

Section 9 of the act of congress of March 3, 1845, (forbidding competition by a private corporation for carrying mail or packages to cities where there are postoffices), had been enforced, as it should have been, there will be no postoffice deficits and there will be no robber express companies to take the very lifeblood out of us."

Mr. Kindel said mail rates in the United States for parcels post packages were out of all proportions to those of other countries, and quoted figures showing that on the basis of an eleven-pound package the United States rates were \$1.76 compared to 46 cents in the highest rated European country. Mr. Kindel pointed out that while it costs an American 41.76 cents to send an eleven-pound parcels post package into the next county from his home, he could send the same package to Europe for \$1.32.

"We should have a rural parcels post," said Mr. Kindel, "at the postmaster general's proposed rates, namely 5 cents for the first pound and 2 cents for every additional pound up to the limit of eleven pounds. That would make the postage on a rural package of eleven pounds 25 cents.

"No mail order house could interfere with the country merchant's business because the mail order house would be subjected to the general parcels post rate of 8 cents per pound, or 88 cents instead of 25 cents on an eleven-pound package on the country dealer's rural route. Any country merchant who would fail to prosper under a 63-cent protective tariff on an eleven-pound shipment has no business to inflict himself on the community.

"A general parcels post of 8 cents per pound and an eleven-pound limit, and the enforcement of the laws on the statute books against all express companies would soon give us a 1-cent letter postage and insure our postoffice department against deficits."

The Chinese revolutionists captured Nanking after a terrific battle.

Speaking before the Trans-Mississippi congress, Champ Clark took a position against the Aldrich currency plan.

Theodore Roosevelt has written an article heatedly denying that he was deceived in the Tennessee Coal and Iron deal. He says: "One of the grounds for the suit is the acquisition by the Steel corporation of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company, and it has been alleged, on the authority of government officials engaged in carrying on the suit, that as regards this transaction I was misled by the representatives of the Steel corporation and that the facts were not accurately or truthfully laid before me. This statement is not correct. I believed at the time that the facts in the case were as represented to me on behalf of the Steel corporation, and my further knowledge has convinced me that this was true. I believed at the time that the representatives of the Steel corporation told me the truth as to the change that would be worked in the percentage of the business which the proposed acquisition would give the Steel corporation, and further inquiry has convinced me that they did so. I was not misled. The representatives of the Steel corporation told me the truth as to what the effect of the action at that time would be, and any statement that I was misled or that the representatives of the steel corporation did not thus tell me the truth as to the facts of the case is itself not in accordance with the truth."

Norman E. Mack expresses the

opinion that Theodore Roosevelt is a candidate for the republican nomination for president in 1912.

The Trans-Mississippi congress at Kansas City defeated the parcels post resolution.

Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, A. C. Trumbow of Muskogee, Okl.; first vice president, H. C. Moore, Kansas City; second vice president, Walter G. Hill, St. Louis; third vice president, Louis Fisher, Galveston; fourth vice president, Richard S. Jones, Seattle.

Although the newspapers printed reports that Governor Aldrich of Nebraska delivered a speech at the Trans-Mississippi congress the governor has caused it to be made public that he was barred off the program and really did not deliver the address.

After hearing lengthy arguments in the packers' case in Chicago Federal Judge Kohlsatt quashed the writ of habeas corpus issued several days ago and then gave the attorneys for the defendants until Wednesday in order that they might get a writ of relief from the supreme court.

#### "TENTH CENTURY RELIGION"

E. A. Fitch, Wilmington, Vt.: I have read in The Commoner of Sept. 15, page 13, an article headed, "We feel rebuked." And notwithstanding its polished satire, its sugar-coated invective, and very evident intent to be considered funny by the thoughtless and unreasoning, contained not one argument germane to the question in dispute.

I am a subscriber to The Commoner, have voted three times for Mr. Bryan for president and have been greatly interested in his progressive democratic principles but with many others of his admirers I have been deeply pained that so able a progressive in politics should be such a "retrogressive" in religion. It may have been, and still may be considered a "political necessity," but it surprises and astonishes not a few of his supporters that Mr. Bryan and his Commoner can be "twentieth century" in politics and so pronouncedly "tenth century" in their religions.

It was Ito, the Japanese statesman, who said: "What Japan needs is a religion as modern and as scientific as the machinery she uses."

The Commoner does not seem to advocate, much less emphasize, this sentiment. On the other hand it seems to scoff at the scientific and the reasonable in so far as they may, and we think should enter in and modify or destroy the superstitions of an ignorant age, even though such superstitions were instilled in our minds and taught us from "our mother's knee."

There really was Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer. There really is Thomas A. Edison and Ernest Haeckel. They really have made some discoveries and enunciated some important truths that the world of today should recognize. Will it do it or will it use the same bigoted denunciation and abuse used in the fifth century to still maintain and keep in existence the theory of a "flat earth" and a revolving sun. "Mother knee" teaching was all right in so far as it taught right doing and right living, but "mother knee" religion never disproved one fact in nature or proved the correctness of twelfth century theology.

That the discoveries in modern science, especially those of evolution and kindred sciences, have disproved and discredited the "Book of Books" in many important particulars is very apparent to many intelligent, truth-

seeking people of today, and the euphonious poem "Squealed" of the sarcasm of a "grammatical" devotee will not obliterate or destroy the well grounded conviction.

Rationalism will live for it has the "eternal verities of nature back of it." Respectfully I ask for this, a place in The Commoner, and may I hope that it will receive fair and candid consideration.

#### ANY HELP?

A little boy who had often heard his father talk about the civil war finally asked: "Father, did any one help you put down the rebellion?"—Collifer's.

#### TOTAL LOSS

"Does your husband ever lose his temper?"

"Not any more. He lost it permanently about two years after our marriage."—Chicago Record-Herald.

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Four very fine Christmas and New Year Post Cards and a beautiful New Year Calendar ornamented in gold mailed free if you send 1 cent stamp to pay postage. This special introductory advertising offer good only 30 days. Write immediately, Gates Card Club, 30 Copper Bldg., Topeka, Kan.

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## PROSPERITY AWAITS YOU! WHERE?

#### SEE REMARKS OF MEN OF NATIONAL REPUTATION:

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