

drew between the Dred Scott slave decision of fifty years ago and the Danbury labor decision of the present year, was impressively exact; and his quotations from Lincoln's criticisms of that decision were almost as if they had been framed especially for criticising this one.

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If it was necessary to convince that audience, representing hundreds of thousands of Chicago workingmen, that the Danbury decision is the forerunner of Supreme Court decisions which will condemn all effective labor unionism as conspiracies under the Sherman anti-trust law, just as Lincoln saw in the Dred Scott decision the forerunner of Supreme Court decisions making slavery a national institution, Mr. Robins did it. If it was necessary to convince them that nothing will stop this tendency to strangle labor unionism, short of an emphatic labor demonstration at the polls next Fall, Mr. Robins did that also. His speech, both in form and substance, was one of the kind that become historical landmarks of political revolution. And his audience rose to the supreme importance of the situation.

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It will not take many such speeches before labor audiences—or indeed before audiences of any other class of fair-minded men—to change the face of the political situation. Let it once be generally felt, as Mr. Robins argued, and as the fact seems to be, that the Supreme Court of to-day is to our plutocracy what the Supreme Court of fifty years ago was to the slavocracy, and startling events would occur. A vote of decisive magnitude from all parties would come over to those Presidential and Congressional candidates, and only to those who, being within the possibilities of election, are of such character personally and stand upon such platforms politically, as to leave no room for distrust. It begins to look as if organized workingmen had been forced into a realization of their danger from plutocracy; nor of their own danger alone, but of the danger to all whose prosperity depends upon a fair distribution of the products of labor.

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Bryan at Peoria.

On the occasion of his speech at Peoria last week (p. 60), William J. Bryan was placed in an embarrassing position by Frank J. Quinn, Roger C. Sullivan's lieutenant, who, as chairman of the Springfield convention four years ago (vol. vii, pp. 161, 170), gaveled through the Sullivan-Hopkins program. But Mr. Bryan's spontane-

ous sincerity saves him many an embarrassment which a less ingenuous public man would suffer from. The embarrassment prepared for him on this occasion consisted in the selection of the Sullivanic Mr. Quinn himself to preside at the Bryan meeting. Mr. Bryan met the embarrassment. Upon his arrival at Peoria, as told by the best paper of Peoria and one of the best in the State, the Peoria Star, of the 15th, he—

took a carriage to the Creve Coeur club. On the steps stood Mr. Quinn and Judge Worthington. No time was lost in preliminaries. Dismounting from the carriage Mr. Bryan greeted Judge Worthington and then turned to Quinn. The latter said something about an "embarrassing position." Bryan was quick to interrupt. In cold, even tones he acknowledged that the position was embarrassing. "There are some things that cannot be forgotten," he said. "If Mr. Quinn presides at the meeting to-night I shall be compelled to give voice to sentiments that will prove embarrassing to him and to me. I shall be compelled to speak of the events that transpired at the Springfield convention four years ago. There can be no doubt as to the position I will take." There was an awkward silence for a moment. The line had been drawn. Mr. Bryan had given the chairman the opportunity to withdraw or to engage in a controversy on the platform wherein he could hope for nothing but defeat and humiliation. It had been stated that Quinn had declared he would not withdraw; that in view of the fight made on him by Robert Cumming and others of the radical wing of the Democracy he had determined to stand by his guns. If Quinn did make this statement he suffered a change of heart in a very short time. With the two alternatives facing him, Quinn chose to accept the one where the least danger was involved. He offered to withdraw in favor of Judge Worthington. "That is satisfactory to me," declared Mr. Bryan. He had won his fight, and, more than that, he had preserved his record for consistency, refusing to accept at the hands of those who had betrayed him in the past anything that might have been construed into a truce that would have wronged the men who had been faithful to him. So it was in no peaceable mood that the Great Commoner entered the Coliseum last night and faced an audience of 5,000 persons. He had gained his point, but he was not sure that the pledge would be kept. Stephen Wolschlag opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Quinn as the man "selected by the Mandan club to act as chairman." Bryan's lips tightened and his eyes narrowed to two slits. He leaned forward in his chair, the attitude of a prize fighter awaiting the gong. Quinn rose and launched into a speech of praise for the orator of the evening. "The gentleman who is our guest has been my ideal as a statesman and a citizen since the first time I laid my eyes on him." The Nebraskan wore the same grim smile. "My selection as chairman of this meeting was a mistake," continued the speaker. Bryan's smile was inscrutable. "My friend, Judge Worthington, should have been selected, and I now take pleasure in formally turning over the position I now occupy." Then tension relaxed. Judge Worthington's introductory speech was of a happy nature.

Sympathy was expressed for the ideas represented by the orator of the evening, admiration for his manhood, his courage and his ability. Amid a burst of applause Bryan stepped forward and began his address. His only reference to Quinn was to thank him for his courtesy in refraining from doing anything that would leave unpleasant memories attached to the meeting.

This single incident ought to be enough to convince any fair minded man of the malice of the Hearst papers and their Republican coadjutors in their efforts to make it appear that Mr. Bryan has compromised with Roger Sullivan.

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Garrison's Free Trade Fight.

The Free Trade Broadside, published at Boston and of which William Lloyd Garrison is editor, begins its second volume with the April number. This number is the best that has yet appeared, which is no reflection upon its predecessors, for the publication has steadily improved. There is no side-stepping of the tariff issue, no compromise with protection, on the part of the Broadside. Protection is either right and good, or it is wrong and bad; and if wrong and bad, a little of it is not only a little wrong and a little bad, but is a step in the direction of the evil extreme. Trade is a mark of civilization and progress. The larger its volume and the wider its field, the higher the civilization and the greater the possibilities of progress; and inasmuch as it must be free to have its volume largest and its field widest, free trade is the secret of civilization and progress. This is the attitude of the Broadside on the question of expediency. On the question of public morality, it stands for the inherent right of every producer to trade his products without obstruction. And by free trade the Broadside means not tariff freedom alone, but freedom from all industrial burdens. One of the notable features of this issue of the Broadside is the letter of Mayor Johnson of Cleveland, written to a cloakmakers' union among his constituents when he was in Congress. The union had asked him to vote for a higher duty on cloaks. He replied that he would do nothing to keep up duties but everything to cut them down. Mayor Johnson is a free trader, who, like Garrison, is never an Indian "afraid of his horses."

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The Benefits of Protection.

The necessity of correcting an error into which we had fallen regarding the profits of the steel trust (p. 29) has led to further consideration of the recent report of that organization. Its net profits for 1907 amounted to 161 millions. To

this should be added some 6 million dollars, deducted in the statement as "interest on bonds and mortgages of the subsidiary companies," but which was clearly a payment for use of capital and not on operating account, making the total profits of operation of the whole organization about 167 million dollars. The total business done by the trust during the year, including transactions between the subsidiary companies as well as sales to the outside public, is stated in the report at 757 million dollars. No statement seems to be made of the amount of sales to the public as distinguished from the transactions between the subsidiary companies. The production of "finished products for sale" is given as aggregating 10 million tons, and as it seems to have been the policy of the trust not to sell raw materials to the outside public, this will probably indicate approximately its entire business for the year, except as to transactions between the "subsidiary companies." The average profit would thus be from \$15 to \$16 per ton of finished product.

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The market value of those "finished products" is rather difficult to estimate accurately, but an inspection of the items would seem to show that the average price for the whole would fall between \$30 and \$35 per ton, and the total value between 300 and 350 millions of dollars. The net profits of the business would therefore approximate very closely to fifty per cent of the total sales. This figure is borne out by the observations of visitors at Homestead who have estimated a total cost for steel rails of about \$15 per ton, as well as by the testimony of a high official of the trust, given some few years ago, to the effect that it could turn out such rails at about \$14 per ton. In the transaction of this business some 210,000 employees were required, to whom wages and salaries aggregating 161 millions of dollars were paid. It is to be noted that this is almost the identical amount of the net profits reported, so that for every dollar paid out in wages and salaries, another dollar went to the trust as net profits.

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Now compare that showing with the manufacture of iron on the foundry side of the business, as disclosed by a certain St. Louis concern, making special castings for customers from their own patterns. This is a business involving a very great deal of detail and a corresponding amount of labor and personal attention—quite unlike in this respect the business of the steel trust, which consists almost wholly in the manufacture of staple