

be in every city, in every state and in the nation a permanent arbitration board with power to investigate and report upon any labor trouble at the request of either party or upon its own initiative. The compulsory investigation of a labor trouble must be distinguished from the compulsory enforcement of the finding of the board. It is far more important that the investigation shall be compulsory when either party desires it than that the finding shall be binding because public opinion will surely enforce a fair and impartial finding.

"I believe that this plan can be applied to differences between nations. We are all rejoicing that our nation has through the efforts of the president been instrumental in bringing peace between Russia and Japan. We have won more moral prestige by playing the role of peacemaker than we could have won in a generation by wars of conquest. If we had an international board of arbitration with an agreement that all the leading countries would submit their differences to the board for an impartial investigation before entering upon war nearly if not all wars would be avoided.

"The laboring man also has a right to ask for reasonable compensation and the reasonableness of compensation must depend upon the conditions which surround him. When the cost of living increases he has a right to expect increased wages; if his business requires a high order of skill he has the right to expect a larger pay than when engaged in work that requires less skill. The longer the preparation for work, the higher the compensation as a rule. Then, too, a business in which one can engage but a portion of the time must furnish a larger per diem than a business in which the work is constant. These are only a few of the conditions that enter into the determination of wages.

"Having mentioned some of the things which

the laboring man has a right to demand, let me add that society also makes demands upon the laborer. Our obligations in this life are mutual ones. None of us stand in a position where we can demand without making return. The laboring man owes faithful services to his employer and the labor organization will commend itself to the employers in proportion as its influence upon the members tends to increase their efficiency.

"As public opinion is the all-controlling force in this country and the powerful factor in any country, the members of any labor organization will find the public inclined toward them in proportion as the organization proves its claim to the public confidence and respect. While a man's right to a reasonable wage and to reasonable hours is a legal one that ought to be recognized no matter what use a man makes of his money or of his time, still the laboring men will find that their claims will be re-enforced in proportion as they demonstrate the usefulness of the organization in promoting virtue and character among its members. A few members who make a bad use of surplus money or surplus time throw discredit upon the order and such waste of time and money will be used to answer the demand for increase of wages or more leisure.

"The members of the labor organization also owe to society a respect for law. No one can afford to be lawless and no one can long expect public sympathy who attempts to substitute force and violence for reason and persuasion in any controversy. The labor organization ought to be swift to punish violations of the law among its members, for such violations, when unpunished, bring odium upon the entire body. The laboring men might point to some distinguished instances of lawlessness on the part of men who are quick to find fault with labor organizations. For instance, the Chicago board of trade recently re-

pealed a rule which provided for the expulsion of a member who violated the law against grain gambling. If a labor organization were to announce, as the Chicago board of trade virtually did, that it would not require the expulsion of a member for the violation of the criminal law, there would be a loud outcry against the lawlessness of the labor organization and there will be an outcry against the lawlessness of the Chicago board of trade. A bad example like that is better rebuked than followed.

"It is natural that the members of a labor union who tax themselves and contribute from their earnings to improve the conditions of labor should complain if the very ones who profit by their action act as strike breakers and attempt to defeat the plans and purposes of organized labor. And yet, irritating as this is, the laboring man must remember that he is not the only one who is sometimes thwarted by the persons whom they try to benefit. That is the common lot of those who try to improve the world, and the laboring man must content himself with making such progress as he can by the use of moral suasion. Force may seem attractive to one who is angry, but the peaceful methods of example and argument commend themselves to those who will consult their better natures and take time for reflection. Progress is often slow. Those who are most eager to do good are apt to be most impatient. Satisfied of the righteousness of their own efforts, it is hard to understand how others can be indifferent or even antagonistic. But patience and persistent effort accomplish much. The labor organization has contributed mightily to the welfare of the wage earner. It has won him the confidence of the public generally and in its coming contests it can count upon increasing support as it proves itself a worthy champion of worthy men and women."

THE SECRETS OF "LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE"

The American people during a recent presidential campaign became quite familiar with the appeal "let well enough alone." According to the election returns the people did not exactly know what "well enough" was at that time.

They have a better idea now.

They did not know that men who posed as captains of industry were in fact conspirators in restraint of trade. They did not know that the men who claimed to be "the trustees of God" were in fact seeking the opportunity to oppress the people. They know it now.

They did not know that Chauncey M. Depew, who pleaded for the defeat of the democratic party in the name of "national honor" was then engaged in connection with the Equitable Life Assurance society in questionable transactions. They know it now.

They did not know that Andrews, the Detroit banker who charged the democratic candidate in 1896 with being "the dishonest leader of dishonest men" was an embezzler to the extent of \$1,600,000. They know it now.

They did not know that Bigelow, the Milwaukee banker who, as a conspicuous official of the American Bankers association pleaded for the election of the republican ticket in order to save the business interests of the country, was a defaulter to the extent of more than three million dollars. They know it now.

They did not know that men anxious for the opportunity to organize great trusts for the purpose of preying upon the people had contributed millions of dollars to the republican campaign fund, and that during the closing hours of the 1896 campaign in the language of Thomas W. Lawson, a hurry-up call for five million dollars in behalf of the republican ticket was made and promptly responded to. They know it now.

They did not know that the purpose of the ruling spirits in the republican party is antagonistic to the Declaration of Independence and not in harmony with the faithful protection of the constitution. They know it now.

They did not know that the party which pretends to have a monopoly upon devotion to American ideals would adopt a colonial policy, would repudiate the right of trial by jury, and would enter upon an agreement that upon territory subject to United States jurisdiction "any slave shall have the privilege of purchasing his freedom by paying to the master the usual market price." They know it now.

They did not know that the republican party would repudiate the purpose of its founders and turn its back upon the principles of the fathers of the government. They know it now.

They did not know that a republican administration would give sympathy to Great Britain in its war against the republics of South Africa—but they know it now.

They did not know that the republican administration would create colonies and govern them as King George governed the American colonies, adopting the very policies against which our own forefathers fought. They know it now.

They did not know that a republican administration would exert every possible effort to humiliate such faithful men as Dewey, Schley and Miles. They know it now.

They did not know that a party which pretends to be thoroughly business-like in its methods would engage in such a reckless expenditure of the public money that during a year when the revenues were greater than during any year in the history of the government the deficit amounted to \$24,000,000. They know it now.

They did not know that under the administration of a party which assumes, as the republican party does, a monopoly upon the honesty, the intelligence and the patriotism of the country such scandal and fraud could exist as characterized the temporary administration in Cuba or that have characterized the administration of the post-office department, the government printing office, the agricultural department, and the interior department. They know it now.

They did not know that a party whose representatives had so much to say in favor of "a square deal" would heap disgrace upon an honest official like Bowen while bestowing new honors upon a discredited official like Loomis. They know it now.

They did not know that a party whose leaders claim for it the title of "party of progress" would at the instance of the trans-continental railroad companies reject the Nicaragua canal route and adopt the Panama route, thus paving the way not only for endless delay but for numerous scandals. They know it now.

They did not know that when the people with practical unanimity demanded relief from extortionate freight rates the corporations would be so influential with the republican congress that such relief would be denied. They know it now.

They did not know that when the demand for the popular election of United States senators was so general that the house of representatives on four separate occasions found it necessary to pass a proposed amendment to that effect, the republican senate, acting in behalf of the special interests, would block the way to that reform. They know it now.

They did not know that while the republican

administration was pretending to wage a campaign against the trusts a republican commissioner of education would have the temerity to issue a clean bill to John D. Rockefeller, the most conspicuous representative of the trust system. They know it now.

When the Burtons and the Mitchells and the Depews pleaded for the election of the republican ticket in order that business interests might be protected and national honor preserved and the government at Washington upheld they did not know that the Burtons, the Mitchells, and the Depews—in the senate, in the lower house and in the executive offices as well as in the great banks of the country—were not nearly so much interested in the defense of national honor as they were in the creation of enlarged opportunities for plunder. They know it now.

When these eminent champions of "national honor" and "business interests" pleaded for the defeat of the democratic party and pointed to the election of the republican ticket as the only patriotic course, the people did not know that "the hand was the hand of Esau, but the voice was the voice of Jacob." But they know it now.

THE "FREIGHT" PETITION

A publication known as "Freight" and describing itself as the "shippers forum" is urging the circulation of petitions, asking congress to adopt Judge Grosscup's recommendation, which contemplates the creation of a special court for the trial of railroad matters, the judges to be appointed for life. In all discussions of rate legislation, it will be well for democrats to be on their guard against an increase of the number of life judges. A court appointed for life and made up of men friendly to the railroads would postpone remedial legislation for years. It is better to trust the rate making power to men appointed for a limited term like members of the interstate commerce commission. There are two advantages in this: In the first place, the man holding for a limited term is not so easily controlled by corporate interest, and, second, it is easier to make a change in the personality of the board if a member does not perform his duty.

A Harvard professor declares that the Pacific Ocean is the hole left by the moon when it was thrown off from the earth. He is led to this conclusion by the similarity between the volcanoes in the moon to those in the Hawaiian Islands. Now, that this question is definitely settled, let us have peace.