

ing banking hours. The bill has been emasculated and, it is believed, rendered inoperative by reducing the price to thirty cents. The friends of the bill in the house claim that the bootjack interests are responsible for the emasculation as the extermination of cats would practically ruin the bootjack business.

Senator Nue from one of the Western States committed a serious breach of senatorial courtesy this morning by making a speech. Considerably more than half of those present were awakened.

Senator Depew was not in his seat to-day.

ELLIS O. JONES.

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AN AGE DOMINATED BY FEAR.

Extract from "Prisons, Police and Punishment" by Edward Carpenter—Reprinted in The Conservator of Philadelphia.

The outer life of society to-day is animated first and foremost by Fear. From the wretched wage-slave, who rises before the break of day, hurries through squalid streets to the dismal sound of the "hammer," engages for nine, ten, or twelve hours, and for a pittance wage, in monotonous work which affords him no interest, no pleasure; who returns home to find his children gone to bed, has his supper, and, worn out and weary, soon retires himself, only to rise again in the morning and pursue the same deadly round, and who leads a life thus monotonous, inhuman, and devoid of all dignity and reality, simply because he is hounded to it by the dread of starvation; to the big commercial man, who, knowing that his wealth has come to him through speculation and the turns and twists of the market, fears that it may at any moment take to itself wings by the same means; who feels that the more wealth he has, the more ways there are in which he may lose it, the more cares and anxieties belonging to it; and who to continually make his position secure is, or thinks himself, forced to stoop to all sorts of mean and dirty tricks; over the great mass of people the same demon spreads its dusky wings.

Feverish anxiety is the keynote of their lives. There is no room for natural gladness or buoyancy of spirits. You may walk the streets of our great cities, but you will hear no one singing—except for coppers; hardly a ploughboy to-day whistles in the furrow, and in almost every factory (this is a fact) if a workman sang at his work he would be "sacked."

We are like shipwrecked folk clambering up a cliff. The waves are raging below. Each one clings by handhold or foothold where he may, and in the panic if he push his neighbor from a point of vantage, it is to be regretted certainly, but it cannot be helped.

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CONFERENCE OF THE SNOOKS COUNTY BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE FEDERATION.

For The Public.

Gullem, Snooks County, Neb., Feb. 1.—A meeting of the Snooks County Benevolent and Protective Association, an organization composed of the principal farmers and horse thieves of this county, was held here last evening. Hon. June Schoenberg presided, and opened the meeting with a large number of

well-chosen remarks about the necessity for the varied interests of their thriving county getting together and establishing a community of interest. He explained that for some time there had been evident feelings of mutual hostility between the farmers and the horse thieves, but with the organization of the Benevolent and Protective Federation an era of better things was dawning. Instead of distrust and suspicion between two important classes of the community, he hoped that in future there would prevail a policy of good will and co-operation.

Quoting from Justice Holmes, of the Supreme Court, President Schoenberg pointed out that it was a great mistake to suppose that the farmers were injured through having a certain number of their horses stolen each year. Depriving these farmers of their horses did not really diminish the total property of the community, and it was not of so much importance who owned the property, as what use was made of it.

Hon. Batty E. Gumbers, speaking for the farmers, said that he entirely agreed with their worthy President. For his part he was glad to share his surplus horses with other enterprising citizens of Snooks County, and he believed that the fact of having a certain number of their horses stolen each year was a great benefit to the farmers, as it created a market for their surplus stock. Besides, the surreptitious removal of some of their horses was an incentive to the farmers to work harder in order to replace them. He could see no reason why in the future the farmers and horse thieves should not live and work in harmony.

After President Schoenberg had exhibited samples of a new felt hoof-pad, which he has found highly efficacious in preventing unnecessary disturbance in connection with the distribution of property in horses, the meeting adjourned until April 1st, when a representative of the Civic Federation will address the farmers on "how to maintain harmony between monopoly and labor."

WHIDDEN GRAHAM.

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WALL STREET AND "GRAFT."

Ernest Crosby in the February Cosmopolitan.

Wall Street is rotten. It has been probed in a dozen different places during the past few months, and the operations have revealed nothing but gangrene. It was possible at the beginning to suppose that the particular cases of dishonesty were exceptional, but that theory is no longer tenable. The institutions investigated stood at the head of American finance. The men implicated in the worst forms of malfeasance are among the most distinguished leaders in the Street. Every one of them is connected with a score of more of other directors and firms, and the natural inference is that these are all run in the same way.

Wall Street is rotten—and it is most fortunate that this is so. Symptoms of disease are not bad things; they are good and only good. They are the danger-signals that give us an opportunity to cure. Evil conditions ought to produce rottenness. They are not calculated to produce anything else; and if by some miracle saints and heroes could thrive in an atmosphere of gross injustice, we should have