

mentary seats, which the conservatives had practically considered as lost in case of an immediate election, were again looked upon as safe. The effect on the prime minister was also evident, and had an influence on his decision to resign. His resignation was placed in King Edward's hands on Monday of this week; and, immediately after the customary interview between the king and the premier, the former summoned Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Mr. Balfour can now act with more independence, and, on the one side, rally home rule opponents with an Irish program of his own; on the other, rally the conservative free-traders by not administering an overdose of tariff reform. As to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, British opinion, after assuming that he would refuse to take office if Mr. Balfour resigned without ordering the elections, is now convinced that he will accept office, form a ministry, and appeal to the country, not with a constructive program, not even with home rule for Ireland as a necessarily prominent issue, but in a campaign conducted against protection, school taxes without public control of teaching, wasteful expenditures, wrongful liquor legislation, the suffering of the unemployed, rampant militarism—as shown by Lord Kitchener's defeat of Lord Curzon in India—and finally, the much-debated issue, Chinese labor in South Africa.—The Outlook.

What will be the effect of the revival of the home rule issue on the alignment of the voters is not clear, but is likely soon to be made so; for an early election is bound to be the result of the present situation. An early dissolution of parliament after it assembles is down on the books. Had home rule for Ireland been left out of the contest, there seems to be little doubt that Chamberlainism would have been well beaten, the liberals being united in opposition to it, the great bulk of the voters dreading any onslaught on the free food idea, and a large section of even the leading conservatives lending at least negative aid to the enemy. The revival of the home rule idea seems to be a bid for the large nationalist vote in the house of commons; it will not greatly affect the thick and thin liberal vote at the polls, but it may alienate a great many of the more conservative liberals and of the less liberal conservatives. However, the issue will be secondary to the assault on free trade which Mr. Chamberlain has been so vigorously conducting and to a decision on which Mr. Balfour's resignation and the probable government of Campbell-Bannerman opens a way at last. St. Paul Pioneer Press.

STEEL TRUST MORALITY

The report that W. Ellis Corey, president of the steel trust, who succeeded Charles Schwab of Monte Carlo fame, is planning to divorce or be divorced from his wife that he may be free to marry Mabelle Gilman, an actress, has aroused much interest and has subjected him to almost universal condemnation. Even his aged father and his uncle who gave him his start in life have repudiated him. His father said:

When a woman slaves and starves through a \$40-per-month period with a man, when she mends his clothes and divides the last crust with him, when she bears him children and rears or buries them, as Laura did for Ellis, it is safe to say that she loves him, and I know Laura did love him. The actions of my son are beyond my finding out.

Why is Corey surprised? His own predecessor is the best steel man in the country, but he gambled in Monte Carlo and he gambled worse in Wall street. Public opinion demanded his resignation as head of the steel trust, and he went. Six months ago Hyde and Alexander and the McCurdys and Perkins and McCall, and all those associated with them in insurance looting, professed a philosophic doubt as to the existence of a higher law. They have changed their minds. Part of them have gone. The rest will go. Senator Burton and Senator Mitchell may have thought that there was no higher law, but it kept them out of the United States senate after they were indicted. Mitchell is dead and Burton is a ruined man, a political pariah, whether he goes to prison or not. There is no man in the republic so great or so powerful that he can disregard the edicts of public opinion.—New York World.

Americans are a highly moral people. This becomes more apparent daily. There

is the head of the steel trust, for instance. It is rumored that he may be asked to resign on account of impending divorce proceedings. The rumor may be unfounded. But even if it is, it may be recalled that his predecessor resigned on account of "ill-health" after a visit to Monte Carlo. The gentlemen in control of the steel corporation are extremely sensitive regarding moral issues and they don't propose to shock the sensibilities of the American people by permitting any latitude to the executive officers who are expected to behave like church members in good and regular standing. At the same time, it is difficult to avoid reflecting on the fact that the organizers of the corporation vastly over-capitalized it and maintained a fictitious market in its stock presumably to persuade investors of the value of the securities. Of course a good many unsuspecting people lost a lot of money as a result of the deal and the insiders pocketed the proceeds. But that was a perfectly legitimate transaction. O, yes. The American people are intensely moral—in spots.—Kansas City Times.

PRESIDENT'S RATE PLAN

President Roosevelt's recommendations with reference to rate regulation have met with general approval. His suggestion that where a rebate has been granted, the preferential rate be made the maximum rate for all shippers, recalls the words uttered in 1890 by Judge Thomas M. Cooley, then chairman of the interstate commerce commission:

If these (tariff rates) are secretly cut, or if rebates are given to large shippers, the fact of itself shows the rates which are charged to the general public are unreasonable, for they are necessarily made higher than they ought to be in order to provide for the cut or to pay the rebate. It is a very erroneous notion that the results of a cut or of a rebate fall only upon the carrier; they fall at last to a considerable extent upon the public, and those who pay full rates largely make up for every allowance that is made to those who do not; if the carrier habitually carries a great number of people free, its regular rates are made the higher to cover the cost; if heavy commissions are paid for obtaining business, the rates are made higher than the net revenues may not suffer in consequence; if scalpers are directly or indirectly supported by the railroad companies; the general public refunds to the companies what the support costs, and in every one of these cases the fact of improper drafts upon the gross revenues, or of improper reductions of what ought to go to swell these revenues, is proof that the rate sheets are too high. It would be perfectly legitimate and proper in such cases to order such reduction as would bring the published rates down to the average of what is received for railroad service when the whole business, not merely that which is done at full rates, but the aggregate when that which is done at reduced rates or done free is taken into account. No evidence can be more conclusive that the carrier is by his regular rate sheets charging something more than reasonable prices for his service than the fact that either openly or secretly he violates the law to accept from favored classes, or from individuals, a less compensation, or that he pays large sums for procuring business at the rates named, or that he so manages his business that parties who have no legitimate connection with it are enabled to prey upon it, and thus indirectly prey upon his patrons. A reasonable rate is one that will make just and fair return to the carrier when it is charged to all who are to pay it without unjust discrimination against any, and when the revenue it produces is subject to no improper reductions. No carrier has any ground for just complaint if its published rates are reduced by the public authorities to the standard of the average it accepts, when by direct violation of law, or by devices that are intended to evade its provisions, the published rates are departed from. Its own conduct in such a case fixes the maximum of the claim it can with any propriety make upon the public.

The new recommendations are definition of the character of account books to be kept by the railways, with authority for the inspection of these books by the federal government; provision for entering civil suits for the collection from rebating shippers at least twice as much as they have received through rebates, and the legalizing of pooling after a

commission shall have been established to adjust disputed rates. The first two of these recommendations have been touched upon in the president's speeches, but were not before embodied in a message to congress. They are important and they are just.—Kansas City Times.

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

The independent spirit in politics, which is sounding the knell of bossism in the United States, continues to attract the attention of intelligent commentators. In Men and Women for December, Judge Edward F. Dempsey, to whom is largely attributed the defeat of the Cox regime in Cincinnati, writes:

In the last few years, a new question has begun to agitate the American mind and the American conscience. The question is new in the sense only that the American mind and the American conscience have but recently begun to be disturbed by the conditions which have given rise to the question. The conditions themselves have been long existent. Political "bossism" and political "Bosses" need no explanation in this article. The theory underlying all American government, both national and state, is that government has its origin in the people, and that it is to be administered by the people for the people; and to carry this theory into practical application we adopted the principle of representation, whereby government in its various departments and branches, was delegated to various representatives of the people, called officers, who were to be selected by the people as their representatives in the same manner previously prescribed. This principle of representation seemed to be the only practicable way in which a government of the people could be carried on successfully, since it appeared to be impossible for the people themselves to gather together in one whole and express their will in laws, and then, as a whole, execute or interpret those laws. If carried out faithfully and honestly, government by representatives of the people is and always will be all right, but the trouble in the past has been that the principle has not been faithfully and honestly followed. The government has not been administered by representatives, in the real sense, of the people. The great body of the people, engrossed in money making, in pleasure seeking, or in pursuit of some other diversion, has forgotten its duty to itself, and has entirely neglected to look after the individuals who sought to become its representatives in the administration of its government. The consequence of this neglect is seen in the autocracies of bossism which have been built up in the various cities and states of the union, together with their attendant evils and corruption. The most demoralizing feature of all the "boss" systems, aside from their domineering and dictatorial spirit of hanging out nominations for office and controlling elections, lies in the ramifications they make into the financial and social worlds, spheres heretofore supposed to be free from the influence of contaminated politics.

BREAKING CHILD LABOR LAW

Speaking in Philadelphia at a meeting held to discuss "The Protection of Children," Owen Lovejoy of New York, assistant secretary of the national child labor committee, told of his observations while on a tour of the anthracite coal regions in Pennsylvania. He said in part:

Children are employed below the age prescribed by law in every anthracite colliery in Pennsylvania, investigated by this committee during the past eighteen months. It is estimated that before the passage of the law last year there were not less than nine or ten thousand boys under fourteen working in the coal breakers, while some boroughs would indicate an even greater number. This was made possible by the false age statements by parents. With a sworn statement a nine-year-old boy could be employed without violation of the law on the part of the employer and there is a general indifference throughout the region and a wide-spread feeling that child labor is not injurious. A study of the field last month failed to show any important improvement since the passage of the new law. We urge that such steps shall be taken as shall exclude every child under fourteen years from the coal-breakers of your state.