

has been greatest. Again, the commodities chosen are generally staple and least subject of all to manipulation or the arbitrary price control of combinations. Accordingly the whole inquiry of the bureau regarding wages and prices has been turned into directions calculated to present prosperity" on its best side in relation to the masses of the people. Suppose the inquiry were to extend into the employments where combinations to force up wages have little place or power; and into commodities which have been most subject to the control of trust combinations? It would there be found, without much of any question, that real wages, or wages in relation to purchasing power, have suffered a material decline.

LIGHT ON INSURANCE GRAFT

The New York World, which has been unremitting in its attacks on life insurance graft, affords much light on the recent disclosures in its running comment from day to day. Extracts from the World follow:

These facts have been proved by the confessions of the officials themselves: 1. The money of the policyholders has been given to political committees. 2. Assets which should have gone on the ledger to the policyholders' credit have been diverted to secret funds and payments have been made of which no record appears in the public statements. 3. The custom was general for officers and directors to speculate with the trust funds in their keeping. 4. It was also the custom for the officers and directors to manufacture securities and sell them to their own companies. 5. It is admitted that the official annual reports are false and that the state superintendent's certificate of their accuracy is a lie. These shameful conclusions are substantiated by the testimony.

Thirty-eight years ago Mr. Hyde secured an amendment to the insurance law striking out the requirement that dividends must be declared at least every five years. He invented the whipsaw endowment policy by which a man pays for both life insurance and an endowment, and by no possibility can get both. It is this device which provides an annual fund for the enrichment of the insiders. Last year \$47,600,000 was expended by these three companies in other ways than in payments to their policyholders. What those ways are it is now the duty of the committee to make public. The checks to the Republican National committee and to Andrew Hamilton account for only a small fraction. After full publicity the remedy will appear: First, the facts. Second, punishment and restitution. Third, the destruction of the system which bred life insurance and political corruption.—New York World.

As vice-president of the New York Life Mr. Perkins sold \$800,000 of the securities to Mr. Perkins of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. This was on December 31, 1903. Then on January 2, 1904, Mr. Perkins of J. P. Morgan & Co. resold the securities to Mr. Perkins of the New York Life, and the insurance examiner was none the wiser. As for being faithful, Mr. Perkins eventually developed more faithfulness than ever the New York Life could make use of, so the insurance company retained \$25,000 worth of it a year and the rest went to J. P. Morgan & Co. Mr. Morgan at first questioned Mr. Perkins ability to fill this "dual position." He wanted to monopolize all the Perkins faithfulness himself.

The evidence also multiplies of the fraternity between the insiders in all the big companies. Mr. E. H. Harriman condescended to borrow from the New York Life as well as from the Equitable. President John R. Hegeman of the Metropolitan was also not above borrowing the New York Life money for his personal use at 1 1/2 per cent interest. The hundreds of millions of dollars of assets were accessible to everybody with the right kind of pull, and the only people connected with the matter who did not get their share were the policyholders. And all this time Francis Hendricks was superintendent of insurance and Frederick D. Kilburn was superintendent of banks.

Year after year Francis Hendricks has attached the seal of the state of New York to a certificate falsely certifying to the statements of the Equitable, Mutual and New York Life. Year after year Frederick D. Kilburn was allowed the yellow-dog loans

and accounts to be carried in state banks and trust companies even after the national bank examiners had forced them out of national banks—the Western National for one. The United States officers kept themselves free from these tainted transactions, while even after their branding officials of the state of New York accepted and permitted them. What was John A. McCall's testimony yesterday but a confession that the policyholders had been robbed and that part of the proceeds went to Albany? President McCall admits that he paid Andrew Hamilton \$100,000 of the policyholders money for which no accounting was made and no vouchers had. These checks were deposited in an Albany bank and their proceeds cashed. Where did the money go? It is admitted by President McCall that Hamilton represented the New York Life in reference to "taxation and legislation." When he wanted money he went to McCall and got it. What did he do with it? These and like payments were made under the supervision of Francis Hendricks. The yellow-dog accounts were under the supervision of F. D. Kilburn. Both are in office today. Both should be private citizens tomorrow.

PROTESTING AGAINST HIGH TARIFF

The evils of our present tariff system continue to arouse the indignation of men in all parties and the demand for revision is steadily increasing:

The anti-reciprocity people will have to muzzle the United States consuls with the rest if they expect to conceal the facts of the tariff situation from the people at large. Here is Peter Lieber, now for sixteen years consul at Dusseldorf, reporting to the state department: German manufacturing interests have stood the unjust competition as long as they will, and as the only means of retaliation lies in the same method of high tariff schedules, the next Reichstag that meets at Berlin will place a high tariff wall about Germany so high that American products will be almost wholly excluded from the kingdom. At the present time German manufacturers, though as good as any in the United States, cannot sell their wares in this country at a profit on account of the high tariff system maintained by the present administration. The stand Germany is taking is simply the beginning of what will later spread across the continent. They are willing to stand on an even level with competitors in the United States, but if this country persists in shutting out foreign goods, why it is only natural for Germany to do the same thing. How much better to look the matter square in the face, rather than attempting to pretend, as the Home Market club is still doing, we believe, to make it appear that a retaliatory tariff is a myth or invention, improbable if not impossible.—Boston Record.

In national taxation alone the common people have been overcharged billions of dollars in the last few years, while the rich have been undercharged a like amount. The proposed duty on coffee will get as much tax from the poor man as from the millionaire and is an example of how the wealthy evade paying their share of the expenses of the government.—Missouri World.

The Hon. Champ Clark, who has been giving the tariff question close study of late, declares that the tariff on lumber is responsible for the destruction of American forests:

When that tariff was placed on lumber it practically shut out the supply of Canadian lumber, and it will never begin to come in in quantity until the home supply is so nearly exhausted that the imported article can pay the tariff rate and still compete with the highly enhanced domestic product. In fact it will not come in until ours is so scarce as to be extremely high priced, so high that home builders can pay the high tariff on Canadian lumber and still buy it cheaper than the domestic article. When will that be? When the domestic supply is practically exhausted. All authorities agree that the removal of the forests mean that the rains will be greatly diminished. Working on the theory that the denudation of our forest lands means the decline of agriculture and consequently the decline of our civilization the republican administration is booming the work of the bureau of forestry of the agricultural department. Congress is doubling and quadrupling the appropriation for this bureau, whose business it is to devise ways and means to make the domestic forests go

as far as possible and renew them as much as may be done. This is good work, but I have a bill pending in congress to place lumber on the free list. No republican congress will pass it, for it would prove an entering wedge, which, in the beneficence of its results, would split the high tariff system from root to branch. What would free logs and lumber do for us? Make it cheaper to build a home, or a henhouse, a fence, or a barn, even a buggy or a feed trough, while it would at once check the destruction of our own forests. Good timber in the United States is becoming scarce. In Canada it is plentiful. How much better it would be to clear some of the surplus timber from the lands of our northern neighbor, much of it too cold for ordinary agriculture than to strip our own lands while paying the high prices for the finished product which are forced upon us under the high tariff. It would not be necessary to make appropriations to take care of the bureau of forestry, which is guarding the spigot if we could force this republican congress to stop the loss as the bungle by admitting Canadian lumber free of duty.

NEBRASKA POLITICS

The political situation in Nebraska is discussed very interestingly and instructively by the reform newspapers:

If Mr. Letton is elected it will not be a victory of the people as against the corporations, but rather, as in the convention, a point gained by the Northwestern road in its fight for a place among the other roads in ruling the political destinies of our state. As to the people, it can matter little whether the state is ruled by one road or by half a dozen; and of late state conventions as also state legislatures have been principally contests between representatives of different roads for supremacy. All the roads are now declaring the granting of passes to be an evil, so the anti-pass plank in the platform was adopted without a contest. As to Mr. Letton, the candidate for judge, he has acted in that capacity for some time as supreme court commissioner, and he it was who wrote the opinion in the Farmers' Canal case which reinstated the forfeited rights of that corporation and left the district to the mercy of the speculators.—Mitchell Index.

The democrats and populists joined in the nomination of a state ticket Wednesday. The democrats named the candidate for supreme judge and one regent and the populists the other. The candidates are: For judge, W. G. Hastings, of Wilber, formerly supreme court commissioner, and at present a member of the faculty at the state university. He may be said to be one of the leading attorneys in the state and in point of probity and legal knowledge his court opinions have always carried great weight in the courts of the state. As a democrat he stands for every reform demanded by the party and stands squarely and unqualified in favor of abolishing corporate evils of every nature. For regents the democrats named Louis Lightner, of Columbus, a graduate of the state university and one of the best debaters in the state. He is now in business. D. C. Cole, the populist choice, is superintendent of schools in Polk county and a man of eminent standing and practical experience in school affairs. The ticket as a whole is deserving of the unreserved support of all democrats in the state.—Wahoo Democrat.

Nebraska has been aflame for almost a year now with anti-pass indignation and yet men in high official station have been going right on, not only riding on their passes, but working the railroads for free trips to distant parts of the country. Are men of this kind to be entrusted with the construction and enforcement of an anti-pass law.—York Democrat.

The total assessment of property in the state is increased this year \$9,681,720 over last year. Of this \$7,500,000 falls on land and live stock and \$1,000,000 on railroads. Lands and lots are increased \$4,500,000, cattle \$2,000,000 and horses \$1,000,000. The assessment on cash is less by \$4,000,000, which seems strange in view of the unusual prosperity and large shipments out of the state. There are two ways of doing some things. The state board did not have the courage to lower the railroad assessment, in answer to the demands of the railroad politicians, so it increased the assessment of other property, thus lightening the taxes of the railroads.—Kearney New Era Standard.