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Roosevelt is proving to be a more prolific talker than Bryan, but the dailies have no remarks to make concerning his "jaw" or the amount of wind he uses.

This is an era of prosperity, nevertheless there are more people in these United States suffering from cold and want of fuel than there were in the days of "the Cleveland soup houses."

The plutocratic preachers of Chicago are pouring out the vials of their wrath upon the head of Dr. Bascom for his opinions concerning universities accepting part of Rockefeller's loot.

One of the causes of the shortage of coal in Chicago and other cities of that state is the Illinois law allowing railroads to own coal mines. That was a direct way of building up an invincible monopoly.

Governor Cummins and his "Iowa idea" has been sat down upon pretty hard at Washington. The tariff is to continue as a shelter for the trusts as long as the republican party is in power. What will poor Cummins do now?

General Schalkburger, for some time acting president of the Orange Free State, says that "the power of rule lies in the Afrikander who will remain loyal to the British crown while righteousness reigns and his rightful portion is allotted him."

Did you ever reflect upon the far-reaching effect those injunctions had that Teddy got issued against the meat trust and the railroads? The meat trust kept on raising the price of meat and the railroads continued to increase the freight and passenger rates.

The Manila American wonders "why, in view of the fact that the natives of these islands have been Christians for over 300 years, that so much hue and cry is being raised among the various missionary societies as to the best method of 'Christianizing' the Filipinos."

Rockefeller got angry at a little town in Illinois because the city council ordered his trust to move its plant on account of the danger of fire. Now the people of that town have to go six miles to the next town to get oil. Is the Standard Oil trust a good trust or a bad trust? Teddy won't answer.

The doctors have given the culture of lemons a tremendous boost. Those in charge of bacteriological laboratories all over the country are unanimous in their declaration that lemon juice will instantly kill typhoid germs in water. Two or three drops in a glass of water makes an end of the germs and it can be drunk with perfect safety.

PROFESSOR JENKS

When one looks back to the fierce contest waged over the money question in 1896 and 1900 and remembers the part taken therein by professors of political economy who abandoned the teachings of all the authorities on that subject at the command of a political party, stultified themselves and disgraced the profession to which they belonged, he can only comfort himself by reflecting that human nature is weak. Among this class of professors was Jeremiah W. Jenks, who held a chair in Cornell university. The restriction of the coinage of silver in India was fully discussed. It was pointed out time and again that that restriction was in the interest of the British officeholders in that country and would work untold hardships upon the native population, perhaps producing widespread famine, a result that did follow. It was shown that the industries of India were taking on new life and were exceedingly prosperous and that the increased purchasing power of the rupee effected by an arbitrary order in council at London, would ruin thousands. All that and more, too, was proclaimed by the honest economists of Both England and the United States. At that time Professor Jenks was in the ranks of the gold standard advocates. The other day at the meeting of the national society of economists he spoke as follows:

"The stoppage of the free coinage of silver in India in 1893 was the result, not so much of a general business depression coming from the depreciation in the value of silver as compared with gold, as of injury to the government in distinction from the people and to certain classes in the community. Together with this injury to some classes went, doubtless, benefit to others. The total benefit or injury to a country from a change in its currency system must be found by noting its effect upon the different classes and by estimating the relative importance of these different classes in the community. In India, for example, during the period of the fall of silver, the classes who were producing goods for export, speaking generally, felt a stimulus in their industry, and made uncommonly large profits. In certain cases, doubtless, this increase in profit led to increased investments of capital brought over from Europe. This increase in profits, however, was at the expense, to a considerable extent, of other classes in the community. While producers for export gained the consumers of imported goods lost.

"Wage-earners received their pay in the depreciated currency, but in many cases, owing to the fact that their purchases were mainly of goods which were valued on the silver standard, they often did not feel any loss. The loss was really felt when the silver rupees passed on from hand to hand, finally coming into the possession of those who needed to buy goods valued on the gold standard. As a matter of fact, in India the government officials were in all probability the chief sufferers. The native peoples, in many cases, did not suffer appreciably."

Professor Jenks understood these things just as well in 1896 and 1900 as he does now. His position then and now shows the effect that money has in closing the mouths of some men who pose as teachers of science or in opening them when their masters so order. Just now those masters are making an attempt to do in the Philippines just what the British did in India and Professor Jenks comes bravely to their aid. After a few remarks that do not bear upon the real question at all, he concludes as follows:

"Inasmuch, therefore, as our government has the duty and has expressed the intention of administering the Philippines for the benefit of the Filipino, it seems essential both for their sake and for the sake of the gov-

ernment 'tself that the gold standard be established and maintained."

If there was ever a non sequiter that equalled that since man made his first attempt to reason, The Independent will give a five dollar bill to the one who discovers it.

REPUBLICAN ANARCHY

It has been twelve years since the republican party under the leadership of Blaine, formally announced reciprocity as one of its policies. During that twelve years not a reciprocity treaty has been ratified. It has been used all that time as a fraudulent campaign cry. The republican platform of 1896 had these words:

"We believe the repeal of the reciprocity arrangements negotiated by the last republican administration was a national calamity, and we demand their renewal and extension on such terms as will equalize our trade with other nations, remove the restrictions which now obstruct the sale of American products in the ports of other countries, and secure enlarged markets for the products of our farms, forests and factories."

This is the first time in the history of parliamentary government that any party became so degraded as to openly repudiate its platform. They have sometimes done it by indirection, but never in the brazen way that the republican party has. It is a long step toward anarchy. When the people become convinced that they can place no reliance in party platforms, there will be no use of voting. It undermines the very foundations of free government.

THE DECLINE OF ORATORY

It is related that the erstwhile John Mellen Thurston of Nebraska and Col Henri Watterson of the Louisville Courier-Journal once upon a time met somewhere and (probably over a hot bottle and a cold bird, or vice versa) discussed the decline of oratory. "Why," said Thurston or Watterson—it matters not which—"there are only three orators in all America—me, and you, and Chauncey Depew." "I can't see the use of dragging Depew into this," drily retorted Watterson or Thurston,—"he's not present."

Doubtless man is evolving from a state of ear-mindedness to one of eye-mindedness. He learns by sight what he formerly learned by ear. Spoken language preceded written language, and very naturally the human mind received impressions more readily at first by listening than by seeing—at least so far as concerns the thoughts received through the medium of language. Naturally for a long time the orator was supreme. He alone could reach and sway the ear-minded multitude. And, although in a way, he is still popular, yet with all his powers of persuasion he cannot compete with the stammering, halt-of-speech individual who sits in an obscure back room and writes out his thoughts. Just as in the art of war the finest specimen of physical manhood is, in the shedding of human blood, no match for the hollow-chested German professor who compounds some hellish explosive; so in his power for weal or woe the man with the silver tongue is no match for him with the brass pen.

The American people still love to listen to oratory—but not as pupils. They want entertainment, and not instruction, by word of mouth. When they want to learn—they read. Even for their entertainment they are not dependent upon their sense of hearing. The Macmillan company report that over a million copies have been sold of six novels alone in a very short space of time. These are:

- Mr. Crawford's new novel—
- Cecilia. (Just published)...65,000
- Mr. Wister's—The Virginian...175,000
- Mrs. Atherton's—The Conqueror 70,000
- Mr. Major's—Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall.....120,000
- Mr. Allen's—The Choir Invisible.....250,000
- Mr. Churchill's—The Crisis....400,000

THE COURTS

No man can fail to see, if he gives a little attention to the subject, that the foundation of the robbery and extortion practiced by the trusts and railroad corporations is in the courts. Another thing he will also discover, if he investigates a little further, and that is that just as the courts get away from responsibility to the people, in that measure do their decisions tend to uphold trusts and combinations. First he will find that judges who are elected by the people for short terms are those whose decisions have been against aggression. The longer the term, the less is this the case. Judges selected by an appointing power, especially if their terms are for life, lean more and more to the side of plutocracy.

The decision of the supreme court of the United States, and that alone, has enthroned the railroads and given them a power to discriminate and extort unreasonable rates from the people. It declares that to give the interstate commerce commission the power to reduce rates is a delegation of the power to legislate. When the states pass maximum rate bills—reduce rates by legislation—then it says that is confiscation, taking private property without compensation for the benefit of the public, so that is also unconstitutional. It, however, empowers congress to delegate the authority to govern 10,000,000 people to a commission and declares that that delegation of power to legislate is constitutional. This twisting and turning, wriggling in and wriggling out is all in the interest of plutocracy.

Government by injunction, adopted by the courts in the last few years, has all been in the interest of combinations of wealth. It cannot be successfully denied that the courts of this country are the bulwark behind which trusts and all aggregations of capital engaged in exploiting labor find safe refuge and from which they sally forth in their raids on mankind. This is not to deny that there are just judges and that there is a minority of such on the supreme bench of the United States. How large that minority would be if their votes were needed by plutocracy at any time, no man can tell.

These judges grow more autocratic every year. Not long since several of the highest in the land in public interviews declared that the decisions of the courts should not be allowed to be criticised. They would establish the law of lese majesty in this country and enforce it in regard to the decision of the judges. That is nothing less than the re-establishment of the old doctrine, "the king can do no wrong," and applying it to the courts.

While these facts stare every man in the face, the doctrine is most sedulously preached by the daily press and plutocratic magazines that the courts are a sort of divinely appointed and inspired institution and that any man who criticises them is at heart an anarchist. They have created a sort of psychological influence pervading all society which in the words of another has brought to the defense of the sanctity of the courts "landlords and capitalists, stock exchange wolves and shop keepers, protectionists and free traders, young street walkers and old nuns—under the common cry for the salvation of property, religion, the family and society," and that even words containing an inference that the courts might be biased must be studiously avoided. As far as The Independent is concerned, it will speak its opinions about the courts as freely as about anything else, and it believes with some of the founders of this government that a life-appointed judiciary contains the seeds of the greatest danger that this republic will ever have to meet.

Hon. Soren M. Fries, representative from the 48th district (Howard county), was a caller at Liberty Building Tuesday.