

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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the or private work by sending in what purport to be genuine bids, but what in reality are collusive figures purposely made higher than the bid which is known will be submitted by one of the supposed competitors, is an act of plain dishonesty.

"To support these misrepresentations by false affirmations in writing that the bids are submitted in good faith, and without fraud, collusion or connection with any other bidder, is a positive and deliberate fraud; the successful bidder in the competition is guilty of obtaining money by false pretenses, and the others have made themselves parties to a conspiracy clearly unlawful at the common law.

"Where, as in the case of the 'Boston agreement,' a number of the most important manufacturers and dealers in structural steel in this country, including the American Bridge company, one of the constituent members of the United States Steel corporation, have combined together for the purpose of raising

prices by means of collusive bids and false representations, their conduct is not only repugnant to common honesty, but is plainly obnoxious to the federal statute known as the Sherman or anti-trust law.

"The commission believes that an example should be made of these men and that the members of the 'Boston agreement' or at least all those who, in October and November, 1905, entered in the fraudulent competitions for the Cove street draw span and the Brooklyn street bridge, should be brought before a federal grand jury for violation of the act of congress of July 2, 1890. The three years' limitation for participation in these transactions has not yet elapsed, and the evidence obtained by the commission is so complete that there should be no difficulty in the government's securing a conviction in this case."

"I have submitted this report to the department of Justice for thorough investigation and for action if action shall prove practicable.

"Surely such a state of affairs as that above set forth emphasizes the need of further federal legislation, not merely because of the material benefits such legislation will secure, but above all because this federal action should be part, and a large part, of the campaign to waken our people as a whole to a lively and effective condemnation of the low standard of morality implied in such conduct on the part of great business concerns.

"The first duty of every man is to provide a livelihood for himself and for those dependent upon him; it is from every standpoint desirable that each of our citizens should endeavor by hard work and honorable methods to secure for him and his such a competence as will carry with it the opportunity to enjoy in reasonable fashion the comforts and refinements of life; and, furthermore, the man of great business ability who obtains a fortune in upright fashion inevitably in so doing confers a benefit upon the community as a whole and is entitled to reward, to respect, and to admiration.

"But among the many kinds of evil—social, industrial and political—which it is our duty as a nation sternly to combat there is none at the same time more base and more dangerous than the greed which treats the plain and simple rules of honesty with cynical contempt if they interfere with making a profit; and

as a nation we can not be held guiltless if we condone such action.

"The man who preaches hatred of wealth honestly acquired, who inculcates envy and jealous and slanderous ill will toward those of his fellows who by thrift, energy and industry have become men of means, is a menace to the community. But his counterpart in evil is to be found in that particular kind of multi-millionaire who is almost the least envious, and is certainly one of the least admirable, of all our citizens; a man of whom it has been well said that his face has grown hard and cruel while his body has grown soft; whose son is a fool and his daughter a foreign princess; whose nominal pleasures are at best those of a tasteless and extravagant luxury, and whose real delight, whose real life work, is the accumulation and use of power in its most sordid and least elevating form.

"In the chaos of an absolutely unrestricted commercial individualism under modern conditions, this is a type that becomes prominent as inevitably as the marauder baron became prominent in the physical chaos of the dark ages. We are striving for legislation to minimize the abuses which give this type its flourishing prominence, partly for the sake of what can be accomplished by the legislation itself, and partly because the legislation marks our participation in a great and stern moral movement to bring our ideals and our conduct into measurable accord.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
"The White House, April 27, 1908."

WHAT AUSTRIA DOES

One of the greatest charitable institutions in the world has just been perfected in Austria, says the Washington Post. For centuries the state has recognized the fact that a man, through no fault of his own, may be unemployed, and that, at the same time, there may be many willing and eager to give him employment. The state has recognized it as its duty to bring the two together. For this purpose every small town in Austria has at least one employment bureau; the larger towns have several, which are connected with one another by telephone. In nearly every town there is also a government workshop, and in the villages a government farm, also under the labor department. Any man or woman who is out of work may go to the nearest bureau and learn in the course of a few minutes what chances he or she has of finding a job on that day. Those in need of employes register at the nearest bureau, and their desires are telephoned throughout the district. If no place offers, the work seekers may spend the day in the waiting room of the bureau or be sent to the government workshop or farm, as the case may be, where he toils for his board and lodging until he is informed that a place is waiting for him.

When once a place has been found for the worker, he may not leave it for another without presenting satisfactory reasons to the district superintendent. For the itinerant laborer if he is a respectable man, Austria presents great advantages. When one arrives in a town he makes his way to a bureau and registers. If there is no work ready at hand, he is provided with a good supper, a bath and a comfortable bed. If work still not be forthcoming he may either continue his journey to the next town or be assigned to the workshop or farm.

In Austria idleness, at the expense of society, is considered a crime. The maximum sentence for loafing or begging is three years in the penal work house. The duration of the sentence may be lessened the moment the prisoner satisfies the au-

thorities that he has mended his ways.—Middletown (Wyo.) Argus.

WHERE'S HIS MEDAL

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., tells a story of his father:

"Father tells many stories. Sometimes he tells a new one. Not long ago he related one to me that concerned a man who had imbibed rather too freely. The man, in this condition, fell into a watering trough. To the officer who came to help him out as he wallowed in the water, he said:

"'Offzer, I ken save self. You save women an' shildren.'"—New York Observer.

EXTORTING AN ADMISSION

"Have you ever been bankrupt?" asked the counsel.

"I have not."
"Now, be careful," admonished the lawyer, with raised finger. "Did you ever stop payment?"

"Yes."
"Ah, I thought we should get at the truth," observed counsel, with an unpleasant smile. "When did this suspension of payment occur?"
"When I had paid all I owed," was the naive reply of the plaintiff.—London Opinion.

GOOD OR BAD?

A story is told of the famous Richard Brinsley Sheridan, that one day when coming back from shooting, with an empty bag, and seeing a number of ducks in a pond, while near-by a man was leaning on a fence watching them, Sheridan asked:

"What will you take for a shot at the ducks?"

"Well," said the man thoughtfully, "I'll take half a sovereign."
"Done," said Sheridan, and he fired into the middle of the flock, killing a dozen or more. "I'm afraid you made a bad bargain," said Sheridan, laughing.

"I don't know about that," the man replied. "They're not my ducks."—The Christian Advocate.

A GOOD DEFINITION

Jimmy had his weak points as an example of the result of modern educational methods, but his brain was of excellent quality.

When the teacher looked at him and inquired, coldly, "What is a synonym, James?" he was ready with his answer.

"It's a word that you can use when you don't know how to spell the one you thought of first," he replied cheerfully.—The Monitor.

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