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IS THIS PROSPERITY?

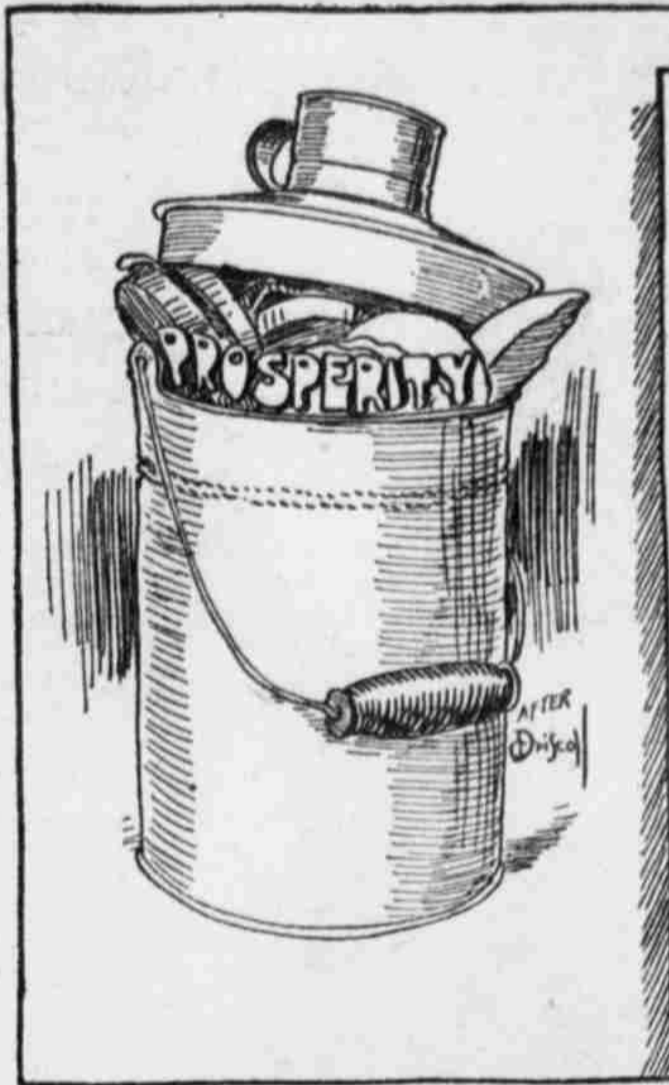
We are told by the republicans that the country is enjoying a period of unexampled prosperity. It might be pertinent to ask why the increasing hostility between labor and capital and why the extraordinary accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few. The republican platform of last year offered no remedy and promised no relief. But the object of this editorial is to call attention to another development of modern business, namely the employment of so many girls in store and factory. Go into any great city or factory town at morning or at evening and you will find an army of girls with dinner basket in hand trudging to and from work. Is the country prosperous when the girls have to become breadwinners at an early age in order to piece out the family income? Surely under favorable conditions the head of the family ought to be able to support his wife and children. Often the work is of a kind too severe for women. What is the effect to be on future generations? Women may displace men in the shop but men can not take woman's place in the home. Any system that lessens woman's ability to discharge the duties of wife and mother must in the end bring a harvest of disasters. Will the republicans insist that this forcing of women into the fields of remunerative labor is a step in the line of progress? If not what plans have they for the improvement of present industrial conditions?

MUNICIPAL TELEPHONES

Press dispatches from London announce that England will soon have a system of government telephones. Public ownership must sooner or later extend to the telephones. The telephone business is by its nature a monopoly. No one cares to have several different phones in his house. One telephone system in a city is very much more convenient than several systems but if the one system is in the hands of private citizens it is sure to develop all the objectionable features of a monopoly.

Public ownership is the only solution. The city should own the city system, the county should own the system for the country outside of the cities and furnish connection between the cities of the country. They can add intercounty lines and the national can, if it becomes necessary, add interstate lines.

Our system of government is admirably adapted to this divided work. Each subdivision can do the work to be done within its limits. In some states the cities are not allowed to take up this work but the laws should be changed. The telephone monopoly will soon be as burdensome as the telegraph monopoly and the railroad monopoly if private ownership is permitted.



SPEAKING OF LIDS

Here's One That Won't Stay On
 —St. Louis Globe Democrat



And Here's Another

AVENUES OF USEFULNESS ...MECHANICAL SCIENCE...

Attention has already been called to the wide field which farming offers to the young man who desires to live a useful life, but there are some whose tastes lead them toward work more purely scientific. Instead of studying nature's laws as they apply to production they have a bent for research into the laws which relate to the mechanical world. The wonderful development of commerce has turned attention to the transportation problem while in the cities the question of lighting, heating and communication are added to the traction question. The political phases of these questions will be considered at another time but the mechanical problems alone offer measureless possibilities.

Steam and electricity are the motive powers now employed—both but recently brought into use. Are there any "dark horses" yet to be called into service? Is there any other force that can be harnessed?

Professor Elisha Gray, of telephone fame, suggests that the contraction and expansion of metals under the influence of atmospheric changes may yet be used as a motive power. There is an incalculable amount of energy stored in the air and in the water and a new utilization of this energy by economical methods will richly reward the inventor and greatly benefit the world.

At present there is an enormous waste in fuel, but a small fraction of the energy stored in coal and wood being saved by present processes. Is it possible to reduce this waste? There is leakage in the transmission of electric power, can this leakage be lessened? And the storage battery, can it be further improved? When the dream of the inventor is realized and the storage battery perfected the winds and the running water and even the sun's rays can be made to store light and motive power.

The lighting problem is one of increasing interest. Acetylene has not only become a rival of coal gas, but is more easily produced in small quantities, while electricity rivals both. Have we reached the limit in this direction?

Less progress has been made in heating than in lighting. We have, to be sure, the hot air furnace, the steam pipes and the hot water radiator but we rely on coal and wood as our forefathers did. The ice machine has robbed the winter of his old time monopoly; is there any way by which the process could be reversed. It has been demonstrated that the heat increases from the surface of the earth toward the center. It has been suggested that this heat might be made available by a system of pipes which would carry water down cold and bring it back heated. Who will be the first to tap this exhaustless furnace?

The telephone and the telegraph have wonderfully improved the means of communication. The transmission of intelligence by wire had become an old story when the telephone appeared with its still more wonderful transmission of the human voice along the wire and now science is flinging messages through space without the aid of voice. What will the next step be?

While one group of scientists is working on forestry, another group is devising substitutes for wood, and already the cement house, the cement sidewalk and the cement fence post are reducing the lumber bill. Here, too, is an inviting field. What young man can content himself with ignoble indolence when he can find so much happiness in rendering a valuable service to society. Parents can encourage their children by placing before them books which will turn their thoughts toward these fields. Every child that has a taste for scientific study should have Elisha Gray's three little books entitled "Nature's Miracles." They are published by Lords, Howard & Hurlburt, New York, and can be procured at any book store for about 60 cents per volume. They are as