approved and sanctified. That was not the case with Peter Faneuil's money."

AN INTERESTING resume of the annual report of the interstate commerce commission giving the railroad statistics for the year 1904 is made by the Springfield (Mass.) Republican. This shows that there were at the end of that year

297,073 miles of railroad in the United States, of which 212,243 were single track, 15,824 second track, 1,467 third track, 1,467 fourth track, and the remainder yard track and sidings. The increase in single trackage for the year was 5,927 miles, exceeding the increase for any year previous since 1890. The number of railway corporations included in the report was 2,104. In the course of the year railway companies owning 5,600 miles of line were reorganized, merged, consolidated, etc. The length of mileage operated by receivers on June 30, 1904, was 1,323 miles. The number of roads in the hands of receivers was 28, and at the close of the previous year 27. On June 30, 1904, there were in the service of the railways, 46,743 locomotives, the increase being 2,872. The total number of cars of all classes, exclusive of those owned by private companies, was 1,798,561, an increase of 45,172 during the year. Of these, 39,752 were in the passenger service and 1,692,194 in the freight work. The remaining cars were employed directly in the service of the companies.'

THE NUMBER of persons on the pay rolls of the railroads in the United States as returned for June 30, 1904, was 1,296,121, or 611 per 100 miles of line, a decrease for the year of 16,416, or 28 per 100 miles. The wages and salaries paid for the year amounted to \$817,598,810. The par value of the amount of railway capital outstanding on June 30, 1904, was \$13,213,124,679, which represents a capitalization of \$64,265 a mile. Of this capital \$6,339,899,329 existed as stock, of which \$5,050,529,469 was common and \$1,289,369,860 preferred and the remaining part, \$6,873,225,350, as funded debt, which consisted of mortgage bonds, \$5,746,898,983; miscellaneous obligations, \$723,114,896; income bonds, \$229,876,687, and equipment trust obligations, \$173,334,694. Current liabilities for the year amounted to \$881,628,720, or \$4,288 per mile of line. Of the total capital stock outstanding \$2,696,472,010, or 42.53 per cent, paid no dividends. The amount of dividends declared during the year was \$221,941,049, being equivalent to 6.03 per cent on dividend-paying stock.

JOHAN D. ROCKEFELLER'S share of the \$6 dividend recently announced by the Standard Oil company, amounts to \$2,400,000. A New York correspondent for the Kansas City Star says: "The last dividend of Standard Oil was declared in May. It is a matter of cold fact that since May Mr. Rockefeller has given away very much more than the \$2,400,000 he will receive next month from the Standard Oil company. June 29, last, Mr. Rockefeller gave \$1,000,000 to Yale university as a permanent endowment fund. June 30, the next day, Mr. Rockefeller gave \$10,000,000 to the general education board. He has made a number of smaller gifts since last May, which aggregate more than \$500,000. In the last three months Rockefeller has given away at least \$11,500,000, \$9,000,000 more than he will receive from Standard Oil. He is also considering a \$50,000,000 gift to the University of Chicago. Of course, Standard Oil is not Mr. Rockefeller's only wealth producer. He is believed to have at least \$250,000,000 stowed away in other investments which yield him about \$10,000,000 a year. In all Mr. Rockefeller probably will receive \$16,000,000 this year as his share of Standard Oil. If his other investments yield him \$10,000,000 his total income will be \$26,000,000. Within three months he has given away \$11,500,000. In the preceding five months he gave away about \$2,500,000, or a total of \$14,000,000 so far in 1905. If he makes the \$50,000,000 gift to Chicago, the total will be \$64,000,000 at least for the year, or about two and a half times his income. Should this come to pass Mr. Rockefeller, for the first time in his life would be poorer at the year's end than he was at its beginning."

THE NUMBER of passengers reported as carried by the railways in the year was 715,419,682, an increase of 20,508,147. The number of tons of freight carried was 1,309,899,165, which exceeds the tonnage of the previous year by 5,504,842 tons. The gross earnings were \$1,975,174,091, being \$74,327,184 greater than for the previous year. Operating expenses were \$1,338,896,253, an increase of \$81,357,401. The total number of casualties to persons on the railways was 94,201, of which 10,046 represented the number of persons killed, and 84,155 the number injured. Of the persons killed 441 were passengers and the wounded 9,111, or one killed out of every 1,622,267 carried, and one injured out of every 78,523 carried.