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HEALTH LEGISLATION.

This country is very likely to have at least one serious epidemic, and perhaps two, to undergo within the next twelve months. As the sanitary reconstruction of the city of Havana can hardly be effected, to a sufficient extent for its results to be perceptible, before summer comes upon us, it is to be expected that we shall have yellow fever during the warm months, as we have not had it in years; the extent to which it may spread can only be guessed at, but wherever it does go it will surely work immense mischief, and if should gain a foothold in any of the northern cities the mortality would be terrible.

The other epidemic to be apprehended is one of smallpox. During the winter just past, this disease has appeared in one or more places in almost every state in the Union, and the lack of systematic action, or of power in any quarter to enforce action of any kind, has left it entirely free to spread where it would. It is altogether probable that it will ramify in a quiet way throughout many sections of the country that have hitherto escaped, and that, as the conditions of our winter-life are such as to render its operations much more malignant, next winter will witness an outbreak of it on a very large scale.

It will be mainly the fault of the lawmakers of the country if either of these diseases comes upon us and finds us unprepared. Large powers should be definitely in the hands of some properly constituted board everywhere, in order that such measures as may be deemed advisable may be enforced with the full strength of the law. These boards

should be organized in ample time, not only to get their own machinery in readiness before the first epidemic appears, but to arrange, by correspondence or congresses, for uniformity of action among the various states; for of what avail is it, for example, if we in Nebraska City are subject to one set of regulations, while the Iowa farmers, whose vehicles form a procession across the bridge all day long, are subject to a contradictory set?

Complete uniformity, as well as rigid enforcement, would no doubt be best secured by the federal government taking the matter in hand, perhaps by an extension of the functions of the Marine Hospital service. But even in this case, the more perfect the local organization found at every point, the simpler would be the task, and the more effective the operations, of such a national undertaking.

CORPORATE CAPITAL.

Combination is the order of the day. There have been eras for forming combines before in the history of our country but never until now were there so many and never was there such gigantic capitalization. Among some of the more prominent ones are the Federal Steel Company with \$200,000,000 capital, the American Wire and Steel Company with \$90,000,000 capital, the Oatmeal Trust with \$33,000,000, and many others with capital running into the tens of millions of dollars.

THE CONSERVATIVE does not look with unmitigated disfavor on all of these combines, for if they are well managed they can, may and must supply the demand for their products for less money than single and smaller corporations are able to, and if they are mal-managed they will, sooner or later, totter and ultimately fall.

Those which undertake to keep down the prices of what they offer to the public and intelligently watch and minimize the cost of that which they produce will thrive. Well-directed concentration of brains and money is not to be deplored but ought to be encouraged. Corporate capital is the dynamo of modern development, improvement and advancement. Like individuals, corporations are subject to economic laws and so they fail or succeed precisely in proportion to the judgment which enters into their schemes and the fairness and ability of their management.

PAY DAY.

The civil expenses of the government of the United States are enormously increasing from day to day. At the very time when economy and frugality should reign, while we are engaged in an unnecessary and expensive war for an allegedly civilizing and Christianizing purpose, reckless extravagance is prominent in every one of the appropriation bills. Each department at Washington, besides those of the war and navy, is demanding and getting more and more money for current expenses. But the day of reckoning is not far off, when all of these tremendous sums of money, taken from the taxpaying citizens of this republic, must be aggregated and paid. Already the deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, is ascertained to be more than one hundred millions of dollars. Already the possibility of another issue of government bonds for the purpose of borrowing money which the revenues cannot supply stares thinking people in the face and the riot of waste goes on and on with increasing energy and madness.

Pay day will come. Repentance will follow. Darkness succeeds the day. Sobriety and remorse are the inevitable followers of drunkenness and misdemeanors. Slaughtering the Filipinos, civilizing by killing; Christianizing with shot and shell; and using armies and navies for missionaries will prove expensive methods of evangelizing the barbarians of the Pacific archipelago.

There will come to this republic for liquidation not only enormous financial claims but vast demands for the rectification of political and moral wrongs.

The whole business of insular conquest and colonial dependencies should speedily be, with honor and honesty, brought to an end and the American conscience relieved of the burden of having, even for a little while, consented to oppression anywhere. The government of the United States is big enough, strong enough and wise enough to admit its errors and to fully and wholesomely correct them whenever, wherever and however committed.

The day of settlement must come. Let us meet it like real lovers of our country, with the strong and unflinching purpose of doing justice as between us and all other peoples.