

The Public

First Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1899.

Number 52.

LOUIS F. POST, Editor.

Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post-office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last column of last page.

When the Chicago Tribune—one of the most virulent papers in the whole plutocratic collection—undertakes to warn Prof. Herron against the policy of using “harsh language,” it is a reasonable inference that Herron has said something that hurts.

Pitiful accounts come from Russia of the suffering from famine in the eastern part of the European end of that empire. So great is the lack of food there that the miserable peasants devour all kinds of garbage; and as they have been compelled to sell everything, they are trying to live in cold, damp and filthy cabins. Scurvy and typhus have consequently set in among them, and the horrors of a plague threaten to supplement the miseries of famine. Yet these poor peasants could live in comfort if allowed to retain their earnings instead of being forced to bear the enormous expenses of a devastating army, an idle nobility, and a horde of landlords.

Government by injunction has advanced another degree in Texas. The wholesome rule once prevailed that injunctions must not be issued to prohibit criminal acts; because, under cover of proceedings for contempt of court in disobeying such injunctions, men might be convicted of crimes without having the benefit, constitutionally secured, of indictment and jury trial. But in the effort to embarrass striking workmen, this rule was abrogated as to labor organizations. And now Judge Morgan, of Texas, logically following the principle of abrogation, issues an in-

junction forbidding a man from alienating the affections of another man's wife! If government by injunction goes on at that rate, injunctions will soon take the place of all indictments, and contempt proceedings of all criminal trials. The resulting gain in simplicity would be great, no doubt; but the Russian czar's system of government is characterized by even greater simplicity.

One of the results of the administration confab at the millionaires' rendezvous on Jekyll island is the putting out of a gentle feeler in the direction of the Albany capitol. Mr. Hanna, with the acquiescence of Vice President Hobart, wants Gov. Roosevelt for McKinley's running mate next year. Roosevelt's military dramatics have made him a formidable competitor for McKinley's own place, and this is the first plan proposed for getting him out of the way. It may work. But not unless Roosevelt has changed his spots. With a chance at the presidency staring him squarely in the face, he is hardly the man to file himself away in the office of vice president, from which no one in the present century has risen to the higher office. Yet, if he declines Hanna's cooing invitation, some other device will doubtless be tried upon him. Hanna is as full of devices as he is empty of principle. It is quite within the possibilities, however, that Hanna with McKinley in front of him, and Platt with Roosevelt to the fore, will meet in terrific combat at the next republican convention.

Attorney General Griggs, of Mr. McKinley's cabinet, declares that the federal government cannot prosecute the trusts that are forming for controlling the manufacture of necessities of life. They do not come within the inhibition of the Sherman anti-

trust law, he says, and he refers their prosecution to the several states. We are not inclined to criticize this conclusion. The federal government has gone so far recently in the direction of overturning the fundamental principles of American government that it is refreshing to note a disposition in this administration to hold back a little, even though the hold-back be in the interest temporarily of trusts.

Certain monopoly interests in Detroit think Gov. Pingree inconsistent because, though professedly an advocate of the referendum, he opposed referring the question of municipalizing the Detroit street car system to a vote of local “taxpayers.” When did those monopoly interests ever before favor the referendum? And when did they learn that the referendum would refer questions to what they call “taxpayers”? Gov. Pingree has earned the confidence of municipal and social reformers the country over, and they will trust him. Whether the monopolists trust him or not is of little moment. Nor is their opinion of his consistency at all important.

As we write, the American war against the Filipinos is at its height. It may be that when these lines reach the reader the Filipino capital will have been captured, the Filipino army dispersed, and the Filipino republic crushed in its infancy by the imperial army of the imperial republic of North America. At present, however, our shameless war of conquest is proving to be anything but a holiday job. The first part of the American military plan is conceded to have failed. It contemplated the cutting of the Filipino army to the north of the Pasig river in two, and surrounding and destroying the southern part of it. But the Filipinos were more alert than the American