

there would be no inducement for country gentlemen to remain in Ireland.

—A decision in another litigation against the Northern Securities railroad trust (p. 22) is favorable to the trust. It was rendered in a suit brought by the State of Minnesota. Judge Lochren, of the United States Circuit Court, decided on the 1st that the trust has violated no laws of the State. An appeal from the decision is to be taken.

—The people of Cleveland, O., are to vote at a special election on the 8th of September for a bond issue of \$400,000 for the construction of a municipal electric lighting plant. The city council, on the 3d, owing to the opposition of Democratic members, barely failed of the necessary vote to authorize a bond issue for this purpose. On motion to suspend the rules for a resolution to submit the question to the people, eight Republicans voted in the negative; but, the rules being suspended, the council voted unanimously for the resolution.

—Reports of the 30th from Persia described religious riots in the city and province of Yezd, central Persia, lasting more than a fortnight and directed against the Babis, a sect which has a considerable following in the United States. According to the report for two days every Babi found was butchered by the rabble and the mutilated bodies were dragged through the streets, followed by exultant crowds. Houses were looted and women beaten and killed. Finally the priestly leaders of the riot enjoined the populace to bring all the remaining Babis before them or the governor for judgment. The governor refused at first to yield to the threats of the mob, but his palace was surrounded by menacing men and the following day he consented. One Babi taken before him was blown from the mouth of a cannon.

PRESS OPINIONS.

CONGRESSMAN BAKER'S PASS.

Dubuque Telegraph-Herald (Dem.), Aug. 4.—Why should any railroad give a Congressman a pass for nothing? Because it is customary to do so? And why customary? The answer is an easy one. The railroad company expects something in return, expects that when matters affecting its interests are before Congress, the men whom it has favored will favor it. Such conduct is, of course, indefensible. The giving of railroad passes is one form of bribery and the conscientious man would not accept them.

Milwaukee Daily News (Dem.), Aug. 3.—Robert Baker, a Democratic Representative from a Brooklyn district, has rendered the public a service by refusing a railway pass sent him by the railway company's attorney and making public the correspondence. . . . The inter-State commerce law forbids the granting of interstate passes, yet it is notorious that the law has been violated and that members of Con-

gress, Federal judges and even the President have violated the law. On his late junketing tour, President Roosevelt traveled at the expense of the railways. . . .

Springfield Republican (Ind.), July 31 (weekly ed.).—Mr. Baker has promptly returned the pass in his case, and sent a letter in which he tells the company some plain truth. . . . There are probably 150 members of Congress—Representatives and Senators—living in Baltimore and Ohio territory, and "cards of travel" have obviously been sent to all of them. How many besides this one have been returned? Probably very few. If it were the common practice of Congressmen to return the passes, the company would not continue to send them out or have "regulations" about the matter. . . . The inter-State commerce act prohibits the granting of free passes except in certain specified cases which do not include the one before us. The inter-State Commerce Commission has so interpreted the law, and the roads know it and the Congressmen know it. Still the roads continue to issue these unlawful bribes, and Congressmen continue to accept them; and when the law is thus flouted at its source, what is likely to come of it as it winds its way out among the people?

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (Dem.), Aug. 1.—How Mr. Baker could have accepted this annual pass without placing himself under obligation to the railway is not clear. Nor is it clear why the railway should have tendered the favor except with the implied understanding that as a member of Congress he would vote when its interests were involved that the company thus would receive an equivalent for the transportation.

THE POPULIST REORGANIZATION.

Nebraska Independent (Peo.), July 30.—As a national organization the People's party will never again join hands with any other party. It will have its own candidate for President and Vice President. Whether this action will result in rallying around its standard the former adherents, depends almost wholly upon what the old parties do next year. The Republican party is safely plutocratic. . . . Given next year an Iowa platform and a Gorman or Parker, and the Democratic party will lose hundreds of thousands of votes. The People's party will poll one and one-half to two millions. But Populists generally recognize that with a Chicago or Kansas City platform and a man of Bryan's stamp, the Democratic party can kill the People's party—Independent action or no action, or fusion, cutting no figure.

LAW AND ORDER.

Chicago Record-Herald (Ind. Rep.), Aug. 5.—The Denver Citizens' Alliance, which affects to speak for law and order, has approved the unlawful expulsion of certain miners from Idaho Springs. It was thus shown that its remedy for disorder is more disorder, and its superlative concern for the law finds expression in fresh incitements to anarchy. This contradiction is of such common occurrence nowadays that the citizens who are rushing frantically in to suppress crime by criminal acts are doing more to hurt the reputation of the country than the original wrongdoers whom they burn or banish.

OHIO POLITICS.

Springfield, Republican (Ind.), July 31. (weekly ed.).—It seems to have been practically settled that Mayor Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, shall head the State Democratic ticket in Ohio this Fall. . . . Johnson does not care especially about making the fight, and has no expectation of winning, but the only alternative to his nomination is that of John L. Zimmerman, of Springfield, who would stand for conservative, anti-Bryan Democratic policies, and the Johnsonites, or radicals, have no notion of surrendering their present and admitted control of the party in the State.

So Johnson is to be pressed into the running and is now said to have given his consent. He does not believe in the free silver doctrines, but he is strongly in sympathy with the general radicalism of the Bryan faction, and there is not likely to be any dodging of the Kansas City platform in the Johnson convention. With the Cleveland mayor up for governor, there is the certainty of a warm and picturesque contest in Ohio this fall. If Johnson cannot win the governorship, it is believed possible that he may bring in a Democratic legislature, which would send Johnson or some other Democrat to the United States Senate in place of Mark Hanna. Of all the State campaigns this Fall, that in Ohio will most engage the attention of the nation.

ANGLO-SAXON DECADENCE.

London (Eng.) New Age.—As with us, so with the Americans, the deadly poison of Imperialism is destroying all that makes a nation really great. What would it profit a nation to gain the whole world if it lost its soul? Just as we have become dead to all the great traditions once our chief pride, so America is losing its hold on its old ideals. Negrophobia is every day more rampant. . . . We, with the murder of 15,000 children on the national conscience, have no stones to throw at America. We do but note the infinite degradation wrought by a lust of conquest and a thirst for blood.

THE ABANDONED DECLARATION.

The Commoner (Dem.), July 31.—The Kenton (O.) Press thinks it is strange that the President neglected to quote from the Declaration of Independence when he sent that Fourth of July cable to Manila. The Press has seemingly overlooked the fact that a censor has a desk at the other end of the cable.

MISCELLANY

CHILDREN OF HEAVEN.

In heaven we shall be children again: Children of One, from children of twain.
None but children shall come into heaven; Children of seventy, children of seven.
So it is said, and so it is sung:
"As we grow older, we shall grow young."
—Timothy Otis Falne.

MAJORITY RULE VS. BRIBERY.

For The Public.

One of the burning questions of the hour is: How shall majority rule be restored to the voters? In theory we have majority rule to-day through our representatives; but in practice we are governed by aggressive minorities, who cooperate more or less closely with party bosses. Bad laws and ordinances are constantly being passed, and much needed laws and ordinances as constantly fall of enactment; and the people seem helpless in either case. Under the present system the venal legislator may be so well rewarded by those who purchase his evil services that he does not care for reelection, and if he can escape the penitentiary, the public has no recourse but to elect a successor, who may be as corrupt as the first one. In this respect the public cannot even "lock the stable door after the horse is stolen."

The fault lies not so much with individual members of our law-making bodies as it does with our present system of legislative control. The tap-root of all our present trouble and disgrace lies manifestly in the irresponsible power of the law-makers. This power has a tendency to corrupt our representatives. Their votes are now too valuable for their own moral safety.

HOW THEY ARE TEMPTED.

Hon. William Flinn, for 12 years a member of the senate of Pennsylvania, recently said: "It is not strange that the average legislator, earning a salary of \$100 per month, or less, would be tempted to be dishonest when he is confronted with a bribe of \$20,000 for a single vote." If under present conditions bribes like this have been given, or may in the future be given, is it not the part of wisdom so to change matters that no bribe will be offered?

How can this be done? The answer is, Remove from the law-makers the final power to enact laws. Do this by restoring that power to the people, and then no bribery will be attempted. No man will pay for goods that cannot be delivered. Give the people an optional veto upon all legislation, and you have solved the vexed problem now under consideration. Direct legislation through the method of the initiative and referendum will do for any of our States what it has done for so many years in Switzerland, and for a shorter period in South Dakota.

In Switzerland the people originally held town meetings, which, when the population grew too great for convenient assembling for law-making purposes, were abandoned for the representative system. After a time that system became corrupt, because of the evils of government by the few, bribery and partisanship being exceedingly prevalent. The condition of Switzerland then was the same as prevails in the United States to-day. The referendum was then adopted, restoring to the Swiss people the veto power; and at once there was an improvement for the better. The members of their parliament now occupy the high position of counselors and advisers to the people. Hon. N. Droz, ex-president of Switzerland, says:

Under the influence of the referendum a profound change has come over the spirit of parliament and people. The net result has been a great tranquillizing of public life.

IT PLEASES EVERYBODY.

Prof. Frank Parsons, of Boston, who recently visited Switzerland and conversed freely with all classes, says:

I did not find one man who wishes to go back to the old plan of final legislation by elected delegates without chance of appeal to the people.

Gov. C. N. Herried, of South Dakota, says:

Formerly our time was occupied by speculative schemes of one kind or another, but since the referendum has been a part of the constitution these people do not press their schemes on the legislature, and hence there is no need of recourse to the referendum.

JAMES P. CADMAN.

Chicago, August 3, 1903.

ON THE STRENUOUS LIFE.

For The Public.

What is this strenuousness of life of which we hear so much nowadays? Has our youthful spirited President succeeded in giving this old world such a kick with his seven-league boot as to send it whirling on a little faster in space than heretofore? Not too hard, Mr. President, lest you soon be holding that toe in anguish which even the tanned visage of the rough rider may not conceal.

Is the "strenuous life" the vital message for Americans to-day? Has this phrase a magic for the ears of us of 1903, like the watchwords of our revolutionary forebears? Will it press the button and turn on the current from the giant dynamos of patriotism?

Do we kindle, as did the audiences of the demagogue Patrick Henry, at this exhortation of our spirited President? Does this phrase newly coin the golden wisdom which has counseled and cheered generations of men in the long ascent from barbarism?

Was Columbus, when he sailed forth, simply ambitious to lead the strenuous life?

Was Galileo searching into the motions of the planets, doing a stunt to show his strenuousity?

Was Pasteur, toiling in his laboratory past 80 years of age, doing a calisthenic exercise for the sake of strenuousness?

Was Von Moltke planning campaigns, or Garibaldi, or any other real heroes, just taking exercise because they had adopted for their motto the strenuous life? This description of motives fits better the gay Capt. Kidd, for whom buccaneering was a pastime, rather than a serious pursuit of either fame or lucre.

Without wishing merely to be sarcastic, we assert that the "dash up San Juan hill" and the battle of Bunker Hill were not in the same class.

Is it not a schoolboy fancy, that because great men have been stren-

uous, if we say, let us be strenuous, we shall therefore do something great?

Among the celebrities of the past we can recall at this moment only Don Quixote whose ambition was of this very general nature, pining to achieve some great deed, no matter what.

Have not men been great who, along with their inborn strenuousity, dared to ally themselves to great causes? And these same leaders have fired others, not by appeals for gymnastic exhibitions of prowess, but by enlisting them in real battles against real foes.

Are there not causes to be championed in plenty, any one of which would occupy the time of any one of our most gifted patriotic sons to advance by one inch? Behold, let us spend the people's money and build a great navy, and we shall be great. Or let us hypnotize the public by returning to them a fraction of their tribute in the form of public institutions. These are the popular avenues of greatness nowadays.

Some may be misguided by this well-meant appeal to live strenuous lives. Already our national greatness is beginning to suffer because men who reach 50 find their powers failing, and their years of experience hence counting for nothing. In Germany men more often reach 60 and find themselves enjoying the full powers of body and mind. There is many a noted German scientist to-day who is busy with experiments and making discoveries in advanced old age. It is for this reason that old men count for more in Germany than in America. An old man with full powers and his years of experience is a possession that no race can afford to be without. In the long run such races will prevail against one which uses up its men during their immaturity and casts them on the dump when they ought to be in their prime. Of course this fever which possesses our nation as a whole is the result of individual error, rather than public policy; but it does not seem to the writer, at least, that appeals to strenuous living express the real want of the times. Such appeals may indeed apply well to the small class of gilded youth who cut no real figure in our national growth, except as excrescences. And it seems indeed the true explanation of the President's attitude, regarded as a phenomenon, that it is a strictly class appeal, emanating from