

LIVE QUESTIONS.

A Series of Articles Contributed to These Columns by Advanced Thinkers.

TRUSTS AND MONOPOLIES.

The name trust first came into use after the formation of the Standard Oil trust in 1882. It comes from the fact that trustees received and held in trust the stocks of various competing corporations.

There are two ways of increasing profits: First.—By advancing the prices of finished products. Second.—By diminishing cost of production.

Both of these ends are aimed at by trusts. Restricted production is the usual



BYRON W. HOLT.

means for causing prices to advance. Production can be restricted only when there is a complete or partial monopoly of sources of supply or machinery of production.

Cost of production may be lowered: First.—By reducing the cost of selling a product.

Second.—By more economic distribution.

Third.—By working only the best or most favorably located plants.

Fourth.—By adoption of the best machinery and methods previously in use in any of the plants.

Fifth.—By a better utilization of materials and the saving of waste products.

Sixth.—By reducing wages.

Seventh.—By reducing prices paid for raw materials.

The power of trusts to advance prices of the things which we need and the cost of raw material is very great. The exercise of such power is considered harmful and is unlawful.

It is interesting to note the idea of competition between the great historic religions. This is not the result of an agreement, but one of those providential movements that overreach the limitations of men.

Another curious illustration of the action and reaction in missions is found in one of our largest western cities. Recently a number of orthodox clergymen organized a Jewish mission and are anxious to convert the children of Abraham to Christianity.

At the present time there are more Christians belonging to and joining Jewish churches than Jews joining Christian churches. This state of affairs is a very interesting study for the student and gives another factor in the vexed problem of comparative religions.

IMPARTIAL SUFFRAGE IN NEW ZEALAND. Mrs. Henry Hirst, an Australian author, in a recent discussion on the effect of woman's franchise in New Zealand, said: "Men of all shades of political opinion and at daggers drawn on other points agree that the granting of the vote to women has been beneficial to the colony."

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A dozen trusts are concealed in a single article. Suppose he buys a carriage. It may or may not be a trust product, but its cost of production depends largely upon the cost of its different parts.

Ordinarily the prices of trust articles are not much higher because of trusts. In many cases, however, the trusts increase prices by 25 to 100 per cent. Steel rails sold for about \$20 per ton two years ago, when the trust was disorganized and waiting to see what the duty was not at all taken off of rails.

A dozen trusts could be named that together exert at least \$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000 a year from American consumers. Probably \$500,000,000 is about the present cost of trusts to us; \$500,000,000 more can be added as our annual tribute to steam and street car, telegraph, telephone, mining, gas and water monopolies.

Most people are interested in missions of one kind or another, because in its larger sense every enterprise pushed outside of its present limits is a mission. However, missions have not been satisfactory in foreign fields and should not be expected to be so, as mission boards have been slow to adopt modern methods.

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SALE OF LAND. By virtue of a decree of the Superior court of Halifax county in an action therein pending entitled R. S. Speight, guardian of T. B. Wells, et al. I will, on Monday the 25 day of May 1896, sell at the post office door in Enfield to the highest bidder for cash, the following real estate, to wit: That certain tract or parcel of land situated and lying in said county of Halifax, State of North Carolina, lying on the road from Enfield to Ringwood, and on the western side of Rocky Swamp and Jack-tack, it being a portion of the land lately bought by Robert King from P. T. Henry of Vance county and fully described in a mortgage from said R. H. King and wife to Rountree & Co., to which reference is made for a better description, containing 250 acres more or less. G. M. FORTAIN, Commissioner of Court.

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