

News of the Week

The American Beet Sugar association held a session in Washington last week and passed resolutions withdrawing any opposition to the ratification of the Cuban treaty. What kind of a fix are those papers now in which have been declaring that "the industry would be ruined" if this treaty was ratified? Do those editors expect to see all the beet sugar factories torn down? Did they ever, at any time, believe the statements that they made about "the ruin of the industry?" Were those editorials advertisements paid for at so much a line by the tariff grafters? The next time that you hear a tariff grafter talk about how "the industry will be ruined," refer him to this beet sugar episode. The reason why these chaps have quit their fight is that they are engaged in promoting a large number of companies for the production of beet sugar and have sent out circulars promising stockholders a profit of from 50 to 80 per cent on their investment. These circulars state that there will be a large profit in the business if all tariffs are removed. Secretary Wilson came to their aid in an interview in which he said that beet sugar could be sold at 2 cents a pound at retail and then give a large profit to the producer and intermediate handlers. The "ruin of the industry" cry had a tendency to defeat the sale of beet sugar stock, and the promoters thought that they had better call it off. So the national association announced that 25 per cent reduction of the tariff on Cuban sugar would have no effect at all on the profits of beet sugar manufacturers.

Confusion and chaos reigns all over the United States. In some places factories have shut down, in others the people have formed mobs and raided loaded coal cars, in others they have resorted to burning beans and corn and cutting down shade trees, schools and churches have been closed, people are trying to burn soft coal in hard coal stoves and are rendered ill by escaping gases, all on account of the action in the beginning of one baby trust down in Pennsylvania. The whole country is on the verge of anarchy. The trust principle overthrows the system upon which 80,000,000 of people have been accustomed to do business and the result is chaos.

The New England white slave drivers who own cotton mills in the south have defeated the proposed laws to prohibit child labor. That the New England lobby was able to do that, does not in the least abate the sordid criminality of the southern legislators who failed to act. Neither does their plea that child labor by the hundred thousand is employed in the north. The greed of the trusts has no bounds. They not only want all the great increase in the production of wealth created by the labor of adults and made possible by the advance of science, education and invention, but they want the additional wealth that can be created by the toil of the little children. So the children are driven into the sweat shops and factories north and south and made to work harder than the black slaves of the south ever worked before the war.

The Northwestern has had to reduce its train service out of Chicago for want of coal and announces that it will have to take off some of its suburban trains next week unless an increased supply can be secured. It seems that the persons "to whom God in his infinite wisdom has entrusted the property interests of this nation," can't manage things at all. The undisputed sway of the individual who announced that fact for four or five months and until the president interfered, has thrown the whole country into chaos. The Independent believes that statement now, less than ever. If God had done anything of the kind he would not have provided for freezing the poor. He would more likely have provided for roasting some of the coal trust magnates on a red hot gridiron.

The coal famine was so severe in Toledo, O., that coal was only sold to those who had physicians' certificates stating that it was actually necessary to save their patients' lives. Now let the trust magnates and would-be wise men interfere some more with the natural laws of economics. One or two more moves like those headed by Morgan, J. J. Hill and Rockefeller and we will have the world topsy turvey.

The senate and house at Washington and more than half of the city councils in the whole northern states are engaged in investigating the cause of the coal famine. So far none of

them seem to have found out anything. Wonder if it is "Providence," "duty," and "destiny" that is doing this thing? We ought to hear from Beveridge on that subject.

Information has reached The Independent to the effect that the reason Generals Dewet, Botha and Delarey did not visit the United States was that the state department at Washington made strong objections to the visit and used every means known to diplomacy to prevent it. The administration was fearful of the effect that their visit would have upon the republican party and its imperialistic policy. This is an exclusive bit of news for the readers of The Independent. Many persons connected with the management of the great dailies were cognizant of the fact but they managed to suppress any allusion to it. One Washington correspondent got hold of the facts and sent a full account to his paper, a New York daily. The account was suppressed, but the salary of the reporter was raised \$10 a week with a request that he keep very mum upon the subject.

A coal trust was formed in Cleveland, O. A judge called a special grand jury to investigate. The trust apologized and disbanded. That was a little trust formed without the consent of the republican party. The big trusts formed by the connivance of republican leaders never are troubled by investigating grand juries. Repub-

lican judges know better than to investigate such proceedings.

The democrats celebrated "Jackson Day" in Omaha, Cleveland and several other cities. Four hundred dined at Waterloo, Ia., at the Horace Boies Jacksonian club, but the thing does not seem to have turned out as expected. The man whom they were booming for candidate for governor delivered a notable speech, advocating government ownership of railroads as a national issue for the democrats in 1904. Instead of being a reorganizer, he turned out a populist. What Uncle Horace, who repudiated the Kansas City platform because it was too radical, had to say about that speech is not told in the dispatches.

Some of the courts are falling into line behind The Independent and enforcing the doctrines that it has long advocated. Every reader of this paper knows that it has always held that debts created by manipulating corners on the board of trade were gambling debts and never should be collectable by a suit at law. At last the appellate court at Chicago has come to the same conclusion and has held that "the running of the corner on the board of trade by which the exorbitant and fictitious price of 64 cents per bushel was fixed for oats, when the reasonable and actual price of that grain was then but 38 cents per bushel, was a violation of the criminal statute." Good for that court! If the rest of the judges would

read The Independent every week, they might also get in line with sound law and administer their courts in the interest of the public welfare, instead of being appendices to plutocracy and the gamblers.

A special grand jury has been empanelled in Chicago to bring in indictments against the little coal trust there. The state's attorney in his application for a grand jury says that a combination has been formed: "To prevent competition in the sale and delivery of coal in the county and to regulate and fix the price thereof, and that such a combination has been entered into and exists to fix and limit the amount and quantity of such products as are mined in this state and also such as are mined and produced elsewhere and brought into the county for consumption and to regulate and fix the price thereof," and "it is a matter of general information that at the present time great quantities of such products have been brought into the county for sale and consumption, and that the same is sold only at exorbitant prices, so much beyond the cost of production and transportation that such owners, operators and dealers receive unreasonable profits and the consumers are required to pay exorbitant prices; that by reason of such combination and the withholding of sales thereunder, great distress and suffering prevail among the poor in the community, and great hardships exist among the different lines of indus-

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