

[COMMUNICATED.]  
TRUSTS COMPARED.

The world has been startled by the audacity of trusts. Capital itself has smiled on realizing its supreme strength and power—the discovery of possibilities of combination was as much of a surprise to itself as it was to all its parts. Perchance here and there an individual had dreams of unity based upon personal experience or desire, but the "shibboleth" of trade had been for years circumscribed by the word "competition" so that few essayed to think that any other principle of action would ever obtain ascendancy in the productive world. With the enlargement of the boundaries of trade, facilities for transit, and a broader teeming population, rivalry became chronic—in large part destructive; and little by little the shadowy outlines of a new power began to assume solidity, until today in many directions the grip of a monster is believed to be within the velvet-glove of capital in the form of colossal trusts.

Certain momentary benefits may have accrued to the masses where competitive rivalry has been created, as in the contest between the great coffee dealers Arbuckle and the Woolson company, for that article deemed essential by many is now as low in price perhaps lower than it was in the early fifties; and yet the present competition amounts to a mighty monopoly, for in the excitement and determination of the two parties, they control nearly all that grade of coffee which is available for the American market, and thus doubtless affect by their heavy operations the price of that article throughout the world.

This condition is, however, unique in the commercial world, and has but little in common with that class of trusts which rest upon a different basis in great part; for some of these stifle competition by an endeavor to regulate the output of industrial production, so as to enhance the value thereof; the difference of course coming from the passive consumer whose interests and expenditures are thus silently yet decidedly controlled by the directing junta, who determine prices, profits, and production for their special and particular line.

One of the methods employed has been the capitalization of the value of creative plants, then making one common fund, as it were, assuring the original owner interest on his investment, then keeping open or closing once individual works by "authority," where deemed expedient by demand or for securing greater profits. This was and is the status of the great glass industries of our free country, and by an iron hand fires are lit or extinguished irrespective of local workers or artisans, who are probably unable to move elsewhere or secure employment in directions foreign to a life-long experience.

The same crushing method has been applied to iron and all its products, such as steel, nails, wire, rails, etc.; the output of coal has also been largely determined in the same manner, and possibly many a strike has had behind it, if the truth were known, the potential influence of capital, while the flattered laboring man has been blinded and led to believe that he and his associates in toil were the aggressors, when they were but dupes.

Every one is familiar with the near omnipotent sugar trust in manipulating the refined product at least, which by almost imperceptible methods of advancement levies profitable tribute upon a long-suffering—a probably helpless aggregate of consumers and users of the saccharine product.

Coal oil, a modern indispensable for light and heat, to say nothing of its

products, has also been held in the grasp of a giant monopoly, sometimes embodied as "Rockefeller," but no doubt it is more than an individual Golconda of the rarest kind. A press paragraph of late says that a turn of the wrist of the chiefs added twenty-five million to the value of the stock in a single night; and the "News" pointed out but a few days ago that while at the refinery the cost was but two and a half cents a gallon, the price in Utah is about stationary at twenty-five cents. Even if transportation and loss are great, the imposition is much beyond that of our local coal combine and condition, which, as is said, simply pays the miner sixty-five cents per ton, but doles out to the citizen within fifty miles at the accommodating price of four dollars and fifty cents per ton, this to the silent—but, of course, helpless consumer as the victim of speculative monopoly.

All these trusts and monopolies profess to be actuated by philanthropy, in part. They claim that trusts secure lower prices and better service to the consumer, but it cannot be denied that they are essentially protective and selfish, speculative and greedy, and that their province is "to get money honestly, if they can, but—to get money!" It is much to be feared, however, that resistance to the subtle encroachments of capital, where self is so transparent, will yet bring this nation to conditions almost impossible to the more conservative nations of the earth, where wealth is less ostentatious and the fabulous accretions of this country are near unknown!

Turn now by easy mental action for a moment to a far more striking trust, albeit comparison between "things temporal and things spiritual" may not at the first glance seem quite compatible; yet it will be found though, both germane and legitimate beyond cavil or dispute.

It is now near seventy years since this trust emerged from the embryo condition, and may be it was the name of its chief officer which introduced into our modern vocabulary the cognomen now almost universally used; its most pronounced expositor was President Brigham Young, who claimed succession from the founder thereof, and who by Providence was called, then elected and sustained by his associates under the title of "Trustee in Trust" for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; in that organization every man nearly, realizes that "a dispensation of the Gospel has been committed" unto him, and is prepared to say with Paul,

"Woe unto me if I preach not the Gospel." As co-laborers, these equals in this, have proselyted in many of the nations of the earth, in great nations as well as amid or on "the islands of the sea;" men have made vast sacrifices in pursuit of this Trust, they "counted nothing dear unto them," they took their lives in their hands, leaving wives, families, friends, business, "without purse or scrip," delivering a message "whether men would hear or whether they would forbear;" years were spent in this endeavor to enlighten their fellows, to redeem and gather them; this was their only speculation; it was not fame, nor wealth, nor power. It was philanthropy, it was Christianity, it was Divine. This intensity of interest swelled in the hearts of all ages and was in both sexes; wives, mothers, children, had the same inspiration, until over the dreary plains hundreds of teams and wagons were in requisition and thousands of young men spent their summer's strength and prospective summer's product in "delivering the poor and those that had (elsewhere) no helper" from the bondage of poverty, depress-

ing surroundings and hopeless outlook, and then, aided them in colonizing Utah's barren wilds, until the whole land now smiles with plenty. Happy homes, fruitful fields, good schools, and cozy chapels tell of blessing and progress beyond the wildest dreams; from Idaho to Arizona towns and hamlets embrace each other, from Nevada to Mexico this salvatory process has dotted the land with settlements where the hum of industry and the song of praise are so superbly blended, that the music thereof is heard around the earth, and thousands abroad who possess this same spirit are looking for and praying earnestly that they also may share in the blessings of this the grandest and most Godlike Trust ever devised, or that commands general reverence and respect on the earth today.

These longing, ardent souls afar off want to be workers and stockholders—partners in this trust; they know its spirit, they bear testimony to its success, and the assurance of sacrifice is no barrier to desired participation therein; none of the elements of monopoly are associated with it, no lust for power constitutes qualification for work; no more glory or triumph inures to the prominent than to the most humble; "faithful in little will be faithful in much" in the due time of the Lord, and the brightest or the best, the most indefatigable as the most insignificant, the most prominent or the most unknown, are liable to have deferred to "the great day of account," that reward which is scarcely ever the motive power, but which is certain as the promise and power of Deity itself!

Over five hundred settlements founded in fifty years, tell of the inspirational genius of this trust, over one hundred thousand enrolled Sabbath school scholars tell of the grand conditions established in the same brief time, and near half a million express faith in its truth and devotion to its interests; spiritual in its inception as this movement may have been, its religious aspect may have appeared frenzied to many a looker-on, but there was "method in its madness," there was wisdom in its counsels, there was inspiration in the hearts of the participants and God was behind the whole; He it was who redeemed it from selfishness, who guarded it from worldly speculation, who so divided its control, that no aspirant for rule, or aggrandisement has ever usurped the reins of power, pure democracy is the life of its conclaves and gatherings, "the voice of the people is veritably the voice of God!"

This trust of intelligence, sanctified brotherhood, will some day emerge from its momentarily religious aspect, it will broaden into social life, into educational directions, into trade circles and general processes of industrial salvation; then "the meek of the earth" shall rejoice, and the poor among men have yet grander faith in the Holy One of Israel!

## THE MAINE BLOWN UP.

Havana, Feb. 15.—At a quarter of 10 o'clock this evening a terrible explosion took place on board the United States cruiser Maine in Havana harbor. Many were killed or wounded.

All the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XIII are assisting. As yet the cause of the explosion is not apparent.

The wounded sailors of the Maine are unable to explain it.

The explosion shook the whole city. The windows were broken in all the houses. The correspondent of the Associated Press says he has conversed with several of the wounded sailors and understands from them that the