

sult almost of driving the terror stricken woman insane. Her condition today was reported as serious.

A Great Sea Fight

It has been almost exactly a hundred years since the battle of Trafalgar was fought. Since that time there has been no sea fight that anywhere approached it either in the number of vessels engaged of the stake that was fought for. In a few days there will be a sea battle of even greater importance and the forces engaged far superior in number and much more powerful in equipment. Now, as then, the stake is the control of the sea. When Nelson met the French and Admiral Togo meets Rojestvensky the control of the sea is the thing that is fought for. If the Japanese are victorious, Russia will be driven from the Pacific. If the Russians are victorious, Japan will not only lose a battle but all the battles she has fought since the war began. The tremendous sacrifices at Port Arthur, Lioa Yang and Mukden will have been in vain. It will be impossible for the Japanese to maintain an army in Manchuria if Russia has control of the sea.

When Nelson fought Villeneuve, Nelson's ships were the best then afloat, although they were fewer in number than those under the French commander, but Nelson's men were aflame with patriotism. Practically the same condition exists in the two fleets soon to meet. Togo has fewer ships, but veterans crews, every man believing that the greatest honor he can confer upon himself and family is to die for his country. The Russian commander has more ships, but not in so good condition, while they are manned with raw crews, having no heart in the war.

Trouble Ahead

Every Englishman that comes to this country expresses the utmost astonishment at the stupid humility of the Americans who have allowed the trusts to grow up and submit to the exorbitant charges made for everything that goes towards sustaining life. Rider Haggard, the novelist, is in this country and the other day at Denver he said:

I see nothing but revolution and ruin in this country if you do not curb your gigantic trusts. Prices have been elevated to the prohibitive point for all except the very rich, and this will cause trouble unless a remedy is quickly and thoroughly applied. Why, the bacon we eat here on the table costs more in Colorado, where it is made, than it does in England.

Rider Haggard is one of the commissioners of the Cecil Rhodes fund, left in the hands of the British government to be administered in the interest of education and general humanitarianism. Mr. Haggard has instantly recognized the truth of what The Independent has been saying. The trusts and tariff grafters are trying to take all the increase of wealth that comes from the advance in science, invention and education. Speaking of the conditions here he said:

As wages advance the cost of living increases all told. How long can this continue? Relief must come or the foundations of society will be overturned.

The recent nonsensical strike on the subway in New York is still being discussed in the New York papers. Some new ideas are being evolved. The fact is brought out that under the common law both the combinations of capitalists and laborers were illegal. They have been made legal by statutory enactment. It is now proposed that arbitration shall be made mandatory and that obedience to a decision of a board of arbitration could be secured by withdrawing the protection afforded to labor unions and capitalists secured by statutes authorizing them to form combination whenever they refused, and leaving them liable to all the pains and penalties prescribed in the common law. Seth Low, ex-mayor of New York, has given in his adhesion to that plan.

Supreme Court Anarchists

Holdrege, Paul Morton and Schneider were the ones who fixed up the appointments of the new supreme court commissioners. The supreme court has gone in to damning the constitution with more vigor than the anarchists in the legislature did. The court appointed Jackson on a commission who was a member of the legislature who voted for the bill creating the office, for the appropriation for the payment of the salaries and who at the time of his appointment was holding another office. The Lincoln News remarks that "the minor plums distributed in this connection have been kept in the families of the members of the commission and the court. A son of Judge Barnes is to act as stenographer for Commissioner Oldham, while the wife of Mr. Duffie is to act as his stenographer. Some ten or more years ago it was the practice of supreme judges to name their wives as their stenographers, but it was discontinued when public criticism became caustic."

The simple truth is that we have no constitutional government at all in this state. We are subject to the whims of agents of the corporations who are under no constitutional restraints at all. It is not exaggeration to say that. It is the statement of fact.

Dangerous Lawyers

Rockefeller, for the first time in his life, has been forced to attempt to defend himself. He ordered his chief attorney, S. C. T. Dodd to reply to the attacks that have been recently made upon Standard Oil and Rockefeller himself. In regard to that defense Rev. Washington Gladden says:

A big lawyer may be the worst man in the country. Masking his practices under the respectability that his profession affords, he has the opportunity to become more dangerous than a man in any other profession. On Sunday I shall preach on "Lawyer Religion." It affords me an opportunity to say something about one Dodd. Until then I shall make no further reply to Dodd's attack.

A Full Fledged Populist

Judge Dunne, who carried Chicago by 25,000 majority, seems to be a full fledged populist. He was invited to address the municipal ownership league in New York. In his speech there he said:

The movement in favor of municipal ownership of all public utilities has taken deep root among the intelligent people of this country. It is no passing sentiment. It is here to stay. Municipal ownership and operation of these utilities and governmental ownership of railways, telegraphs and express transportation is a practical question upon which the people must pass within a short time, and the politicians and parties who ignore this sentiment must be prepared for a years of the past when he has been

It has often seemed strange to the editor of The Independent during the boost socialism and thus draw votes advocating public ownership, that the wise men of the state looked upon him as "just a little off," while others thought he was dangerous to the welfare of the people. He has often wondered why the doctrine was not instantly and unanimously accepted. Now he can look forward with full faith that in the not distant future it will be unanimously accepted.

There was a mistake in The Independent last week, in the article entitled "Wild-eyed Legislation." Of course everyone knows that the supreme judges hold their offices for six years and that the term of only one of them will be extended, under the biennial election law. That little variation from the facts does not at all effect the statement that the legislation was anarchistic.

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Extravagant Abuse: Some of the abuse poured out on Rockefeller is extravagant. He took over the Consolidated Gas company and issued only \$182,000,000 of stock and bonds on a plant worth \$30,000,000. He might have made it \$200,000,000 just as easy, and when we consider totally depraved as some of those New Yorkers have been charging. The fact that Rockefeller did not water the stock up to \$200,000,000 was brought out in the investigation now going on in New York city.

A Very Strange Thing: One of the funny things in the Chicago mayoralty campaign was the effort made by the republican dailies to boost socialism and thus raw votes away from Judge Dunne. It did not succeed as the socialist vote fell off instead of increasing. Those big republicans gave articles a column long describing the beauties of socialism and the loveliness of socialists generally. Judge Dunne resented strongly, as every populist does, the charge that there was any socialism in the public ownership of street cars, steam cars, gas plants, electric lighting plants, and of anything that is a natural monopoly. The Chicago Tribune is really frightened at the prospect ahead. It says: The farmers, who have been the conservative force in this country heretofore, will have a strong inducement to throw their votes in the direction of the ownership of railroads by the federal government. What is going to come out of it no man can tell, or even fully imagine. The Tribune has also come to the conclusion that the men who are responsible for this dangerous condition of affairs are not the agitators, but monopolists, like Morgan, Hill and Harriman. It is their unreasonable extortion that has brought it all about.