

governor's chair in spite of the Roosevelt wave that swept everything before it that year.

The public grasped the idea. Its influence upon them was apparent at once. The vote that was cast for Mr. Berge convinced the republican leaders that they must beat an immediate retreat from the railroad camp or the people would rally behind Berge and make him governor and put the republican party out of business.

What caused the somersault of the republican leaders on the pass question? The answer is, the people had caught on to the idea that men who accepted passes from the railroads could no longer be trusted to give them justice as against the demands of the railroads. The people had at last began to understand that the men who rode on passes were not to be trusted to nominate candidates for office that would be distasteful to railroad pass distributors. Hence the republican leaders realized that they must give up their passes and have their party declare against them.

Note the result. In the campaign of this year all parties declared against the pass evil, and no man could be elected to the legislature, outside of Omaha and Lincoln, who was known to ride on a pass. The incoming legislature is pledged to abolish the pass evil, and it is a foregone conclusion that a law will be enacted that will limit, if not destroy, the insidious bribe that has been so potent a factor in the politics of the state, that the railroads have enjoyed the privilege of plundering the people ad libitum.

#### THE WEST AND THE SUBSIDY BILL

(From the Milwaukee Journal)

It is a very significant fact that two of the hardest workers for subsidy are men who were unable to persuade their constituents to renominate them for congress. They are Grosvenor of Ohio and Minor of Wisconsin. They will vote for a subsidy bill in any form, notwithstanding they represent states that can in no way be benefited by a subsidy law. Subsidies are not popular in this country, and it is safe to say that other advocates of the scheme will be left at home by their constituents when opportunity is afforded.

It is in the power of representatives from the great middle west to defeat subsidy legislation if they will assert their independence and overcome their fears. Wisconsin ought to do her full share toward accomplishing this end. Congressman Minor is hopeless, it seems, but the people should make their wishes so plainly known that no other representative from this state will dare to give his influence and vote for a measure that is so unjust and so opposed to sound public policy. Let your congressman know what you think about subsidies and do what you can to prevent this proposed iniquity.

#### THE WESTERN COAL FAMINE

(From the New York World)

In North Dakota there is a coal famine. Two families have already died from inability to obtain fuel, although amply able to buy it if any

could be had. Widespread suffering and inconvenience from lack of coal are reported from half a dozen states, yet there has been no shortage in the season's output. The winter has not been unusually severe and snow blockades have not been numerous. The fault is with the railroad companies, notwithstanding their complaints about a scarcity of cars.

Coal is a low grade, easily handled freight, but does not yield as large a revenue as some other freight. Consequently it is likely to be sidetracked to make room for more profitable business.

The car-shortage complained of undoubtedly exists in some cases. But that is no excuse for not hauling abundant supplies of a necessary of life even though the roads through inadequate equipment cannot earn as much money that way as on some other grades of freight.

American railroad managers seem capable of learning almost anything except their obligations as common carriers to the public.

#### THEN AND NOW

(From Philadelphia Public Ledger)

Before the United States acquired the Philippine islands this country was in an absolutely impregnable position. Since the seizure and annexation of those distant island the military position of immeasurable strength has been at one stroke absolutely reversed.

No country, and not all the powers and nations of the earth combined, would have dared to think of a war excursion across the Atlantic or the Pacific against the United States. America's position was absolutely unassailable, but with the acquisition of the Philippines she has given hostages to any enemy; because, though "all things are possible to Americans," even they would tax all their resources and all their power and all their strength if they were to attempt to conduct a combat with a first class power at a distance of 8,000 miles across seas from their base of supplies.

There is, of course, no war on the horizon, but it is safe to say that these, our first fruits of colonialism and foreign adventure, when they are coldly considered, will give pause to the American people and to any sane administration in the future when the subject of the fate of the Philippines is to be calmly considered.

#### MR SHAW'S FINE DISTINCTION

(From the New York Evening Post)

Secretary Shaw's explanation of his "prosperity speech" of last Thursday, at a Washington banquet, is marked by great subtlety. He did not, he replies, give any such advice as "Get down on your knees tonight and pray God to save this country from its prosperity." What he did say was, "We who pray should ask God to save us from any increased prosperity; we have all we can stand." Whether there is or is not any difference, economic or theological, between those two pious sentiments, we imagine that many, even of the secretary's admirers, have already reminded him to speak for himself in such petitions,

and not for other people. There are always Jerry Crunchers with an ill-natured objection to people suspected of "prayin' agin them." The further exposition by Mr. Shaw, that "we are growing more crops than we can harvest, and harvesting more than we can haul to market," would appear to mean a hint, in the nightly petition that a little adversity be granted us. Public prayers in the churches for bad weather at harvest time, for instance, might carry out the idea effectively.

#### THE "BACON DOCTRINE"

(From the Providence, R. I., Journal.)

More important than the ratification of the Algeciras treaty by the senate was the adoption by that body of Senator Bacon's resolution declaring that this country has "no purpose to depart from the traditional American foreign policy which forbids participation by the United States in the settlement of political questions which are entirely European in their scope." Although, as the resolution says, this non-interference in European concerns is a traditional tenet of American policy, it might be difficult to point out an occasion upon which it has been affirmed in so clear and authoritative a manner; and if we are to maintain the Monroe doctrine, which aims at the continued exclusion of Europe from participation in the affairs of the western hemisphere—except so far as that privilege now exists—it follows as a natural inference that we should not interfere in European problems. In time the Bacon doctrine may become as familiar as the Monroe doctrine, and prove as salutary in maintaining a just international balance.

The people demand the enactment of an honest primary law, minus all political jokers.

If samples of Nebraska weather could be exhibited in the eastern states, the state soon would be overwhelmed with winter boarders.

The primary law should contain a provision penalizing non-voting. The state has the right to compel voters to perform their political duties in the interest of good government. The result of the enforcement of such a provision would be wholesome.

If the incoming legislature redeems its pledges to the people of the state in good faith it will be the means of saving approximately \$20,000,000 per year now paid in excessive freight rates. The people must keep a close watch on their members and call them down, if detected in playing at the old game of politics.

Probably Mr. Rockefeller and the other very pious gentlemen at the head of the Standard Oil trust will not be feazed or troubled a bit by these later revelations of setting up dummy oil corporations in various parts of the country for the purpose of keeping up an appearance of active competition in the industry. Rather a clever trick, they may regard it, if not a legitimate exercise of the wis-

dom of this serpent which is commanded of the Lord's anointed in the contest with the adversaries of evil. But more likely it will call out another solemn and extended assurance from 26 Broadway that the Standard Oil company has ever been perfectly open and above board in all its dealings with the public—Springfield Republican.

#### EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS

(From the Philadelphia Public Ledger)

Six messages are on the way,

Perhaps as much as seven,  
While if of themes enough turn up  
There might be leventy-seven.

Now shall we hear of Panama,  
There where the dirt doth fly  
And where a hundred years from now  
Shall ships sail proudly by.

We'll hear the navy personnel

Set forth with final word;

The incident about the Japs;

The row that Cuba stirred.

At public lands he'll take a whirl,

And thieves who looted, bold;

Also the reason colored troops

Were turned out in the cold.

The subsidy for ships comes next,

And after this, who knows?

Belike a treatise on aigrets,

And kindred furbelows.

It may be he will warn the race

That suicide is wrong,

And on the size of families

Come out with ukase strong.

Yet in one thought is mighty cheer

Whatever he may say

Will be in spelling not reformed,

But just the good old way.

The laws laid down to guide the world

Though many things they do,

Can't make us use a "mist" for missed

Or cut our through to "thru."

#### Was From Boston

An over-smart Bostonian moved to the country not long ago and purchased a farm. He was just getting settled when a man with a book under his arm leaned over the fence and said:

"Just bought this land?"

"Yes."

"Very fine farm."

"Yes, sir, very fine."

"Must be worth around \$1,000?"

"More than that; I paid \$1,500 for it. Then there are indications of coal on it which are alone worth another thousand."

"You don't mean it."

"Yes, sir. And then the new branch railroad is going across one corner. I consider my farm worth \$5,000."

"Five thousand, eh?"

"Yes, sir; I would not take less. What are you putting down on that book?"

"Oh, nothing much. You see I'm the tax assessor. Hope you'll stay some time. Good morning."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The foreign nobleman puffed his cigarette dejectedly and refused to be consoled. "And to think," he sighed, "I proposed to her on my knees every night for two weeks."

"And did you bag the beautiful heiress at last?" asked the interviewer. "No; all I bagged was my trousers."—Chicago News.