

The new school is founded on the conviction that effect follows cause, and that crime-breeding conditions inevitably beget criminals.

It is my hope that the Prison Reform League, setting the facts on both sides impartially before the public, may give impetus to a literary movement that will generate substantial thought. And I repeat that the social machinery must be examined first where it has broken down most conspicuously; where the victims are most visible and the spectacle presented most pitiful.

There is but one living creature so helpless as the discharged convict—penniless, will-broken, and with every man's hand against him—and that is the unfortunate who is caged and at the mercy of his keeper's every whim. It is in his case that liberty and the other high-sounding phrases with which society cloaks its short-comings, become the most transparent mockery, and this special branch of sociology demands, therefore, the closest investigation.

GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

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Week ending Tuesday, September 21, 1909.

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### President Taft's Journey.

Before the Boston Chamber of Commerce on the 14th, upon the eve of his "13,000-mile swing around the circle" (p.867,) as the news dispatches call it, President Taft outlined its object. It is on the one hand to get a "more accurate impression as to the views of the people in the sections he visits," thereby making him "a wiser man and a better public officer;" and on the other "to explain to the people some of the difficulties of government and some of the problems for solution from the standpoint of the Executive and the legislator as distinguished from that of the honest but irresponsible critic." One of these problems is the monetary subject, respecting which the President's speech indicated a favorable attitude toward "some sort of arrangement for a central bank of issue which shall control the reserve and exercise a power to meet and control the casual stringency which from time to time will come in the circulating medium of the country and the

world." And in this connection he stated that the Monetary Commission, of which Senator Aldrich is chairman—

intend to institute a campaign of education in order to arouse public opinion to the necessity of a change in our monetary and banking systems, and to the advantages that will arise from placing some form of control over the money market and the reserve in the hands of an intelligent body of financiers responsible to the government.

Enlarging upon this statement the President further said:

I am told that Mr. Aldrich will "swing around the circle" in the present fall and will lecture in many of the cities of the middle West on the defects and needs of our monetary system. I cannot too strongly approve of this proposal. Mr. Aldrich, who is the leader of the Senate, and certainly one of the ablest statesmen in financial matters in either House, has been regarded with deep suspicion by many people, especially in the West. If, with his clearcut ideas and simple but effective style of speaking, he makes apparent to the Western people what I believe to be his earnest desire to aid the people and to crown his political career by the preparation and passage of a bill which shall give us a sound and safe monetary and banking system, it would be a long step toward removing the political obstacles to a proper solution of the question.

The President did not discuss the new tariff bill in his Boston speech, further than to say that it "has removed a disturbing element in business." He announced that "we are, I believe, unless all signs fail, on the eve of another great business expansion, an era of prosperity," and asserted that "it is already here in many branches of business." But he discussed none of the problems he alluded to.

The President's first stop in his "swing around the circle"—indeed his starting point, for the Boston speech was described as preliminary—was at Chicago on the 17th. Here his principal speech was made at Orchestra Hall under the auspices of the Hamilton Club. His subject was trade unionism, although no provision had been made by his hosts for any trade union representation in his reception. It was exclusively a business men's demonstration, except for the turn-out of the public school children. This feature was managed with remarkable skill by the architect of the Board of Education. In the course of his speech on trades unionism the President said:

I know there is an element among employers of labor and investors of capital which is utterly opposed to the organization of labor. I cannot sympathize with this element in the slightest degree. I think it is a wise course for laborers to unite to defend their interests. . . . I think the employer who declines to deal with organized labor and to recognize it as a proper element in the settlement of wage controversies is behind the times. There is not the slightest doubt that if labor had remained unorgan-

ized wages would be very much lower. It is true that in the end they would probably be fixed by the law of supply and demand, but generally before this law manifests itself there is a period in which labor, if organized and acting together, can compel the employer promptly to recognize the change of conditions and advance wages to meet a rising market and an increase in profits; and on the other hand can delay the too quick impulse of the employer, facing a less prosperous future, to economize by reducing wages. . . . Nothing I have said or shall say should be construed into an attitude of criticism against or unfriendliness to those workmen who for any reason do not join unions. Their right to labor for such wages as they choose to accept is sacred and any lawless invasion of that right cannot be too severely condemned. All advantages of trades unionism, great as they are, cannot weigh a feather in the scale against the right of any man lawfully seeking employment to work for whom and at what price he will. . . . One notable defect which has been pointed out has been in the disposition of the majority of members in labor unions to reduce the compensation of all men engaged in a particular trade to a dead level and to fail to recognize the difference between the highly skilled and very industrious workman and the one only less skilled and less industrious. I think that there is a movement among trades unions themselves to correct this leveling tendency, and nothing could strengthen the movement more than the adoption of some plan by which there should remain among union workmen the impetus and motive to be found in the greater reward for greater skill and greater industry.

I need not point out the deplorable results in this country if trades unionism became a synonym for socialism. Those who are now in active control, the Federation of Labor and all the great railroad organizations, have set their faces like flint against the propagandism of socialistic principles. They are in favor of the rights of property and of our present institutions, modified by such remedial legislation as to put workmen on equality with their opponents in trade controversies and trade contracts and to stamp out the monopoly and the corporate abuses which are an outgrowth of our present system unaccompanied by proper limitation; and I think all of us who are in favor of the maintenance of our present institutions should recognize this battle which has been carried on by the conservative and influential members of trades unionism and willingly give credit to these men as the champions of a cause which should command our sympathy, respect and support.

Passing then to the complaints that trade unions make against the courts for decisions in injunction cases, the President remarked that this suggested to him "a larger field for complaint and reform" and thereupon proceeded to discuss delay in the administration of the law by the courts. His speech on this phase of his subject favored more authority for judges over juries, and greater limitations of appeals in cases involving small amounts.

The next speech of Mr. Taft's tour was at Mil-

waukee, where on the 17th he advocated postal savings banks.

At Winona, Minn., on the 17th, President Taft declared himself against the Minnesota "insurgent" Republicans who voted against the Al-drich tariff bill. Congressman Tawney, the only Minnesota Congressman who voted for that bill, presided at the meeting, and the President opened his speech in these significant terms:

I came to Winona because James A. Tawney comes from Winona. Mr. Tawney and a good many other Republicans and I stand for the present tariff law, and when a man stands with me I stand with him.

Proceeding then to read a carefully prepared speech, full of detail, the President stated his position with reference to his and his party's promises of downward revision of the tariff, as follows:

In order to determine whether a bill is a compliance with the terms of the platform, it must be understood what the platform means. A free trader is opposed to any protective rate, because he thinks that our manufacturers, our farmers and our miners ought to withstand the competition of foreign manufacturers and miners and farmers, or else go out of business and find something else more profitable to do. Now, certainly the promises of the platform did not contemplate the downright revision of the tariff rates to such a point that any industry thereby protected should be injured. Hence those who contend that the promise of the platform was to reduce prices by letting in foreign competition are contending for a free trade, and not for anything that they had the right to infer from the Republican platform.

Although the President made a speech at St. Paul and one at Minneapolis on the 18th, neither was upon subjects of general interest.

At Des Moines, Iowa, on the 20th, he was the guest of Senator Cummins, and his speech dealt principally with the subject of anti-trust and inter-State commerce laws.

In Omaha, also on the 20th, he was the guest of a secret organization of business men, the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, and made no speech of importance.

#### President Taft and the Water-Power Trust.

Just before leaving Boston on the 15th for his "swing around the circle," President Taft made public his views on the Pinchot-Ballinger controversy (pp. 797, 826) regarding the water-power trust and public lands. He did it incidentally in a letter to Secretary Ballinger written for the purpose of exonerating him on other