

the interests of the city, acquire any street railway now in existence and lying wholly within, or partly without the city, together with its property, assets, rights, privileges, etc. The commission is to provide for the payment of all obligations, and may establish a sinking fund for the discharge of liens upon any of the property acquired, and pledge the earnings and receipts of the railways for these purposes. It is given no power to incur any obligation on behalf of the city except such as shall be chargeable only upon the railway and property so acquired and the earnings, increments and extensions thereof. Once acquired, the street railway system is to be operated by this commission, which is authorized to purchase with the revenues thereof all lands, tracks, cars, motors, etc., to be used in connection therewith, and to establish the rates of fare. The commission is further empowered to exercise such other general powers as are possessed by boards of directors of corporations of street railway companies. The common council is given power to at any time examine the books, etc., of the commission, and the commission is required to make annual reports to the council showing a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures. This Michigan measure is evidently drawn with a view to giving to Detroit much the same street car system that has proved so successful in Glasgow.

In the direction of social agitation, Prof. Albion W. Small created a sensation on the 28th at the Methodist ministers' meeting in Chicago. The significance of what Prof. Small said will be appreciated better if it is known that he is head professor of sociology in the University of Chicago, the university that is so closely associated with Mr. Rockefeller's name, on account of the heavy endowments he has made for its support. The drift of Prof. Small's talk may be inferred from the following extracts:

The social system in which we live and move and have our being is so bad nobody can tell the full measure of its iniquity. In this age of so-called "democracy" we are getting to be the thralls of the most relentless system of economic oligarchy that history has thus far recorded. That capital from which most of us directly or indirectly get our bread and butter is become the most undemocratic, inhuman and atheistic of all the heathen divinities. It breeds children but to devour the bodies of some, the souls of others and to put

out the spiritual eyesight of the rest. The socialistic indictments of our civilization are essentially sound. Mind, I do not say the remedies are sound, but the indictments are true.

Following that astounding description of social conditions, Prof. Small told his clerical auditors that

There are clouds on the social horizon already bigger than a man's hand, foretelling changes of which no one is wise enough to predict the end. If present tendencies continue it will not be long before the men whose business is to communicate ideas will be gagged by those who publish ideas, and the publishers will be shackled by the makers of paper, and the paper manufacturers will be held up by the transportation lines, and the transportation corporations by the producers of steel, and the steel industries by the coal operators, and the coal miners by the oil producers, and the oil magnates by the stove makers, and the cook-stove men by the sugar trust, and the sugar interests by Wall street, and the stock brokers by the labor unions, and they by the farmers, and the farmers, God help them, by everybody. I am not throwing the dust of my library in your faces, but if you heed the symptoms from bank and office, factory and railroad headquarters and daily press you have discovered that the very men who made these combinations are beginning to be frightened at their shadows. These very business men who claim a monopoly of practical "horse sense" have involved themselves and all of us in a grim tragedy. They are asking in a quiet way how it is all going to end. Whether they realize it or not, our vision of freedom is passing into the eclipse of universal corporate compulsion in the interest of capital. The march of human progress is getting reduced to making time in the lock-step of capital's chain gang. It would make infinitely more for human weal if every dollar of wealth was cleaned off the earth, if we could have instead of it industry and homes and justice and love and faith, than to be led much further into the devil's dance of capitalism.

NEWS NOTES.

—Secretary Alger has gone to Cuba.

—The British house of commons has adjourned till April 10.

—President McKinley returned to Washington on the 28th from his vacation in the south.

—A bloody battle between two African tribes is reported as having just occurred on the Moroccan frontier.

—W. B. Addington, a leading business man of St. Louis and well known in single tax circles throughout Missouri, died suddenly on the 25th of cerebral hemorrhage, at St. Louis.

—From Moscow it is reported that a fierce fight between Christians and Muslims has taken place in Smyrna, with heavy loss on both sides.

—The central council of the National Sound Money league met on the 28th at New York. J. Sterling Morton was re-elected president of the league.

—A regular American post office has been established in Cuba in place of the New York city station which has thus far represented the American postal system there.

—Prof. Robert Koch, the celebrated bacteriologist, who in 1883, at the head of the German cholera commission, visited Egypt and India and then discovered the so-called "comma" cholera bacillus, will start with an expedition next month for the tropics to continue his investigation as to the nature and origin of malaria. The reichstag has made a grant of \$15,000 in aid of the undertaking.

—A public demonstration of Tripler's liquid air discovery has been made at Washington. Mr. Tripler takes 800 gallons of ordinary air and by reducing its temperature to 312 degrees turns it to a liquid. As it warms it expands into air again just as water is expanded into steam by heat. By controlling this expansion Mr. Tripler proposes to furnish a new motive power. The first gallon or two is made by the use of coal or any other ordinary fuel, as ice is made in a factory, but thereafter ten gallons of the fluid may be produced by the expenditure of two.

—Successful experiments with wireless telegraphy were made on the 28th between Dover and Boulogne in the presence of a commission of the French government. The inventor, Sig. Marconi, uses a vertical conductor at each terminus, and he finds that the distance to which signals can be sent varies according to the square of the length of these conductors. With a conductor 80 feet high, signals can be transmitted 18 miles. The conductors used for the Dover-Boulogne experiment were 114 feet high.

—It is reported from Dawson that two Swedes mining on a gold claim on lower Dominion creek, Klondike, on February 5 struck the well-preserved body of a monster mammoth at a depth under the surface of forty feet. So well preserved was the monster that the hind quarter, weighing 8,642 pounds, was taken to Dawson in sections and served in a restaurant in place of moose meat. The animal had apparently been caught in a glacial slide. It weighs between twenty-five and thirty tons, with a length over all of forty-four feet and six inches. Its right trunk is broken, but the left is in a perfect state of preservation, measuring fourteen feet three inches in length and thirty-eight inches in circumference.