

News of the Week

The notorious boodler and all around scoundrel, Matt. Quay, has been accumulating glory lately by persisting in the demand that the republican party shall keep its promise made in its platform and admit Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona as states. It has just been discovered that it is one of his scurvy tricks and that he is not at all anxious that those territories should be admitted as states. He got the bill made the unfinished business in the senate, not for the purpose of passing it, but to keep it there and thus prevent the consideration of any bill affecting the trusts or the tariff. Whenever any such legislation is proposed, Quay calls up the unfinished business.

It is authoritatively announced in Washington that there will be no currency legislation this winter of any kind. The Independent has been daring the republicans to put their theories in operation for a long time. It has said to them: "Go ahead. Make silver redeemable in gold. Sell the silver dollars for bullion. Stop this everlasting harping about intrinsic value and forty-cent dollars. You are in power and have been for years. If silver dollars are such horrible things as you say, why don't you destroy them? Stop your yawping and do something." The fact is, that the leaders of the republican party know that they have been acting the part of frauds, that their theories about the intrinsic value of gold and forty-cent silver dollars was nonsense only to be used to fool their ignorant following and keep themselves in power. Now that they have the opportunity, both houses of congress and a president recommending that silver dollars be made redeemable in gold, they dare not try it. They know very well that the result would be just what populists have predicted.

The side tracks and all the yards around Chicago are crowded with cars loaded with coal and the people of the city cannot get enough to keep their houses warm. Angry crowds assail the offices of the retail dealers and cannot get coal. It is charged that the wholesale dealers are paying the railroads \$1 a day demurrage for keeping the cars on the tracks unloaded. The attorney general of the state has gone to Chicago to investigate the matter. It will be found that as long as such trusts as the Standard Oil and steel trust are allowed free swing to rob and extort to the full extent, that thousands of other men will follow their example and form little trusts to extort and rob. With hundreds of thousands of tons of coal within the city limits of Chicago, the people suffer from cold and prices go up beyond any previous record. That is the result of the destruction of competition and the organization of trusts big and little. It means chaos in the commercial world until trusts are overthrown or the new order of "benevolent feudalism" is firmly established.

The Mad Mullahs who declared that the possession of the Philippines was "strengthening" the defensive power of the United States and that an enormous navy was necessary and must be built as fast as possible have so overdone the matter that a reaction is setting in. It is pointed out that a modern warship, 3,000 miles from home, is an extremely helpless thing, and at the mercy of an enemy after a few days in foreign waters. The enormous amount of coal that it requires and the constant repairs to its complicated machinery, would make the situation such that all the enemy would have to do would be to guard his coasts and keep out of its way for a while and then go and take it in. As a floating fortress for defense, it is the greatest thing ever invented, but as an agent for carrying on a foreign war it is next to useless.

Some time ago there was published in The Independent a statement by Mibini, the Filipino patriot, why he could not take the oath of allegiance to the United States and agree to support and defend the laws passed by the Taft commission. It was a most pathetic letter, showing the man to be possessed of the highest sense of honor. Mibini is an invalid, long held as a prisoner without trial on the island of Guam. He said that he did not know under what laws the Philippine islands were now governed, and hence his oath would be meaningless in conscience and truth. He wished to go back to the islands and study the situation before he took the oath. But Roosevelt, the strenuous, the brave, keeps this man a prisoner, just as the kings of the dark ages kept persons



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The warm weather of November and December left nearly every large manufacturer of clothing with great surplus stocks on hand. Wise manufacturers find it much better to sell their surplus stocks at a big loss rather than carry them over. It is needless to say that we have been singled out by these manufacturers as the one concern in Nebraska to handle a quantity of this surplus production. We listened to their tale of woe and layed in an enormous stock of the choicest suits and overcoats that were made for this season at about 50 cents on the dollar and we now offer to share our lucky purchases with you. This is the way the goods will be sold:

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confined without trial whom they did not like. It is as disreputable an act of tyranny as was ever performed by the Spanish. Recently a petition has been sent to the president asking for the pardon of Mabini, signed by Burritt Smith, Herbert Welsh, Charles Francis Adams, and Carl Schurz. Mabini has never been a fighter, but a philosopher and thinker. He is old and in very feeble health. The keeping him a prisoner is as base an act of tyranny as modern times afford.

All the correspondents declare that Roosevelt was ready, willing and even anxious to act as arbitrator in the Venezuelan affair. The astonishment expressed by the people generally that he should entertain such an idea and the solid opposition of the whole cabinet at last prevailed. The latest news is to the effect that the case will be referred to the court at The Hague.

The American Economic association held its annual meeting last week at the university of Pennsylvania. Mr. Prouty delivered the opening address. In discussing the recent railway mergers and combinations he said: "As these combinations have proceeded the public has been repeatedly assured that there was no danger of any advance in freight rates. Rates have advanced and are still advancing. In the winter of 1899 the rate on grain from the Mississippi river to New York fell to 12 cents per 100 pounds, today it is 22 1/2 cents. The cost of transporting grain and grain products from Chicago to the Atlantic seaboard by rail this past summer has been from 2 to 5 cents per 100 pounds, from 10 per cent to 25 per cent greater than it was the summer preceding. Within the month all grain rates in every direction from the fields to the seaboard have been advanced another 2 cents per 100 pounds. Within the last three years the combination of anthracite coal roads has increased the cost of domestic sizes to the consumer from \$1 to \$2 per ton. In sympathy, the common stock of the Reading road alone, advanced in market value from July, 1898, to July, 1902, \$45,000,000, about 300 per cent. The practical significance of those apparently slight advances is not appreciated. The interstate commerce commission has recently concluded an investigation into a general advance in rates on hay, and decided that such advance was unjustifiable. No attention has been or will be paid to that decision, since there is no way in which it can be enforced, but the testimony in that case shows

that this advance in rates costs the consumer and producer of hay in the territory to which it applies from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 annually. There are now pending before the commission for investigation complaints which demand reduction probably amounting in the aggregate to \$1,000,000 annually, equivalent upon a 4 per cent basis, to almost \$400,000,000 in capitalization. The railroad is the greatest and the most dangerous of all monopolies. If the anthracite coal combine advances the price of that commodity to the consumer \$1 per ton, it levies upon the poverty of this country, which uses that coal, a tax of \$50,000,000 annually in favor of the wealth which engineered and profits by that combine."

Sweet William

Sweet William is not altogether so soft in his mind that you can crush him without some sufficient machinery; you must have your army in good order, "to justify public confidence;" and you must get the expense of that, besides your 5 per cent, out of ambrosial William. He must pay the cost of his own roller.

Now, therefore, see briefly what it all comes to.

First, you spend eighty millions in fireworks, doing no end of damage in letting them off.

Then you borrow money to pay the firework-maker's bill, from any gain-loving persons who have got it.

And then, dressing your bailiff's men in red coats and cocked hats, you send them drumming and trumpeting into the fields, to take the peasants by the throat, and make them pay the interest on what you have borrowed, and the expense of the cocked hats besides.

That is "financiering," my friends, as the mob of the money-makers understand it. And they understand it well. For that is what it always comes to, finally; taking the peasant by the throat. He MUST pay—for he only CAN. Food can only be got out of the ground, and all the devices of soldiery, and law, and arithmetic, are but ways of getting at last down to him, the furrow-driver, and snatching the roots from him as he digs.—John Ruskin.

An eastern correspondent of The Independent says: "I am using anthracite coal—and it is one-half slate—and I find that my neighbors are having the same experience."

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