

# IN THE WORLD OF PROGRESS

A Paris dispatch states that since the conclusion of peace the gold shipments have turned towards New York. In the belief that Russia would need an indemnity loan, Paris had accumulated large sums of gold which now are finding an outlet to New York. Bankers in Paris say this is the trend of gold at this time of year, under normal conditions, and that the rate of discount will not be advanced.

It is going the rounds of the papers that a new swindle is being worked in the smaller towns in Indiana by a gang of tin peddlers and tinkers who are obtaining money under false pretenses. They solicit repairing, especially of wash boilers, making the statement that they put in a new copper bottom for one-half the price that the town merchants can do the work. When they obtain possession of a boiler from a housewife they retire to a secluded place and paint the old bottom with a composition known only to themselves, collect for the same and then disappear.

Of European countries Italy has, comparatively, made the greatest progress in the last decade. Italian finances are now in a healthy state and most of the bonds of the government, of the railroads and the municipalities, etc., held abroad have been bought back or redeemed. The savings of the Italian people show large gains; manufacturing industries have increased amazingly. The abundant water power is beginning to be used for industrial purposes, largely for the creation of electric energy. Within the last decade the exportation of manufactured goods has advanced from \$31,400,000 to \$80,400,000. The cotton factories not only supply the home demand but export

heavily to the Levantine countries and to South America. Another cause of the betterment of Italy is the accumulation of property by the Italian emigrants in the United States, Brazil, Argentine and other countries. Every year a large part of their earnings is sent home to relatives and for investment. One-half of the Italian emigrants return to their native country after they have saved a competency. Some economists see in the Italians the Japanese of Europe. They are constantly gaining in the trade with Turkey and other countries of the Levant, and they have strong aspirations for getting colonies in Asia Minor and Africa.

In Pennsylvania, Maine, Texas and Oklahoma the organized farmers and wage earners have fraternized for the termination of machine rule and private monopoly. The program is to question the candidates of all the political parties. "If elected will you vote to establish a direct-vote on public questions?" This non-partisan program is an open sesame. The way the fraternization in Pennsylvania was brought about was that the master of the state grange visited the state meeting of organized labor and was seated as a fraternal delegate. Then the convention, after declaring for a non-partisan program for the people's sovereignty provided that the president of the state federation of labor should reciprocate the fraternal visit.

The American Tin Plate company is asking the railroads for relief from foreign competition. It is selling 70 per cent of the tin plate consumed on the Pacific coast, and, as they want all the business, it has asked the railroads to reduce the

rate on tin plate from Chicago to the Pacific coast from 55 cents per 100 pounds down to 45 cents per 100 pounds. The United States tariff works peculiarly in the case of tin plate. Cannermen on the Pacific coast are able to purchase their tin to be used for their export goods, in Wales, paying a duty, when the tin plate enters the country, but receiving a refund of the full amount of the duty, when the same tin plate in the shape of cans containing American made goods is exported again. Of course, the Welsh tin plate, even with the extra freight rate, but without the duty, is much cheaper than the American Tin Plate company's product, therefore the trust can only sell tin plate to be used for home consumption.

Municipal ownership as a campaign issue will make its first appearance in New York City with the coming campaign, and it will be accepted by all parties. Dispatches say that Mayor McClellan and Charles F. Murphy have decided that the Tammany platform this year shall contain a municipal ownership plank which shall go much further in the direction of city control of public service franchises than it has ever gone before. As the anti-Tammany forces will make municipal ownership the main feature of their campaign, the adoption of a broad plank by Tammany Hall will bring the question prominently to the front in New York City, no matter which side may carry the election. Mr. Murphy is studying the municipal ownership planks that were contained in the various platforms two years ago, together with the campaign declarations of other cities, with a view to framing a plank which will satisfy the Tammany rank and file.

## A Word With You About Subscription Cards

During the month of May we arranged for a clubbing rate whereby five new subscribers could get *The Independent* for one year for \$3.00. This is only 60 cents for each new subscriber. Shortly after arranging this clubbing rate many subscribers wrote us and suggested that five cards be sent to each subscriber, as both time and expense would be saved in that way, and everyone would then have an opportunity to help in the good work of extending the circulation and influence of *The Independent*. Accordingly five cards were sent to every subscriber.

At first August 1 was fixed as the limit when we would receive these cards for yearly subscriptions. Then by request of many of our readers the time was extended to September 1. Now we are receiving many letters asking whether these cards will still be received. Also we are asked whether two or three cards or less than five will be received at the rate of 60 cents for each.

The letters are too numerous to give individual response to and further we must treat all our subscribers alike. We could not give one a better rate than another. We have, however, concluded that any or all of the cards now out we will accept at the rate of 60 cents each. We will do this whether we receive them in clubs of five or whether we receive them singly. This, however, applies only to the cards sent out under our special offer heretofore and will not apply to cards sent out hereafter. Those sent out hereafter will be 60 cents on condition that they are returned in clubs of five. It costs us about 60 cents for each subscriber to publish the paper. But we are not after large profits. We want a large circulation.

We hope, therefore, to receive all the cards that are out with the names of new subscribers on them. Send them along as fast as you get them. The winter months are coming on and all your neighbors will want to read *The Independent*. We will send you sample copies upon request. Send us the balance of the cards with new subscribers.

THE INDEPENDENT

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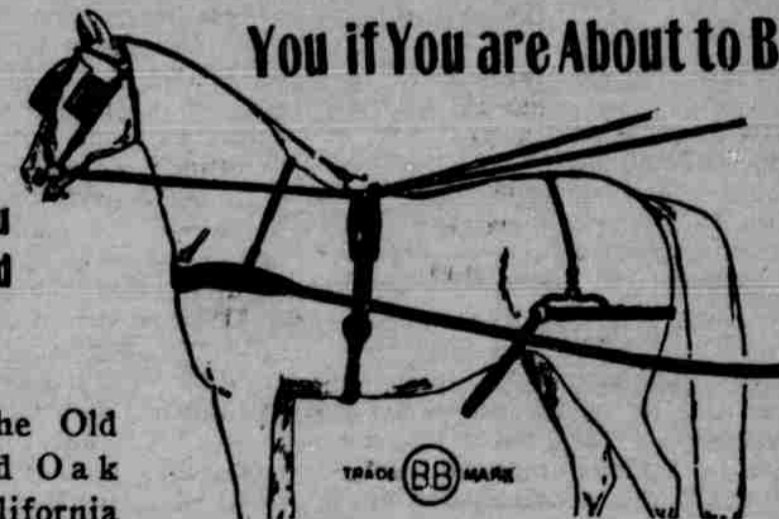
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