

THE TRUST ADVOCATES

The Great Dailies Give Space to Telling How Good They are and all the Multitudes Say: Yep; That's so

The power to deceive and then oppress that lies in the press is so great that no man can describe it or comprehend it. Just at this time when trust prices are causing untold suffering, especially in the eastern states, that famous plutocratic writer, William E. Curtis, makes the following specious argument in defense of the trusts and the Chicago Record-Herald gives it space in the first column of the Christmas day edition:

"The records of the patent office for the last year have upset one of the strongest arguments that have been made against the recent combinations of manufacturers which people will persist in calling trusts. It has been frequently asserted that by removing competition in the manufacture of machinery, implements and apparatus of various kinds progress would be stifled and improvements would cease; that when the incentive to superiority was removed there would be no further rivalry among the different manufacturers to continue the development of genius and encourage inventors. For example, it is contended that the manufacturers of agricultural implements, having combined, will no longer improve their machines, but will be content to use the old patents as long as people will tolerate them. It has been asserted also that since the manufacturers of machinery went into a trust they have discharged their inventors and other experts, who, during the days of hot competition, were employed to design improvements and novel features. In short, it has been asserted thousands of times that the position of the United States as the most progressive nation of the world is likely to be lost now that competition has ceased by the combination of manufacturers.

"The report of the commissioner of patents, which has just been issued, leaves no ground for apprehension on this point. The number of applications for patents and trademarks for the year ending June 30, 1902, was 51,258, an increase of 3,183 from the previous year, and, although the force was recently increased, the office is choked with business and there was so much to do that 11,042 applications could not be disposed of."

Several times during the last year The Independent has called attention to the great activity among inventors in their strenuous efforts to get ahead of the trusts; but let the fact, become generally accepted that the trusts are to endure and competition totally destroyed, then from the very necessity of the conditions thus created the occupation of the inventor will cease. What will he do with his invention when there is but one customer with whom he can deal? That customer can take it or not as he sees fit. He can pay what he pleases for it. It is not a necessity for the trust which has complete control. The shallowness of the argument that because now when the war is waging against the trusts, when hundreds of bills are being introduced into congress for their suppression, when the president denounces them in his speeches and messages that inventors are especially active, that they will be so when everything is in the hands of the trusts, is on a "parity" with all the arguments with which the unthinking mobs that make up the republican following are led to vote for their own destruction. The writers of such stuff know that the following of the republican party will read such stuff and simply say: "Yep. That's so."

Stead on Rockefeller.

In an article discussing the enormous accumulations of Rockefeller, William T. Stead comes to the following conclusions:

1. Mr. Rockefeller may divide his fortune, or give it away, or his fortune may take to itself wings and fly away, in which case the operation of natural economic causes will have removed the danger now imminent on the near horizon.
2. Mr. Rockefeller may become strong enough in combination with other billionaires to dominate the democracy, overawe the legislature, and make the executive his tool. In that case, while the form of the republic might survive, as it did under the Roman empire, all power would be centered in the hands of the billionaire, and we should be living under the autocratic rule of the plutocracy.
3. The democracy has become alarmed, and by legislation and taxation, by progressive income tax and death duties, or by the simpler process of direct appropriation, may trans-

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To the person selling the eighth largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give the most perfect portable Billiard and Pool Table made. Beautiful and rich in design, highly polished, mahogany finish or quartered oak. Combination billiard and pool table. Scientifically constructed the same as most expensive tables. Solid rubber cushions. Easily moved to and from the top of the dining-room table. Covered with imported French billiard cloth, 3 feet by 5 1/2 feet. Complete pool and billiard outfit, with four cues, triangle, chalk and tips, four ivory balls, counters, etc. Complete description of all these tables will be found in catalogue, which can be obtained by applying to the makers, The Combination Billiard Mfg. Co., 926 New Claypool Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind. Price \$45

To the person selling the eighth largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give the most perfect



BILLIARD TABLE

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To the person selling the seventh largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give a University Reclining Chair, beautifully upholstered, and fitted with a book-rest and adjustable back and arms that can be converted into firm, wide shelves for writing, holding books, etc. Descriptive catalogue can be had by writing to the manufacturer, George Sargent & Co., 280 Fourth Avenue, New York. Price . \$43

To the person selling the ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give an open-face stem-winding, stem-set, gold-filled Watch. A first-class, accurate timekeeper that with ordinary wear will last a lifetime. Will be suitably inscribed. \$25 each . \$125

To the persons selling the 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give first-class Bicycle, either lady's or gentleman's wheel, standard make. Price \$25 . \$125

To the persons selling the 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d and 23d largest number of yearly subscription cards we will give one of the celebrated "Al-Vista" Cameras, for time and snapshot exposures, fitted with extra rapid rectilinear lens, brilliant view-finder, rotating and showing exactly what will appear on the negative. With it you can make 2 1/2-inch by 4 1/2-inch or 3-inch by 9-inch pictures. Has indicator showing when film is brought into place for each exposure. Heavy nickel fittings, covered with finest black morocco leather and beautifully finished. Price, \$20 each. Total . \$100

CONSOLATION PRIZES

MORE GIVEN AWAY To everyone entering this contest, and purchasing twenty yearly subscription cards or over, and failing to win one of the prizes above, we will give a substantial prize for their efforts that will be sure to please. *No one entering this contest will be disappointed.* All will be profited both on the sale of cards, and the prizes awarded, besides the great satisfaction of helping forward the happy day we are all working for. Send a \$2 bill for eight cards.

TOTAL, \$3,143 GIVEN AWAY

Yearly subscriptions at 25 cents each, sent in a letter, count the same as yearly cards purchased. Send in your first list of subscribers and make a start for a valuable prize. Remember, everybody sending twenty yearly subscriptions receives a prize. No blanks. No dissatisfaction.

WILSHIRE'S MAGAZINE, 125 E. 23d ST., NEW YORK CITY

fer the Rockefeller billions to the national exchequer.

The second possibility I dismiss as unthinkable. The first is, of course, the most desirable. But if it fails us, then the third becomes inevitable.

The beemaster sees without alarm the extent to which his industrious insects store up the honey crop of a whole countryside in a few hives. He sees with the utmost satisfaction the conversion of millions of cells into billions. The vast accumulation of the sweets of field and grove goes on unchecked all summer. But autumn comes. In olden days, before the apiarian learned the true science of bee-keeping, he incontinently smothered his industrious workers and appropriated the combs. Nowadays he has grown at once more humane and less wasteful. He would scorn to slay a single bee. He relieves them of their superfluous store, but carefully reserves for them sufficient honey to keep them through the winter.

What the modern bee-keeper does to his bees, society will do to its billionaires. When autumn comes, as come it will, the public will say to the billionaire: "Friend, we would not despoil you of one red cent that you call your own which you can show us is needful for your personal comforts or your luxury. All the money you can spend, wisely or unwisely, is yours to dispose of. But the enormous residue which you cannot spend, and which you can only administer through hired servants—that residue

which enables you to overshadow the republic and exercise a dangerous influence in the commonwealth—that residue we shall transfer from your control to the control of the elected representatives of the people. Business will be carried on at the old stand by the same old hands, only instead of the net revenue of \$286,000,000 per annum passing into your private account, \$250,000,000 thereof will be diverted into the national treasury to be used for the amelioration of the condition of the people. With the remaining \$36,000,000 per annum you must contrive to subsist as best you can. Many better men have supported a useful existence on less."

(Mr. Stead figures that Rockefeller's income in fifty years will be \$286,000,000 per year, unless something is done to dissipate the fortune.)

The Way the Money Goes

One of the farces of government administration has been the employment of "letter-carriers' physician." In all the large postoffices of the country an alleged physician has been employed and paid a big salary, his principal duty being to go round and look after the letter carriers who remained away from the office because of "illness," and to ascertain if the carrier was playing off on the government, which is often the case. It was a position of honor without labor, and got to be farmed out for political purposes. The postmaster general has decided that

he will dispense with the assistance of a medical man in all offices except the very largest, and thus save about \$25,000 a year to the government.—National Tribune (rep.).

And that is one of the ways the money of the taxpayers is used; a chaplain hired to open their meetings with prayer, it makes me think bad words to think our trusted servants are so dishonest, and wonder why the taxpayers don't turn the rascals out. **J. H. OSBORN,** Hopkins, Mo.

James A. Haley, 809 Windsor Square, Philadelphia: I am so discouraged by the talk and actions of men in general when discussing political subjects, and the way they vote, that I think it useless to try to get them to read up on those subjects. Most young men now look upon an election as a sort of a dog fight, where the stronger dog wins, and never go any deeper into the question than to ask, Which is the republican and which is the democratic ticket.

Rev. W. M. Kane, Ashtabula, O.: Yes, I read The Independent and am delighted with the bold, manly and courageous manner and make-up of the paper. I am what might be called a Bryan democrat, and of course take The Commoner; and I am not a little tinged with socialism, and of course I take the Appeal to Reason; so that I feel sure that I take and read three of the best papers in America.