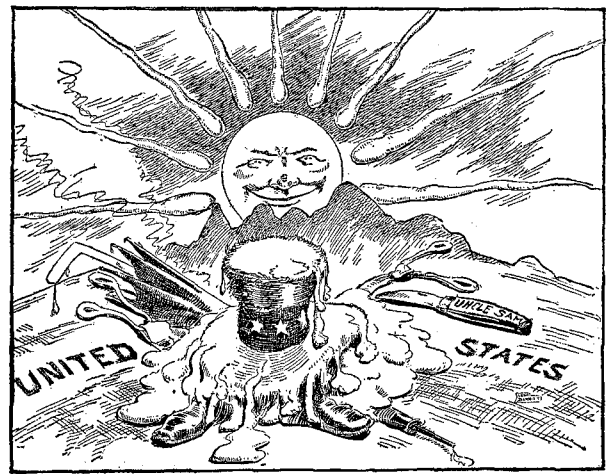


IS THAT DAREDEVIL PHAETON AT IT AGAIN?
—The Brooklyn Eagle.



A MELTING SITUATION.
—The New York Tribune.

HOT WEATHER CARTOONS.

feet that were frost-bitten. Residents of the suburbs were forced to wade through six and eight feet of snow to reach their destinations. It was necessary to hug the stove to keep comfortable. People prayed for warmth.

"Oh, what wouldn't we have given then for a breath of the present weather! And what wouldn't we give now for one blast of the blizzard!"

MURDER TRIALS IN NEW YORK.

DURING recent years there have been four murder trials in New York attended by circumstances which have given them national notoriety. The first two involved Carlisle Harris and Dr. Buchanan, and resulted in establishing the guilt of each. They paid the death-penalty for their crimes, the Court of Appeals denying, in each case, the privilege of a new trial. The other two trials, those of Dr. Kennedy and Roland B. Molineux, have been carried through much less expeditiously and are still pending. Dr. Kennedy, who is charged with having murdered a woman three years ago in a New York hotel, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death, but the Court of Appeals saved him from execution by ordering a new trial. At the second trial eleven jurors voted for acquittal and one for conviction. The State decided to prosecute for a third time, and the third trial ended a few days ago with a jury that is reported to have stood eight for acquittal and four for conviction. Dr. Kennedy has been released on bail, and it is improbable that he will be tried again. The trial of Molineux, accused of sending through the mails poison from which a woman's death resulted, is in an equally unsatisfactory condition. Molineux, too, was convicted of murder and sentenced to death; his trial, one of the most famous in New York criminal annals, lasted fifty-seven days, and he was defended with conspicuous ability. Last week his appeal for a new trial was argued at Buffalo before the Court of Appeals by John G. Milburn and David B. Hill, and is laid over until fall.

It is estimated that these four murder cases have cost New York County nearly a million dollars, and the New York *Tribune* protests against "the evil consequences which the facilities for delay afforded by our courts continually invite." In New York State, remarks the Philadelphia *Press*, "it is practically impossible to convict a man with an intricate defense and money enough to fight every point." The New York *Press* looks for relief toward a system of criminal procedure similar to that adopted in England, which shall include "the abolition of the right of appeal, save for clemency, in criminal cases." This, it

says, would "end the abuse, which has attained monstrous dimensions, of appellate courts granting practical pardons on tortured technicalities."

AGRICULTURAL INDEPENDENCE.

ACCORDING to the Secretary of Agriculture, the United States, which now imports \$420,000,000 worth of agricultural products a year, may soon grow all that its people consume and so cease to be dependent upon other countries for food. Secretary Wilson said to the Washington correspondent of the New York *Sun* a few days ago:

"There is no doubt that this country, within a few months, will be in a position to ignore every other nation on the globe in the matter of food products. We will produce within our own domain everything that goes upon our table and upon our backs. We will then be, commercially and industrially, almost independent of the other nations of the world. Hence any trade combination which may be effected against us will count for nothing. Whenever we get ready we can come pretty near starving any other nation. Therefore, an effective combination against us will be an impossibility."

Some who are familiar with the figures of our large wheat, corn, and cotton crops, and our large production of meats, may be surprised to learn that we are at all seriously dependent even now upon any foreign country in an agricultural way. We are dependent upon the foreign market, however, for most of our sugar, which has come to be a necessity of modern life. The Secretary says on this point:

"The principal product purchased is sugar, which comprises nearly one-fourth of the total of products imported. The department in the past has been making experiments to ascertain in just what sections of the country sugar can be raised to such an advantage as to obviate the necessity of going to foreign markets to complete our supply. We want to raise beets, as therein lies the principal source of the sugar product. Within the United States there will be over forty beet-sugar factories in operation by next fall. They will be situated in almost every State along the northern border from New York to California. I believe that within a few years we will produce all the sugar we require, and we will then be in position to ignore the foreign product. Our experiments have shown that the sugar produced from our quality of beet is much richer than that manufactured in foreign countries. Our product, therefore, will be much more desirable. When this result shall be attained the Sugar Trust will, in my opinion, vanish, for the reason that the trust refines imported brown sugar, while all the American factories will fin-

ish the product and place it in entire readiness for sale on the markets."

Other products that we now buy abroad are tea, coffee, rice, rubber, macaroni wheats, spices, and the finer grades of cotton. All these products the Secretary hopes to see supplied soon from our own soil. "We are now succeeding admirably in the production of tea in the United States," he says, and "it is only a question of a short time when we will be able to raise all the tea demanded for use in this country." Our new possessions will aid greatly in the production of some of these tropical products.

The New York Times says:

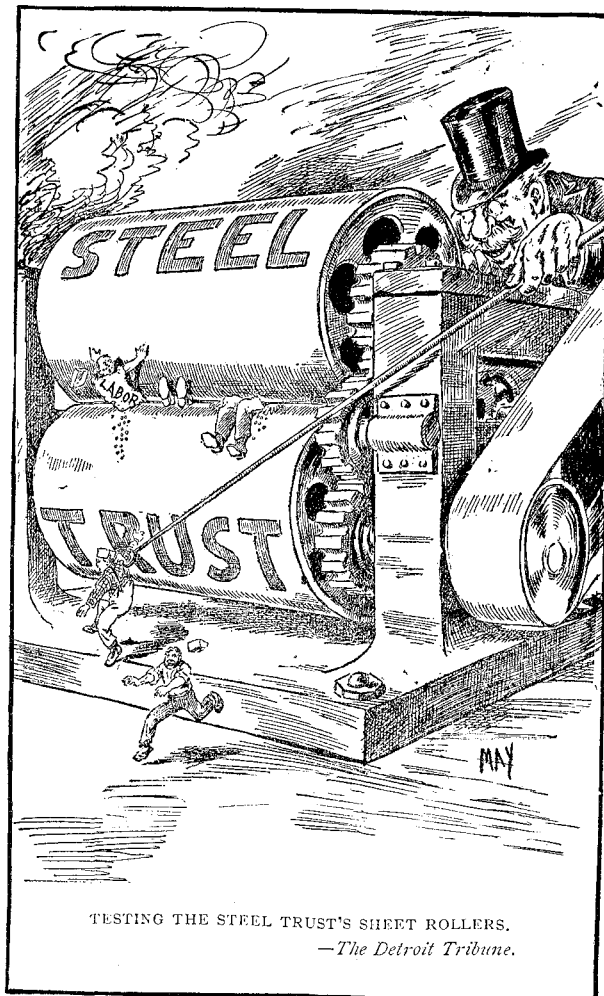
"It was the opinion of George Washington that the farmer who grew what he and his required was the happiest and most independent man on earth. It is good, too, for this nation to be independent of all sources save its own for the actual necessities of its life and activities. Its political independence is helped and assured by the possession of lands so distributed among the climates that ships may find in its own ports the various cargoes that supply its wants."

STEEL WORKERS ON STRIKE.

THE practical ending of the machinists' strike, which now involves but a few thousand men, is viewed by the press as a matter for congratulation. Both sides claim the victory. President O'Connell states that the majority of the employers have conceded the men's demands, while the secretary of the National Metal Trades Association declares that the "strike is on its last legs" because the men are returning to work "unconditionally" in most cities. Hardly was this strike settled when

another, on the part of some of the employees of the new billion-dollar steel trust, was announced. It is estimated that about 35,000 men, employees of the American Sheet Steel Company and the American Steel Hoop Company, responded to the call of President T. J. Shaffer, of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers, to quit work on July 1; but as it is customary to shut down the mills for a few weeks in summer, no serious dislocation of business has yet resulted, and it is believed that, in view of J. Pierpont Morgan's return from Europe, existing differences will be peaceably adjusted in the near future. The feature that is viewed with most apprehension is rather the potentiality of a strike which, in the language of the Brooklyn Eagle, "may develop into the greatest strike in history." Several months ago the Amalgamated Association insisted on unionizing certain mills at McKeesport, threatening a strike as an alternative, and its demands were acceded to. "It remains to be seen," remarks the Buffalo Express, "if the steel trust will give in under the present pressure." The same paper gives the following résumé of the causes of the present strike:

"It is an interesting fact that the dispute is not over an increase of wages, but simply over a continuation of last year's scale and its extension to the so-called open mills of the companies. About sixty-five per cent. of the mills in the sheet steel concern are unionized and have the wage scale prepared by the Amalgamated Association. It is the desire of the association to unionize all the mills of both companies and to make the wages uniform. By refraining from demanding an increase in wages, the association has indicated that it was satisfied with the present wages, while the willingness of the companies to agree to the same schedule for the same shops shows that there was no dissatisfaction among employers. The extension of the scale to the



TRUSTS IN CARICATURE.