

monopoly would be injured by total denial of second-class privileges for sample copies. It is by the judicious distribution of sample copies that they make themselves known to people who wish to support such papers, and thereby secure permanent patronage. To deprive these papers of second-class privileges, though it might not much injure those that already exist, would prevent the establishment of new ones. And that is what Mr. Loud, in the interest not of the people, but of the railway companies, aims at. What he calls "legitimate" papers may be depended upon to serve monopolies as faithfully as he does; but "illegitimate" newspapers may spring up to make trouble.

The attempt, however, to hamper the establishment of new papers, by adding to the expense of such enterprises, is a minor matter in comparison with the direct pecuniary interests of the railroads which Mr. Loud would serve. He is the leading spirit in the movement to increase postal receipts, as he calls it; and his manifest object is to save to the railroads certain rich plunder which they now enjoy. Part of this plunder comes in the shape of exorbitant rentals for postal cars. These cars are owned by the companies, which received as rent for them in 1887, according to the report of that year of Postmaster-General Vilas, the sum of \$1,881,580—more by \$200,000 for the rent of the cars than their cost. And that was for cars alone. It was wholly apart from the sums paid the companies for hauling the cars and carrying the mail. This system still continues, and Mr. Loud has no intention of allowing it to be stopped.

Nor is that all. A responsible expert in railroad matters, James L. Cowles, author of "A General Freight and Passenger Post," charges the postal deficits directly to the extortionate postal contracts of the railroads. Whereas, he says, "express companies carry all sorts of parcels from the domicile in New York to

the station, thence by rail a thousand miles to Chicago, and deliver at the domicile in that city at a rate of three dollars a hundred pounds," the "railways tax the government eight cents a pound, eight dollars a hundred, one hundred and sixty dollars a ton, for the transportation of its mail bags for an average haul of not over 442 miles." There is the milk in Mr. Loud's postal reform cocoon. He proposes to lessen postal accommodations so as to enable the railroad rings to continue to appropriate postal plunder without creating a deficit to draw attention to the extortion.

Congressman Loud has been beaten once in his efforts to serve railroad interests by reducing the facilities of postal service, but your railroad congressman never tires. Mr. Loud announces that he expects yet to carry his measure through. And he will succeed unless the people organize to oppose him. An opportunity for doing this is offered by the American Postal League, now being formed, of which R. W. Wilson is acting secretary. He may be addressed at box 2361, Boston, Mass. Among the patrons of this league are John Wanamaker, Ginn & Co. and Lee & Shepard, well-known publishing houses; Mayor Quincy, of Boston, George Fred Williams, Edward Everett Hale, Little, Brown & Co., Mayor Jones of Toledo, Thomas G. Shearman and Louis Prang. The league sets out to collect information upon postal matters throughout the world for the purpose among other things of getting rid of the idea that the post office is an appropriate engine of taxation; of realizing Postmaster-General Wanamaker's idea of "a one cent letter rate, three-cent telephones, and ten-cent telegrams; of establishing a parcels post with low uniform rates based on cost of service, and of securing the extension of free collection and delivery systems. Persons interested in opposing such monopoly measures as Loud's will find no better means of making their

opposition effective than through this league.

One of the prominent lawyers of Chicago, Clarence S. Darrow, who recently won a verdict for the Woodworkers' union against the sash and door trust at Oshkosh, delivered a speech before the Federation of Labor on the 20th at Chicago, in which he made this characterization of the judiciary:

It is no exaggeration to say that nine-tenths of the laws are made nowadays by the judges, and that they are made in the interests of the rich and powerful and to destroy the poor; and the sooner the laboring man understands this the better for his liberty and his life, for his life is really at stake. The judge is the most powerful official in the machinery of modern civilization, for he can override statutes and even the constitution whenever necessary. Legislatures are notoriously corrupt and work in the interest and pay of corporations. When they do pass any laws in the interest of the poorer classes the judges are at hand to declare them unconstitutional.

That is a terrific indictment, but a true one. No part of the whole machinery of American government is at once so powerful and so completely at the service of plutocracy as the judiciary. This is especially true of the federal judiciary. Appointive judges win their way to the bench in the service of monopoly corporations. Though they be not corrupt men, their whole professional experience schools them to look upon life from the plutocratic point of view, and when they go upon the bench their mental vision is blind to any other. Not that alone. While on the bench their associations are with plutocrats. When a judge who is about to pass upon a question between a powerful corporation and a trade union, dines at the social club at which the officers and stockholders of the corporation and their lawyers and cronies rendezvous, accepting the hospitality of these very lawyers and cronies, how can he regard the trade union with sympathy? He is called to decide between his own class and another, on a class question. This

would be noted quickly enough, if instead of being a crony of corporation lawyers, he were a crony of trades unionists; if instead of dining at the plutocratic club as a guest of plutocrats, he dined at a restaurant as the guest of trades unionists; and if instead of then deciding for the corporation he decided for the workingmen.

Moreover is it not a fact that when a judge does show the slightest hostility to plutocracy he is hounded by the whole plutocratic press as unfit for his place? How was it with Judge Harlan, of the supreme court, who in his dissenting opinion in the income tax case pointed out the danger of overriding the precedents of a century to shift burdens of taxation from the rich? He was denounced for his anarchistic tendencies from one end of the country to another.

With a judiciary constituted as ours is coming to be, of corporation lawyers, and having the power to nullify laws, a judiciary which is appointed for life and which does not lack the disposition that Thomas Jefferson remarked, of taking to itself little by little more and more authority, the outcome of popular government in America is not difficult to foresee. It will be absorbed by a centralized federal judiciary.

A unique pamphlet which may or may not be a contribution to the literature of wit, but which, if it is, should take high rank, has been forwarded to us by James Love, of 627 Market street, Camden, N. J., of whom inquiries regarding it may be made. This pamphlet purports to summarize a voluminous report upon the subject of European political economy, submitted to the Japanese government by Tentearo Makalo, a commissioner of Japan to make the investigation. It is an exceedingly intelligent and caustic review of the European economists from Adam Smith down to Maffeo Pantaleoni; and aside from its other good quali-

ties, it is a comprehensive reference book not only to economic literature, but to the history and literature of social inequality. The pamphlet is just such a report as a well-educated, industrious, observant, acute and honest Japanese investigator of our economic conditions and literature could be depended upon to make. As a taste of the work, the following incisive criticism of Walker on the wage question must serve:

This book was neither pleasant reading, nor easy. Dogmatic in its tone, unenlivened by illustration, no enthusiasm is felt and no indignation, except towards writers less pessimistic than himself, apostles of a new political economy and a regenerated humanity, who question his premises or logic. In the opening paragraph he writes: "All wealth has, of course, to be produced in the first place; and, moreover, it is produced to be consumed, and for this end alone," and yet he proceeds to treat land as wealth!

Another book worthy of special mention which has floated into our book rack, is the collection of fables, published by Neeley, of London and New York, and entitled "Even as You and I." These fables are from the pen of Bolton Hall, who has achieved a fame for himself which makes it no longer necessary to identify him to the public by calling attention to the fact that he is a son of the late Rev. Dr. John Hall. The fables are all short, as fables should be; they are right to the point as fables must be; and they are interesting, a quality which not even a fable can afford to dispense with. The volume containing Hall's fables also contains, with an introductory sketch by Ernest Howard Crosby, an account of Tolstoi's philosophy, taken mainly from his work, "Of Life."

And still the cry comes up from Wall street that times are prosperous. The holders of watered stocks refuse to let go; confidence in the future is firm; through the strengthening of monopolies by the late elections, worthless paper is being converted into valuable shares. This is prosperity! And over against it we

hear of two clerks being required to do the work of three, with little or no increase in wages; of railroad engineers and firemen with slight additions to their force of brakemen and none to their wages, being obliged to pull twice the loads they formerly pulled; of farmers who have been able to turn over most of their crops to mortgagees; of farm hands taking to the road as tramps at the close of the farming season; of applications by the dozen, at stores and factories, for jobs that are not to be had, and of failures in business by hundreds weekly. That too is prosperity!

In a society in which monopolies are a recognized institution, there can be no such thing as general prosperity. If the people prosper, monopolies must languish; if monopolies prosper, the people must be depressed. The question is as simple as that of the rising and falling of the opposite ends of a beam balanced on a fulcrum. The kind of prosperity we now have is monopoly prosperity. Watered stocks rest upon the upper end of the beam; legitimate business is crushed beneath the other end.

The only complete election returns that have yet reached us from the state of Washington, indicate that the attack which the republicans there made upon the single tax measure had little if any effect in determining the result. We refer to the returns from Thurston county, in which Olympia, the capital of the state, is situated.

In that county the republican candidates for congress and for members of the legislature received majorities ranging from 31 to 203, in a total vote of about 2,000. On the other hand, populist candidates for sheriff, county clerk, auditor, treasurer and assessor, received majorities ranging from 4 to 143, also in a total vote of about 2,000. These figures are very significant of trading. They indicate that some of the populist candidates for county offices swapped