

ment when it appeals to the press in favor of this plan by saying that the advertising which the papers to be excluded get—and that is really all that they exist for—“legitimately belongs to bona fide newspapers and periodicals, which are supported by the public upon their actual news or literary value.” That is not a valid plea. Advertising legitimately belongs to nobody except the persons to whom the advertisers award it. Yet it is true that the legitimate uses of the second-class service are for genuine news and literary periodicals, and not for imitations of these, which get large circulations by giving extravagant premiums with a view not to serving the public with a desired publication, but to securing for an advertising medium of the third class in postal classification the lower postage rates of mediums of the second-class.

If our excessive exports are liquidating our indebtedness abroad, incurred during the 30 years or so succeeding the civil war, as is solemnly asserted by the unyielding supporters of that “favorable balance” theory (men who have learned at last that our excessive exports are not paid for with gold), these men have a little contradiction to explain. How could our excessive exports during that period, if excessive exporting is favorable, have run us into debt? And while they are formulating that explanation, they might contribute still further to the general stock of information by letting the public know what kind of balance it will be when, our debts abroad all paid, excessive importing sets in to pay us with a profit for our then current exports. Will that import balance be unfavorable?

A prediction we made long ago and have frequently repeated is coming true. The administration has begun to organize a white man’s party in the south, beginning with South Carolina. John Capers, formerly a democrat, but now a McKinley re-

publican, whom the president has appointed district attorney of South Carolina, authorizes an interview in which he says: “I hope that we shall be able to organize a republican party in South Carolina that will be a credit to our state and represent the best elements of the community.” “Best” elements means, as usual in such cases, the best in the sense adopted by the rich young woman of Hood’s verses, who believed that “those who have naught are naughty.” For our part we welcome this movement. When the aristocrats of the south get out of the democratic party there, it may become democratic. At present it is little better than a survival of the proslavery democracy of the fifties.

A wholesome decision has been made by the federal court of appeals at St. Louis. The question arose on an act of the Kansas legislature which had authorized township governments to issue bonds for the erection of sorghum sugar mills. In a suit for interest on these bonds, the court holds that they are void, the promotion of manufacturing enterprises being a private and not a public business. We say this is a wholesome decision because, while we believe that manufacturing and all other wealth production should be encouraged, we believe the encouragement should consist exclusively in relieving all productive enterprises from the burdens of taxation, and not in furnishing bounties to some enterprises at the expense of taxpayers.

An irritating typographical error occurred last week, on page 3, which took all meaning out of the latter part of the editorial beginning “Our attention has been called.” We therefore reproduce so much of the distorted part of the article as is necessary to make it intelligible. The three last sentences should read as follows:

We might properly observe, however, that Mr. Casson has not very carefully analyzed the Gilman problem if he thinks it nothing but a

question of storekeeping. Tariffs and other taxes, tea gardens and other kinds of land, and disinherited labor, all entered in to give to Gilman, on the one hand, abnormal commercial power, and to make his employes, on the other, abnormally weak as contracting parties. The Gilman problem is much less a question of competitive storekeeping than of legal monopoly.

CRIMINAL CLASSES.

What to do with the criminal classes is an ever-recurring problem. It is usually treated as if these classes were beasts, and it were supplementary to the problem of what to do with hawks, or rats, or foxes, or wolves or other beasts and birds of prey that pester mankind. At best it is treated as if the criminal classes were a different kind of human from ourselves, having not only a different environment, but different heredity and radically different moral impulses.

Until that attitude is changed for one more considerate, the problem will not be solved. All the whipping posts that can be erected, all the novel methods of legalized homicide that can be invented, all the perfunctory red-tape kindness that professional penal reformers can devise, all the learning of “scientific” penology, will not in the least degree advance the solution of the criminal problem until the criminal classes are sincerely and intelligently considered as men like other men.

The first point for consideration along that line is motive.

In itself criminal motive is nobody’s concern but the criminal’s. It does, indeed, go deeper than criminal action. It is, indeed, the essence of crime. When fostered it does build up criminal character. But criminal motive in itself injures no one but him in whom it exists. It is distinctively an individual affair, an evil to be reformed by the individual in response to his own choice and in his own way. Organized society has no function regarding it.

For the reformation of motives, we may teach and preach and admonish; but we must do so as individuals to individuals. We have no right to put men’s motives into moral straight jackets by force. And we could not if