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OBSERVATIONS.

When Auditor Eugene Moore was nominated the people of the state felt that he was an honest, conservative man; that if elected he would perform his duties with absolute fidelity to his trust. His reelection has made pessimists and infidels of men who have rever questioned the infallibility of republican nominees. There were a few men whose devotion to the party was touching, inasmuch as the party had never done anything for them. But echo is locking for those men now. Eugene Moore has blighted a childlike and mediaeval faith. "Better for a millstone," etc. He has injured the republican party in direct proportion to the confidence men had in him, more's the pity. The state of Mr. Bartley's accounts was more or less expected. The state treasurer during several terms has had so much less of the people's money to turn over to the new treasurer than he should have had that the people have acquired a habit of bracing themselves to hear the treasurer's report. The size of the present deficit was unexpected, although we were prepared for a fiasco. The banks in the state have failed by dozens and no treasurer, under the system in use here, could have prevented all loss. In equity Mr. Bartley should not be held responsible for the money which he placed in designated depositories which failed because of falling prices and a gold standard impossible to maintain. But for those sums which friendship or self-interest induced him to place in unrecognized banks which have failed during his term of office he is personally and in an especial sense responsible. Mr. Bart-

ley never posed as a man of unimpeachable, supernatural integrity. The perquisites of the office, which were his by usage if not by law, everybody expected him to absorb. In this respect no one was disappointed. The treasurer enjoyed his privileges and he may yet be able to show that he did no more than usage authorized. If so it will not be difficult for him to get back to the level which he occupied before his term expired. As I said before, he never pretended to an exalted place.

The legal proceedings which involve the arrest and perhaps the incarceration of the officials are most painful and create a sympathy for them and their families which tends to obscure justice. They seem to have betrayed the trust of a great party. They will have a trial which should be impartial. Their acquittal depends on the intricacies of a law which the taxpayers do not pretend to understand as well as upon the application of exact justice. Yet if the evidence shows that the men are victims of circumstances the people will comprehend that in spite of their lack of technical knowledge. Whatever the outcome, the accused have no longer any political influence, but experience teaches that if acquitted they can return to the environment they left, to assume public office and receive about the same consideration from their associates as before.

Mr. Howells has a new serial story in the current number of Scribner's. The Story of a Play" tells of a young author, or rather of a young newspaper man, who is a step (in the opinion of Richard Harding Davis a flight) below "an author." The young man is writing a play for an actor who is a few miles away in the series of watering places on the north Atlantic coast. The actor comes over every day in a bicyclic suit, a golfing suit, a riding or a yachting suit (he never does any of these things, but he likes to look as if he did) to see how the play is getting on and to urge the author to make the part of the hero as "fat" as possible. Well, the author has just married a wife and she is the reason of these few remarks. She adores her husband and she wants to absorb him. He has talent and is devoted to his work. She is a commonplace, conscientious busybody, who thinks her place is to inspire and direct so long as she cannot create herself. The actor has ideas too, and he does not worship her husband, but argues with him about changes in the play, etc. The wife resents this and tells her husband that she does not propose to have his genius degraded by receiving suggestions from the stage represented by the actor, who says he is going to do for the play what Jefferson did for "Rip Van Winkle." Her exclusion from the author's and actor's field of thought and discussion is absolute and determined by her own lim-

itations, but like all—all but a few—of Howell's women, she is bossy and fretful and insists on putting in her oar every day. Her car is inconsequent, inadequate and irritating and spoils an otherwise interesting story. Mr. Howells should come west where only an occasional woman bags her friends and family to desperation. The woman who lives her own life and is willing that masculine examples should attend to their own business is not an exception in the west. They are attending to the theory and practice of raising children, keeping house, and while improving their minds. They know what they are about and they let their husbands know that they know it. The husbands have learned their place and the result is a quiet life and a clean heart. Mr. Howells' introspective, fus-y, exacting woman has made her stories and plays vexatious reading for a long time but this last individual of an already sufficiently portrayed type calls for a protest. His men are more wholesome, though they too do not know exactly where to draw the line between their business and another man's.

The Lexow committee which has been investigating trusts has succeeded in extracting a few facts from unwilling multimillionaire witnesses which confirm the suspicions of an oppressed people. After a certain point is passed capital has no influence upon the representatives of a people. In this case concession to the trusts means abandonment of their political abettors. Although he returns to private life with a fortune, a politician loves place and power more than money and in the long run his vote expresses the wishes of the largest number of his constituents rather than the coercive influence of the agents of concentrated capital by which he is surrounded. The poor have the votes and in this fact lies all their hope of equal justice. Money is the obvious palpable influence at Washington, but place is the gift of the people, though members of the millionaires' club in Washington are apt to forget it because the people stand afar off. The New York Journal has obtained some opinions from politicians of different parties which are worth quoting from:

ATCHISON, Kan., Feb. 26. Editor New York Journal:

The exasperation against trusts and monopolies does not arise from hostility to capital, hatred of wealth or envy of successes, but from the belief that the inevitable effect of these combinations, whether intended or not, is to restrain competition, impair the dignity of labor, destroy the independence and self-respect of the laborer and make liberty the heritage of the few instead of the many, for liberty and pauperism are not compatible.

The trusts must go. It is written. They will not depart voluntarily. They will protest at every step. They will stand upon the order of their going. They will denounce all inquiry as iniquitous, inquisitorial and inspired by

partisan malignity. But this will not deceive the people. They want the truth. The object of Lexow committees is to disclose the existence and the methods of the conspiracies to limit production, control prices, depress wages and strangle competition. Public opinion will do the rest.

The problem is not insolvable; the power of the people to suppress injurious trusts and monopolies is ample already. The states can outlaw them as public enemies, and through the courts, forfeit their powers, and their franchises and declare them against public policy and void, in accordance with the precedents of many centuries.

But the nation can wield a mightier weapon still. When the supreme court declared in the state bank cases that the power of congress to tax was the power to destroy, it delegated a formidable weapon to discontent, and placed in every bondsmen's hands the means to cancel his captivity.

JOHN J. INGALLS, Ex-United States Senator from Kansas.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. Editor New York Journal:

I would make a non-partisan commission composed of one lawyer who has had large dealings with corporations and whose integrity is unquestioned, one mercantile business man and one honest banker. There should be added one legislator of wide experience in state and national affairs. This commission should be the creature of a statute, clothed with ample powers to collect evidence and punish refusal to testify, and he lines of the statute governing witnesses before committees of the United States senate, which has been upheld by the highest court in the land.

To start with, a state commission is preferable, and the first should be a New York commission, since that seems to be the breeding place of all trusts. Such a commission should have ample time for investigation. The legislature could then, from the information so obtained, pass such laws as would forever kill the evils shown. Such a commission in every state would be in the interests of the people. The result would be that the people would see to it that such laws were passed as would rectify all the wrongs.

If congress should see fit to order an investigation, I think the president of the United States could be directed to select such men as I have described, and thus there could be a non-partisan national commission, and the result would be beyond dispute.

WILLIAM V. ALLEN, United States Senator from Nebraska.

All men are not created free and equal. Because brains, money, character and position determine the amount of freedom which each individual enjoys. But laws which increase natal disabilities instead of moderating them are unjust and for that reason temporary. Congress has been greatly surprised to find that the discontent, which has been called "mere newspaper talk," is universal and that the reasons for it are economically sound.

The change which combinations of capital have effected in the character and conditions of trade has destroyed, or is in process of destroying, the small tradesman. In the days of feudalism the overlord owned all the land and there were no small farmers. Only one