

**Peril to Civilization**

The London (Eng.) Spectator in a long article commenting on the great increase of crime in the United States in the last twenty years, regards the situation as a grave menace to civilization and appeals to the American people to impose radical reforms in the administration of law before national calamity comes.

"We venture to say that if the American judges had the standing and prestige which belong to our judges," says the Spectator, "the rich men who now use their money to corrupt public officials and public bodies would find themselves in jail, either for contempt of court or some open breach of the law."

In England judges are not appointed from the ranks of great corporation and railroad lawyers. They do not ride on passes, and if a corporation should offer one of them a "courtesy" the man who offered it would be sentenced to a long term of imprisonment at hard labor. When he got to prison he would do the "hard labor" the same as any other convict for in English prisons there is no favoritism. The increase in crime in this country which eminent men all over the world agree is a threat to civilization, is largely due to the character of the judges. The people generally, while they render obedience to the decrees of the courts hold the judges in constant contempt. Last year while going down to Omaha, there sat in the seats immediately in front one federal and two state judges. When the conductor came around all three of them presented annual passes. Ever since that time the editor of The Independent has been trying to formulate a sentence that would express his supreme contempt for them, but has never been able to construct one that would do justice to such a sight.

**Senile Senators and Pure Food**

It is the old, corporation plutocrats in the United States senate that compel the American people to come tailing along behind all civilization, cheek by jowl with the pig-tailed Chinese, not only in the government ownership of railroads, but in many other things. This is the only government on earth that allows merchants to sell adulterated and poisonous food for the money that is in the business. Dr. Wiley, the government chemist, says that the prevalence of dyspepsia in this country, to an extent known in no other, comes from adulterated food and drinks. A few old corporation senators have long prevented the passage of a pure food bill because of the criminal business interests that put them where they are, do not want such a law enacted. The house has passed such a bill several times, but it is always chucked into the waste basket by these grizzled, senile corrupt old senators, who spend the most of the time while they are in Washington in the senate cloak rooms telling nasty stories, but whom a criminal press holds up to the people as great statesmen. Any newspaper man who has spent a year or two in Washington knows what a lot of disreputables they are. There are decent men among them, but not enough to have appreciable influence upon the big lot of corporation tools who run things under the direction of their masters. Many of them have not had sense enough to make the corporations pay them for their services and have only the "honor" of their position and the salary attached to it as a recompense for all their dirty work. What one of them in the last ten years has made a speech that showed even an ordinary intellectual ability? They are a bad lot. The scientists and doctors may pile up the proof as high as a mountain, but the senate will never pass a pure food bill until the corporations engaged in the business of adulterating food order their senators to vote for one, and they will never do that until some irate community wreaks vengeance upon them.



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**Bread Riots in London**

Great mobs of starving men have been assembling in the parks and other vacant places in London during the last week. The situation there is becoming dangerous. Every one declares that there has been no such suffering known in the last twenty years. The

steamships arriving in New York bring such loads of emigrants that the authorities at Ellis island have been overwhelmed. Some of the great steamers have had to lie at anchor, under guard, for 24 hours before they could find a place on the island to land their cargoes of steerage passengers.

The depression seems general all over Europe. If the people there are starving, they certainly can't buy American goods and our foreign trade must fall off. That has always preceded a depression in business in the United States. It is the same old endless chain.