

The Conservative.

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REALLY? Professor Meade, of the University of Pennsylvania, declares the steel trust insolvent. The news has had no disquieting effect upon the market; which is the more remarkable in that it proves that the much-vaunted captains of industry do not acknowledge the superior business acumen of a real college professor, a captain of pedantry.

LEST WE FORGET. Alfred Austin, the English poet silyette, has dedicated a book of his intolerable doggerel to President Roosevelt. Americans are a peace-loving people, nor do they harbor malice against their ancient enemy for former insults and oppressions suffered at his hands, but because of that shall this fresh insult pass unavenged?

GOOD SHIP, WELL NAMED. The Enterprise, the first oil-burning steamer to attempt an ocean voyage, made a successful trip from Hilo to San Francisco, close up to her record time, and at less expense than is incurred by the old-fashioned boats. The test fully justifies those mariners who have claimed that oil is more suitable for fuel than coal, being cleaner, less bulky, more easily shifted to preserve the trim of a vessel, less liable to shift upon its own initiative, and much more easily and quickly loaded.

IS IT PROVIDENCE? Paterson, New Jersey, has sown the wind and is reaping the whirlwind. Having made the city a haven of refuge for anarchists, the citizens cannot justly complain because of the never-ceasing vice, crime, lawlessness and labor disturbances which exist there.

Ravaged by floods, seared by fire and spattered with blood spilled in riot and saloon brawl, Paterson seems to be undergoing an awful punishment for the crimes instigated and committed by a recognized element of its citizenship which should never have been allowed to attain its present proportions.

THE NAVY. Chairman Foss of the house naval committee declares that the American navy is far below those of other powers. History does not seem to bear out Mr. Foss' statement, but as he made this assertion while asking for an appropriation of \$77,000,000, and as it is conceded to be perfectly proper to say anything you wish to when asking for an appropriation, without limitations with regard to truth or reason, we refrain from reminding the gentleman that while the American navy is always "far below" in time of peace, it is always on top in time of war. After all, during a war is the best time to have a good navy.

CHEAP TALKING. Western Nebraska ranchmen are telephoning along the barbed-wire fences, using no insulators whatever. A visitor to that section of the state reports that he telephoned a distance of eighty miles for the small sum of ten cents, and that the system worked perfectly in every way. So far there has been no organized effort to place the larger ranches in communication with one another and with the outer world, the cattleman being content to telephone from one part of his own ranch to another, with no bothersome central office to delay or interrupt conversation; but arrangements might be made whereby the entire grazing country could be connected, which would save a greater part of the time and horseflesh now expended in tracking strayed stock, etc.

ENFORCED PROSPERITY. So long as the much-mooted eastern gold baron is willing to pay a sufficient sum for beef to cause the western fusionist's cattle to net him seven cents per pound on the hoof, complaints against the beef trust should emanate from the manufacturing, rather than agricultural, communities, and garrulous representatives of farmer constituencies would do well to reserve their commentitious wrath for use when conditions have reversed themselves, or have been reversed by the contravening forces

now being marshalled—prominent among which is Theodore Roosevelt. In the interval it would become the stock raiser and farmer to bear their prosperity as patiently as possible, and give no outward sign though their afflicted hearts sigh in secret for the dawning of the blessed day of cheap dressed beef, and cheaper undressed cattle.

THE NEW BARON. The author of "A Baron In Rags" must have been entertaining a mind-picture of the modern shoddy manufacturer.

The rag baron is infinitely worse than the gold, iron, steel, ice, or beef baron, as he not only follows their custom of selling goods at twice their value, but he treats his materials so artfully that the flimsy stuff cannot be distinguished from honest, all-wool goods, by any other than an expert. The unsuspecting customer pays for the American shepherd's wares, and receives instead filthy rags, stripped from the backs of lousy foreigners, and imported to this country in ship-loads, each pound of it taking the place of three pounds of honest American wool. And even such an industry as this is protected.

MUZZLES WANTED! Coming immediately after the president had been forced to punish loquacious generals, Senator Rawlins' unmeasured, and to all appearances, unjustified, denunciation of General Chaffee illuminates the fact that a legislator may with impunity besmirch the character of a soldier, and the latter must meekly offer the other cheek, for he is forbidden to shatter a lance in his own behalf, even in self defense.

With remarkable unanimity the American people have condemned inflammatory speeches delivered by army officers; it is then high time they also frowned upon denunciatory speeches delivered at army officers.

It is of no particular benefit to the service to have continually before the public the spectacle of a manacled officer submitting to castigation inflicted by whatever legislator may have an idle hour to spend in this pleasant and entirely safe pastime.