

method, and Gilchrist and Thomas with still another.

The great monopolies of this country owe their existence to special unjust privileges, conferred upon them by a course of legislation, which the people of the United States adopted of their own free will, and which are still maintained by the votes of the very people who most loudly declaim against monopolies. Foremost among these are the tariff laws, the internal revenue laws and the patent laws. We shall briefly consider these in the order of the least important.

Patent Law Monopolies.

Taking first the patent laws, which avowedly concede a monopoly for the term of seventeen years, for good and solid reasons in each case, we have only to say that they afford a striking illustration of the dangers attendant upon any legalized monopoly, however meritorious. This is shown by a comparatively recent scandal, with regard to a pretended conflict of claims in the patent office. Two opposing claims were secretly purchased by one corporation, which afterwards employed attorneys on both sides to keep up the sham contest for many years, resulting in a practical monopoly of a single invention for thirty years, instead of seventeen. By similar manipulations, other valuable inventions are monopolized for a much longer time than the law intends; while many others are simply locked up and kept out of public use entirely. The patent laws need a thorough revision; all in the direction of greater liberty. As we do not propose to discuss details on this occasion, we confine ourselves to saying that these laws should be so amended as to make it impossible for any monopoly to last under it for more than seventeen years from the date of the application for a patent, and so as to permit the use by everybody of all patented inventions upon reasonable terms; or in some other way patents should be prevented from supporting any monopoly for a longer period than the precise term prescribed upon the face of the statute.

Internal Revenue Law Monopolies.

The internal revenue laws, by the restrictions with which they surround the manufacture of liquors and tobacco, afford some great advantages to monopolies. As it is our object in this article not to specify any particular monopoly now existing, we prefer to illustrate the point by reference to the match manufacture, in the days when there was an internal revenue tax of one cent a box. It is well known that the result of that tax was to destroy immediately all independent manufacturers, and to concentrate the business in the hands of two or three great corporations. When that tax was repealed in 1883, these monopolies fell of their own weight;

and it was many years before they could be reconstructed. The present great combinations in the match manufacture are to be found in other laws encouraging monopoly, which are still maintained.

Tariff the Mother of American Trusts.

The tariff is the most fertile source of American monopolies. During the last thirty or forty years hardly an instance has been known in which an American monopoly has been denied any part of the benefits which it has demanded in the enactment of tariff laws. In 1890 and 1897, this rule was without any known exception. In 1894 there were but few exceptions. Tariffs are always made up by the very parties who are interested in preventing foreign competition and in securing for themselves a monopoly of the domestic trade. These facts and their effects upon the promotion of monopolies have been shown so clearly by former writers in this series of articles, that nothing more need be said here upon the point.

It is simply absurd to make any effort to prohibit or to regulate trusts and combinations, while their causes are left untouched. If the American people shrink from competition with other nations of the earth, and deem themselves justified in preventing such competition by force, they have no moral right to complain if American capitalists take advantage of the laws which prevent foreign competition, to make of them instruments to prevent domestic competition also. Neither have Americans, who believe in preventing foreign competition by force, any moral right to complain of capitalists, who prevent domestic competition by fraud. The one is just as moral, or immoral, as the other.

Fundamental Remedy.

And thus we come, at last, to the fundamental remedy which is needed. The fundamental cause of American monopolies is to be found in the lack of honesty, justice, business courage and love of fair dealing, which is unfortunately characteristic of a vast majority of the human race, not excepting the people in the United States of America. Whenever a majority of the American people demand simple justice, neither more nor less, for themselves, all these questions will be speedily settled, and trusts will dissolve like snow in summer. For any man who demands and receives exact justice for himself, and no more, necessarily concedes precisely as much to every one else; and if no man received any more than justice, every man would receive justice. No right can be taken away from any one man, without conferring more than his right upon another. It is as impossible to give less than justice to all men at once, as it is to cut off a sec-

tion of the air and destroy it, leaving a blank.

The inconsistency of any man who demands that competition shall be free, when it works in his favor, but shall be prohibited, when it works against him, is obvious. But it is not so obvious to the ordinary mind that it is equally absurd to insist upon freedom of competition within the borders of the United States, while excluding competition from without. Nevertheless, the exclusion of competition is quite as unjust and injurious in the one case as in the other; and the demand for freedom of competition at home, while denying freedom of competition from abroad, is absurd and suicidal. The laws of nature cannot be persuaded to work only half-way. No man can take poison and yet enjoy good health. No man can enslave another, yet remain entirely free himself. Neither can any man or nation draw an artificial line and say: "Within these boundaries, competition shall be perfectly free; but outside of these boundaries, there shall be no competition at all."

The remedy, and the only remedy, for the evils of domestic monopolies, is the repeal of all laws which pretend to give to any man, rich or poor, American or European, any protection against natural competition, any artificial monopoly of natural resources or any advantage which is not thrown open, on equal terms, to all human beings.

Who would be freemen, must set all men free.

THOMAS G. SHEARMAN.

New York, April 16, 1900.

A DOG. THE CONSERVATIVE reproduces a

tribute to a dog which appeared in the last issue of the paper of Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, "Unity." "Bozzie" was a welcome visitor at the offices of the Santa Fe road in Chicago and the writer himself witnessed her achievements as a mind reader. He wrote the figure seven on a bit of paper and asked "Bozzie" to bark the number which she did immediately though she had not seen the number nor the writing thereof at all.

"This line, which appeared last week in the Chicago dailies, caused the tears to come to the eyes of many children, created a pang in the hearts of hundreds of Chicago citizens and aroused profound regret in the mind of sage, scientist, and particularly wise psychologist, and yet Bozzie was but a dog.

But such a dog! A dog high in pedigree, beautiful in form, gracious and loving in manners. But more than this, this canny Scotch Collie has unquestionably outreached all the recorded achievements of the dog mind. To speak of her accomplishments as "tricks" is to utterly fail to appreciate the profound significance of her accomplishments.