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PITTSBURG, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1891.

HOW TO GET UNIFORMITY.

A bill has passed the lower branch of the Legislature to create a commission for the promotion of uniformity in State legislation.

It gives the proposed commission the widest scope of investigation, and contemplates that it shall act in harmony with similar provisions pending in the New York and Massachusetts Legislatures.

The matter is well worth investigation, as it shows the necessity of uniformity in certain matters of legislation.

It is a commendable effort to secure uniformity in the laws of the State, and when that is made plain, it will be worth while for the legislatures as well as public to recognize that the quickest and the only way to secure the needed uniformity is that suggested by the organization of our national Government.

First as pointing to that conclusion is the fact that the task of getting all the State Legislatures in the Union to pass a uniform law on any given subject is a hopeless one.

Suppose that Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania should agree upon a uniform divorce law, would not Rhode Island and Delaware continue to hold out inducements to those desirous of escaping the marital yoke?

If the same States should agree upon a uniform marriage law would New Jersey, as was done only the other day, elude the profits from "bigamous marriages" with 40 different State Legislatures comprising 54 officers in the same line, inasmuch as the same will on all the subjects where uniformity is needed passed by all.

The proper course is further indicated by the theory of our Government that the subjects of legislation, which it is necessary to have uniform for the whole country, shall belong to the National Government, while those that are merely local in their effect, on which uniformity is not necessary, shall belong to the State Governments.

At the formation of the Government certain subjects were committed to the States, and by the facilitation of inter-communication, became national in scope. It was not deemed possible then that the divorce laws of one State could interfere with those of the other; nor could the ramifications of business interests over the whole country have been conceived which now make the laws for the collection of debts and the settlement of bankruptcies in Massachusetts a matter of concern to people in Massachusetts.

But the theory was, very clearly, that the division of powers should assign those subjects over which uniformity is necessary to the National Government, leaving to the States those on which there is no such necessity.

This makes the proper course plain enough. Let it be decided on what subjects uniformity is needed, whether marriage, divorce, business or corporate legislation. When that conclusion is reached, agitation for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, putting the power to legislate in the hands of Congress.

A BAD SORT OF PROMINENCE.

The murderous affray at Wheeling yesterday, in which one "prominent" citizen shot and killed another "prominent" citizen, comes in time to reinforce the lesson of the recent war which is, "kill or be killed."

Yet the other day the editor of a certain paper presented that the educational and restraining influences of the press do not penetrate throughout all ranks of society.

A girl was put in the witness box at a trial in Camden, New Jersey, the other day

and upon the test of her reliability as a witness it was discovered that she was ten years old, could not read, had never seen a Bible and had never been inside a church.

It is pleasant to believe that in a case in an exceptional case that the best novelists and playwrights are creditable to our civilization, but it will not do to rely too blindly on the belief that it is exceptional that it need not give thoughtful people any concern.

The fact is that this little example of domestic heathenism represents a class, and there is reason to think that it is not a diminishing class in our large cities. It may escape observation because of its obscurity. The courts do not often summon witnesses from it, so that such an official demonstration of its ignorance like the case cited is very rare.

But if investigation were made, the same sort of darkness could be reduplicated with many examples in almost every city in our land. It is probable that within the very shadow of our churches and schoolhouses children can be found who cannot read, and know nothing of the inside of either churches or schoolhouses.

Of course such a condition of things falls short of the standard which society has set for itself. If the means for spreading education and morality do not reach the classes that most need them, they fail in their most important duty.

A THREEDBARE PRETENSE.

Commenting on a remark that there have never been "so many combines and trusts as now," the New York Sun makes the following assertion:

Let them have only just begun to be born. The department of production or manufacture upon the plan of harmonious co-operation governing a trust, leads to a degree of economy hardly ever hoped for in ordinary business; and as for the consumer, his share of advantage. The world of combination is still in a state of mere chaos.

This is one of the stock arguments in favor of the trusts. It has been repeated till it is a cliché. And yet every thorough investigation of the methods of the trusts shows that it is entirely without foundation in reason and in fact, and is simply a plea for the protection of the monopolists.

The argument is without foundation in reason because the trust or other corporation is not only uninvited to serve the purposes of business efficiency or economy, and is wholly unnecessary for those purposes, but it takes away the inducements for the exercise of those qualities and substitutes methods which make economy impossible. There is nothing in the mere organization which induces a number of independent concerns to unite in a trust, or to pool their resources, since the corporation laws permit any degree of organization and co-operation in a single independent corporation that is necessary to produce the highest results. The greatest inducement to efficiency and economy is the knowledge that the concern which realizes those qualities most thoroughly will win the highest success, while the one which makes no effort for them will be wiped out of existence. A competitive system creates that inducement in the highest form. If the trusts or other corporations succeed, they wipe out that inducement, and substitute a system of restriction and monopoly which makes economy production impossible.

These fundamental principles show their operations in the history of every big trust and combination that has ever approximated success. The most convincing demonstration of the falsity of this profession of economy is found in the fact that if a trust does not control practically the whole of any industry, it is a failure. If there was any approach to the economy claimed, the trust that combines a mere tenth or fifth of the production would by its superior economy wipe out the competitors. But the fact that there is no such economy shown by the trusts cannot control nine-tenths of any industry into immediate dissolution.

Another telling commentary on this profession of economic production and improved methods by reason of large capital, is furnished by the fact that the trusts and combines never bring any capital into the business. They simply utilize the old capital of the country, and then they run them by the old methods, so far as technique of operation is concerned. The Sugar Trust, when it had combined practically all the existing refineries, did not put in any new capital or new appliances; for it had no need to. But when Claus Spreckels built a refinery to run against that he adopted the newest appliances and most approved methods in order to compete on the most advantageous terms. Competition is the force which requires improved methods and its absence invariably leaves matters at a standstill.

When the combination is organized in a trust or pool its methods are invariably uneconomical. It is not economy to burden an industry with a fictitious capital two to four times its bona fide value; yet that is what every trust has done. It is not economy to produce to arbitrarily condemn the capital and labor, engaged in any industry to enforce idleness, for one-quarter to one-half the working time, which is a favorite method of all these combinations. It is not economy to buy pipe lines and tear them up, or to lease refineries to make them stand idle; nor can we see any remarkable degree of intelligent co-operation in paying trustees immense salaries to appear before investigating committees and testify to the ignorance of fundamental matters in connection with their own business; which is among the signal performances of both the Standard Oil and Sugar Trusts. Nor is there a very gratifying economy in the policy of trustees taking the earnings of the combine and looking it in stock speculation—an achievement of the Cotton Oil Trusts, which the trust's lawyers found to be entirely permissible under the trust organization.

Co-operation to secure greater business economy is a good thing; and there was no restraint on it under what the Sun calls "old-fashioned business." But the allegation that the trusts or combines to prevent competition secure such economy is a shallow pretense. They are organized to permit the perpetration of uneconomical methods, to the end that their managers can secure excessive profits by the suppression of competition.

LAZINESS VERSUS OPPORTUNITY.

Boston's claim to the proud title, "Athens of America," is in serious danger. Brookline, hitherto known to the world as an overgrown suburb of New York, comes to the front with a society for the development of genius. Many and prominent are the names giving out as belonging to the new society; but the peculiar thing that strikes one on reading an account of the first meeting is the fact that three-fourths of these names are prefixed with either Miss or Mrs. This peculiarity may not have any deleterious influence on the fortunes of the new organization. In fact it may have the very reason of success. Men have never given much time to a systematic development of latent genius, each individual looking out for himself alone, and caring little

for the misfortunes of talented but unopplified brothers.

The new society, which is called the Cheiron, after the immortal who trained and taught the sons of heroes, will go to work on the assumption that the best novelists and playwrights are creditable to our civilization, but it will not do to rely too blindly on the belief that it is exceptional that it need not give thoughtful people any concern.

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and a warning, the Canadian organs may rise to the same level of public usefulness as the Helots.

The check-raiser who watered the checks got by multiplying their amounts one hundred, made a mistake in his field of operations. Such things are only allowable in stock manipulations.

The charges against Judge Boardman, of the Louisiana District Court, are that he deposited in his own pocket litigated funds paid into court; that he borrowed of the United States Marshal Government money; that he officiated as a lawyer, and that he decided against the Government in favor of a litigant who had extended similar accommodations to his Honor. No wonder some people thought that Congress ought to be able to give a little time to its impeachment.

The frigid opening of March encouraged the coal combinations to fix the price of coal once more; but the subsequent serious bids fair to fix the coal combines.

While Senator Ingalls' fortunes are generally the subject of sympathy, there is one indication that he will not let his family suffer. Among his latest official acts was the displacing of the regular clerk of the Senate Committee in the District of Columbia, and the appointment to that place of his son, a young law student. The younger Ingalls will thus draw a salary of \$100 per month till next December, which never having all been done by the displaced clerk.

The President is going a gunning; but it rather lies in the sector. He has started out some months ago, gunning for the surplus smashers.

One of the favorite forms of consolation states for recently turned-down statesmen at the hands of the President is to get together and unite in testimonials to the effect that a career of great statesmanship has been cut short or gone into a condition of suspended animation. This was done recently by the two old statesmen, Mr. Ingalls and Mr. Sherman. Mr. Ingalls has been indulging in the pernicious and expensive luxury of free speech.

Well, the "exs" have one consolation. The surplus and they went together.

It is interesting to find it a matter of standing Wall street information that the New York Central is going to build a parallel line to the Rome, Watertown, and Ogdensburg road. This raises the question what has become of the project of building a parallel line between and bankers, against building parallel lines, is paralleling railroads a crime when done by outsiders and a virtue when practiced by the trunk lines?

The sudden ending yesterday of the case against the wreckers of the Bank of America and the American Insurance Company seems to have been in the nature of a surprise to the members of the Senate Committee, and the public can have the satisfaction of knowing that three dishonest manipulators of other people's money will get their just dues. The trial though short from the first was prolific of sensational evidence, everybody expecting a stubborn defense which failed to materialize. The array of evidence offered by the prosecution was evidently entirely unexpected by the defense and when it was presented, the prisoners' lawyers quickly came to the conclusion that a determined fight would only serve to work harm to their clients.

This would have been the case as appears from the mildness of the sentences imposed upon the prisoners. In Pennsylvania dishonest bank officials have gone to prison for long periods and yet were not the equal of Messrs. Work, Duigan and Pfeiffer in rascality. We are not finding fault because the sentences imposed are not more severe, but merely wish to point out one evidently anticipated result of Pfeiffer's case, and the subsequent actions of his partners in crime, were also taken with the same end in view.

Count Herbert Bismarck has invited Senator Crisp, Italy's ex-Premier, to visit his father at Friedrichsruhe. Crisp has promised to go to Germany as soon as he has got his own affairs in order, and then the two old statesmen will have a good talk over past times.

General Joseph E. Johnston, the devoted friend of General Sherman ever since he surrendered to him during the war, and one of the few men in the Confederacy who held a position at Washington, where he holds a Government position. Although over 80 years old, he is alert and erect, and like his departed friend, he is a man of high intelligence.

General Jean Louis de Nicolaï, who died last month at the Grand Chateau, France, was a remarkable character. Twenty years ago Baron Nicolai was Governor of the Caucasus. After the capture of Shamil he went to the South of France to recover from his wounds. He there made the acquaintance of Messieurs Dupanloup, entered the Carthusian monastery and became a monk. The great Russian commander was a devout and pious man, and his life in the quietude of a monastery, like the knights of old, he chose in the midst of a turbulent and brilliant career.

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

Richard Mansfield, in response to a general demand, last evening assumed the title role of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." The Grand Opera House was crowded with an audience eager to see the harrowed, and from the amount of applause it is safe to say they were satisfied and gloomily happy.

Is He Satisfied?

Hon. D. H. Reilly, now Governor of New York, is a member of the United States Senate, and draws a salary as Senator of the United States of \$50,000 a year. In point of salary he appears to be doing like the late Mr. Reilly—"quite well."

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Old Chips, Indian Centennial.—"Old Chips," a Chippewa Indian who was captured when young by the Winnebago, at his home near the mouth of the Mississippi, died on Thursday, near his place, at the age of 106 years. He had been a member of the Indian army in the War of 1812, and he had spent his life in the Indian nation, his mind and sight. He could read and write, and he was a very intelligent man. He was buried in the cemetery at his home.

Thomas D. Hussey.

Clarksville, March 7.—Thomas D. Hussey, a prominent insurance man, died here on Thursday, at the age of 70 years. He was a member of the National Insurance Association, and he was a very successful business man. He was buried in the cemetery at his home.

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Dr. M. H. Kerwin.

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MURRAY'S MUSINGS.

Giddy Men of Wealth Who Are Covering Otero.

The check-raiser