



# THE CARROLL RECORD

(NON-PARTISAN.)

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11th., 1909.

All articles on this page are either original, or properly credited. This has always been a fixed rule with this office, and we suggest the adoption of it by our exchanges.

SOME OF OUR newly elected members of the legislature, who have been investigating the question of boarding in Annapolis, are beginning to wonder whether they will have enough salary left to get home on. Considering the importance of the job, and the quality of men who are supposed to represent us, the pay of a legislator is much too small. Perhaps if the pay was better there would not be so many—as report has it—who are open for making "honest dollars" on the side.

IT IS REMARKABLE how many public officials are exposed and prosecuted for dishonesty, but how few are convicted; or, if convicted, how light the sentence is in nearly every case. We congratulate ourselves when we hear of prosecutions, for we think, that, after all, our public affairs are being closely watched, and that "the way of the transgressor is hard;" but, we hear the first news, feel satisfied, and forget all about it—apparently, the prosecutors and courts forget about it too, and the "transgressor" has not such a hard way after all.

IT WILL BE up to the Republican Court officials in this country to demonstrate that even forty-two years steady running of the Court House, with full knowledge of all the ins and outs, is not an irreplaceable loss to the public. After all, it is one of the chiefest advantages of our system of government, whether National or local, that its perpetuity does not depend on the knowledge and general ability of one man, set of men, or party; but, this fact is mighty discouraging to the fellow who thinks the country can't be run without him—perhaps it will jar and bump a little, for a while, but it's sure to get down to easy running before long.

### Competition vs. Prices.

Government experts arrive at the conclusion that the main reason why meats are high rests with big profits demanded by wholesalers and retailers; in the first case to an organized understanding which is able to control wholesale prices, and in the second to too many retail dealers, all of whom must make a big profit in order to keep their establishments running profitably. Strangely enough, here seems to be an instance in which competition increases, instead of diminishes, prices, as the chief cause of high prices is directly traceable to the retailer, and the report goes on to say that the retail meat business, in the cities, could easily be handled by a much smaller number of dealers.

In this situation, we find an argument in favor of the trust principle, which, according to the best justification for trusts, is a reduction in the number of establishments, and consequently a reduction in expense of operation, and lower prices to the consumer. This is a taking proposition, standing alone; but when we combine with it the monopolistic power—the power to advance prices—and the natural tendency of mankind to take advantage of financial opportunities, then we find an apparently good argument nullified by one, perhaps equally good, but not so popular.

So, there you are. With plenty of competition the expense of numerous establishments must be kept up, through additions to profit; without competition, the big concerns have things their own way. The ideal condition would be big storehouses—large central trading stations—managed at the minimum of expense, and conducted so as to retail merchandise at the lowest possible prices, taking no advantage of their sole control of the local situation.

Socialism can be brought into the question at this point—organized cooperation instead of individual competition—community control of business, and other visionary and impractical plans without number. The general subject of commercialism and economics like that of religion—can be gone into to such an extent as to render one "daffy," and then be no nearer a satisfying conclusion than if he had not given the subject more than ordinary thought.

### "All Right at the Core."

The other day we picked up a newspaper, and in an article read this sentence, "The average American boy is sure to make good, if he is all right at the core." This expression seemed to stand out in bold relief—it was about all there was to the article, but it was enough. "All right at the core"—how much that means! It means that a boy whose heart is right; who is honorable and trustworthy; who is full of grit and determination and is not lazy and careless, is "all right at the core," notwithstanding boyish freaks and trifling faults, thoughtlessness, and even a crop of "wild oats" occasionally.

The world wants these "all right" boys, and sooner or later they make the old world do as they say. There is nothing that they may not accomplish, within reason—some, more than others, by reason of environment, special ability, and a measure of chance. One thing all can secure—one thing worth more than all else—an honorable name and character; the one thing that cannot be lost, nor taken away, save by the consent of the owner.

But, there is the opposite—the boy wrong at the core, and the world is all too full of them—wrong boys who are continually making other wrong boys. Wrong men, and women too, are constantly spoiling right cores. What a crime! But, how much greater the incentive to make the fight to stay right, or get right, at the core. As sure as death itself, the wrong boys will some day bitterly regret their lost opportunities; perhaps in time to pull themselves together and make an honorable, but nevertheless poor, finish—and perhaps not.

"Right at the core" is as good as money in the bank; it means credit, responsibility, integrity. Why do such boys win? Proud parents know; business men know; happy homes know—everybody in the world, whose opinions are worth while, knows.

### The Game Question Again.

Ex-Game Warden, O. M. Dennis, is out in a letter approving very strongly a "gun tax" of \$1.00 in order to pay for the "protection and restocking of game." He is very frank about the matter. He admits that it is not the business of the state to spend money to supply and protect game, for game brings no revenue to the state. He further admits that wire fences and farming waste land have destroyed natural cover for game—both privileges with which the state cannot interfere, but he suggests that farmers ought to be appealed to to leave sufficient cover for nesting and mating purposes and a fund should be created for the protection and restocking of game. He omits to say where the game is to be kept after the nesting and mating, a very important consideration. Of birds and game he somewhat definitely says:

"Their abundance creates business and revenue for the dealers in sportsmen's goods, sport to those who love to go to the fields or rivers for it, and the satisfaction of the palate of those who can afford the luxury of a bird, duck or rabbit for a meal. Therefore, the direct benefit of abundance of game is to the sportsman, dealer in sportsmen's goods and to those who can afford to purchase it for the table.

"Then, who should pay for the protection and restocking? Not the State, but those who benefit. There is estimated to be about \$150,000 guns in Maryland. Assuming that but 10 per cent. of these pay a license fee of \$1.00, which will entitle the holder to gun anywhere in the State, a fund of \$15,000 will be raised, amply sufficient to provide protection immediately, and as the fund grows a fund for restocking purposes."

If we understand the situation correctly, the business, or sport, of tramp hunting, is about played out. The landowner, or tenant, owns the game as fully as he owns his chickens, turkeys or pigeons; therefore, whatever "direct benefit" there is, either in the abundance of game, and in the sport of taking it, or marketing it, it belongs to said landowner, or tenant, and so-called sportsmen need not concern themselves about the question, as to what the legislature ought to do. It is a pretty clearly established rule that one class of people should not concern themselves very strenuously about matters which pertain exclusively to another class, and in this particular matter we are reasonably sure that the farmers prefer to be left alone.

### Building and Rentals.

Only those who have had recent experience with the cost of building, can fully appreciate why it is that more houses are not being built for rent, considering the rentals tenants can afford to pay. There was a time when there was a fair investment in building a small frame double house in a town, and renting it at \$6.00 per month, each side; but, that time has passed, and the apparent ability of tenants to pay much more, has not increased. Very few tenants, in the smaller towns, can afford to pay from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per month for a dwelling, but unless such rentals can be secured, it does not now pay to build even cheap houses.

It can be set down as a fact, that rentals, as a rule are too low. If this was not absolutely true, there would not now be the dearth of building operations that exists. There is a demand for town houses, and there are vacant lots, but the demand is not accompanied with willingness, or ability, to pay the rental

which the investor with capital must have before he will put his capital into lots and buildings, where it is in full view of the assessor and tax-collector, and where it entails the annual expense of insurance and repairs.

There must either be cheaper building material and cheaper labor, or higher rents, if towns are to build up rapidly. The investment in buildings is further discouraged from the fact that it is a rare case when a property can be sold, at public or private sale, at, or above, cost. When an advantageous sale is occasionally made, it is usually because of an advance in the value of a location; usually, the sale of a property represents a loss under its first cost, and in many secondary sales a loss under the former purchase price.

Taneytown needs a half-dozen, or more, double dwellings, to rent at about \$6.00 per month, but they are not likely to be built, and for the reasons stated. In towns where there are factories, paying high and steady wages, rentals are of course higher, and building, perhaps, costs no more than in the low rent towns—non-manufacturing towns. This condition has one good feature—it is likely to compel the filling of so-called "tenant houses," outside of the towns, thereby giving help to farmers who often very urgently need it. Perhaps the cost of building would force the trend of surplus labor back to the farm, whether it desires to go or not.

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### The Health of Panama.

Health conditions in the Canal Zone are far better than in most cities of the United States. Malaria is the most prevalent disease, but this disease is diminishing at the rate of one half each year. Malarial fatalities each year average between 2 and 3 per cent. The death rate in the Canal Zone for October of the present year was 16 per 1000, while the death rate among the employees was 9.95 per cent. per thousand, a percentage which is much smaller than most cities in the North. Of this percentage, 7.35 per cent. of the deaths were due to disease and 2.60 per cent. to accidents.

The deaths among white employees due to accident are much greater than among the blacks and natives. There has not been a case of yellow fever on the isthmus since May, 1906, when a suspicious case was discovered at Colon. There has always been some doubt as to whether it was really a case of yellow fever. The last case before that was in December, 1905.

The sanitary department continues to oil the streams on the isthmus for the purpose of destroying breeding places of mosquitoes, but the elimination of disease has been so general throughout the entire territory that this work is not being done as extensively as when the United States first took possession of the Zone. Such work, however, will have to be carried on to a limited extent indefinitely, and probably after the canal has been put in operation.

A considerable portion of the work formerly done by the sanitary department is now being performed by the quartermaster's department, such as cutting underbrush, oiling streams where new railroad work is contemplated, etc. For this service the sanitary department pays \$250,000 a year.

In addition to its own hospitals the Government is spending about \$12,000 a year on the Santa Tomas Hospital, in the city of Panama, owned by the Panamanian Government. This money is used to pay the salaries of the superintendent, two physicians and three nurses, the expenditure being regarded as necessary in order that our own health officials may exercise supervision over the local health institutions.

There has never been an accurate census of the isthmus, but it is estimated that the total population is about 115,000. If the sanitary and hospital departments are granted the appropriation asked for the fiscal year 1910-11, the United States will be spending during that time about \$20 per capita to keep up its hospital service and take precautionary measures against disease, a sum which cannot be equaled, probably, in any city in the United States.—Balt. News.

### A Policeman's Testimony.

J. N. Paterson, night policeman of Nashua, Iowa, writes: "Last winter I had a bad cold on my lungs and tried at least half a dozen advertised cough medicines and had treatment from two physicians without getting any benefit. A friend recommended Foley's Honey and Tar and two-thirds of a bottle cured me. I consider it the greatest cough and lung medicine in the world." R. S. McKinney, Druggist, Taneytown, Md.

### Rural Education a Coming Question.

There are for us two great ever-present problems always demanding solution. The first problem is this: What sort of men and women will occupy the farms of the future? The second problem is this: What sort of farms will they occupy?

Not to answer these questions correctly is to court evil results; and they are

both questions of education. Given the right sort of education, the farms of the future will be occupied more and more by men and women who will be deep thinkers, living righteous lives, who will realize to the uttermost the possibilities in the way of a full, beautiful, learned, useful and happy life on the farm. Given the wrong kind of education, most of our farms will some sad day be found in the occupancy of a class of stolid, dull, down-looking people, who will till the farms because they have not had the energy to detach themselves from the soil and go with the live ones to the city.

And as to the farms themselves—given the right kind of education for the rural districts of this generation, the farms of the future will grow better and better crops and will boast, as a part of their higher and higher class of improvements, homes which will possess the conveniences of the city dwelling of the better sort in the midst of those country surroundings for which city people willingly leave their homes during an increasingly greater portion of the year.

We speak of "a new kind of country schools," but no one should gather from the use of this expression—quoted from the Report of the Country Life Commission—that nothing is being done to improve the country schools. In some portions of the country much is being done. There is one county in Iowa which has just been visited by a delegation of school superintendents from the South because its fame has gone forth as a place where the country schools are good and of "a new kind." It is not the only Iowa county so famed. Nor is Iowa the only state doing new and good things in this direction. We hope to present to our readers the details and the results of some of the most hopeful of these experiments in the improvement of rural schools.

But how is it with your school? In all too many of the country districts in which this is read, the schools, unfortunately, are no better than they were fifty years ago. In some they are not so good. How is it in your district? Are your children taught the things which will make for better farm life in the next generation or are they taught on the old plan of sending them from the farm to the town preparatory to becoming presidents of the United States?—Farm and Fireside.

### Rich Men's Gifts Are Poor

beside this: "I want to go on record as saying that I regard Electric Bitters as one of the greatest gifts that God has made to woman, writes Mrs. O. Rhine-vault, of Vestal Center, N. Y. "I can never forget what it has done for me." This glorious medicine gives a woman buoyant spirits, vigor of body and jubilant health. It quickly cures Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Melancholy, Headache, Backache, Fainting and Dizzy Spells; soon builds up the weak, ailing and sickly. Try them. 50c at R. S. McKinney's Drug Store, Taneytown, Md.

### Cutting Down Expenses.

That the estimates of the cost of conducting the business of the Government are more than \$100,000,000 less than the appropriations made for the same purposes last year is an evidence that President Taft intends to keep his promise of economy. It has been the established custom heretofore for each department of Government to ask Congress for more money than was really needed. The expectation was that the amount asked would not be appropriated, and, therefore, each department gave itself some room to be cut down. A more unbusiness-like method could scarcely be devised. A surer way to promote extravagance it would be difficult to find. Congress could place no reliance upon the estimates, which were always misleading.

Under President Taft's direction the different departments have furnished Congress with a statement of their actual needs, and the amounts, instead of being padded, are cut down, it is said, to the lowest figures consistent with efficient administration. This is a sensible and proper method. It shows that the President is in earnest in his desire to safeguard the public purse, for actions speak louder than words. This practical method of saving money will be more effective than pages of admonition in annual messages. It will now be for Congress to do its part of this good work and keep within the estimates.—Balt. Sun.

The suggestion in the Sun that something be done to preserve the home in which Charles Carroll, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, lived in this city is an excellent one and should be followed up by those who recognize the importance of saving for posterity such land marks. There are many reasons why we should not neglect the few remaining ties which connect colonial history with our own day. Respect and veneration for an age to which we owe so much, the value such memorials have in keeping fresh in mind lessons of patriotism, their educational influence upon the young—all urge us to see that they do not sink into decay a day sooner than the passage of time decrees.—Balt. News.

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