

this association is: "Public ownership waste exceeds corporate profit."

The civic association says: "A careful study of the records made by any one who is able to distinguish assertion from fact, does not make it clear that Mr. Rockefeller ruined all his competitors. He seems to have usually bought them out, representing that they were in danger of being beaten in the race, and to have advised them to become partners in his concern. The Standard Oil company, like the railroad companies, has exercised a kind of eminent domain. In order to systematize a business conducted with frightful waste, property was condemned; but the owners received compensation."

The brazen effrontery of that statement was never equalled in the world before. Mr. Rockefeller without the leave of any one assumed to himself the powers of government and condemned and took over to himself, at his own price, such property of other private citizens as he wanted. He simply exercised the power of eminent domain. Of course it was wholly for a charitable purpose. It was to "save waste."

Another part of this defense is a fair specimen of the plutocratic logic. It says that the production of oil in Kansas and Oklahoma is greater than the world ever saw before, that all the storage tanks are full. A little further on it acknowledges that the discounts to wholesale dealers has been withdrawn in Kansas and everyone knows that the price of refined oil has been raised. That is, with a greater supply than was ever before known, refined oil is advanced and the discounts to wholesale dealers have been discontinued. How spotless that injured innocent is!

Wild-Eyed Legislation

The Nebraska legislature has done all it could do to leave the state in a condition of anarchy. It has dispensed with annual elections by a law that is in direct contradiction to the state constitution. It is said by the lawyers that the law can not be tested in the courts, for there is another law prohibiting a judge from sitting in a case in which he is personally interested. Every judge in the state is personally interested in this law for it extends his term of office for one year. There you have it. This act is far more dangerous than that of the man who, under great excitement said "damn the constitution." These republican legislators simply damned the constitution without saying a word about it. The constitution provides that the terms of office of the supreme and district judges shall be two years. These anarchists passed a law that the terms of all those judges now in office shall be three years. It appears, notwithstanding the old saying that there is no wrong without a remedy, that here is one of that kind. The courts are the only power to pronounce upon the constitutionality of any law and the judges are all forbidden to sit in this case for they all have a personal interest in it. It takes a republican legislature to enact wild-eyed legislation.

Suppose a future supreme court should decide that all the acts and decisions of the judges during this unconstitutional extension of their terms of office were null and void. What be the condition of affairs resulting from that? That might be a criminal and civil suit brought against everyone of them for every case that they tried.

No corporation ever committed a crime or robbed anybody. That would be impossible. It was some man that did it. These men rob and steal and then lay it to the corporation. The people are generally fools enough to believe the subterfuge and admit the men who rob and steal to seats in the front pews of the churches, while they pile curses on the corporation.

Teddy's Canal

When nearly two years ago congress turned over to Teddy the millions necessary to build the Panama canal, he danced around and declared the thing was going to be done right away. All this time has elapsed and nothing has been done except to pay the salaries of a lot of plutocratic dead-beats. Not a shovelfull of dirt has been thrown out of the future water way. Now Teddy has taken another spell at it. The old commission has been discharged and a new one appointed. While it is acknowledged that no one knows what kind of a canal is to be built, it is said that sme dirt can be thrown out at one end where it will have to start no matter what kind of a canal is constructed. Some time in the vast, unending future the question will be settled whether the canal is to be a sea level ditch or one with a system of locks.

The way the president has constructed his new commission is that it is to consist of three men, the remainder will be dummies and draw salaries. That is necessary because congress refused to abolish the commission and Teddy was bound to fix it to suit himself any way. The real commission consists of Theodore P. Shonts, Chas. E. Magoon and John F. Wallace. The dummies are Rear Admiral M. T. Endicott, Brigadier General Peter C. Haine, retired, Oswald M. Ernst and Benjamin M. Harrod.

There are some queer things about this new commission. The appointment of Magoon, who is a lawyer, from Lincoln, Neb., as governor of the Panama strip is along the line of sanity, but, as the canal is a hydraulic engineering problem, why were such men as Wallace and Shontz chosen. They have been simply the engineers and managers of prairie railroads in the heart of the continent, far from the sea, ships and hydraulic problems generally. The thing that procured the appointment of Shonts was the endorsement of Paul Morton. Morton and Shonts have long been cronies and both of them having been connected with transcontinental railroads, all their sympathies and interest are against building any isthmian canal at all. Why was not some hydraulic engineer chosen and some man put in charge that knew something about ships, canals and locks instead of men who had given all their attention to grades, curves, switches and bridges? Wallace and Shonts are railroad men and Paul Morton is a railroad man. Railroads have charge of building the Panama canal. Under that kind of control how soon will the Panama canal be finished?

Each member of the commission, dummies and all, will draw a salary of \$7,500. In addition to that Shontz gets \$22,50, Wallace \$17,500 and Magoon \$10,000. The salaries of the real commissions, the three men chosen by the railroads to see to it that no canal is built, are very satisfactory—to them—Shontz \$30,000, Wallace \$25,000 and Magoon \$17,500. The dummies were put on because congress would not repeal the law establishing the commission. Under the program published by Secretary Taft they will have nothing to do, and \$7,500 a year for doing nothing, may also be considered pretty fair wages. All that they are commanded to do is to go to Panama once a quarter and attend a meeting of the commission. Traveling expenses of the whole gang are to be paid out of the public treasury and the three real commissioners are to have houses and attendants at public cost also. That is the way Teddy is going to build a canal.

The Parcels Post

Since the president appointed White-law Reid as minister to the court of St. James, the New York Tribune feels constrained to endorse everything that Roosevelt does. It must have been that which caused it to editorially endorse the parcels post, as far as for-

INTERESTING READING

And much food for thought to every economical buyer is contained in a letter addressed to the Commercial Club of Silver Creek Neb., an exact copy of which we take the liberty to publish herewith.

SILVER CREEK, NEB., March 23rd 1905.

TO THE COMMERCIAL CLUB,
SILVER CREEK, NEBRASKA.

Gentlemen: I herewith hand you my check for fifty cents, with the request that you cash it and make such disposition of the money, as the equities of the case, in your judgement, may require, based on the following statement of facts.

Needing a sack of sugar, recently in Omaha, I stepped into the Grocery Department of Hayden Bros. and inquired the price. I found that a sack of granulated cane sugar would cost me \$6.25 and that the rate on sugar to Silver Creek was 24c a hundred. A few days afterward in Silver Creek I inquired the price of sugar by the sack of two of our business firms and found that it was \$7.00. I thereupon ordered a sack of sugar of Hayden Bros. enclosing my check for \$6.25. In due time the sugar arrived in good condition and full weight net, freight charges 25c.

Thus you see in ordering of Hayden Bros. I got the sack laid down for 50c less than I could have bought it in Silver Creek. But according to Mr. Hodgkin, of the Omaha Trade Review, and others, it was my duty to buy that sack of sugar in Silver Creek. If so, then that 50c does not honestly belong to me. But if not, to whom does it belong? To Hayden Bros. or to the merchants of Silver Creek? And if to the latter, which one? Or should it be divided among them pro rata?

Silver Creek Merchants say that they will duplicate the prices of foreign houses, but in this case they did not. Did I do wrong in not threatening to buy of Hayden Bros. if they did not come down on their prices? would it be just toward the foreign merchant, the home merchant or myself to get the prices of the foreign merchant and then use my information as a club to beat down the home merchant on his prices?

An answer to the above questions, as well as a disposal of the 50c in question would I think be appreciated by the farmers generally as well as by myself.

I attach papers, bills, etc., which I wish returned in due time.

Very Truly yours,
CHARLES WOOSTER.

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eign nations are concerned. In an editorial last week it said:

We are really at last to have a parcels post service between this country and that other country with which we need it most, Great Britain. The arrangement, which should have been made long ago, is at last complete. After this week it will be about as easy to send a small packet of merchandise to England as to send it from one part of this city to another. Indeed, it will actually cost a little less in postage fees, while in respect to weight and size and other details the service will be fairly generous.

This is a great gain. But it is a step, and nothing more. It is not a finality. There is most need of a parcels post with Great Britain; but there is much need of such a system between this country and every other civilized country under the sun. We shall not be satisfied until there is a parcels post on liberal terms with every member of the international postal union. There is urgent need that this shall be effected, a need that is growing every day.

That is half-baked populism. Perhaps some day economic force, or something else, will drive the Tribune to accept the pure doctrine undiluted. If a parcels post is a good thing with foreign nations it would be a thousand times better thing in the United States. The domestic trade bears to the foreign trade about that proportion. A thousand people would be accommodated with a domestic parcels where one will be with a foreign service of that kind. But the Tribune, nor any other "regular" party paper, would endorse a parcels post service among the eighty millions of American citizens. That would cut off the campaign subscriptions from the express companies.

The Grafters Got Left

One of the things that the grafters expected to get through the Colorado

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