

seriously interfered with by the war, but have now recovered their normal position, and may be expected within a few years to produce no less than \$200,000,000, or double their present output. Other gold-producing countries throughout the world do not promise so well. Australia is still maintaining a foremost place, but it is not considered that she has a permanent supply. The mines of the United States are hardly holding their own; while the Yukon may not be expected to ever reach again its past record, though it still has immense resources. South Africa is the only country in which a continual increase can be looked for.

To produce this large amount of gold involves an immense expenditure of labor and money. Is it worth the while? As a commodity in itself it ministers in no way to direct human needs, but aside from its place in the fine crafts it serves as a very useful standard of value. As such it is much safer than silver, and therefore has an economic importance. Moreover, all the gold that is mined seems to be quickly absorbed; there is use for all the market affords.

Fighting the Trusts

IT is a rather unique coincidence that the agency through which the modern trusts and combines have been most bitterly fought should itself be one of the chief victims of trust methods. The daily newspapers have furnished a natural means of attack on these "business pirates," while in certain sections of the United States they have been undergoing what is perhaps the best recent example of monopolistic oppression.

The press of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan has, after ten years' fighting, succeeded in bringing the Paper Trust before the Federal courts. For years these newspapers have been paying exorbitant prices for their printing paper, and it now transpires that all the paper-making firms in the three states are united into one general company. This, as told by one of the leading journals concerned, is how the Trust does business: "It has been impossible, since this trust obtained complete control,

to do business with anyone else, or to do business with it except upon its own terms. It districted the country, assigned to each mill its territory, and told each consumer when and where alone he could buy. If he did not like the price asked, he could refuse to pay it, to be sure; but he could also go out of business, for there was no one else of whom he could buy."

But the methods of the Paper Trust are identical with those of all the trusts, and the others are equally fit subjects for judicial investigations as this. The same general objections apply to them all, their common purpose being to "kill competition and capitalize its corpse." It happens, however, to be an admirable test case, and the investigation before the United States court will, no doubt, have wider results than its immediate effect upon this particular case. The time seems ripe for a war on trusts, and if they can be killed before they gain a footing in Canada, so much the better.

Adulteration in Foods

SOMETHING even more despicable than the business methods of the modern trust is the adulteration of food supplies, a practice carried on nowadays to a surprisingly large extent. This, too, has been under investigation in some of the American states, and astounding revelations have resulted. It is found, for instance, that fifteen per cent. of the entire commerce in foods in the United States is adulterated. Flour, potatoes and vegetables are seldom adulterated, but nearly everything else is made to pass through various drug or chemical processes, either to preserve or flavor it, or in imitation of some other food.

Some of the tricks resorted to are quite harmless, such as ordinary coloring and the use of chemicals in artificial drying and evaporating processes, and the fact that the public is constantly using these goods without bad results goes to show that some forms of so-called adulteration are really not so dangerous as the pure-food advocates would have us think. But others are positively a menace to public safety, and may be at the root of much of the common