

truth about everything," are much more likely to find it in the columns of The Independent than in the dailies, or even in the speeches of the president of the United States.

The truth about the matter is that in all the reign of the Spanish in the Philippine islands the people there were never in half so horrible a condition as the imperialists of the United States have placed them. To keep the whole race from extermination this government has had to donate them millions of money and now the proposition is to give them practical free trade with this country.

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DIETRICH'S "COFFEE"

That "astute" statesman who assists Bartley's partner in "representing" the state of Nebraska in the upper house of congress—he of the laconic and fetching campaign speech: "Come up, boys (hic) and have something on me;" he of the later bon mot, "In statu Quay," has a 43-page "speech" in the Congressional Record of February 14, one of those "leave to print" sort—a heterogeneous collection of leaves torn from public documents and railroad time-tables.

Senator Dietrich has made the astounding discovery that "during our 28 years of free-trade coffee we have lost in revenue on Brazilian coffee alone the enormous sum of \$304,869,-852.84 and made the Brazilian treasury richer by practically that amount of money." His bank training makes him exact, it will be observed. Most men would have lopped off the 84 cents. Note, however, the essential dishonesty in this statement:

"In 1872 we paid Brazil 15 2-3 cents; in 1873, 14.9 cents; in 1874, 19 cents, and in 1875, 15.2 cents per pound, showing that putting coffee upon the free list did not decrease the cost of coffee to the American consumer, but coffee constantly advanced in price." That is true as compared with 1871, when the price was 9.4 cents; but how is it today? Brazilian coffee is selling in New York at 5-1-2 cents per pound.

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DOSE OF SOOTHING SYRUP

The supreme court has cleared the way to suppress the trusts and congress has appropriated the money to prosecute them. A distinguished lawyer says that the logical effect of the lottery decision is:

"Congress has the absolute right to say when commerce in any given commodity shall be free or prohibited and it would follow that between these extremes it can permit such commerce upon conditions which it may impose to conserve the public interests and neither the conditions nor the motives that actuate them can be reviewed by the judiciary."

The Littlefield bill would have furnished the legislation necessary, but the president put his foot down, and that bill is dead. We will see whether the dose of soothing syrup that the republican leaders have prepared in the recent legislation will prove to be strong enough to put the people to sleep. Congress can absolutely prohibit the transportation of trust goods from one state to another. The Littlefield bill contained that clause and the supreme court says that it is constitutional. An exercise of that power would bring the trusts "up to the snubbing post" in short order.

THE POWER OF A TRUST

If a military dictator should issue an order that some city should collect and pay over to him \$17,000, there would be heard the tramp of armed

men and the clang of sabres on the streets inside of 24 hours, but when a trust issues such an order the unthinking people pay the money over without a protest and then go to the polls and "vote 'er straight" for the trusts to continue in power. That is what the Standard Oil trust did to the city of St. Paul, Minn., and the citizens paid the money and continued to "vote 'er straight."

Suit for personal damages was brought against the Standard Oil company in St. Paul by a man who claimed the improper sale of kerosene. The case was clearly against the company, and compromise was effected on the basis of \$10,000 damages. The next day the price of gasoline went up from 15 cents a gallon to 18 in that particular district, and remained up for nine days. During that time the company got \$17,000 extra, or just enough to pay the damages and attorney fees. Then the price dropped down to 15 cents again.

Of course this \$17,000 was taken from the pockets of the poor families that use gasoline stoves and the hard working mechanics using gasoline engines. The rich use very little gasoline except in running their automobiles and there are very few of them in that city.

The Independent publishes this item to show the unlimited power to tax that is exercised by a trust. It is taxation without representation in a worse form than King George attempted to impose upon this country and against which our forefathers rebelled. Their degenerate sons don't rebel. They just pay the tax and say nothing. Worse than that, they go to the polls every year and vote for the trusts to tax them some more. The Independent will give a five-dollar bill to any man who will furnish a better name for a man who does that sort of thing than "mullet head."

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WAR IN WEST VIRGINIA

The war in West Virginia (for when armed men by the hundreds engage in a battle where the field of conflict is strewn with dead and wounded, it can be truthfully called by no other name) is the legitimate result of government by injunction and is just what every thoughtful man has expected. The armed resistance to government authority by the miners will find no sympathy or encouragement from law-abiding people and none but the most ignorant would have undertaken to fight the United States government, though that government was represented by an autocratic and tyrannical judge.

Nevertheless the blanket injunction issued by Judge Keller was provocative of war. It included in its scope John Mitchell and others who were not within 1,000 miles of the jurisdiction of the court and prohibited acts which were included in the natural rights of man. The injustice and tyranny of such action of course was stimulative of open rebellion. If peaceful and legal methods fail to exterminate this method of government by injunction, no man can doubt that in the end there will be a general armed resistance to tyrannical orders issued by plutocratic judges concerning acts that have never before been regarded as coming within their jurisdiction. The position of the judges in this matter is the beginning of anarchy. The constitution of the United States provides for a trial by a jury of all the crimes which the judges insist on trying without a jury. If the judges lead the way toward anarchy by defying the constitution which they have taken a solemn oath to maintain and defend, it can only be expected that the multitude will follow the example?

The populists of Nebraska when the first injunction of this nature was is-

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sued foresaw the anarchy to which it would lead and Father Snyder introduced a resolution in the state convention denouncing the departure in the administration of justice from all the precedents of the past. Under this new procedure, the judges have assumed the authority of the unlimited monarchs of 200 years ago.

The decision of our Nebraska supreme court in the case of McLucas vs. St. J. & G. I. R'y. Co. may be good law, but it is rather incongruous in view of the private ownership of railroads. The court holds that adverse possession does not run against a railroad right of way, because it is a public highway and the public has an interest in maintaining it. McLucas Bros., cattle dealers of Fairbury, had occupied part of the railroad right of way for stock and feed yards for more than ten years, and set up the claim of adverse possession when ordered to move. The United States had granted a 200-foot right of way through gov-

ernment land, but where it was secured by condemnation only 100 feet was taken, and because of this fact misunderstandings arose as to where the right of way lines really run. If private ownership of the railroads is to be the continuing policy, then it is high time that this "quasi-public" nonsense cease. A railroad is no more of a public necessity, except in degree, than a farm or a blacksmith shop. And to say that it is a privately owned public highway is a contradiction of terms. It is high time that the people find out "where they are at."

The taxing of the city of St. Paul, Minn., by the Standard Oil trust a sufficient sum to pay the cost of a law suit, which was an extra tax above what it usually levies upon that city, is nothing out of the ordinary at all. That is just what every trust does when it takes the notion. The dose of soothing syrup that congress has administered will not cure a disease of that kind.