

the patent law according to their own notions of what a patent law ought to be. If this view prevailed, the design of the patent law would depend upon the courts and not upon Congress; and that is precisely a power which it is objectionable for courts to have. If Congress has made a bad patent law, let Congress and not the courts amend it.



That Congress has made a bad patent law is no secret. Instead of providing some reasonable method for compensating inventors, it has created in inventions an absolute monopoly which almost always obstructs the public in enjoying the benefit of inventions and seldom rewards inventors. What the majority of the Supreme Court have decided that this law is, is precisely what Congress intended it to be—a law giving monopolies. Congress did not indeed tend it to have the effects that the Chief Justice shrinks from; but Congress did intend to create an absolute monopoly in patented inventions. If a monopoly produces those effects it is not for the Court to correct the improvidence of Congress. But it is for Congress to do so, and let us hope that Congress will do it and do it thoroughly. A system of royalties instead of monopolization, would meet the case and not be difficult of adjustment.



School Teachers and the Steel Trust.

The attempt of the steel trust, lately represented in the Chicago school board and still not without influence there, to displace a faithful principal to reward a serviceable friend, has culminated in disaster to the steel trust's plans and a good lesson for all concerned. The principal in question, Charles I. Parker, had become an institution in South Chicago. He had piloted generations of children through their school life, and won a place among them which sent a thrill of indignation through the whole community when the steel trust labeled him for its scrapheap. His is an instance of the right kind of service in school-teaching. School-teaching calls for leadership. It affords opportunities for the truest kind; and when a whole community springs spontaneously as in this case to the support of its school principal, like children to a father; there is little room for any other inference than that he is a school principal worth keeping.



Warren Worth Bailey for Congress.

In naming Warren Worth Bailey, editor of the Johnstown Democrat, as their only primary candi-

date for Congress, the Democrats of the Nineteenth Congressional District of Pennsylvania have shown good judgment. Perhaps they were influenced by the fact that this district is, upon the surface, a hopeless one for any Democratic candidate; but none the less for that they are entitled to the credit of putting their best man forward. Mr. Bailey is a democratic Democrat. Are there not by this time enough democratic Republicans in his district willing to cross party lines to elect a Democrat provided he be such a one as Warren Worth Bailey is? These times are like those of the 50's, when the real Democrats of both parties came together to form the Republican party. The same conflict between democracy and privilege rages now, though the issues are different in detail. The men who believe in privilege are getting together without regard to party lines; why can not those who believe in democracy follow their example? No party issue is now at stake in Congress. The issues are between progressives and reactionaries. Every democratic Democrat in Bailey's district will vote for him. If every democratic Republican does the same, he will be elected in spite of the enormous Republican majority there. By the way, why should that great majority waste itself on a mere party machine? Why not give the machine a needed lesson by voting for a Representative who will represent the progressive instead of the reactionary elements of the Republican as of the Democratic party?



THERE IS A LAW.

The pitifully small area of good ground in the field of human opinion is constantly forced on the consciousness of the thoughtful lover of truth. Sowers in this field who have failed to take account in advance of its stony ground, and its thorns, have found little in their harvest but grief and disappointment and have usually retired early from this branch of agriculture. Only a great love sustained by the Eternal Strength could persevere therein to the end.

It is more than a quarter of a century since there was placed at the service of political economists a clear exposition of the natural laws which underlie and govern the association of men in the production and exchange of wealth. These laws, up to that time but rarely and vaguely apprehended, were shown to be fixed, uniform and nearly as obvious when once pointed out as the laws of physics and mechanics. Still these laws have not ceased to be studiously overlooked by the acknowledged authorities, and the old practice yet prevails of ex-