

its former price. The paper which reports the fact thus explains it:

That extra \$75,000 represented the value added to the plot by the fact that a permanent three-story building was to be put upon the Speyer parcel. In other words, the projectors of the tall office building were assured a plentiful supply of light and air for an indefinite period, and were willing to pay an extra \$75,000 for this assurance.

It was a veritable transaction in air and sunlight to the extent of \$75,000; and the owner of the other natural element, the land which controlled the use of sunlight and air at that point, got the money.

Mayor Schmitz, of San Francisco, is to be congratulated upon the success of his mode of dealing with street car strikes. When the street car managers started in to put armed detectives upon the cars the mayor interfered. As was told last week in these columns, he gave warning that neither side to the strike would be allowed to arm. Had he followed the usual course, the street car managers would have provoked riots by this time, as they usually do. But owing to the commendably impartial and order-promoting policy adopted by the mayor they were thwarted. The strike has been absolutely peaceable. No disorder whatever is reported. And the street car managers, hopeless of provoking riots which they could swear off upon the strikers, have come promptly to a reasonable settlement. The San Francisco mayor's action in this street car strike furnishes a precedent in the labor conflict which cannot safely be departed from hereafter anywhere in the country. The public official who in the future allows street car companies to arm will be held responsible by public opinion for any resulting disorder.

There is much that is comical about all the fuss and feathers over legal proceedings against the meat trust. These proceedings are for all the world like the slapsticks of the vaudeville stage, which make a great deal of noise but hurt no-

body. The members of the meat trust themselves are merry over it. They say that if the injunction holds against the loose combination which they have formed they will form one that is not loose, one like that of the steel trust. And, sure enough, they could find safety in that way. For the steel trust, the greatest and strongest of all the trusts, is regarded by the powers that be as legally invulnerable, because it consists of one corporation owning a majority of the stock in all the subsidiary corporations. It is not a trust; it is a stockholder. Here then is a case of now you see it and then you don't. If the meat trust is held together by what a witty writer describes as "a gentleman's agreement among hogs," it is unlawful; but if it is held together by the charter of a New Jersey corporation, it is lawful. Yet there is no difference except in form.

The outcome of the Kettle Hill assault upon the meat trust will probably be an injunction, followed by applause from party organs for the "anti-trust" administration, and later by the safe reorganization of the enjoined trust under the New Jersey corporation laws. The whole thing is a farce. No official attention is paid to the recent report of the Interstate Commerce commission, which traced the power of the meat trust to secret agreements with monopoly railroad corporations; nor to the tariff which shields it in another direction. Something of this kind is the true secret of all trust power. It rests upon special privileges, upon some sort of special legal protection. Were highway monopolies and the tariff on meats abolished, the people could whistle at meat trusts whether incorporated or not. The trust evil will never be suppressed until the people understand that trusts are effects, not causes, of monopoly. Competition cannot produce monopoly, but monopoly can destroy competition.

If a recent news dispatch from Washington reports the action of the

postal department truly, another dangerous advance has been made in the direction of irresponsible postal censorship. According to that dispatch a business firm of Wilkesbarre, Pa., had started an endless chain of letters for the advertisement of a fountain pen. On the surface there appears to have been nothing fraudulent in the enterprise. It was apparently a new but effective method of advertising. So effective did it prove that the post office at Wilkesbarre is said to have been choked with mail matter inclosing money for the firm. "The postal authorities," runs the dispatch, "do not seem to be certain yet whether they can stop the business on the ground that it is illegal, but investigation is being made on this point." Then comes the nub of the announcement: "Meanwhile the business is suspended!" So, if the report is true, the postal authorities at Washington, though not at all certain that this mail order business is illegal, put a stop to it, to the probable ruin of the business, until they can find out. Government by postal bureau promises to become as obnoxious as government by injunction.

All who remember the days of the greenback agitation, following close upon the civil war, will recall the name of Jesse Harper. Mr. Harper died on the 24th of last month at Danville, Ill., at the age of nearly 80 years. He had been an intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln, and was a Republican of prominence until the advent of the Greenback party. This was the first political movement after the war, of a social or industrial character. It is often thought of only as a financial movement with unsound principles and false ideals; but it was something more than a financial movement. Whether the remedies it proposed were true remedies or not, the Greenback party did aim to eradicate industrial ills and to bring about order and equity in society; and much of the sentiment against privilege that now exists may be traced to the agitation which it began. In the