

more men, and to reduce the price of sugar to the consumer about 30 per cent. I can see no public injury from these results.

In our large cities we have a new form of complaint—objection being directed now against the department stores. These are opposed because they crowd out small dealers. I know of no clamor more senseless. The department store is a creditable modern institution. It takes nearly as much capital and quite as much brains to conduct a large department store successfully as it does to manage a large corporation. It requires the same intelligent direction and subdivision of labor. The results are the same as follow any large co-operation. Goods are sold at surprisingly low cost and employment is given to thousands of persons. The public is certainly a beneficiary. To close department stores would now be regarded as a public calamity. It is true these stores compel many small tradesmen to go out of business, and this is an unfortunate result, but to abolish the department store so that the small tradesman may continue his business is as much a step backward as to abolish labor-saving machinery, so that the persons temporarily thrown out of occupation may have employment.

I could mention many more instances where corporate combinations, or combinations of capital, have accomplished good results, but I have given enough already to illustrate my suggestions. Corporations will be greedy and selfish, just as individuals. They will deserve criticisms just as individuals. They should be controlled by law just as individuals. But because they represent greater aggregations of capital they should not be denounced, any more than a man should be attacked because he has a fine house. They are, as I have pointed out, a legitimate and logical outgrowth of modern industrial and commercial conditions. They have not been shown to have done much harm. It is rather the harm people imagine they might do which makes people uneasy. They have accomplished much good. They are capable of accomplishing much more good. Their power for mischief is really quite small. Their very salvation depends upon public support. Repeated exhibitions of tyranny or insolence will always mean their downfall. They are always subject, because of their commanding position, to the attacks of persons or other corporations who want to be bought off. They must always keep the price of their product below the figure at which an independent producer could furnish the same article, and they are usually able to do this by reason of the economies permitted by combined operation. They will become more and more necessary institutions as conditions become

more complex, but their power for good or their success will depend very much upon the intelligence with which they are formed and managed.

The public will watch such combinations critically, as it should, but let us not be blind to the signs of the times and to the march of progress. Let us be fair in our criticisms, willing to acknowledge what is good as well as to condemn what is evil. If the logic of events changes conditions from what we have been used to, and those changes are for the permanent good of the community or the country, let us adapt ourselves and our pursuits to the changes. Let us not sit on the coat tail of progress and holler "Whoa!" Let us readjust our occupations and our habits, making sacrifices if we must, just as our forefathers had to make sacrifices to keep in line with the march of progress. Above all let there be no room in manly American minds for the seeds of jealousy and discontent. Fortunes still are within the grasp of all who know their opportunities and take advantage of them. Comfortable homes and happy lives, which are far better than riches, are within the reach of nearly everybody. There is more genuine happiness on your farms than along Fifth Avenue. To such men as you, representing the conservative thought of our country, we must look for rebuke to false notions and wrong doctrines which men may try to disseminate throughout the land. I urge you to keep your minds clear, to look straight ahead and to bear in mind that the world was not made in a day and the millenium cannot be reached in a generation.

One of the best weekly publications devoted to political and economic problems that the prolific press of the Mississippi Valley issues is THE CONSERVATIVE, recently established at Nebraska City, with J. Sterling Morton, ex-secretary of agriculture, as editor. No periodical in the Union more ably upholds the doctrine of sound money and honest finance than this journal, which has its home in almost the very center of populism and fiat money heresies.

In a recent number the editor sets forth the object of his publication in the brief statement: "THE CONSERVATIVE is not a partisan journal. It has faith in the ultimate triumph of everything that is just. THE CONSERVATIVE is an advocate of more capital for the South and West. Therefore THE CONSERVATIVE is against all legislation unjustly discriminating against capital. THE CONSERVATIVE calls to capital 'Come in' instead of 'Get out.'"

In another article is made this point, whose justice will be recognized by everybody: "The redistribution of capital is a favorite theme with persons

who never created any capital. These men grow fervent depicting the injustice of that industry and self-denial which creates capital for itself instead of creating it to bestow upon loafers and political elocutionists. If inanity of brains, inertia of body and a disregard for truth were capital some of our senators and representatives in congress would be mental and moral millionaires."

The success which Mr. Morton has accomplished in the management of THE CONSERVATIVE is another evidence of the versatility of his mind and the untiring energy of his faculties. He as an editor is doing good work in educating the people of the Mississippi Valley in the complex problems of politics, economics and sociology, and bids fair to become as eminent in journalism as he has been in agriculture and politics.—San Francisco Daily Call.

An eastern paper suggests that if we are to take up our share of the task of filling the earth with our great Teutonic stock, we must have larger families. Great Britain is now alone in this undertaking, and uses her younger sons for it; where there are not plenty of younger sons, there are no colonies. An only son is not only too valuable to be sent out into the world, but he does not need to be, for his father's place is waiting for him at home. Therefore a nation where the "two-children system" prevails, not only has no impulse to spread abroad, but has no material to do it with.

Will some lamentationist among the orators who wail and weep over the poor man and invoke legislation in his behalf define the "poor man?" Who is he? Where is he? What claims has he upon the community which the rich man has not? And who is a rich man and why is he always portrayed as a bad man by those doleful elocutionists? And if all capital is cupidity and all wealth criminal why do these paroxysmal disturbers of the peace and contentment of the country ever invite capital to invest itself in Nebraska or wealth to settle within the borders of the state?

As small curs snarl, yelp, bark, growl or whine at the heels of well-bred St. Bernards unnoticed so the microbes and bacilli of journalism and politics attempt to irritate decent people and thus attract attention sufficiently to become visible.

There are fellows in partisan politics and jaundiced journalism who would be much elevated in their own and the general estimation by the kick of a gentleman.

When Colonel Menelaus Bryan, the shouter in battle, comes to be president, he should on all accounts arrange for legislation abolishing the proverb "Speech is silver, but silence is golden."