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Notes: Suggestions on Standard Oil Series

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SUGGESTION
ON STANDARD OIL SERIES.

According to the present plan we shall stop the Standard Oil Company articles with the July number. The last article will deal with the Greatness of the Standard Oil Company. It closes with what may be said to be the First Phase of the Standard Oil Company. It has taken nine articles to cover the period, which ends in 1882 with formation of trust. The nine articles should have shown the construction of the trust, what the elements of strength in it were and given a hint of the under-current of popular opposition still alive. It has been the intention so far to finish the series in three more articles: Trials of the Trust; the Irreconcilables or Independents, and the Price of Oil. I am convinced that this will not give an adequate treatment of the second phase of the subject, and I should like to have the following suggestion considered:
suggestion considered:

That we make an editorial announcement in the July number summarizing what has been done, and announcing that with next October or November we shall begin a series on the Second Phase of the Standard Oil Company. It seems to me that it might be a good idea to have in our October number an introductory article similar to that in our last October number, in which we would very briefly review the points made in this first series and announce the ground to be covered in a second series. Six articles could, I think, be made to cover very satisfactorily this second phase. As I see them now they would be as follows:

1. Trials of a Trust,
2. The Growth and Passing of the Inter-State Commerce Bill,
3. The Breaking up of the Trust,
4. The Oil Producer and his War on the Standard. (This would cover the whole subject of oil production and how the Standard became an oil producer, something which did not happen until within recent years. This would include also a study of foreign oil fields and their relation to American oil.)
5. The Irreconcilables and how they fought their way to the Sea. 

Sept. 2, 1904. The Price of Oil. (This would include the story of underselling to drive rivals from the market.)

I may be wrong, but I think that it would be good editorial policy to divide these articles into two sets as I suggest, and treat this second series with the same consideration as we have the first. I should not advise making it the leading feature in advertisement, but to give it a strong place. I feel sure that there is material to make quite as interesting and important a second set of articles as those of this year. This will give me time to get up new steam. I am much weaker on the material of the second phase of this subject than I was on that of the first and I shall need two or three months of good hard work before I begin to write.

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