

DR. BRYAN'S PRESCRIPTION. In a speech made September 15, 1896, Dr. Bryan, with that peculiar ability for correct diagnosis which has distinguished him as a political practitioner from his earliest dawn in statesmanship, prescribed a remedy for the declining gold circulation in the United States.

The erudite economist and doctor of finance said:

"The only way to stop the outflow of gold is to have bimetallism and raise the price of wheat and cotton and pay our debts in produce instead of gold."

But the prescription was not taken. The flow of gold outward did stop. And the flow of gold inward began. This influx continues. Read in THE CONSERVATIVE of this date how much more gold there is now in the United States than there was when Doctor Bryan prescribed free silver to remedy an impoverished circulation.

DAVID R. FRANCIS. The former governor of Missouri, David R. Francis, who served as secretary of the interior during the latter part of the second administration of President Cleveland, is an able man. In all the relations of life he has proved himself honest, honorable and conscientiously industrious. His quick perception, and good logical powers, combined with splendid executive ability and his long career of usefulness make him a possible candidate for the presidency of the United States. Many men in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado think that in nineteen hundred with a sound money platform and David R. Francis the reunited democracy could defeat any republican. Nothing, however, but the renunciation of the silver heresies can make the reunion.

FROM FLORIDA. In a large way The Tampa Herald, edited by J. D. Calhoun, formerly a prominent and universally esteemed citizen of Nebraska, is an improvement upon Southern newspapers in general. But Mr. Calhoun, who likes to be just and fair, seems somewhat warped when he treats of money in corporations and particularly frenzied when he touches "trusts." In a very recent denunciation Mr. Calhoun uses the following fervid language:

"Among beasts the tiger lives more certainly and successfully than the gazelle. And so among trusts and corporations. The eager, the ferocious, the gluttonous, the powerful survive. The law is the same for men and animals.

"The newspaper which goes gunning for man-eating trusts and corporations is engaged in as righteous a pursuit as the man who seeks the lair of the tiger to exterminate him. The consuming, preying, depredating corporation must be hunted down just the same as the

predatory animal. The simple fact that both are at enmity with the best interests of the creatures surrounding them makes them alike illegitimate—but they both live and flourish regardless."

Tigers and trusts are parallels. But tigers have never reduced the dangers of the jungles to a minimum while the oil trust has mitigated jeopardies from explosions and diminished the price of coal oil to consumers. The tiger is not governed by an enlightened selfishness and cannot reason. The Standard Oil Company is so governed and does reason. The tiger would destroy and devour the last gazelle on earth if opportunity permitted. The Standard Oil Company would decline to destroy any consumer of its output and refuse absolutely to kill any goose laying golden eggs for it.

The law of the survival of the fittest is, as Mr. Calhoun wisely remarks, "the same for animals and men" and is also the same for incorporations. The wisely managed do not destroy their business by crippling or destroying their patrons. Corporations whether called "trusts," or banks, or railroads, are not generally owned and directed by idiots. The operators of capital embodied in corporations know as much averagedly as the men who run farms, or stores, or any other private business. This being the case, they know enough to know that the public will not support nor endure extortion and that competition is always alert to enter the field whenever there are even signs of extortion.

"Gunning for man-eating trusts and corporations" would prove an irksome and fruitless hunt unless one was piloted by a scout of known capability for finding those terrible carnivora.

"The consuming, preying, depredating corporation must be hunted down." Will Colonel Calhoun kindly name a few of the variety he so lucidly depicts?

Will the colonel also prescribe the best way of invading their "lair" and tell how the brutes themselves may be most easily entrapped, slain, extirpated, exterminated, pulverized and their diabolical dust distributed to the four winds of the earth?

In short, will Colonel Calhoun file a bill of particulars and specify a few, say half a dozen, of those more voracious beasts of incorporations which he portrays as "man-eating, consuming, preying, depredating corporations" which pious sportsmen of the economic field should proceed to immediately hunt down?

PERIODICALS. The first American newspaper was published in Boston in 1690. Here, as in the mother country, the press met with a cold welcome. This pioneer, the "Publick Occurrences," although it promised to appear once a month or oftener, did not redeem the promise. It never went beyond the first issue,

being strangled in its birth by the public authorities. In 1722, James Franklin was forbidden to publish the "New England Courant," and to evade this order the paper was brought out under the name of his brother Benjamin as publisher, although Benjamin at the time was but sixteen years old.

The early publishers in America pretty generally had a hard time of it. Relief came in 1735 with the trial of Zenger's case. The law became settled in favor of the liberty of speech, but there was nothing in it peculiar to the newspaper. Publishers have rights only as they are men, and what they may print in their journals, any one else may put into a pamphlet, post on a billboard or write in a letter to a friend.

If the newspaper is a public institution, then everybody has a right to its continuance and use. Companies which have undertaken the operation of railroads, have been compelled to operate them; companies that assume to carry freight and passengers commonly for hire have been required to make good that assumption. Nearly three hundred years have passed since newspapers came into existence in England. Two hundred years is the span of their life in America. During that period they have been the object of many legal proceedings in both countries, but never in the view that they belonged in the same category with common carriers or innkeepers.

Whether a man should publish a paper at all, whether having begun its publication he should continue it, how many should be published, to whom they were to be sold, what of editorial, news or advertising should appear in any issue, have all been left at all times to the free will of the publisher.

It was the boast of a country editor more than forty years ago that

"We do not belong to our patrons,
Our paper is wholly our own;
Whoever may like it can take it,
Who don't can just let it alone."

—FRED. W. LEHMAN.

Evangelists from Nebraska now gunning for heathen in the Philippines, are known as the First Regiment of Volunteers from Nebraska for the Spanish war. But their cousins, their sisters and aunts, besides their wives, mothers and sweethearts, cable them not to enlist but to come home when present enlistment expires. Can it be that there are women, good women, Christian women in Nebraska who do not approve of "benevolent assimilation?" And why did the censor of messages to the military of the United States intercept and not permit the delivery to the Nebraska soldiers of that message?

The rainfall for the month of April, 1899, as recorded by the Arbor Lodge weather bureau observer, amounted to 4.63 inches.