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The vote in Holt county, Nebraska, for president, was: Roosevelt, 1,740; Parker, 634; Watson, 706.

At the close of the St. Louis convention the situation was: "Either fish or cut bait." Well, he cut bait.

Dr. Ross says the south is hysterical and the north graft-rotted, all of which comes from the slaying of our best men during the civil war.

The Illinois building at the St. Louis fair that cost \$80,000 has been sold for \$4,250. Still that has been a much better investment than steel common.

Tom Taggart says he don't want any reorganizing done. Perhaps he thinks if that thing once got started it might reach his French Lick gambling house.

Silver has been going up lately. That is a good thing for the mine owners, but as it is no longer being coined in the United States, no one else is benefited.

Even Tillman has surrendered. He says that he will no longer oppose a vote on the appointment of the negro Crum. Does Tillman fear that Tom Watson may come over and capture South Carolina?

There is a very good reason why some of the railroads do not join with the Burlington in resisting the payment of their taxes. They pay less taxes under the new, than they did under the old law.

Mr. Alfred Griffin of Topeka, Kan., writing to The Independent says: "The most of the populists voted for Roosevelt and many thousands voted the republican ticket straight to emphasize their dislike for the democratic party and the idea of fusion."

"The labor question is not one that concerns employers and employes alone, it concerns the entire community." After you have taken out the employers and employed, who are left aside from the little children, the sick the apupers and the criminals?

Socialism bases itself on "the economic interpretation of history." According to this interpretation, the social, political, moral and religious facts of any age, come trailing along as a result of economic conditions. That necessitates, and all the socialist leaders and writers do it, the necessity of explaining everything in terms of materialism and the allowance of nothing to the moral sense. In fact, in socialism there can be no such thing as the "ought" and "ought not."

Free Passes

The Bee wants private individuals to begin prosecutions against the railroad managers for giving free passes under the following Nebraska statute:

If any person shall directly or indirectly give any sum, or sums of money, or any other bribe, present, or reward, or any promise, contract, obligation or security for the payment of any money, present, or reward, or any other thing to any judge, justice of the peace, sheriff, coroner, clerk, constable, jailer, prosecuting attorney, member of the legislative assembly, or other officer, ministerial or judicial, but such fees as are allowed by law, with intent to induce or influence such officers to appoint or vote for any person for office, or to execute any of the powers in him vested, or perform any duty of him required with partiality or favor, or otherwise than is required by law, or in consideration that such officer hath appointed or voted for any person for any office, or exercised any power in him vested, or performed any duty of him required with partiality or favor, or otherwise contrary to law, the person so giving and the officer so receiving any money, bribe, present, reward, promise, contract, obligation or security, with intent, or for the purpose or consideration aforesaid, shall be deemed guilty of bribery, etc.

That is the kind of a law that the railroads have been loading down the state books of the various states with for the last forty years. It is hard to reply to such a proposition as the Bee makes without using language that the postoffice authorities would not allow to pass through the mails. To prosecute successfully a railroad manager under that statute one would have to prove that the pass was given "with intent to influence such officer" and several other things which the Bee knows are not susceptible of proof. How is one to prove an "intent"? That statute was enacted to protect the railroads in pass giving. The man who drew it did so for the express purpose of preventing conviction for that offense.

Passed Over

While walking along the B. & O. tracks, Sampson H. Piersol, for ten years state chairman of the people's party of Pennsylvania, and in his earlier days identified prominently with other political movements, was, last week, struck down and almost instantly killed by a yard engine at Parkersburg, W. Va. Mr. Piersol was a faithful worker and a man always true to the fundamental principles of the people's party. He leaves a record of which his family and friends may well be proud.

Massachusetts Rottenness

Thomas W. Lawson remarks: The Massachusetts legislature is bought and sold as are sausages and fish at the markets and wharves. That the largest, wealthiest and most prominent corporations in New England, whose affairs are conducted by our most representative citizens, habitually corrupt the Massachusetts legislature, and the man of wealth among them who would enter protest against the iniquity would be looked on as a "class anarchist." I will go further and say that if in New England a man of the type of Folk of Missouri can be found who will give over six months to turning up the legislative and Boston municipal sod of the past ten years, who does not expose to the world a condition of rottenness more rotten than was ever before exhibited in any community in the civilized world, it will be because he has been suffocated by the stench of what he exhumes.

In reply to that the Springfield Republican says: "Massachusetts is by no means spotless, though not the extreme sinner which Lawson would have her."

Murdering Civilization

Three or four years ago when The Independent began to point to the degeneracy that was sure to follow the condoning of crimes in high circles of

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society, where men who robbed and stole millions were not called thieves, but "captains of industry," it was mocked at by the "cultured" and even the use of such terms as "degenerate" and "degeneracy" denounced. It gives no satisfaction to now see acknowledged that everything that was then said has come true. To stand alone, four or five years in advance of the multitude, to be as the voice of one crying in the wilderness, where there are none to hear, is not a thing to be desired. It separates one from everybody so that he has little companionship, and it produces no joy. Such a position is very lonely. After these years however there are others who begin to see the evils so long ago pointed out by the editor of The Independent. Of misrule in city and state, which is held largely responsible for the increase of crime, McClure's Magazine says:

Can a body of policemen engaged in blackmail, persecution and in shielding lawbreakers make a community law-abiding? Can a body of policemen engaged in criminal practices prevent others from committing crimes? Can a board of aldermen who for private gain combine to loot a city govern a city well?

The criminal oligarchy consists of these three classes:

1. Saloon-keepers, gamblers and others who engage in business that degrade.
2. Contractors, capitalists, bankers and others who can make money by getting franchises and other property of the community cheaper by bribery than by paying the community.
3. Politicians who are willing to seek and accept office with the aid and indorsement of the classes already mentioned.

These three classes combine and get control of the party machine. They nominate and elect men who will agree to help them rob the city or state for the benefit of themselves and who will agree also not to enforce the laws in regard to the various businesses that degrade a community.

We find under various modifications this criminal oligarchy in control of many communities in the United States. We find representatives of this combination in the United States senate, among governors of states, state legislators, mayors, aldermen, police officials. We find them among men in business life—captains of in-

dustry, bankers, street railway magnates. In short, wherever franchises or contracts of any kind are to be secured from a community we find leading citizens in the ring to rob their own neighbors, managers of corporations bribing lawmakers, lawyers for pay helping their client to bribe safely, jurors refusing to render just verdicts.

These men—bribers of voters, voters who are bribed, bribers of aldermen and legislators, and aldermen and legislators who are bribed, men who secure control of law-making bodies and have laws passed which enable them to steal from their neighbors, men who have laws non-enforced and break laws reguatlting saloons, gambling houses, and, in short, all men who pervert and befoul the sources of law—these men are the enemies of the republic.

They are worse—they are enemies of the human race. They are destroyers of a people. They are murderers of a civilization.

Distinguished jurists and educators are quoted as saying that the increase in lawlessness endangers the future of the nation.

Learning Self Government

Russia has been a "christian" government for over a thousand years and after all that time it is solemnly declared at St. Petersburg that "neither the statesmen nor the people are prepared for self-government." The question naturally arises: "When will they be prepared under an absolute autocracy?" It has been seven hundred years since the English people wrested the Magna Charta from their king and declared, without waiting for the opinion of the ruling class, that they were ready for self-government and proceeded to establish it. That cry from St. Petersburg is a very familiar one in these United States. Whenever a governing race wants to ride the backs of another the excuse is that the inferior race is not prepared for self-government and the rulers are only acting as philanthropists in establishing a government by force. It is the logic of the mother who told her boy that he might learn to swim, but that he must not go near the water as he might be drowned.

One of the distinguished Russian statesmen says: "We have not had the opportunity to learn the art of government." He never will have the