

directly manage a disgraceful lottery enterprise.

There is wholesome food for thought in the parallel which a Chicago clergyman draws between prize fighters and nations. As Sullivan found his Corbett, and Corbett yielded to Fitzsimmons, who in turn was knocked out by Jeffries, so, says this clergyman, "one nation holds sway for a time, but it soon gives way to a more progressive people; they in turn are overcome by still another, and so the merry game goes on." He accordingly predicts the downfall of the United States as inevitable. In considering this parallel it should never be forgotten that prize fighters are the very types of physical force as a human ideal. So long as nations take their ideals from the prize ring it therefore follows that they will, as the Chicago preacher says, have the careers of prize fighters. But what if they were to make the golden rule their ideal?

The Dubuque Telegraph is authority for the statement that the interview with ex-Senator Charles A. Towne, recently published broadcast, in which he was made to throw over Bryan and free silver and come out for Hill and reaction, is a "fake," utterly without basis in fact. Mr. Towne has wired Mr. Bryan, says the Telegraph, "denouncing the interview as a 'fake,' and declaring that he has not spoken to a reporter in three months." The Telegraph's comment upon this episode fits the case perfectly. It says:

It is incredible that any newspaper man conceived and wrote the imaginary interview merely to gratify his taste for the sensational. The political motive behind the lie is easily discernible. Evidently the interview was carefully and purposely prepared to discredit the democratic national platform and leader and thus promote the scheme of the eastern "reorganizers" to regain control of the party and convert it from an opponent into an instrument of privileged interests.

Not alone in politics is the "fine

Italian hand" of the trusts discernible, making the press of the country an agency for deliberately misleading public opinion. The same kind of work, bearing similar birthmarks, is evident in connection with the steel strike. There is a persistent effort to deceive the public into believing that the strikers made the unionization of all the mills of the trust a sine qua non, and that they are fighting for that point. This is false upon the face of the facts, reported even in the very papers that insist upon putting that construction on the demands of the strikers. Henry George, Jr., who, as a newspaper man especially expert in labor controversies, is familiar with the whole situation, makes the true issue of this strike clear, and he is borne out by the strike news as it has appeared day by day during several weeks past. Mr. George says that President Shaffer, of the strikers, has flatly denied, over his signature, that the strikers insisted on unionizing the nonunion mills and specifically stated that—

all that was asked was a uniform scale for union and nonunion mills, so that the nonunion men should get as good wages and other working conditions as the union men, and that, furthermore, all contracts prohibiting men from joining the union be canceled.

Mr. George does not stop with quoting Mr. Shaffer. He goes on to show why this demand in behalf of nonunionists was made by the strikers, and why the trust organs torture it into a demand for general unionization. Here also Mr. George is borne out by the current reports. He says:

But what is the significance of the matter anyhow? some one may ask. The significance so far as the men are concerned is that they have hoped by forcing a uniform scale to deprive the trust of the possibility of working the low-pay against the high-pay mills. They have also reasoned, with plausibility, that if the union can compel the trust to pay the nonunion men better wages than the latter are now getting, then the nonunion men will join the union,

thereby uniting the workmen for any offensive or defensive operation against the trust. The significance of the trust's contradictory statement is that the trust desires to avoid the real issue to find in the public mind some justification for its engaging in a contest with its men, seeking to effect this end not by a positive declaration of high principles and correct conduct for itself, but rather by a negative course of misrepresenting the men's utterances and motives.

Several weeks ago the supreme court of New Jersey rendered a decision on street car franchises which attracted attention because it was understood to threaten vested interests in that kind of property, but the exact point of the decision was not very clearly defined in the press reports. It now appears from the official opinions of the judges to have been decisive of the question of the right of a city to tax street franchise values as real estate. Substantially the same question is involved in the efforts of the authorities of Cleveland to make the market value of street car stock the measure of taxable liability. The New Jersey case arose over an assessment by the city of Newark of \$3,100,000 on the property of a local street car company. This assessment was made under the authority of a statute providing that all real estate, whether owned by individuals or corporations, shall be liable to taxation at its full value. But the state board of taxation reduced the city assessment to \$2,265,000, holding that the value of the street franchise of the company could not be taxed as real estate, because the street car company had no greater right in the streets than the public generally. One of the supreme court judges adopted this preposterous contention, and sought to relieve the street car company. But the other two very crisply rejected it. "If the right is no greater," asked Justice Van Syckel, writing the opinion of the court, "why may not every individual exercise and enjoy it?" To answer that question was to decide against the company. But not only is the contention that

street car companies have no greater legal right to the streets than the general public, "in conflict with our senses," urges Judge Van Syckel; it is also "rejected by the adjudged cases on the subject." He then collates court decisions from the highest courts of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Illinois, California, Vermont and New Jersey itself, all holding that franchise rights in the streets are real estate. He concludes that as real estate these franchises are locally taxable. That being the law, a very serious question arises. Why do taxing officials, with so few exceptions, allow these tax dodging street car companies to keep on dodging?

The sponsor for a new religious movement explains that it is intended to promote the affirmative instead of the negative principle of life. "I believe," he says, "that by laying stress on the affirmative the world will be improved; thus, the heart lays stress on the affirmative when it loves, and on the negative when it hates." That is good doctrine, surely, and most people would assent to it. But it is a little like saying "be good and you won't be bad." The difficulty is to decide which of two opposing courses is the affirmative. Many people settle that question offhand by regarding as affirmative whatever has the affirmative form. They would almost strike "not" out of the eighth commandment as objectionably negative. Some of them do so when dealing for instance with the Chinese. But form is not all. Essence, not form, is the real thing. While we should always prefer the affirmative, which is life, to the negative, which is death, we should be sure that it is not merely affirmative forms we are supporting, but affirmative essence. Sometimes the essence is affirmative when the form is negative. Anti-slavery, for example, is negative in form, but it is decidedly affirmative in essence. So with anti-imperialism. Imperialism being evil, and therefore

essentially negative, anti-imperialism is essentially affirmative—it affirms democracy. Anti-wrong is always pro-right.

As the census bulletins begin to report industrial matters, they reveal conditions that must surprise people who imagine that everybody is getting rich because the financial papers boast of American prosperity. We commented several weeks ago (p. 148) on one of these census bulletins—No. 63, which reported upon the coke industry. There now lies before us No. 69, which reports upon manufacturing in Delaware. As No. 63 showed a decline in individual wages, so does No. 69. Following are the items, from the latter bulletin, of wages in Delaware manufacturing industries for 1890 and 1900:

1890—Value of products .....	\$37,571,846
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses .....	23,013,327
Net product .....	\$14,558,521
Net product per wage earner (20,479 wage earners) .....	\$ 711
Individual wages .....	421
Surplus product .....	290
1900—Value of products .....	\$45,387,630
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses .....	28,810,951
Net product .....	16,576,679
Net product per wage earner (22,203 wage earners) .....	747
Individual wages .....	417
Surplus product .....	330

Here we find that individual wages have decreased from \$421 in 1890 to \$417 in 1900. The coke industry also showed a decrease in wages, though greater—from \$452 in 1889 to \$416 in 1899. But whereas the coke industry showed an enormous increase of profit to the establishments—\$101 per hand in 1889 to \$519 per hand in 1899—the manufacturing interests of Delaware show an increase of only \$40 per hand—from \$290 in 1890 to \$330 in 1900. This difference is doubtless due to the fact that the manufacturing establishments of Delaware are subject to greater competition than the monopolized coke industry, and consequently are not able to keep much of the difference between product and wages. In fact, the net product, after deducting wages, gives them about the same percentage on their

invested capital in 1890 as in 1900. Thus:

1890—Net product (shown above)....	\$14,558,521
Less wages .....	8,630,475
Profit .....	\$5,928,046
Capital invested .....	\$33,695,400
Percentage of profit.....	18 per ct.
1900—Net product (shown above)....	\$16,576,679
Less wages .....	9,263,661
Profit .....	\$7,313,018
Capital invested .....	\$41,203,239
Percentage of profit.....	18 per ct.

When invested capital receives no increased percentage of profit, when the wage-workers get \$417 instead of \$421, and when the percentage of their wages to net product has fallen from 59 per cent. to 56 per cent., how can it be said that the manufacturing industries of Delaware were more prosperous in 1900 than in 1890?

Chicago may boast at least one observant real estate agent who is also intelligent. His name is Wyllys W. Baird. In a newspaper article Mr. Baird invites Chicago real estate investment on the ground that history repeats itself, and that a repetition of the history of Chicago really means large profits for investors in Chicago lots during the next ten years. Real estate values rose wonderfully after the great fire, he says, culminating in the financial crash of 1873. Then they dropped until about 1880, when they rose again until 1893, the crash year of the latest depression. Referring to this history, Mr. Baird advises: "Substitute 1893 for 1873, and 1900 for 1880, and you have substantially a correct statement of the market conditions for the last eight years; and just as those eight years parallel the depression beginning in 1873, with equal certainty may we look for coming years to reflect the activity of 1880." So far as human judgment can be relied upon, Mr. Baird's advice to buy is doubtless good.

The probabilities are that not only Chicago lots, but land in general in the United States, will tend upward during the present decade, and that the speculator who buys now and sells before the inevitable crash, will make money. But to others than specula-