

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

REGARDING THE TRUSTS.

The state of New York has a stringent anti-trust law and recently a case for violation of it was brought. Those who were placed on trial were all tobacco manufacturers, most of them well known in a business sense throughout the country, the charge in general terms being a concerted effort to break up the business of others engaged in the same lines so that the defendants might thereby be able to control the market on their own terms. Sophisticated and special pleading has been exhausted in efforts to show that such proceedings do not transcend the bounds of recognized competition and that thus the elements of criminal procedure do not obtain. Even as great an authority as the late James G. Blaine took the ground that trusts were largely private affairs with which the government could properly have nothing to do; but he could scarcely have had before him at such time any of the object lessons which have become so numerous since his day. Undoubtedly he looked upon the matter as having but two sides—the right of the citizen to engage in legitimate business without the consent of the ruling power, and the lack of right in such ruling power to restrict or in any manner interfere with the subject's business or his manner of conducting it. Viewed as a general proposition such a stand is unsatisfactory; but the trusts, encouraged by such opinions and entrenched behind untold capital, have swung wide of the fundamental principle and used it simply as a text for reference when assailed.

In the case referred to such defense or any other resting upon the concrete doctrine of popular rights must be utterly untenable because having no relevancy in the presence of a duly enacted statute clearly defining what and where the metes and bounds of trade and traffic shall be. If any such enactment is exclusive in its operation, if it presses with unequal force upon any particular portion of the community in which it has effect, if it is itself in restraint of trade, there is a remedy which petit juries should be compelled to recognize and be made to know that no part of such remedy resides within or of themselves. In the New York case two out of the twelve "good men and true" refused to agree with their fellows in saying that the allegations contained in the indictment were proved and leave the question as to the sufficiency of such allegations under the law to a court of review. There was no question, apparently, about every material point being fully substantiated. Instances were brought forward showing discrimination favoring those who deal with the trust and having a tendency to practically if not altogether break down those who did not so deal, and the proof was as plain as anything can be that relief upon human testimony; yet two men who presumably take the broader view previously outlined, because of conscientious scruples or something

equally occult at present, refuse to register a verdict in accordance with the facts. The trust triumphs and the law is reduced, for the time being, to the condition of a dead letter. It is stated with apparent authority that something like \$150,000 in attorney's fees alone was expended by the combination, showing that they have a proper appreciation of the gravity of the case; also that they have means to correspond.

There is probably no question with which the whole people are brought directly in contact that contains more that relates to their temporal welfare now and later than this same question of how far corporations and combines have a right to go in the direction of controlling traffic and regulating the prices of commodities. If such power is beyond the control of the law it is easy to see in the not very dim distance a power in the land in the presence of which the national government itself will be impotent. If associations are to be permitted with impunity to break down all opposition that refuses to be dictated by them and to set the prices of everything at a central point from which such prices and all things else relating to traffic in certain lines among our people are to radiate, it then becomes a living fact that we have an imperium in imperio to deal with compared with which the late rebellion of the Southern States was a very ordinary sort of assumption indeed.

The attitude of several Republican senators toward the new tariff bill because of direct and incidental favors to certain trusts, is an ominous circumstance, which is relieved of some of its somber shades by the gleam of hope contained in the statement of Secretary of State Sherman, the author of the national anti-trust law, that the measure is not stringent enough. Perhaps, with such views prevailing at headquarters and the increased demand for something more effective, a way to equalize conditions may be had as a matter of concession from the principal beneficiaries, who of course understand that it is the part of wisdom sometimes not to take all that one can get.

PRESIDENT WOODRUFF'S HEALTH.

For some days past there have been rumors of the serious illness of President Wilford Woodruff. These have arisen from the fact that his health has not been the best, and in the natural anxiety of the people for his welfare, accounts of his indisposition have not grown less by repetition. It is generally realized that the venerable President of the Church, being at a greatly advanced age, has been feeble for some time past. For a few weeks his health has not been good, although he has been out every few days attending to his official duties.

The NEWS is pleased to be able to announce that today President Woodruff is much improved in health above his condition for the previous two or three days. He is free from

pain, has a stronger appetite, and generally feels better. Regarding alleged details of his illness that have been given out, the NEWS wishes to say that they lack the element of accuracy. He has no dropsy, and no alarming increase of flesh; neither was he prostrated by attending the laying of the foundation stone of the Pioneer monument, nor has he been confined to his bed ever since. He was at his office a subsequent day, equally as well as on the previous day; but, as we have stated, was feeble and not feeling well—has not been for weeks.

A most encouraging feature of his condition is President Woodruff's wonderful recuperative power. It will be recalled that some four years ago he was so critically ill that the best physicians could discern no natural prospect for his recovery. But he did regain convalescence, and has been quite active since. Of course his years are more advanced, but his recuperative powers still are strong, and his mind vigorous and active; and we trust that he will soon regain that health of body which will enable him to perform with ease the high duties resting upon him as a devoted Apostle of the Lord.

THE MONUMENT AND WALL.

There has been some criticism of the location of the Pioneer monument on its present site, many people having thought that a more suitable place was in a small park to be created out of the southeast corner of the Temple Block. While such criticisms are now too late to effect any change or to do more than awaken dissatisfaction if persisted in, it may be well as a means of partially preventing such continuance to suggest the appropriateness of the present location. It is at the intersection of two of the principal thoroughfares of the city, one, East Temple, being the chief street. Located almost equidistant from the Pioneer monument are leading features connected with Pioneer experience, such as the Temple Block corner where is fixed the initial point of the Salt Lake meridian, the Council House corner where now stands the Hall of Relics, the News and Tidings office corner where comes the cobblestone wall that marked the enclosure containing the early Church offices and homes of leading Pioneers, and the Savings bank corner, formerly a Pioneer's residence and adjacent to the pioneer co-operative institution which has been a notable means of adding to Utah's fame. Many other items might be named showing the appropriateness of the site; none other can claim so many prominent ones as those stated.

Regarding another feature, also, there has been and may be a miserable comment—we refer to the maintenance of the wall around the Temple Block. There has been some urging that the wall be removed, and an iron fence be substituted; but to the satisfaction of the great majority it has been decided by those having jurisdiction of the matter that the wall shall remain, and shall be kept in as near its original good