

gives some idea how this legislature will economize. Fifty thousand of that is straight graft. There is no reason why the legislature should spend such enormous amounts for themselves and their retainers.

That the National City bank of New York is run by Rockefeller, Rogers and Stillman without any regard to the national banking law has long been known by men familiar with Wall street affairs. If any ordinary banker would do the things that are done every day in that bank, he would certainly land in the penitentiary. But no federal prosecuting attorney dare bring a charge against the combination of wealth. Lately one of their transactions has become public property. It was a criminal transaction and if the law was enforced it would land this crowd of big bugs in jail. There is not even a suggestion made that the law should be enforced. In a piratical swindling scheme the National City bank lent the firm of Munroe & Munroe \$60,000 a day, day after day, without any security at all. If any other banker would take \$60,000 of his depositors' money and give it out in that way he would land in a cell as soon as the fact was known. Not so with Rockefeller, Stillman and Rogers. They are superior to all law. And there are men who think that this government can endure under such administration of the law as that.

In one of his recent public statements, Tom Lawson reiterates something that has been said a great many times in The Independent. The following statement will be recognized immediately by any of the regular readers of this paper: "The people of this country have over \$11,000,000,000 in the national and savings banks, trust and insurance companies. There is but a little over \$2,000,000,000 in existence in this country. The people have a right to get their \$11,000,000,000 whenever they ask for it. It stands to reason that if they asked for it there would be great disaster in this country."

The great lot of talk in some of the papers about the legislature not voting for Burkett for senator because he was not to be relied upon as a fighter against railroad domination, high

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rates and rebates, was so silly that The Independent did not even mention the matter. Every man who had the slightest knowledge concerning how the legislature was elected and how Burkett came to be endorsed for senator only smiled at the discussion. The facts were that one or two men had a grievance against Burkett and were permitted by the railroads to exploit it, they deeming that such exploitation would in some degree take off the rawness of the proposition of electing Burkett and at the same time pretending to back up the president in demanding that the interstate commerce commission should have power to fix rates and stop discriminations. Burkett will take his position in the United States senate being endorsed by railroad senators as Elkins and Depew.

Something seems to be creating a disturbance in the democratic party in Maryland. A large number of democrats met at Kensington last week, denounced the last St. Louis convention, re-endorsed the Chicago and Kansas City platforms and then resolved that they would form a new party and call it the Jeffersonian party so that hereafter they could have a genuine democratic party, the announcement of its name being a sure indication of its principles.

The blistering sarcasm that has been poured out on New York city, because 50,000 school children go hungry to school every morning in that city of millionaires, has spurred some of their subsidized organs to deny the statement. That will not help the matter in the least. The hungry little children are to be seen everywhere by the occupants of the \$10,000 automobiles as they go dashing through the streets, as well as by the school teachers who have made the reports.

Among the railroad senators recently elected is Flint of California. He belongs to the Southern Pacific.

The Smoot Mormon hearings have been going on at Washington. The only thing of interest was the absolute refusal of several witnesses to reveal the secrets of the endowment house where the oaths are administered and the plural marriages are solemnized.

All those persons who have been in Washington trying to get congress to "do something" toward stopping rebates and regulating rates declare most emphatically that the senate committee is working to effectually block all legislation along that line. The last evidence given was to the effect that the Steel trust is given a rate 33-1-3 per cent less on foreign shipments than independent companies. Teddy, where's that big stick? ?

The Atlanta Constitution says: "Theodore Roosevelt may be the next populist candidate for president." He will have to wield that big stick a good deal more effectively than he has yet before he gets the full measure of populist confidence.

When the separate vote was taken in the two houses of the Missouri legislature Neidringhaus had a majority and everyone supposed that he was elected, but when the joint session came, seven republicans bolted and at this writing it looks as if he might be defeated. There is a fierce fight between Neidringhaus and Kerens, and the Missouri legislature may go into a fracas such as the Nebraska legislature indulged in two years ago. The situation has all the signs of a long contested fight for the spoils.

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