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EDITORIAL

Workingmen and savings banks.

Savings bank statistics as evidence of the prosperity of workingmen gets another blow (p. 338) through revelations in the settlement of the estate of Col. Willard Glazier, the wealthy author and lecturer. Nearly all his fortune of \$135,000 was found deposited in the savings banks of more than 50 cities scattered over 15 States. In New York city alone he was a depositor in 18 savings banks. These deposits show up in warm colors through the savings bank statistics, as an indication of that improving condition of the working poor of which statistics are so full and the working poor so ignorant.

"Honest graft."

"Honest graft" is the new

New York name for a kind of graft that is described by a New York expert in this wise:

My party is in power in the city, and it is going to undertake a lot of public improvements. I am tipped off on the place. I go to that place and buy all the land I can in the neighborhood. Then the board of this or that makes its plan public and there is a rush to get my land which nobody cared particularly for before. Ain't it perfectly honest to charge a good price and make a profit on my investment and foresight? Of course it is. Well, that is honest graft.

And what is the *modus operandi* of "honest graft" when "my party is in power" and is going to give away a lot of street franchises?

Thinking workers and working thinkers.

The comment of the American League of Industrial Education, upon a quotation from an unnamed Negro writer, ought to penetrate the dull wits of those who are unconcerned while educational systems are formulating for the creation of a class of culture and a class for service. The criticized writer had said: "Teach the thinkers to think and the workers to work," adding: "It is silly to make a scholar a blacksmith, but sillier still to make a blacksmith a scholar." This was an incautious, perhaps unintended, expression of an idea that has taken root high up in educational circles. We quote the answer of the League, for it goes straight to the mark: "This ideal of 'teaching the thinkers to think,' and not to work, and the 'workers to work,' and not to think for their own protection, if carried to its ultimate, we are sure would again naturally and inevitably lead to just such a state of society as prepared the way for the ruin of the republics of old Greece and Rome, where a small coterie of well educated men 'taught to think' but not to work nor to respect the workers, thought out ways to reduce the 'workers who had been taught to work' but not to think for their own protection, to the most abject and pitiful poverty and slavery that has ever disgraced hu-

manity. And these 'thinkers who had been taught to think' but not to work, became the most arrogant tyrants and profligates in all the world's sad history. This baneful sentiment has always and always will tend to bring men to this condition to the end of time, if carried to its natural ultimate."

Roosevelt and public ownership.

"I do not believe in government ownership of anything which can with propriety be left in private hands," said President Roosevelt in his Raleigh speech. And what can "with propriety" be left in private hands? Can we "with propriety" leave in private hands any public function at all? If we can, then why not all public functions? Or, if some public functions may be left "with propriety" in private hands, where shall the line be drawn between such as may be and such as may not? And why does President Roosevelt so particularly and "most strenuously object to government ownership of railroads"? Does he refer to plant and rolling stock as well as right of way? If he includes right of way in his objection to government ownership, why does he not object to government ownership of paved streets and dirt roads, which are clearly in the same category of public highways with railroad rights of way? Mr. Roosevelt says that dirt roads are not in the same category, because they are simple while railroads are complex. But so was the post office once simple whereas now it is complex. Could we therefore "with propriety" put the post office in private hands?

Pierpont Morgan and Chicago traction.

There was an interesting concatenation of circumstances last week in connection with the Chicago traction (pp. 466, 472) matters.

Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan had come to Chicago. This aroused suspicions. To understand the