

invested in their business are or could be guilty of the sensational charges brought against them. It is obvious it is to their interest to conduct their business in the cleanest and most scientific manner possible, with the best quality of material and the most modern appliances. I know nothing of the conditions prevailing in some small packing houses. No sane man ever would believe the newspaper stories that have appeared upon the subject. The whole of these so-called revelations have been engineered directly by Mr. Roosevelt himself. The truth is that Roosevelt has a strong personal animus against the packers of Chicago and is doing and will do everything in his power to discredit them and their business. The reason is too obvious to require explanation to anybody knowing anything of American politics and American public life. I consider that the system of inspection in the American packing industry is fully adequate, but even supposing that some changes were necessary, do you suppose the best way to go about the matter is to boom it as a newspaper sensation? If what Mr. Roosevelt wanted was only a change and improvement in the inspection system, surely the most straightforward way would have been to tell us so, to have required us to make whatever alterations he thought necessary.

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All the heads of the big packing houses who were in Chicago held an afternoon conference on the 4th. President Roosevelt's report was spread out before them. At the close of the conference a formal statement was given out signed by Armour & Co., Swift & Co., Morris & Co., G. H. Hammond company, Omaha Packing company, Anglo-American Provision company, Libby, McNeill & Libby, and Schwarzschild & Sulzberger, in which the charges of the Neill-Reynolds report were denied. This denial was supplemented by a report made at the instance of the packers by Prof. T. J. Burrill, vice-president of the University of Illinois and chief of the department of bacteriology, and by Prof. H. S. Grindley of the chair of chemistry of the University of Illinois. These gentlemen had made their investigation on the 24th and 25th of May. In the report they say that they have nothing at stake for themselves or for friends or enemies. "No claim is made that this was an exhaustive investigation." Wherever they went they had a competent guide and they went wherever they chose. The report notes that "this is a butcher's, not a milliner's or jeweler's work," and must be judged from its own standpoint. After a description of the conditions, this report concludes:

Briefly, our visit was a very satisfactory one to ourselves, except that the time for such an inspection was much too short. We were previously acquainted with only one man whom we met, a chemist in the employ of one of the companies. He endeavored to aid us to see anything and everything which we chose to inspect, and introduced us to the men who could give us such aid. We spent two days of very active inquiry and observation, visiting selected parts of the plants of four companies. Much difference was found in regard to adaptation for such work in the older buildings, compared with those of more recent construction, and especially in the newer substitutes for wood in the floors. We believe that very desirable improvements could be made in regard to the cleanliness of the persons and clothing of operatives by providing further lavatory facilities and by adopting a suitable working uniform with regulations for laundry work. We saw the value of the present inspection procedure, and hope that these may be extended and improved. The packers themselves seem to favor this, but for this we had only the ideas of managers or superintendents and the experience of the government inspectors. We did not find anything seriously repugnant to cleanliness or wholesomeness in the operations or procedures, neither did we find anything which indicated corrupt business practices or deceit, unless we call

artificial coloring of some products, or the manufacturing of certain compounds without showing the constituents on the labels, by these names. We feel certain that the descriptions published of late, showing horribly uncleanly and unsanitary conditions and practices in these packing houses must be themselves open to wide criticism, though we make no claim to anything like an exhaustive examination of the premises. We are under no kind of obligations to any one in this matter, except for the personal courtesies received during our visit.

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Exposure of New York Central.

The examination of railroad officials before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Philadelphia (p. 202) developed facts on the 5th which reflect upon the New York Central Railroad in much the same manner as those developed last week reflect upon the Pennsylvania system. The facts were drawn out by Edward B. Whitney, the New York lawyer, from E. W. Rossiter, vice-president of the New York Central. Mr. Rossiter admitted that the Beech Creek Coal and Coke company had presented the railroad with 5,000 shares of stock, par value \$100, and that later when the Beech Creek company was merged into the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke company this stock was exchanged for \$1,500,000 worth of stock in the latter company. When asked how the railroad acquired the original stock and whether it paid cash for it, Mr. Rossiter replied that it was given to the railroad in 1901 when the coal company was organized, and that the railroad paid no cash for it, but that it was given for traffic reasons. A contract had been signed by the railroad and the coal company and the stock was given in consideration of the contract. This contract was produced. By its provisions the coal company agreed to mine at least 1,000,000 tons of coal every year, and the railroad agreed to furnish cars equal to that amount of coal annually, exclusive of fuel cars. The railroad further agreed to interest itself in no other coal company excepting the Clearfield bituminous coal corporation. The railroad also agreed to purchase 500,000 tons of fuel coal every year. The Clearfield corporation was a merger of a number of smaller companies owned by the New York Central. These companies supplied only fuel coal to the railroad. The witness stated that the railroad also owned the entire stock of the Gallitzen Coal company, but had an agreement with the Webster Coal and Coke company and the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke company by which the latter operated the mines. The inference drawn at the hearing from this and other testimony was that the New York Central discriminates in transportation facilities in favor of coal companies in which it is secretly interested. In this respect its operations were connected by a "gentleman's agreement" with the Pennsylvania road for controlling the development of coal lands along their lines.

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Labor Riot in Mexico.

Sensational reports were published on the 2d of an outbreak of Mexican workmen against Americans at the Cananea Consolidated Copper mines, in the State of Sonora, Mexico, on the 1st. These mines are controlled by Col. W. C. Greene, one of the objects of Lawson's exposures. There are about

2,000 Americans in the camp and about 20,000 Mexicans, and it was reported that some 45, mostly Americans, had been killed. Martial law was promptly proclaimed, and Mexican troops came upon the scene. The Governor of Sonora brought American volunteers over the line, and American Federal troops were assembled at the line. From later reports it appeared that the killed were 19 and that of these 16 were Mexicans, from which it was inferred in Mexican dispatches that the Americans were the aggressors. The American volunteers returned on the 4th.

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An official dispatch from the American ambassador, given out at Washington on the 4th, stated that the outbreak was regarded by the Mexican authorities as a political demonstration against President Diaz, which had been fomented at St. Louis. Newspaper dispatches of the 5th from St. Louis tended to confirm this statement. As published in the *Chicago Examiner* of the 6th they told of an organization at St. Louis representing the Liberal party in Mexico, and gave an interview with its secretary, Antonio I. Villareal, who said:

Mexico is dominated by a small ring of politicians of which Diaz is the head. Diaz dictates the election of governors and representatives. Officials have grown fat at the public crib. The governors have been made rich with their families and particular friends, while the poor peasants have been compelled to work for a beggary pittance and remain in ignorance. The Liberal party movement is trying to teach our people what they should do. We are trying to teach them that they should assert themselves and demand fair treatment from their employers. The treatment accorded the Mexican laborers in the mines of Cananea has been unjust, and the Mexican officials, not Colonel Greene, are responsible. Greene was willing to pay the Mexican laborers wages as good as those paid Americans, but the Mexican governor and his clique saw the danger in this. It would mean that the Mexican peasant would leave the farm where the Mexican employer pays 25 to 50 cents a day, and seek employment in the mines, where he could get two or three times as much.

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Coal Mine Riot in Ohio.

A conflict between striking coal miners (p. 129) and private troops or guards of the United States Coal company is reported to have occurred at Dillonvale, near Steubenville, Ohio, on the 4th. No one was killed, although two on each side were wounded and several of the guards deserted. A detachment of State troops arrived on the 5th, and the private troops or guards were dismissed.

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Woman's Single Tax League.

The sixth annual convention of the Woman's National Single Tax League was in session at Brooklyn, N. Y., on the 29th, 30th and 31st. The opening address was by the president, Mrs. Crosby, and the welcoming addresses by Mrs. Minnie R. Ryan, president of the local club, and Bird S. Coler, president of the Borough of Brooklyn. Mrs. Florence A. Burrell of Philadelphia responded. Papers were read by Eva J. Turner on "One Kitchen for the Whole Block," and Mrs. Isabelle Schindler on Fairhope. John Z. White of Chicago spoke on "The Single Tax." On Memorial Day, at the graves of Henry George and Edward McGlynn, addresses were made

by Sylvester Malone, Alfred J. Boulton and John Z. White. After a banquet at which speeches were made by many representative single taxers, new officers were chosen, Mrs. Minnie R. Ryan being elected president; and East Orange, N. J., was named as the place and May 27, 28 and 29 as the dates for the convention of 1907.

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Prior to adjourning, the convention adopted resolutions calling upon Congress to tax franchises in the District of Columbia; expressing sympathy with the efforts that are being made to illustrate as far as possible the operation of the single tax in the colony of Fairhope, Ala.; rejoicing in the active agitation for municipal ownership; welcoming the political campaign for equal taxation and limited franchises now going on in New Jersey; recognizing in the matter of separation of improvement values and land values a distinct gain in the direction of just taxation; expressing confidence in good results to come from the governmental inquiries into insurance frauds, railroad irregularities and the adulteration of foods, including the revelations concerning the beef trust; noting the agitation and progress of the single tax cause in other countries; endorsing the claim of women to the ballot, and approving the initiative and referendum.

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Reform Club Banquet.

A significant political dinner was given at New York on the 2d under the auspices of the tariff committee of the Reform Club. Henry B. B. Stapler presided and the speakers were ex-Gov. Douglas of Massachusetts, Congressman John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, Prof. William G. Sumner of Yale, Congressman Henry T. Rainey of Illinois and ex-Congressman John Dewitt Warner of New York, president of the American Free Trade League. All the speakers were against protection, but Mr. Warner was bolder than the others. Speaking on "tariff for revenue only" he said:

Protection is a respectable form of brigandage, and tariff for revenue only is a tariff so adjusted as to give incidental protection to our manufacturers by duties so balanced against their greed that the government shares with them the taxes their fellow-citizens pay. In fixing such a tariff there is the same temptation to lie, the same motive for bribery, the same premium on trickery, as in the case of a tariff solely for protection.

Letters were read from Grover Cleveland, Alton B. Parker, and Henry Watterson. All were conservative, though in opposition to protection.

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Pennsylvania Politics.

The breach in the Republican party in Philadelphia (vol. viii, p. 855) has extended to the politics of the whole State (p. 204), through the nomination at Philadelphia on the 31st of a full State ticket by the Lincoln party, its candidate for governor being Lewis Emery, Jr. The platform advocates new laws for the control of railroads and suggests as a means to this end the appointment of a State commission with powers similar to the Interstate Commerce Commission. It demands "the election of legislators and executive officers who will pass just laws and