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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 criticise 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

plan had given them credit for being, and they kept open their line of retreat. Thus far the fighting has been with their rear guard; and that has been hard enough. But owing to the failure of the original plan for cutting them in two, much harder fighting must be undergone before the capital of the brave little republic falls. And even when it falls, if the Filipinos keep their line of retreat open, they will realize their plans; for their evident object is to draw the American troops into the interior, where they may be worried by hard marching, desultory fighting and disease. Meantime the American list of killed and wounded is sadly growing, and further reinforcements are demanded; while Filipino cities and villages are smoking ruins, and, if American reports be true, thousands of the people have been killed. It is a terrible lesson that imperialism has to teach. And to us it is a humiliating lesson also. Heretofore, if American warfare was sanguinary, it has with one exception been honorable in purpose, as well as courageous in execution. But in this war, the courage of our troops but emphasizes the shamefulness of the cause in which they die.

Further evidence of prosperity has been telegraphed from San Francisco. Leland Stanford's widow is richer by \$1,000,000 than she was four months ago—all on account of this era of marvelous prosperity. Four months ago her Central Pacific stock was worth only \$20 a share; but it has risen now to \$52, at which figure Mrs. Stanford has sold enough shares to give her \$1,000,000 more than she could have got for them four months ago. She certainly will not join the calamity howlers in complaining of continued hard times. With an increase in her fortune in four months equal to the earnings of 5,000 Central Pacific brakemen in that time, or as much as one brakeman would get in nearly 2,000 years, the business situation must be highly satisfactory to her. She ought to be gratefully willing to

contribute to the McKinley-Hanna campaign fund for 1900. We have yet to hear, though, of any increase in the wages of Central Pacific employes. The glorious sun of our marvelous prosperity shines only on stockholders; workers remain in shadow.

Fifteen hundred employees in the tin can factory at Maywood are testifying vigorously to their extraordinary prosperity by striking for a restoration of the higher wages that they received in the dark days of 1896.

Every now and again complaints are made of the superfluity of professional men. Not long ago a metropolitan paper, in calling attention to the subject, strenuously urged professional schools to advance their standards and expand their terms of study, so as to discourage the multiplication of doctors, lawyers and clergymen. Its idea was that this would force young men into "productive industries and scientific vocations" where they are needed." And that is a general supposition. The notion prevails that opportunities are few in the professions, but abundant in other callings. But it is a false notion. Opportunities are no better, if as good, in the so-called productive occupations than in the professions; while in the latter the prizes are more alluring and numerous. A lawyer or a doctor of ordinary abilities, has as good a chance of making a living, as a civil, mechanical or electrical engineer or even a mechanic, of ordinary abilities. If of extraordinary abilities, his chance of a prize in life is infinitely greater. There is nothing exceptional in the fact that the professions are crowded. They are crowded because all vocations are. Trade union restrictions in the mechanical trades are just as necessary for the protection of those already inside as they are in the professions.

Altgeld has made a strong fight, and the indications at this hour are that it will be successful. He has forced both opposing candidates into adopting the principle of municipal

ownership of public utilities, and he has made it clear that but for his candidacy there would be no democrat in the field for the Chicago mayoralty. The nominal democratic candidate avoids all reference to democracy either as a party or a principle. This fact alone caused such influential democrats as William P. Black and William Prentiss to come out for Altgeld as the only democratic candidate. That occurred last week. This week, the Altgeld forces are being strengthened by men who like to be on the winning side. Upon the result of this Chicago election depends in great degree the complexion of the democratic national convention; and it looks now as if that convention would again take its color from Bryan and Altgeld rather than from Flower and Croker.

In California, church property is not exempt from taxation; but some churchmen there are now agitating for exemptions. They would be offended if the essential similarity of theirs to other schemes for public plunder were frankly pointed out; yet such similarity exists. A church is not a public institution. It is private property. While it may be useful to the public, so are stores and factories. There is no better reason, then, for exempting the one than the other. And the exemption of either, unduly burdens the other. True, church buildings and books and furniture ought not to be taxed. They are produced by the congregation. The state does not provide them, nor give value to them, nor otherwise acquire moral rights in or to any part of them. But then that is also true of factory buildings and machinery and stores and store goods. It is not true, however, of church sites. Church sites, like factory and store sites, are secured to the occupants by the state, and their value is caused by the community without special effort on the part of owners. Those sites should be taxed in proportion to their value. The fact that a site is used for a church should make no difference. Exemptions on that account would unjustly discriminate not only