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## THE PEOPLE'S PILOT.

BY F. D. CRAIG, (Lessee.)

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John C. Ridpath, the eminent historian, has been appointed editor-in-chief of the Arena.

Gold contracts are no longer legal in Missouri. A Fellow Servant Bill has also been passed.

The House Committee on Elections has unanimously confirmed Black's claim to the seat contested by Hon. Thos. Watson.

Eugene V. Debs is speaking through the west and Northwest, confining himself almost entirely to the eight-hour-day-labor question.

The Laxow Committee has elicited from the Arbuckles and Haveameyers that their stocks are so heavily watered that a real profit of 25 and 30 per cent is disguised as 8 and 10 per cent.

Although Senator-elect Heitfele, of Idaho, is indisputably "competent, intelligent and honest," it is said by some that he "lacks the essential qualifications of a Senator." What are they?

The railroad laws now being considered and almost certain of passage in South Dakota are an expression of the Populist spirit and yet work no hardship on the roads. A suffrage bill is also pending.

The police of New York are guarding the residence of Mrs. Bradley-Martin, giver of a \$350,000 ball, for fear of bomb-throwers. The police are paid by taxing the poorer classes, not the very rich.

"New Occasions," a live reform magazine, is a recent accession to the ranks. Its editor, Frederick Upham Adams, is the author of "President Jno. Smith, the story of a peaceful Revolution."

The women of Idaho are taking their enfranchisement very seriously. Clubs for the study of tax methods, co-operation, single tax, and municipal government are being organized all over the state.

The Populists, democrats and silver republicans of the Missouri legislature have organized, and will have regular meetings, looking to a distinct understanding between the friends of silver and other reforms.

Western papers are again praising Senator Allen; this time on account of his leading the opposition to the passage of a bill providing ten thousand dollars for the West Point cadets to go to the inaugural on.

Goodland was treated to the honors of a bold and quite cruel hold up a few days ago. Mrs. Chas. Matty, while going home from the store, was followed by some unknown man, who overtook her and relieved her of her purse which luckily contained but 30 cents. She gave an alarm but the miscreant had made good his escape. —Kentland Democrat

Hop. Ignatius Donnelly has introduced a resolution in the Minnesota Senate opposing the Arbitration Treaty and showing its weak points. His speech on the subject would have sounded well from a United States Senatorial desk.

Judge George Turner, in his acceptance speech when elected to the United States Senate from Washington, declared himself a Populist, favoring government ownership of utilities and government issue of all money. He had been a silver republican.

One hundred thousand people are reported to be in a starving condition in the State of Louisiana. They have subsisted entirely on turnips for months. The same distress extends into Southwestern Arkansas and the legislature of that state has taken steps to furnish relief.

Holyoke, Mass., is considering municipal insurance. Its 45,000 inhabitants pay \$250,000 for fire insurance with average losses of \$25,000. Rates have recently been advanced 25 per cent. The fire department costs them \$60,000. The mayor and a majority of the board of alderman claim that an enormous saving to the tax-payers could be made by the municipality assuming these risks.

Great preparations are being made for the entertainment of Populist editors at Kansas City, Mo., on February 22nd. The headquarters will be at Hotel Ashland, where rates of \$1.25 and \$1.50 per day have been secured. A banquet will be tendered the visiting editors and everything will be done by the Commercial and Press clubs to promote the success of the meeting.

The Alabama Anti-Trust law recently passed provides that any corporation guilty of entering into any combine to lessen free competition in importation, sale or manufacture of any article shall have its charter revoked and the individual shall be fined and imprisoned. A law prohibiting any insurance company which is connected with any combine from doing business in the state has also been passed.

The Morgan Bill now before the Senate provides that the government shall subscribe for \$70,000,000 and guarantee the bonds of the Nicaragua Canal Company for \$100,000,000 more. But for some delay brought about by the representatives of the Central American Republics our government would ere this doubtless have been committed to this extravagance. If the government is to go into the canal building business let it own the canal.

Mrs. Wilkins, who has reached nearly the century mark on life's journey, makes her home with her daughter Mrs. Robert Watson in the south part of Remington. She is personally acquainted with President-elect McKinley, having formerly lived in Ohio, and upon his election last fall, she wrote him a congratulatory letter. The future executive answered in a kindly letter to his former neighbor who will cherish it until her dying day. —Wolcott Enterprise.

The Enterprise is authorized to announce that Mr. Morris Jones will receive the appointment of Postmaster at Brook to succeed W. F. Corbin. Mr. Corbin's time expires in September as we are advised. Mr. J. M. Tanner will receive the appointment at Thayer. Both are excellent selections, and in each case the appointment was not made by Judge Crumpacker until after he had given the matter careful consideration and had consulted the people of the towns interested. —Kentland Enterprise.

The state of New York is investigating the sugar trust, and the Chicago city council is trying to restrict the department stores. In the face of these Lilliputian attempts to obstruct the inevitable course of great combinations of capital, a veritable Brobdignagian in the way of a "combine" has sprung into life, which aims to control not only the most important steel product of this country but of all the world as well. And two of America's shrewdest and most unscrupulous captains of commerce and industry have united their forces for the work. John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie are the men, and the foundation of their gigantic operations lie in the control of the great and generous gifts of nature to the people which these men have seized upon for the destruction of their natural owners. John D. Rockefeller owns a large number of the most productive iron mines in the world, which are located a few miles from the city of Duluth. He owns a railroad system which enables him to carry the ore to the head of Lake Superior at the minimum cost. He has built one of the finest of steel ships in the world to transport the ore from the Duluth docks to the furnaces in the East. So, from the storehouse of nature to the mouth of the converter, the man who has crushed out nearly all competition in petroleum controls the production and "distribution" of a practically unlimited supply of iron ore.

Andrew Carnegie is the master of steel production in this country, and his great furnaces will form the industrial end of this gigantic combination. They have been at work for months—indeed, Rockefeller has been planning the combination of mine and furnace for years, but this week the stupendous character of the scheme first came to public notice when the representatives of the combine offered to the railroads steel rails at \$17 a ton. When it is remembered that many of the lines of the railroad in this country were laid with rails that cost \$100 a ton, and that the drop to \$75, \$60, \$80, \$25, was accomplished through long years of splendid inventions and the gradual reduction of labor's wage to the starvation point, the effect upon the market and upon other manufactures of his cut of \$8 without a word of warning may be imagined. When it is known that the price for steel rails in England today is \$24, the universal character of the war which is thus declared will be understood.

That other combinations of a similar nature will be formed by other companies in sheer self-defense is not to be doubted, and within certain limits the public will receive a temporary advantage. Railroads, for instance, which have neglected betterments badly needed, will be encouraged to buy rails and lay new tracks, and labor will

thus be employed. But the ultimate result of these combinations can mean nothing but death to democracy (the rule of the people), which many already declare to be a myth. It means the greater concentration of the country's business, the control of production, of transportation and trade by a coterie of men whose fortunes are so vast that congresses and legislatures will be bought up, though it takes millions, and become the allies of the combine. There is one hopeful sign in these aggressions of combined capital—their very boldness is arousing the people to the dangers they threaten, and this may lead to their undoing. And the growing evidence of the utter inability of the law to effect the trust and combine may lead the people to take such action as shall forever put a stop to their evil methods.

The state of Nevada, regarded always as a "rotten borough," has convicted itself of the charge by its action in legalizing prize-fighting in order that the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight may be, in the language of the ring, "pulled off" there, and, incidentally, the saloon keepers and others be enabled to make a few dollars from the army of "toughs" who will be sure to attend the contest. The constitutional provision that no state may have its rights in the national legislature curtailed without itself consenting thereto, should be stricken out, and this little state, with a total population of 45,000, but having the same power to help or hinder legislation as New York, with 9,000,000 of people, wiped off the map and swallowed up by neighboring states having, at least, as great a sense of decency as our neighbors south of the Rio Grande, who refused to legalize prize-fighting in Mexico.

A war cloud of ominous portent hovers over the island of Crete. From an unfounded report that the Mohammedans had massacred a number of Christians at Canea, the principal commercial city of the island, serious trouble arose. Troops sent to guard the Christian villages were attacked, and many Christians took refuge in the foreign warships in the harbor at Canea. The Christians, which outnumber the followers of Mahomet, raised the Greek flag and called upon that nation to protect them and assume control of the island. The ancient foe to the Turks was not slow to accept the opportunity thus presented and quickly dispatched warships to the scene of the trouble, thus throwing down the gage of war. The powers have intervened, however, and have informed Greece that no isolated action will be permitted. Those who regard the Sultan as shrewd and cunning, profess to believe the move had origin in his fertile brain, and is intended to divert attention of the powers from the main point now at issue—the securing of certain reforms demanded by their ambassadors,

and only awaiting the formal ratification of the several governments.

Perhaps no man of letters is better known and more highly appreciated than Mark Twain. Throughout the world, among rich and poor, his genial humor and wonderful originality of expression have brought him friends and admirers. These will all regret to learn that Mr. Clemens is in London in comparative poverty and obscurity, working with might and main to relieve himself of the burden of debt which came upon him through no fault of his own. By the failure of the publishing house of Chas. L. Webster & Co., in which he was a special partner, he was left at the age of 62 with all the debts of the defunct concern to pay because he was too honorable to shield himself behind any legal fenders but assumed the responsibility for the act of others.—Ex.

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