

Spring Ailments

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the Standard Oil tribe back to the reservation of legitimate business. No less than five prosecutions aimed at the life of the company or at the special privileges by which it thrives are now preparing or under way. The first trial is on in Chicago, where the company is facing several thousand counts for law violation, in most instances for taking railroad rebates. The cases have gone far enough to indicate, in the opinion of good judges, that a verdict favorable to the government will be reached with resulting fines not less than a million dollars. Of course such a fine, or any other fine for that matter so long as the company controls the price of the crude oil it buys and the refined oil it sells, will not injure the company in a direct financial way; but the blow of a conviction and large fine would injure its political and commercial prestige beyond quick repair. Possibly more serious to the company is the suit pending at St. Louis to compel the dissolution of the concern. In this case the first quibble raised by the defendant company, that the St. Louis court had no right to enforce the attendance of outside witnesses, has been decided in favor of the state. Indictments are also pending at Jamestown, New York; Memphis, Tennessee, and Alexandria, Louisiana. The general situation is the most threatening that Mr. Rockefeller and his hierarchy have faced since his South Improvement company was forced into a metamorphosis a generation ago.

AN ARRESTED EXPERIMENT.

Aside from the disaster to those immediately concerned in the burning out of Upton Sinclair's colony at Helicon hall, there is a public loss in the breaking up of an interesting experiment of possible great general value. Under the leadership of the author of The Jungle a number of families and individuals numbering at the latest report about sixty persons, last fall rented Helicon hall, a former boys' school on the New Jersey palisades within easy distance of New York, for an experiment in co-operative house-keeping. To finance the enterprise a stock company was formed among the members. Each inhabitant of the colony paid equally for the accommodations of the "home," \$5 a week board and \$3 a week for a room. A nursery for the children, to relieve busy literary or business mothers, a common dining room, and a great central living room for a social center were among the facilities of the organization.

An important feature was the attempted elimination of the servant problem by adopting the principle that nobody should be considered fit to cook their food, care for their babies and manage their physical environment, the housekeeping, whose character and attainments were not such as to make a congenial fellow member of the colony.

In a word the attempt aimed to find the advantages of home and family life minus the domestic difficulties which press so heavily upon families in cities, particularly where the women are not strong or do not desire to devote themselves exclusively to housework. The Helicon hall experiment had up to its untimely end proved neither a shining success nor a dismal failure. The reports of newspaper correspondents sent out to investigate and make light of the effort have disclosed no vital weakness in the operation of the plan, and its continuation to the point of complete demonstration was greatly to be desired.

CORTELYOU'S GOOD START.

Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou seems to have justified the fear of certain financial interests that he is not the right man for his place. It is reported that he has initiated a policy of treating with absolute impartiality all people and interests with which the treasury has any dealings. In the past

there has been well founded criticism of the conduct of the treasury on this score. This has applied to treasurers for many years back. The banks whose assistance had materially aided in past political campaigns have not seldom seemed to have marked success in getting government deposits. When times of stringency cause Wall street to raise its hands to Washington for aid it makes a great difference to the banks which bank gets the pleasure and the profit of handling the treasury funds thrown into Wall street for the relief of the drought. In a word the relations between the national treasury and the banks tend to parallel those sometimes known to have existed between county and state treasuries and the banks in Nebraska and other states. A letter from one of the most influential New York banks to a secretary of the treasury was lately published, with its request for government deposits and a hint that a look at the list of last year's campaign contributions would show good reason why this bank deserved patronage. Secretary Cortelyou has started with the intention to resist all pressure that tends to the granting of special treasury favors. No secretary of the treasury was ever in better position to succeed in this. If he does succeed it will be interesting to note whether when he quits the cabinet he steps into some lucrative position in a New York fiduciary institution.

CIVIC REPUTATION.

Is a good municipal reputation of any advantage to a city? In the past it has been difficult to test this point, for the reason that other factors have compelled or forbidden the growth of cities. No moral force can sustain a factory in one city if railroad rates are so adjusted that the factories of other cities can sell more cheaply up to its very doors. Approximate justice in freight rates, a dream that may come true in the near future, will tend to put cities more upon their merits. Then we shall see whether people would rather build homes and establish business interests in incompetently and corruptly governed cities than in cities that are not made a regions clearing house of crime, immorality, and graft. The test will be the more easy for the reason that cities are more than ever inclined to study one another and profit by each others' mistakes. The spread of the Galveston commission government idea illustrates this. The effort to turn other cities against municipal ownership by misrepresenting Lincoln is another. When it comes to be understood that a city in its general features is a composite of the people, the inhabitant of a city will want the city to appear as clean and honest as he likes people to think he is. Should it prove in addition that a good civic reputation makes money for a city, as a good business reputation makes money for a business man, the property interests of a city would all at once be united in favor of righteous government and the civic millennium would come with a rush.

JUSTICE TO THE MULE.

May Ireneo Salgado's mule leave hoofprints on the sands of time! Of all quadrupeds the mule has received the most scanty justice, his merits considered, at the hands of man. Darwin tells us what unprejudiced judges always knew, that the mule surpasses the horse in intelligence, memory, affection and endurance. In the sunny south the only other bearer of burdens that can stay by him in the broiling cotton rows is the negro. North or south where horses fail for lack of steadiness, patience, strength and consecration to duty, we call in the mule. Do we sing paeons to this benefactor? Far from it. When all other words fail to convey the depths of our opinion of a man we describe him by the name of the mule's immediate paternal ancestor. No politician but would feel half flattered to be depicted with the ears of a horse, but picture him with the ears of a mule and notice the libel suits. To say mule driver is to say slave; to be a horseman is, or in ante-automobile times was, the height of social ambition. Not that we let sentiment interfere with profit. Any man in his senses pays more for a mule than for a horse. The average mule was worth sixty dollars when the census was taken while the average horse was worth less than fifty. A team of yearling mules sold the other day in a Nebraska county for \$300. Every school-boy knows that a mule is well worth going to war over. The seriousness and necessity of the present struggle between Honduras and Nicaragua will not be questioned now that we know how worthy a bone of contention exists in Ireneo Salgado's mule. But the joy of it is in the justice it involves to the mule. At last his worth is acclaimed in the rattle of musketry and the humming of cablegrams. In a moment of excitement a monarch is said once to have offered his kingdom for a horse, but what nations ever went to war for one?

When women do society work, what trifling things they work at!

A SAGE INVESTIGATION.

Mrs. Russell Sage has changed her mind or else she was misquoted when it was reported that she intended to devote her benevolence entirely to individual gifts to people of her own state and city. This is fortunate. The difficulty of giving away millions to individuals without doing individuals and society alike more harm than good is so evident as to make such an attempt terribly hazardous. More promising is her proposal to endow with ten million dollars a "foundation to investigate and study the causes of adverse social conditions, including ignorance, poverty and vice; to suggest how these conditions can be remedied or ameliorated and to put in operation any appropriate means to that end." Such a fund, applied to absolutely independent study of and report on these things by unbiased, capable sociologists, economists, and humanitarians could be productive of enormous benefit. But is the endowment to be managed on such a basis that every scent may be followed without interference to its very source? Would the searchers be permitted to go even the length, should the chase happen to lead in that direction, of reporting that no small proportion of the ignorance and poverty found was traced to an arrangement of things that permitted the accumulation of the Sage millions? On the answer to such a question depends whether this ten millions is to be a benefaction or a waste.

THIMBLERIGGING AGAIN?

Not so long ago there was another great flutter in the New York stock market. That time the movement was upward, due to a sudden doubling of Harriman dividends. When it was all over people discovered that the railroad manipulators had bought ahead of the rise which they were later to cause, and that Mr. Harriman's share was far up in the millions, somewhere between ten and twenty.

This time the motion is reversed. Stocks go tumbling after a great deal of sensational palaver from railroad manipulators about the danger to the railroads from state legislation, legislation that thus far shows no tendency to hamper the roads unduly. With a "watch us" air they have attempted to float railroad securities at a time when no securities float favorably. Of course these loans did not take well, giving occasion for further calamity talk. Forthwith down go stocks.

It is not asserted yet that Harriman and his crowd have been selling stocks for future delivery, and are now manipulating prices downward as a few weeks ago they were manipulating them upward to their great personal profit, but they cannot be surprised that the public reserves a suspicion to that effect. If they have done otherwise the leopard has changed his spots.

The effect upon railroad legislation of the gyrations in the New York stock market should and will be nil. Walls in Wall street have about lost their power to wring tears from the west.

PROTECTING THE MARKET.

Both in the cotton and the corn belts of the United States there are organized efforts to raise the price of crops by artificial means. The cotton growers are trying to keep down the acreage, and to hold back the crop by assisting the small planter to store his bales. The grain farmers are taught that they have only to agree upon a minimum price at which they will sell any crop, hold the crop firmly till that price is reached, and a hungry world will have to come to their terms. Fate, if not this design, has helped the cotton planters, but the northern farmers have yet nothing substantial to show for their pains.

Largely because of these schemes, though partly because it may have an effect upon our daily breakfast, the Brazilian effort by similar means to hold up the price of coffee has attracted widespread notice. The Brazilian plan is to build a dam of dollars between the coffee fields and the coffee cups. The coffee states have raised a fund with which to buy coffee whenever the prices falls below the decreed level. They hope to keep the price up by maintaining this artificial demand.

The scheme is now in operation, with results in doubt. The state of Sao Paulo has already bought 1,000,000 bags in the effort to protect the market. This is all it was expected to have to take, but the crop is alleged to be 50 per cent above the expected yield. Some importers say the government will be overwhelmed in its efforts to cover this extra yield; others believe it will succeed in holding the price if it succeeds in borrowing the extra money needed.

In any case ultimate success seems to depend on keeping down production next year and the ensuing years. If

Weak Heart Nerves

Cause Weak Hearts
A PHYSICIAN EXPLAINS

The heart itself has no power—no self-control. It is made to beat by a tender nerve so tiny that it is scarcely visible to the naked eye. Yet ten thousand times a day this delicate nerve must assist the heart to expand and contract. This nerve is only one of the branches of the great sympathetic, or INSIDE, nerve system. Each branch of this system is so closely allied with the others that weakness or irregularity at any point is apt to spread. Heart trouble frequently arises from stomach trouble through sympathy, and kidney trouble may also follow. For each of these organs is operated by a branch of these same sympathetic nerves—the INSIDE NERVES.

In Heart, Kidney or Stomach troubles, it is of but little use to attempt to doctor the organ itself—the most permanent relief lies in restoring the INSIDE NERVES. Dr. Shoop regards these nerves to be the real cause of such troubles. The remedy—known by physicians and druggists everywhere as Dr. Shoop's Restorative (Tablets or Liquid)—is the result of years of endeavor along this very line. It does not dose the organ to deaden the pain—but it aims to go at once to the nerve—the inside nerve—the power nerve—and builds it up, and strengthens it, and makes it well.

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this is true valorization will prove to be nothing more than an equalizer of prices as between different years, with the general level of prices to be governed by the supply. Which is the case without artificial interference.

"SWIPING."

A horrified writer in the Independent has proof that a popular and intellectually brilliant young college woman in the east displays with pride a long string of spoons that have been "swiped" for her by young men of her acquaintance. Evidence has also been secured that the habit of "swiping" miscellaneous property is widespread among college students of both sexes. A curious moral slant exists in the minds of people who lead in forming student opinion in the strictly "social set" in many colleges and universities. They do not recognize the abstraction of silver from a table as anything more than a prank. It is held to be evidence that the boy or girl doing it is a "good fellow." The more audacious the "swipe" the more credit is connected with the escapade.

Perhaps when a student is called before the police court and his broken-hearted father pays a heavy fine for the theft of an overcoat, even the most thoughtless of the "swipers" may begin to appreciate what is the inevitable consequence of this form of thoughtlessness.

In the east, hostesses who have highly prized silver on their tables invite students with growing reluctance on account of this abominable practice. Everywhere a feeling is growing that a student who steals must be called before the bar of justice, whether the object of his attentions be a souvenir spoon or an overcoat.

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