

Estell on the Coal Monopoly.

W. B. Estell, formerly of Freeland, but now of Newark, N. J., gave, in the New York Weekly World of the 18th inst., a six-column history of how the great coal combination attained its present power. The article is an interesting and valuable one, as it is remarkably accurate and abounds with excellent descriptions of the conditions existing in the coal region, especially the Lehigh section, with which Mr. Estell is well acquainted. The writer, who is known throughout the country as a leading advocate of the Henry George theory of taxation, offers the following as the only remedy by which the increasing powers of monopoly can be curtailed. He says: I am firmly convinced that the one remedy for the coal pool that exists today is to prevent by law the ownership of land by corporations beyond certain limited amounts, or at all, except such as they can and shall actually use. The foresting of natural resources, the monopolizing of the control of the supply of such a product as coal, which is so universally a public necessity, are certainly among the things which should be forbidden as a condition of permitting to live, the corporations which depend upon legislation for their right to exist at all.

If the great corporations, now securely entrenched, were compelled to pay into the treasury of the state annually the full rental value of their undeveloped lands, they would be compelled either to develop them or dispose of them to men who would develop them. That would mean the construction of two collieries for every one in existence today, giving employment to thousands of iron workers and carpenters and laboring men generally. The increase of collieries would mean, of course, increased demand for men to work them. This, lying largely the labor market in that section of the state. It would bring about the conditions that existed prior to 1870, and the mine-workers would be able to obtain for their services a fair share of the wealth they produce. It would increase the production of coal and, by increasing the production, cheapen that product to the consumer. The cheapening of the product would mean an enormous increase in the number of consumers, and consequently a ready market for all the coal that could possibly be mined.

A letter which I received from the coal-fields of Pennsylvania only three days ago tells me that the mines are working in some places two days per week and in no place more than four days. If the monopoly of land in the coal-fields were destroyed, the stories which are now read every day of the poverty that exists in the coal-fields would be changed into descriptions of happy homes and prosperous working-men.

The promoters of the present combination claim that their action will result in giving the American consumer of coal a cheaper product, because of the economies made possible by the concentration of management under one great head. This has always been the plea of the trust and the combine; but pleasant as the promises may sound, they have never yet been realized. The cost of anthracite region to-day cheaper than ever before in the history of mining. The cost of mining coal has been reduced during the past fifteen years. The iron and all the material which goes into the construction of collieries can be purchased for about one-half of the cost twenty years ago. The wages of the men have been greatly reduced, new grades of coal have been invented and all conditions have tended to cheapen the production of coal to the coal-mine owners, and the freight charged by the great railroad corporations for carrying coal from the mines to tide water and then paid into their own pockets through the coal companies which they control, can be greatly reduced and still leave a great profit to the coal carriers.

The application of the single tax in destroying the monopoly and compelling the great railroad corporations to sell out the vast tracks of land they now possess, would mean the re-establishment of the individual collieries that insured prosperity to the miner and fair prices to the consumers years ago; and the re-establishment of these individual mine-owners would compel the great railroads once more to depend solely upon their carrying trade for their profits, and the competition between them for freight would once more ensue, and in that way the price of tolls would be considerably reduced.

But by reason of the fact that the coal carrier is practically the coal mine owner as well, the consumer has never reaped any benefit from the reduction in the cost and never will so long as six great corporations, now practically made one by a gigantic combination, are enabled to possess in one single state of the union nearly 500 square miles of coal land.

And after all that can be said and that is said against these great extortioners, their powers have been legally acquired. There is not an evil to which they are enabled to visit upon their employes or upon the public but has been given them through the ignorance, the prejudice or the carelessness of the people themselves. These corporations thoroughly understand the weakness of human nature, and their constant aim is to prevent concerted action on the part of the masses by appealing to the prejudices, the religious and political, of the men who enjoy the right of suffrage. And, as long as it is possible for people to be divided by appeals to their prejudice, so long will it be possible for the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company and the combination which it represents to-day and all other great trusts and combinations of the land to enjoy privileges and exercise powers never before granted to any class of men.

THE SUGAR TRUST.

IT HAS DISGUSTED EVEN THE MCKINLEYITES BY ITS GREED.

The Combination Has Forced Down the Price of Raw Sugar and Raised the Price of Refined, Thus Adding About \$16,000,000 to Its Yearly Profits.

The Philadelphia Press, the high tariff organ of the Manufacturers' club, thus scores the sugar trust: "Congress has provided that many millions of revenue heretofore obtained from sugar duties shall be diverted from the public treasury and be given to the people. The trust, under the shelter given to it by congress for a wise and fair purpose, proposes in turn to divert a portion of this money from the pockets of the people to the pockets of the members of the trust.

"Brethren, we say to you that if the protective system is to be employed for such purposes as this, the game is up. No champion of that system can succeed, even if he were willing to try, in commending to the people at one and the same time the protective system and the sugar trust. It is quite impossible to expect the nation to regard with enthusiasm, because it proposed to reduce the price of sugar, a law which enables the sugar trust to defeat that intention. What the purpose of the act is consumers do not so much care.

"The thing that appeals most strongly to them is the actual fact that sugar prices have fallen. Now, if sugar prices shall again advance under the manipulation of a protected conspiracy against the people, it will be useless to commend consumers to the purpose of Mr. McKinley. They will conclude, and rightly conclude, that if the whole benefit of the lower duties is not to come to them, it should go once again into the treasury of the United States. The opponents of the protective system will have placed in their hands, at the most critical moment in the history of American protection, a potent weapon with which to assail the protective theory, and we venture to say that there is small reason to doubt that the result will be overwhelming defeat for the protective system.

"Openly, in view of every man in the nation, there will be unanswerable demonstration that the free traders do not lack justification for their often repeated allegation that the protective tariff is used by manufacturers for the purpose of enriching themselves at the cost of their fellow citizens. The formation of the trust is indeed a challenge issued to the people. The latter, through their representatives in congress, have decreed that sugar shall be cheapened. The trust, on the contrary, declares that it shall not be cheapened. There can be no doubt of the conclusion of this conflict of interests if the people shall be thoroughly roused, but there is some reason for fearing that the consequences may involve other than the offending parties. The sugar trust places the entire manufacturing interest of the country in jeopardy by its action, and in behalf of that interest we enter protest against the course that it is pursuing.

"Protesting, however, is likely to be of small service in averting the peril in which protected industry has been placed by this combination. There can be no safety but in action, and it may be conjectured that there would be few expressions of grief from protectionists if a Republican senate should join with a Democratic house in sending to a Republican president, just as soon as the sugar trust has made its monopoly complete, a bill placing all grades of refined sugar upon the free list. The protectionists who defend protection upon grounds of public interest have no concern to apologize for it when it is perverted to the interest of a few private individuals. In truth, such abuse of the system ought to encounter prompt resistance from the sincere friends of home industry, for the man who misuses the tariff in such a manner is a more dangerous enemy of the system than the most active of the apostles of free trade. The question for consideration would appear to be, Shall the sugar trust be permitted to use protection for the overthrow of protection?"

Protected by the tariff on refined sugar, the sugar trust is now making profits at the rate of 73.08 per cent. on the actual value of its properties. The work required of the men employed in the sugar house is the hardest kind of work possible, and a considerable number of the men are forced to work in intense heat. The low rate of wages, \$1.50 per day of ten hours, which the trust is willing to pay is so low that no American workman will work in the sugar houses—even Italians prefer to work on the streets, pick rags and sell fruit. The greater part of the men employed are Poles and Hungarians, who have been brought over under contract. This is a true picture of a tariff protected industry; where are the benefits to the workingman?

The Free Tin Plate Bill. The tin plate bill, which has been reported to the house by the committee on ways and means, proposes to go back from the McKinley rate of 2 1/2 cents per pound to the old rate of one cent per pound for two years and to keep tin plate on the free list after that time. In the report accompanying the bill the committee says: "The distinction in principle between the two" (the McKinley bill and this) "is the distinction between a demand by one citizen that he be licensed to take that which is not his own and the petition of another citizen that he be permitted to keep that which is his own." This is true and well put.

Another Factory Heard From. Shortly after the passage of the McKinley act, N. & G. Taylor, of Philadelphia, started a tin plate factory, which, in a recent issue of The American Economist, was mentioned as turning out 900 boxes of tin plate per week. The other day this great establishment was totally destroyed by fire, and a press dispatch announced the loss at \$3,500.

The Eyes of Greek Statues.

Professor Ernst Curtius, the famous Greek scholar and archeologist of the University of Berlin, announced a few months ago that he had discovered that the Greek sculptors always made the eyes of men fuller and rounder than those of women. The alleged discovery was considered important, as it was believed that it would lead to a proper classification of many of the unidentified heads of Greek statues. The hopes, however, seem to have been premature, despite the fact that Curtius, who has been called "The Modern Greek," fathered them.

Dr. Greef, of Berlin, in a recent lecture delivered before the Prussian Academy of Science, declared that Curtius' conclusions were wrong, as he had found flat, narrow eyes—those of women, according to Curtius—in the heads of Greek statues of men. He had also measured plastic representations of women with large, full eyes. In nature, he added, there was no difference between the eyes of men and women. He had examined recently in Berlin the eyes of a hundred members of each sex and had found that they were the same in shape, size and form. He thus upheld the theories of Zinn and Sommerling that the Greek sculptors who gave a greater fullness to the eyes of men than to those of women did not follow the conditions of nature.—New York Tribune.

Plenty of Game in Maine. There has not been a year for some time when game was as plenty and when so little game has been killed and destroyed as during the past winter. One reason is that the snow in many localities has not been deep, and at the same time it has been hard, holding up the deer and caribou and giving them a chance to protect themselves by flight. Another reason is that the guides and hunters have learned that it is for their interest to leave the game alone, especially during the deep snows. I have made it a point to see many of them in the early part of the winter, and tried to make them understand that it is for their interest for us to keep a good stock of fish and game, as they would get more business during the guiding season.

The most of the game that has been killed the past winter has been killed in the back settlements, hunters using dogs to catch deer. There has been a story of ninety moose killed near our border line, in township 5, range 18. I believe the most of this yarn is false. I have been within a day's walk of the township this winter and I did not learn of any such business. In fact there are not moose enough in that locality. It is near the Canada line, and this same report comes from there every year.—Cor. Portland (Me.) Press.

Beekkeepers and the Government. Foreign bees without pedigrees may be admitted to the United States free of duty. The secretary of the treasury has so decided. Until the last tariff bill was passed, bees from abroad came in gratis, as "animals imported for breeding purposes." The McKinley law declared that this ruling should only apply to animals "regularly entered in recognized herd books." Accordingly, bees were assessed 20 per cent. ad valorem, because they had no pedigrees. The beekkeepers protested and carried their point.

Some time ago the postoffice department declared that bees were "unmailable," on the ground that they would be likely to sting people if they got loose. The beekkeepers secured the recall of this regulation, by proving that the packages employed could not be broken.—Washington Cor. New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Little Fear of Indian Troubles. A gentleman at Rosebud agency writes that the reports of dissatisfaction among the Indians there have been greatly exaggerated. Since his arrival there two weeks ago he has traveled quite extensively through the various Indian camps, and thinks the Indians never exhibited a more peaceful frame of mind than at present. Never did they take hold of work more readily or more extensively and never did they take more interest in the care of their stock than the past winter, as can plainly be seen by the condition of horses and cattle this spring. So far as dissatisfaction with ration is concerned, if there is any such, the whole employees hear nothing of it.—Cor. Minneapolis Journal.

Confederate Coins. There has recently been some inquiry as to whether the Confederate government coined any gold. The question was referred to the Hon. Charles C. Jones, Jr., of Augusta, who telegraphs as follows: "The Confederate States, as I now remember, coined and issued no gold. A few experimental half dollars in silver were struck, but they did not pass into circulation."—Charleston News and Courier.

A Circus Tumbler Has a Fall. A dispatch from Warsaw, Ind., says: "Charles Neff, a laborer at Lakeside park, while engaged in trimming a tree fell from its top to the ground, a distance of sixty feet, and was uninjured. Neff is an old circus tumbler, and the agility learned in the ring saved his life. He fell on his hands and rebounded in the air ten feet, alighting on his feet without a scratch."

A lawsuit has been commenced in Marengo, Ind., between Edmund Waltz and Elwood Stout, over the price of two eggs, bought at seventeen cents per dozen. Two of the dozen were rotten, and Waltz demanded a return of the price.

A young man hypnotized at an entertainment in Paris remained senseless for two days and was with difficulty brought back to consciousness.

A Missouri judge presented to the ex-Confederate home fifty-eight cents, but they were very old coins and are to be sold at auction.

Langtry's Empty House.

Two signboards hang on Mrs. Langtry's house in West Twenty-third street, near Ninth avenue, imploring the passer-by to rent that famous edifice. But the passerby continues to pass by and does not rent, although these signs have hung there begging for six months or more that something be done. How many months more they will hang there with tears in their eyes, as we may say, no one can guess. Neither can any one guess why the Lily's residence is so difficult to rent—at least no one does. The house is a three story, red brick, standing back from the street, with high walls on either side to obstruct the view of the too curious and slightly impertinent neighbors.

This improvement was made after Mrs. Langtry bought the house and had been occupying it herself. There is a carriage way with an arched entrance at one side of the house, and in many respects it has the appearance of a comfortable English homestead. And yet not even those who affect the English—and we have a great many of them here—are disposed to humor their fad by taking the Langtry house. The decorations of the rooms, which were done under Mrs. Langtry's personal supervision, are beautiful and expensive and testify to her excellent taste in decorative art, which has, I think, reached a higher degree of perfection than either her taste or ability in the matter of histrionic art. But that isn't the point. The Lily has an expensive house in town that is a white elephant on her fair hands because two pleading signboards fail to find her a tenant for it.—John A. Cockerill in New York Recorder.

A Unique Woman's Club. The Paragraph club, of Newark, N. J., is unique in the collection of women's clubs. It has neither president, vice president, secretary nor treasurer; at its meeting no chairman presides and no gavel falls. The members gather, and presently some one says, "It is time to begin," and that is the beginning. It is decided at one meeting what will be the subject discussed at the next, and every member comes prepared to contribute at least a paragraph to the general fund of talk, which obligation explains the name. The club has a numerous membership, and included in it are some very bright women.

This simplicity and informality are in direct contrast to the proceedings of most other women's clubs, whose monthly meetings are choice affairs and whose annual gatherings, be they tea, luncheon or breakfast, are extremely elegant and stately.—Her Point of View in New York Times.

Progressive Frenchwomen. "On a recent trip through France I was forcibly struck by the manner in which women are forging to the front in that country," said T. E. Levan, of Boston. "Statistics show that France leads all the countries of Europe in the employment of women. Most of the accountants and bookkeepers in French shops are females whose salaries range from three to ten dollars a week, according to proficiency and the size of the establishment in which they work. A peculiar phase of the employment of these women is that most of them save their earnings very carefully, in order to have an interest in the business. This inclination is always encouraged by the proprietors, inasmuch as it is the general opinion that part ownership induces greater fidelity on the part of the clerks."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Cinderella Party. Have you heard of the Cinderella party? It is pretty and not too much trouble. At the entrance to the drawing room each guest's foot is measured by two young ladies daintily toiletied in yellow and white. The measurement is noted in a memorandum book, and when all the guests are assembled the lady with the smallest foot is presented with a beautiful pair of Turkish slippers. In a corner of the drawing room is an immense pumpkin decorated with ribbons pendant from the stem. Lifting the cover chocolate mice are found within, and these are given to the guests as souvenirs.

The dining room, all in yellow decorations, carries out the same idea, and the ices are served in crystal slippers.—New York Press.

Bravery of Two Princesses. To the long list of courageous women must now be added the names of Princess Eleonore and Princess Mathilde, of Solms, who, while walking outside Berlin last week, met a lady whose horse was violently bolting. The rider had lost all control, and without a second's hesitation the two princesses rushed at the horse's bridle and checked him in his flight, in doing which the Princess Eleonore was unfortunately knocked down and severely kicked in the head and right foot. The other princess was lucky enough to escape without any injury, much to the consolation of the lady whose horse had been so courageously stopped in his flight.—Hawk.

Pretty, but Not Altogether Practical. Hairpin boxes of silver, with the inscription "A Woman's Friend," in decorative text engraved on the cover below a raised outline of the "friend," are among the novelties. They will hardly displace the pretty china and silver trays for holding these necessities of the dressing table. No woman in the exigencies of "doing" her hair likes to stop to open a box to get at her hairpins, and with the total depravity ascribed to inanimate things, it would be sure to be shut at the critical moment when a puff needs pinning or a curl is to be secured.—Exchange.

Why Women Look Cool. "How do women keep so cool when men suffer torture in these sudden hot waves?" asked a man of a woman who looked as cool and fresh as a bunch of white flowers newly sprinkled and resting on a bed of moss. "We don't," said the frank woman. "We just pretend to." There is a whole sermon for you!—New York Tribune.

BINDING TWINE AND BAGGING.

This Is Not Class Legislation, but Is Intended to Remedy It. The bill to put cotton bagging on the free list has passed the house, all the Democrats excepting Coburn, of Wisconsin; O'Neill, of Missouri, and English, of New Jersey, voting in the affirmative, and all the Republicans in the negative.

Cotton bagging is in the same category with binding twine. It is manufactured by the cordage combine. The raw material is free of duty. It is used by southern farmers for covering their bales of cotton as binding twine is used by northern farmers for binding wheat and other small grains. There is as much reason why cotton bagging should be free of duty as there is why binding twine should be free of duty. But when the McKinley bill on congress was dealing with this schedule it reduced the duty on binding twine considerably more than one-half and did not reduce the duty on cotton bagging at all. It discriminated against the southern farmer and in favor of the northern farmer. And now the Republicans of the house, accompanied, The Herald is sorry to see, by three Democrats, vote unanimously to continue the discrimination.

The cordage combine did not cease to manufacture binding twine after the duty was reduced to seven-tenths of a cent per pound, or more than one-half. That it manufactured more than ever before is a fair inference from two facts: First, that the grain crops last year were the largest in the history of the country, and second, that the importation of binding twine during the last fiscal year, covering all the importation for the crop year, or nearly all, was only 822 pounds, valued at thirty-three dollars.

The opponents of the free twine and bagging bills have objected to them on the ground that they are bills for class legislation. They tell us there is no reason why congress should favor farmers than there is why it should favor those who use cables and other articles made of the same and like materials, and that it is inconsistent for Democrats who profess to oppose class legislation to make such bills party measures.

This objection implies that such legislation would favor the farmers by giving them cheaper twine and bagging. While other classes using products from the same materials, the duties on which were not reduced or abolished, would still have to pay high prices—that is, it implies that tariff taxes increase the prices of the articles on which they are laid, of the domestic as well as the imported products.

According to the Republican doctrine, therefore, these bills would not give the farmers cheaper twine and bagging. Therefore, they are not class measures. The Republican claim that really protective duties do not raise prices is false, as the beneficiaries of the tariff are perfectly well aware. Their whole system is a system of class legislation. It is a system under which industries that are self sustaining are forced to contribute to the support of other industries that claim to be and are assumed to be incapable of self support. The protectionists admit that this is the original purpose and effect of their system, and seek to comfort the victims with the assurance that while they must bleed for a time they will ultimately, and in some way not clearly defined, recover their own with interest.

Now the farmer class is pre-eminently the victim class. The farmers more than any others are forced by tariff legislation to contribute from their profits to the profits of other classes. They have been contributing for thirty years, and they do not yet find themselves recovering their own. They are still the victims, as they have been all these thirty years.

What the Democrats propose in these two bills and in the bill putting cotton ties on the free list is not to grant special favors to farmers as a class, but only to relieve them from a small part of the burden which has been laid upon them as a class. They propose not to legislate for a class, but to relieve a class in some measure from legislation which for years has discriminated against that class.

Against these Democratic measures of relief from class legislation we find the Republicans in the house arrayed in unbroken ranks, and we will find the Republicans in the senate arrayed on the same side in solid phalanx. And as the fugitive thief shouts "stop thief!" more lustily than his pursuers, so will the Republican attorneys for monopoly shout "class legislation!" to bewilder and deceive the people.—Chicago Tribune.

A McKinley Tariff Drama in Five Acts. Act I—Scene, Congress, October, 1890 (duties raised). McKinley increases the duty on oatmeal from half a cent to one cent per pound in the interests of several large oatmeal manufacturers of Ohio.

Act II—Scene, Columbus, O., January, 1891 (trust formed under the heading, "All the Oatmeal Mills Consolidated"). The New York Tribune describes what occurred as follows: "Incorporation papers were filed at Columbus today for the Consolidated Oatmeal company, with a capital of \$3,500,000. All the oatmeal mills of the country are thus brought under one management, with headquarters at Akron, O."

Act III—Scene, Factory (wages reduced). Soon after the formation of the trust the wages of the men and women employed in the Akron mills, the largest in the trust, were forced to accept a large reduction in wages. Some have been compelled to submit to three reductions since the opening of the first act.

Act IV—Scene, Offices of the trust (prices raised). Oatmeal that sold for \$4.90 per barrel before the trust was formed, now sells as high as \$7.40 per barrel.

Act V—Ravenna, O., April 1, 1892 (factories closed). The Quaker mills, with a daily capacity of 400 barrels, have been closed by the trust for an indefinite period and 100 men are thrown out of employment.

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