

the engineer commands higher wages than the teamster. The railroad by vastly increasing commerce has multiplied the number of persons engaged in the handling of passengers and freight, and it has at the same time improved the character of the work done and raised the intellectual standard of those employed. The same result has followed in other kinds of work. It might be stated thus, labor saving machinery, as it is called—although it might more properly be called labor-multiplying machinery—has created a demand for a higher grade of labor; universal education has supplied this demand, and the labor organization has secured for these higher grade laborers larger compensation and more favorable conditions.

One thought has grown upon me as we have traveled, namely, the dignity of labor. In no other country is so high an estimate placed upon the wage-earner as in this country. In the Orient there was, until the advent of western ideas, an impassable gulf between the prince and his people, and there is even now in a large part of the Orient a gulf so wide that one who toils with his hands can not look across it. The royal families have lived by the sword and they have forced from those beneath them a tribute sufficient to support themselves and their armed retainers. The masses have been the prey of the governing classes, no matter what tribe or family held the throne.

In Europe the extremes of society have been brought nearer together although there is still

a gap between the aristocracy and the masses. This gap, however, is growing more and more narrow, education and popular government being the most influential factors in bringing about this result. With education now more and more within the reach of all, the poor boy is forcing his way to the front in business and with his fortune thus acquired he is levelling ranks. In the political world, too, the champion of the weak and the oppressed is making his influence felt and his political power is opening before him doors which until recently were closed. In France deputies, senators and even presidents have come up from the people, and in England a labor leader, John Burns, has fought his way into the cabinet. Who will say that the European laboring man is not making progress when labor's foremost representative in Great Britain becomes the guest of the king?

Yes, America leads the world in recognition of the true worth of the man who toils, and yet, even in America there is room for still further advancement. Our national life is full of instances of rise from office boy to merchant prince, from plowman to governor, congressman and senator; we have had a rail-splitter made president—and no president ever bore himself better or served amid more trying times—while another president looked back to the days when he followed the tow-path on a canal. And yet, with these illustrious examples of poverty overcome and great careers built upon a foundation of manual labor, there is still much to be done before the pro-

ducer of wealth will receive the consideration which he deserves. The dignity of labor will not be appreciated as it ought to be until our young men are taught that it is more honorable to contribute by labor to the sum of the world's wealth than to spend in idleness the money that others have made.

Toistoy contends that people can not be kept in sympathy with each other unless all perform some physical labor throughout their lives; he says that contempt for those who do the drudgery of life is natural if we put that drudgery upon others and reserve for ourselves only intellectual pursuits. Whether this be true or not, it is true that we can not view labor in its proper relation to life unless we measure life by a standard different from that which is now ordinarily applied. So long as we measure life by its income rather than by its out-go, we shall seek those occupations which yield the largest pecuniary reward; when we measure life by what we put into the world rather than what we take out of it, we shall seek those occupations which offer the largest field for usefulness.

Enough has been said to indicate that the world's work is broad enough to enlist all who are willing to work and that the variety is sufficient to allow each to follow his taste and select his field, provided only that he is actuated by a purpose to render to society a service which will be more than an equivalent for all that society has done for him.

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## A Good Example For George B. Cortelyou

E. M. Pollard, representative in congress from the First Nebraska district, was elected at a special election July 18, 1905, and in drawing his pay Mr. Pollard drew from the beginning of the congressional term, March 4, 1905, covering 136 days before he had even been elected.

When these facts were called to public attention Mr. Pollard explained that the money had been sent to him by the sergent-at-arms and, in accepting it he did not know he was not entitled to it.

This explanation was answered by the circulation throughout the district of "put it back" cards. These cards pointed out: "Mr. Pollard knows now he is not entitled to the money, but he won't put it back." Mr. Pollard's opponents waged the fight on this "salary grab" and his supporters replied by claiming that he was entitled to the money and there was nothing to put back.

Mr. Pollard was elected by a reduced majority and two days after the election he made public a letter which he had sent to the sergent-at-arms of the house of representatives. In that letter Mr. Pollard enclosed a draft for \$1,861.84, the amount of salary paid him for the period running from March 4 to July 18, 1905. In the letter to the sergent-at-arms Mr. Pollard says

that he is satisfied he is not entitled to the money and therefore returns it. He adds:

"I would have returned this earlier except that my right to it was not questioned until after I became a candidate for re-nomination and re-election to congress. I did not take this action at that time because my motives would have been misconstrued, thus subjecting myself to the criticism of attempting to influence voters or purchasing the good-will of my constituents."

While Mr. Pollard is generally commended for returning the money his action makes it somewhat embarrassing for those newspaper editors and other republican leaders, who, during the campaign, contended that Mr. Pollard was entitled to the money and therefore had nothing to "put back." This fact, while interesting, is not, however, serious. Mr. Pollard did well in restoring the money even at a late day, and The Commoner congratulates him for it.

In this connection, the comment of the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal, a republican newspaper, is particularly interesting. Commending Mr. Pollard for restoring the money, the Journal says: "The questioning of this salary payment and the response given it shows a quickening of conscience, a new and keener sensibility to delicate points of right and wrong. In all its aspects it is a wholesome lesson to the people and their official servants."

Very well put, indeed. An incident that should be "a wholesome lesson to the people and

their official servants!" Will "their official servants" profit by the lesson? The Commoner suggests that the Journal try the experiment upon the chairman of the republican national committee, who is now postmaster general and is soon to be promoted to the treasury portfolio.

Thousands of dollars of money belonging to insurance company policyholders were traced to the republican party's treasury under the Cortelyou management. So far Cortelyou has not heeded the demands to "put it back." Would it not be well for all of the republican newspapers in the country to join with democratic newspapers in insisting that before George B. Cortelyou is promoted to the treasury portfolio and thereby given the custody of all of the money of the nation, he restore to the policyholders the considerable sums of money, for the misappropriation of which he is, in part, responsible.

The republican congressman from the First Nebraska district has shown—as stated by the republican newspaper quoted—"a quickening of conscience, a new and keener sensibility to delicate points of right and wrong." Can the man whom Mr. Roosevelt considers good enough to be elevated to the position of secretary of the treasury do less? Can republican newspapers claiming to represent the moral sentiment of the nation fail in their duty to insist that the man to whose care the money of the nation is to be confided, show at least as keen "sensibility to delicate points of right and wrong" as is shown by the humble member from the First Nebraska district.

### "ROOSEVELT VICTORIES"

Will Mr. Roosevelt's friends claim that the result in Ohio is a Roosevelt victory? In that state the republican convention endorsed Mr. Roosevelt but it gave a more emphatic endorsement to Senators Foraker and Dick who have bitterly opposed the Roosevelt policy. It will be remembered that while Mr. Roosevelt received a simple endorsement Senators Foraker and Dick were endorsed "without reserve." The republican majority in Ohio is in the neighborhood of 75,000, and already there is serious talk of Foraker being the republican nominee for president in 1908.

In Pennsylvania where the republican machine stood for all the evils against which Mr. Roosevelt has declaimed, the republican plurality is in the neighborhood of 100,000. In the very midst of the campaign it was shown that the republican machine in that state was responsible for a nine million dollar graft in the construction of the state house. Was the Pennsylvania victory an endorsement of Roosevelt?

In Colorado where the republican candidate for governor was, admittedly, selected by the corporations and for whose election the corporations make a fight unparalleled in the history of the state the entire republican state ticket was elect-

ed and the republicans captured the legislature, thus insuring the election of a republican as a successor to Senator Patterson. Was that a victory for Roosevelt?

In New York the republicans won out by a greatly reduced majority with the support of every lawless corporation in the state. Was that an endorsement of Roosevelt?

### THE WORLD EDITOR'S NEW HAT

After exerting itself in behalf of the republican ticket, the New York World, in an editorial printed on the day following the election said. "Let nobody mistake the meaning of the narrow victory that Charles E. Hughes has won over William R. Hearst. Mr. Hughes' election by 36,000 plurality is morally a republican defeat, a popular repudiation of the corrupt republican machine and its alliances with corrupt corporations. The Hearst vote is a striking illustration of the popular temper in regard to the abuses of corporations and the demand for effective regulation."

Eminently characteristic of the World! For years between elections, it has preached against "the corrupt republican machine and its alliances with corrupt corporations" only to be found, when

the campaign opened, waging battle upon the side espoused by that same "corrupt republican machine" and those same "corrupt corporations."

This reminds us of a letter written by C. V. Thorne, Rosebud Agency, South Dakota, and printed in the World during the month of April, 1906. Addressing the editor of the World, Mr. Thorne said: "I am a constant reader of the New York World. You are sending out some good democratic literature at present. I wish I might enjoy it, but I read it now with a feeling of sorrow, for we all know that when the next national campaign comes around you will be found supporting the Wall street ridden republican party just as you have in the past—by fighting for democratic principles between campaigns while in the heat of the campaign you indirectly support the trust party by opposing first the nomination of a 'real' democrat and then his election. Will you not kindly chronicle this prophecy of a humble citizen in some conspicuous way? If it does not prove true I'll buy the editor of the World a new hat."

Judging from the part the World played in the recent campaign in New York City, one might be pardoned for concluding that Mr. Thorne will not find it necessary to buy that hat for the editor of the New York World.