

this novel, the scenes of which are laid in the slaughter house district of Chicago, Mr. Sinclair met with great difficulty in securing a publisher, owing to his revolting revelations as to the conduct of the slaughter house industry. One publishing house, Doubleday, Page & Co., sent the manuscript for verification to a Chicago lawyer, who, in returning it, described it as a tissue of falsehood. The publishers then commissioned a New York lawyer, Thomas H. McKee, to investigate. In his report this lawyer declared that Sinclair had not told half of the scandalous story of the filth and disease of the meat industry. The manuscript was consequently published and a copy of the book fell into the hands of the President, who, of his own initiative, appointed Labor Commissioner Charles P. Neill and Mr. James B. Reynolds, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, to investigate. He gave immediate publicity to his action, and as he was quoted in the press at the time he expressed himself indignantly rather at the author than at the accused packers.

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Meanwhile, the packers brushed the accusations aside, even to the extent of ignoring a challenge by Sinclair (p. 97), in which he said: "One hundredth part of what I have charged ought, if it is true, to be enough to send the guilty man to the gallows; one hundredth part of what I have charged, ought, if it is false, to be enough to send me to prison; if the things which I have charged are false, why has Mr. Armour not sued me for libel? All that I ask of Mr. Armour is a chance to prove my charges in court."

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After a time the investigators made their report. But it was not given out for publication, and the Washington dispatches foreshadowed a report denouncing Sinclair's revelations as 95 per cent. lies. A little later the Washington dispatches began to announce, that of the Chicago Tribune of the 19th of May for example, that "the President is much more stirred up over this matter than the people generally know. He had believed in the beginning that there was no foundation whatever for the charges made by Mr. Sinclair; but subsequent information has lent at least sufficient credence to what has been said by that author, to cause him to determine to insist upon legislation to correct the abuses which have been discovered actually to exist." The same dispatch told of a bill which had been introduced by Senator Beveridge, providing for drastic reform in the Federal meat inspection service, and following the lines of the Sinclair revelations."

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As the Washington news on the subject dribbled along from day to day thereafter, it appeared that the stock raising interests were coming to the aid of the packers in opposing the Beveridge bill, and that the President was holding back the report of his investigators to use as a club for forcing that bill through. As Sumner, a Washington correspondent, said in the Chicago Record-Herald of the 25th—
It has been sought by representatives of the stock-raising industry who arrived in Washington yesterday to fore-

stall or stave off the impending report on the investigation conducted by Labor Commissioner Neill and Special Commissioner Reynolds by having an expert commission appointed to conduct a more technical examination of conditions. . . . But this suggested plan seems to have shown the Administration the strength of its position, and as a result it was stated this afternoon on high authority that if the meat inspection bill backed by President Roosevelt is not passed without delay the packers will not have their wishes carried out. As it was put with great force to the Record-Herald correspondent. "This legislation is going to be exacted. If it can be had without scandal so much the better, but if necessary it will be had with scandal." The inference is plain, and it is to the effect that the Administration has "the goods" on those whom it assumes to be fighting adequate and thorough government inspection regulation, and will make every use of the same unless the corporations concerned come to time. It is contended that with an adequate inspection and sanitary regulation law in force existing evils would be remedied, and it therefore would be unnecessary to put disclosures bordering on the sensational before Congress to stir it to further action.

The Beveridge bill was passed by the Senate on the 25th as an amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill, and is now before the House. It virtually places the entire packing industry under national inspection.

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On the 27th Mr. Sinclair wrote a letter to President Roosevelt on the subject of suppressing the Neill-Reynolds report, in which he said:

A dispatch states that you have written one of the senators to the effect that if the Beveridge bill were passed it would not be necessary for you to submit to Congress the report of Commissioners Neill and Reynolds. I can understand the effectiveness of their report as a club to force the passage of this bill. Yet it seems to me that there is something else to be considered more important than this. The source and fountainhead of genuine reform in this matter is an enlightened public opinion. Given that, everything else will come of itself, including proper legislation; and without that no bill, however adequate, can accomplish much. That report ought to be printed and ought to be on file so that anyone can refer to it readily.

On the same subject two resolutions were introduced in the House of Representatives on the 29th. One was by Congressman Sulzer of New York and the other by the minority leader, Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams's resolution calls upon the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to report the facts; the one by Mr. Sulzer asks the President, if not incompatible with the public interest, to make public the Neill-Reynolds report.

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The Eight-Hour Law in Congress.

Members of the lower house of Congress were amazed on the 29th by a favorable report from the committee on labor on the eight-hour bill, which was supposed to be so safely buried in that committee that no Congressman would be obliged to go on record upon it. The Federation of Labor had complained to the President and Congress of hostility to labor measures, this among the rest (p. 31), and the existing law the weaknesses of which this bill is intended to remedy. But the committee of the lower house continued its perfunctory sessions with no apparent end in sight. According to the dispatches it was not the intention of the majority leaders to let the bill get out of committee and upon the House calendar. But on the 29th that very thing

happened. The committee was listening, without a quorum, to a speech against the bill by the representative of a ship-building firm, when Congressman Hearst, a member of the committee, entered the room. His presence made a quorum with a Democratic majority. As soon as this was observed a motion was made to close the hearing and report the bill favorably forthwith. The Republican members of the committee sent out hurry calls for their colleagues, but without success; and in a few minutes the bill had been reported back to the House with a recommendation that it pass. This bill fixes an eight-hour day for all work in which the Federal government is interested whether done directly under the supervision of the government or by contract.

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Politics in New York.

Congressman Hearst's name for the Democratic candidate for Governor of New York was announced on the 24th by the Democratic committee of Queen's County, the vote for him being 16 to 5. A few days later Roger C. Sullivan, the Illinois member of the Democratic National Committee, publicly stated upon returning from New York that Hearst's name will be the only one presented for governor to the Democratic convention. His inference was based upon conversations with Norman F. Mack, national committeeman from New York, and others; and in comment, as reported in the Chicago Examiner, he said: "If this be so, and Mr. Hearst should be elected, which, according to the same sources he will be by a tremendous majority, then there must follow a political miracle to keep him away from the nomination for President in 1908."

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Politics in New Jersey.

The upheaval in the Republican party of New Jersey (p. 8) over the power in that party of great corporate interests, has produced an announcement from George L. Record, of Jersey City, of his intention to become the Republican candidate for U. S. Senator in opposition to Senator Dryden. In the New York Times of the 24th Mr. Record's announcement was reported as declaring:

I have been moved to enter the field by various considerations. The equal tax agitation, led by Mayor Fagan and Senator Colby, has disclosed the fact that the State Republican organization, and in large measure the local county ones, are controlled by political leaders who are directly or indirectly the representatives of the great corporations of the state. The control by these men of the party machinery has been to them very profitable, and they will not surrender that control until they are driven out. That the corporations, acting through the state leaders, will endeavor to select the United States Senator to be elected next winter, goes without saying. The choice of the machine is Senator Dryden. They will not proclaim this fact from the housetops, because they fear that Mr. Dryden's corporate affiliations and his record have made him unpopular with the people. Their legislative candidates will therefore dodge the question so far as they can. They will say they have reached no conclusion on the subject, or that they will decide after considering all the candidates who may be before the legislature next winter, or they will give out that they are for some other candidate who may have some local popularity. But this dodging will fool nobody. The machine, the bosses, and the corporations are all for Mr. Dryden. They know him. They have tried him. Of all men in public life in New Jersey Mr. Dryden best typifies and represents the fundamental

idea of machine politics, the alliance between corporations enjoying or desiring special privileges and the boss of the party machines. Mr. Dryden stands for what the machine and boss stand for; he represents politically everything we are fighting to destroy. To defeat him is to destroy the control of the party organization by the corporations. In order to defeat him a candidate identified with the anti-machine forces must take the field. You cannot beat somebody with nobody. It is the opinion of some of the leaders of the fight against the machine that I should make this contest, and for that reason I have become a candidate. I shall make the best fight I know how to make. I shall go into every county and state our case to the people wherever I can get a hearing. I shall appeal only to reason, and shall rely for success upon argument and discussion. I shall try to call things by their right names, and to state the truth as I see it. There is now shaping in the United States, in my judgment, one of the greatest political contests in the history of the country. It is becoming plain that there is great peril to our institutions in the huge fortunes and aggregations of capital in the hands of the few, which are characteristic of our day, and in the influence which these exercise over the railroads, our national highways. President Roosevelt has recently pointed out this danger. Thoughtful men everywhere perceive it. In some form or other the attempt to remedy this and similar evils is bound to shape our politics in the future. It is the old, old question of special privilege in a new form. The doctrine of the square deal is but an expression of this feeling. The beneficiaries of special privileges will bitterly oppose any attempt to abolish these evils. Considerations, not only of state but of national importance, require that a Senator should be sent to Washington by the Republican party whose sympathies are against the special interests which have so long dominated our politics, and are with President Roosevelt and the policies which he has come to represent in the popular mind.

Mr. Record has been the chief aide of Mayor Fagan, whose administration in Jersey City has been given national interest by one of the magazine articles of Lincoln Steffens. The question of equal taxation as related to public service corporations was first brought into prominence in New Jersey by Mr. Record, and through his efforts the bills of last year and this year to compel the railroad companies to pay their taxes, were put through the New Jersey legislature. He is the author of the Jersey primary law.

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Politics in Pennsylvania.

A fusion of the Prohibition and the Democratic parties on a ticket for State officers in Pennsylvania was effected at Harrisburg on the 24th, with William H. Berry, the present treasurer of the State (vol. viii, p. 509), as the candidate for governor.

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Prohibition Politics in Indiana and Iowa.

In making State nominations (pp. 59, 80) on the 23d, the Prohibitionists of Indiana adopted a platform declaring for 2-cent railroad fares, the abolition of passes, woman suffrage, and the initiative and referendum. At Des Moines on the 23d, L. S. Coffin was nominated by the Prohibitionists for governor of Iowa.

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Approaching Election in Oregon.

An important State election will occur in Oregon on the 4th—important chiefly for the referendum issues involved. Five constitutional amendments and various bills, all initiated by popular petition, are to be voted on. Four of the amendments and one of the bills were initiated through the efforts of the