

ing concealed weapons, and carrying inflammable material.

This reads like a dull joke, but it was no joke. The mayor, acting upon the learned attorney's advice, suppressed the Journal. The attorney's name is Charles C. Reed.

When Mayor Johnson of Cleveland learned of the decision of the Ohio board of railroad tax equalization, commented upon in these columns last week, he expressed himself with characteristic candor and gratifying determination. As reported by the Columbus Evening Press, he said:

Well, it's just what I expected they would do, but the fight has only just begun. Those fellows know that they are wrong, and before we get through with them we will show them that no such subterfuge, for the sake of political, and possibly personal, advantage can overcome the people's rights. Of course those fellows couldn't be expected to do anything else when one considers that about all of them are under obligations to the railroads of the state. Why, two of them, as soon as they were elected to office were whirled over the continent, not on passes but in a special car, were shown the beauties of California and given the time of their lives. They evidently believe in reciprocity. The whole republican party is bound up to the railroads. Campaign contributions have bought them, body and soul. They don't dare to be honest with the people who elect them for fear that this source of revenue will be cut off. It was perfectly fitting that the governor should be there, for he understands that the people will hold him chargeable with the acts of the board, just as the railroads would had they decided to value the roads at a fair valuation. The opinion of Attorney General Sheets is nothing but the flimsiest sort of subterfuge. The board didn't want to raise the valuation because they had received favors for which they were grateful; the republican party didn't want to oppose these roads, and so that opinion was written. The board jumped at it of course, but there isn't a man on that board who doesn't know and firmly believe that the board has the right to raise the valuations as high as they please up to the point of reason. The board promised to send me a copy of that opinion and a formal statement of its action and reasons therefor. When we get that we will decide on the next step. I can't tell as yet what it will be, but one thing is certain, and that is that the de-

cision of the board does not end the matter.

The decision referred to by Mr. Johnson was to the effect that the state board has no power to increase railroad valuations, as returned by the county auditors. The board made this decision in face of the fact that the statute under which it acts forbids it to decrease, but says nothing about increasing; and of the further fact that the board has several times made increases. The attorney general who wrote the opinion upon which the board acted is the man with whom the Republican convention of Ohio, under the leadership of Mr. Hanna, displaced Attorney General Monett, also a Republican, as a punishment for having made war upon the trusts. The object of the decision is to keep railroad taxation down to about one-third, in proportion to value, of the taxation upon farm and residence property.

Archbishop Corrigan, of New York, is credited with a sermon last Sunday which recalls his bitter controversy with the late Father McGlynn, in which the patience of the latter was rewarded after a prolonged and severe trial, with a signal victory. Dr. McGlynn had upheld the moral teachings of Henry George, that all men have equal rights in the world. Archbishop Corrigan condemned this doctrine as being anti-Catholic. Being finally carried to the pope, the case was decided in McGlynn's favor, and the archbishop was overruled. His recent sermon recalls this episode by its reference to the subject of that controversy. "Charity," says the archbishop, "implies equality, but—when we regard society we are obliged to modify the statement that all men are equal. In the nature of things Providence has made this impossible, preposterous. Why, then, should we attempt to keep up the fiction that all men have equal rights?"

An obscure congressman from California having returned from

the Philippines and announced that while there he secured an admission from Aguinaldo in person that Admiral Dewey had given him no promises, imperialist newspapers parade the announcement as conclusive proof that Dewey made no agreement with Aguinaldo. These papers seem to be oblivious to the fact, familiar to lawyers, that agreements may be implied as well as expressed and that an express agreement is no more sacred than one which is implied. That there was an implied agreement between Dewey and Aguinaldo—not binding, of course, but an honorable obligation none the less—it would discredit common sense to doubt. The evidence of such an agreement is overwhelming. Admiral Dewey found Aguinaldo an exile in China. Asked by the American consul if Aguinaldo should go to him to arrange "for general cooperation," Dewey replied: "Tell Aguinaldo come as soon as possible." This evidence appears at page 342 of senate document 62 of the third session of the Fifty-fifth congress. Aguinaldo went. Dewey carried him to Manila, furnished him with arms, allowed him to purchase more in China which our navy transported for him, and accepted his aid in conquering Luzon. All these facts are conceded by Senator Frye, our peace commissioner at Paris, who recited them (see pages 488 and 489 of the same senate document) at a session of the peace commission, as the basis for an official inquiry of Commander Bradford, U. S. N., our own expert witness under examination, as to "what kind of a nation, in the eyes of the world, we would appear to be to surrender Aguinaldo and his insurgents to Spain to be dealt with as they please." Commander Bradford answered: "We became responsible for every thing he has done; he is our ally, and we are bound to protect him." Admiral Dewey himself has said (see his letter to Senator Lodge, page 1397 of the Congressional Record for February 1, 1900), referring to Aguinaldo: "I never treated him as an ally,

except to make use of him and the natives to assist me in my operations against the Spaniards." As that use, under the circumstances, was treating Aguinaldo as an ally, the fact of an alliance is indisputable. Now why did Aguinaldo become Dewey's ally? Was it for his health? Or was it because both he and Dewey understood that through this alliance Aguinaldo would help the United States to defeat Spain and the United States would secure to Aguinaldo's countrymen the independence for which—as the same senate document shows—they were already fighting when Dewey first appeared upon the scene?

Three monthly reports of deaths in the British reconcentrado camps in South Africa have now been furnished by the British government. They are for June, July and August. For June the death rate was 109 per 1,000 per annum; for July it was 183 per 1,000 per annum, and for August 204 per 1,000 per annum. To realize the significance of these figures it is only necessary to remember that the normal annual death rate in England is about 20 per 1,000. In the reports a prevalence of measles in the camps is mentioned as accounting for the terrible mortality and excusing this revolting Weylerization of the Boer population. But the Manchester Guardian makes quick work of that pitiable excuse. At the same time it gives the world a picture of this infamous mode of "pacification." It says:

Let us take the official excuse—an epidemic of measles. How does this affect our responsibility? There is an epidemic raging of which children are dying by dozens, say, in a Transvaal camp. A general sallies forth and "sweeps" so many square miles of country. The women are turned out of their houses. They are given a few minutes to collect what they can. The rest of their goods may or may not be burnt there and then. They, with their children and scanty belongings, are huddled on to trucks with a crowd of other "refugees," and, after one or two or more days of exposure, arrive at the pestilence-stricken camp. Here the

new-coming children, already weakened by exposure, quickly take the measles from the sick. With bad food and insufficient protection from the weather, pneumonia supervenes and they die in turn. Every step of the process could be accurately foretold. Who would think of bringing healthy children into a camp full of measles if he took the smallest thought for their health? Even if the food were perfect and the lodging good, it would mean a constant renewal and increase of the epidemic, and under the conditions of camp life it means the high death rate that we see. The concentration policy may or may not have contributed to the success of our arms, but let us at least be candid and recognize what it has meant and still means in human suffering. Bishops may approve of it, but soldiers like Sir Neville Chamberlain have told us that there is nothing approaching it in the annals of British arms.

Mr. Bryan's Commoner has begun a work of exceptional value in the propagation of democratic doctrines and the strengthening of democratic sentiment. Hereafter, every issue is to contain a department devoted to clippings from the editorial columns of the weekly papers of the country that support democratic principles and policies. This is an encouraging recognition of the fact that it is the weekly and not the daily press of the country which truly represents public opinion. "Who reads a daily paper's editorials?" is a question that might be asked with as much point as used to attach to the question: "Who reads an American book?" Such influence as daily papers have, and this is great, is exerted through their coloration of news reports and by the signed articles they publish. Their editorials go for little or nothing. They are read by but few and they influence fewer still. If we were to speculate upon the reasons, we should say that one reason is the common feeling, also a true feeling, that daily newspaper editorials are not genuine; they do not express the sentiments of the writers. When one reads what purports to be an opinion, he does not like to feel that if not directly at variance with its author's views, it is either a distortion of his views

or is written without any other motive than to fill space; and he is pretty sure to feel this for it is the fact. But if the editorial page of the daily paper has lost its hold, the weekly editorial paper has begun to gain an influential place. It is rapidly becoming in our era what the pamphlet was a century or more ago; and this because its expressed opinions are what they purport to be—the genuine opinions of the writers. For that reason, Mr. Bryan's plan for establishing in the Commoner a department which will reflect the consensus of opinion of the weekly democratic press is something to be welcomed.

Young men ambitious of a future should keep an eye upon the steel trust, which appears to be a profitable affair. No matter how many business men it ruins, nor how absolute its control over workmen in the steel industry, it does make money. Since its organization last March, it has made \$40,295,166, over and above all expenses, including sinking funds, maintenance and interest on bonds. This has enabled it to declare dividends at the rate of 7 per cent. on preferred stock and 4 per cent. on common. In the older days, when men got ahead in the world by working usefully, Horace Greeley's constant advice to young men was, "Go west, young man, go west!" But now, when to get ahead it is only necessary to have a cinch, the useful work being done chiefly by those who don't get ahead, Horace Greeley's famous phrase should be changed to "Get into the steel trust, young man, get into the steel trust!"

Those trade unionists who argue that an eight-hour day will produce as much for employers as the ten-hour day, has been strikingly verified in a Boston shoe factory. The owners of this factory, which turns out the "Queen quality" shoe for women, having voluntarily reduced working hours for their 2,000 employes first from ten hours to nine, and afterwards to eight, report that with