

turn from the American people in loss of their moral perceptions, in surrender of their manhood and independence, and in denial to themselves of their fundamental rights.

Nobody can imagine the devotion of the Rockefeller millions to such a purpose as Mr. Sage has outlined. Rockefeller money instinctively shrinks from such a mission as inquiry into conditions causing poverty and distress. The money might come back with the message that the extortion of the Rockefeller and allied monopolies was causing a great deal of the suffering among the poor.

So we say the Sage gift may be accepted by the American people with blessings to the good woman who has given it, and without scrutinizing too closely the methods by which it was acquired. At least this much may be said again of the dead millionaire, which we said in his lifetime, that there was no hypocrisy about his gathering of riches. He never pretended to be a public benefactor, and he never sought to buy the good will of the public with money gained by breaking the laws both of God and man.

Mrs. Sage's money is all the greater boon to mankind since it carries no obligations with it and since it goes into a field little occupied. What is the use of a Carnegie library in every town if under its shadow a submerged tenth or a partly submerged half of the community cannot get its head high enough out of the slough to enjoy the opportunities for education which Mr. Carnegie's bounty has provided? A man cannot concern himself too much with the improvement of his mind when the monopolies created by the Carnegies keep him humping himself in order to hold body and soul together.

The trouble with the Rockefeller and Carnegie philanthropy is that it busies itself too much with the spiritual state of the foreign heathen and the intellectual condition of the American masses, but is not enough occupied with the problem of keeping these American millions from starvation or suicide. Therefore the Sage Foundation is a worthy enterprise, for which Mrs. Sage will be remembered and blessed when the Rockefellers, in spite of their great and glittering bribes, are recalled with curses on all their tribe.

THE DEMANDS OF LABOR

The Wall Street Journal, taking cognizance of the general disposition on the part of labor to demand an increased share of the prosperity so often boasted about, says:

"That labor is disposed to push to further limits the advantage which it has gained in the recent past is more or less certain. But the condition of the money market, the state of affairs in the railway world, and the retrenchments which are under way in various directions, are likely to cause a halt in the granting of advances in wages, or the increasing of expenses in any of the leading items of outlay. The world of labor and its leaders would do well to take into account the fact that a change has come over the field of employment since the beginning of the current calendar year. Readjustment is necessary in financial, industrial, and commercial lines, before any new burdens of any considerable moment can be assumed by those who are responsible for the management of these enterprises. If therefore the temper of labor is to force the issue of advanced wages it may find that the public, which is always in a position to throw its influence one way or another, will rather be with the employer than with the employe at a time when our prosperity demands patience, critical foresight, and the highest degree of co-operation."

Is it wrong, or calculated to disturb business interests, for the wage earners of the country to demand an increased share in the boundless prosperity that has been enjoyed by the Harrimans, the Hills, the Morgans, the Rockefellers, the Ryans and the whole run of insurance magnates. Mr. Harriman pays \$40,000,000 for a railroad, issues \$100,000,000 in bonds to raise money for improvements never made. Then as an individual he buys from himself as manager of the railroad these same bonds at 65 cents on the dollar, and then, as representative of a big financial combine buys as an investment for his company those same bonds from himself as an individual at 95 cents on the dollar. That is "good business," but when the employe of the looted railroad asks for an advance in wage to meet the higher cost of living, that employe is notified that he must go slow because "readjustment is necessary in financial, commercial and industrial lines."

Mr. Hill as owner of the Northern Pacific issues enough stock to buy the Burlington railroad, guaranteeing to pay dividends on the stock at double its original value. Then he proceeds to charge rates high enough to pay dividends on this watered stock, giving the investors, himself the

largest, double interest on their original investment. But when the employes of the Hill railroads ask for an increased wage in order to meet the increased expenses of a mere livelihood, the Wall Street Journal and kindred organs notify the employe that he should not make such a demand at this time when "readjustment is necessary in financial, commercial and industrial lines."

Mr. Rockefeller, who has accumulated wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, announces through the public press that he has given \$30,000,000 to the cause of education—a gift so princely in its size that the human mind can scarcely grasp it—and the great journals of the day vie with one another in commending the spirit of philanthropy which prompted the gift. But when the employes of the Standard Oil company and other corporations owned and controlled by the oil octopus, ask for an increased wage that they may meet the increased expense of living and not be forced to depend upon the charity of men grown rich from their toil, they are told that they must be careful; that they must not insist upon an increase just now, when "readjustment is necessary in financial, commercial and industrial lines."

In this matter of "readjustment" the workingman who has nothing but the wage he has earned insists that he be recognized. The trouble with former "readjustments" has been that the readjusters have got the money while the workingman has got nothing but good advice and promises. He has grown tired of a stationary wage while the corporations employing him have been making from 100 to 1,000 per cent on their investments. Knowing that without him the corporations would be helpless, he feels that he is entirely within the bounds of reason when he asks a paltry wage increase of 10 or 15 per cent, and he is not likely to be satisfied with any talk about the necessity of "readjustment in financial, commercial and industrial lines."

SHOW IT TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

Charles W. Needham, president of George Washington university, recently said that human conduct does not attach to or mix in the coin and that there is no such thing as tainted money. Referring to Mr. Needham's statement the New York Press makes the statement so clear that every one who objects to the Rockefeller subsidy should have that statement to show his doubting neighbor. The Press says:

"This teacher of morals wants us to consider the term 'tainted money' in its literal sense. He is blind to the fact, either because he cannot see or because he will not see, that the wealth is objected to not solely because it was immorally gained. When we say that Rockefeller hush money is stained with the blood and tears of the poor the very literal Dr. Needham replies that a microscopic test does not corroborate our statement. When he says that the commercial value of money is not impaired by the manner in which it was acquired he reveals a sordid point of view, but he does not meet the real issue involved in the question whether teachers of the American youth and leaders of public opinion ought to take Rockefeller's gifts. He dodges it.

"What Dr. Needham does not or will not see is that there is a difference between taking tainted money which involves a return and tainted money which puts the receiver under no obligation.

"A murderer may give his money anonymously to a hospital, and if the hospital trustees cannot restore the plunder to its rightful owners it is their duty to devote it to the purpose of relieving suffering. Their act does not oblige them to in-dorse murder either by silence or approval.

"But when a notorious offender against the laws of God and man, confronted by prosecution for his crimes, gives tens of millions of dollars to public purposes, and gets himself commended for his philanthropy, the natural inference, and the just inference, is that he expects a return first in immunity from criticism of his acts by those who take his money, and second in public toleration of the crimes which made it possible for him to offer the bribe.

"This distinction makes it possible to approve on one hand the gift of \$10,000,000 of Russell Sage's profits from usury when Russell Sage is dead and the public's opinion of him will do him no good, and when the gift involves no surrender of the people's independence or grant of immunity to a criminal, but on the other hand to condemn a gift of \$100,000,000 from John D. Rockefeller which is meant to muzzle preachers and college presidents and stifle the general voice of public censure for the crimes of monopolists."

The above is from a republican paper. Show it to your republican neighbor and read it to the next man who bases his defense of the Rockefeller subsidy upon the theory that there is no such thing as tainted money.

Paragraphic Punches

In time Oklahoma may be known as "the American New Zealand."—Sioux City Journal.

There never was an American boy who wanted to be a mollycoddle in the first place.—Washington Star.

Mr. Roosevelt himself is a mollycoddle when it comes to tackling tariff revision or Mayor Schmitz.—Columbia State.

The director of the Naples aquarium says that "fish hear and talk." We can't quite swallow that till Grover Cleveland confirms it.—Chicago Post.

Even the mere possibility of the railroads entering upon an era of good behavior is sufficient to cause a big slump in Wall street.—Kansas City Times.

If the railroad managers continue to demonstrate the incapacity of the roads the government will not accept them as a Christmas gift.—Springfield News.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller doubtless fails to see the joke in the present situation, even if he is an honorary member of the American Press Humorists' Association.—Birmingham News.

When Mr. Harriman says: "Everybody hates a successful man," he is wrong. It is true, however, that there is a certain amount of prejudice in this country against brigands.—Kansas City Star.

If the water which has been squeezed out of stock in New York could only be transferred to the arid regions of the west, the irrigation problem would be partially solved.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

The Commoner with glee prints a list of things the 59th congress didn't do. What's the use of doing everything when we have hired a new congress at an advance in salary?—Minneapolis Journal.

The Commoner asks: "Did anyone ever hear of a secretary of agriculture being taken to Wall street at a handsome salary?" Why not? Wall street is deeply interested in irrigation.—Minneapolis Journal.

A scientist has figured out that the human soul has a definite weight, discernable by scales, and he fixes it at from a half-ounce to an ounce. But even that is probably too much for some souls.—Boise Capital News.

Washington's birthday orators poked fun at the cherry tree story, which should have been left with William Tell and the apple fable. Some historic fables are worth more than tons of facts that can be proved up to the handle.—Mexican Herald.

The labor union organizers, Mr. Commons and Mr. Mahon, appear to be very reasonable and tractable men; not in the least to be dreaded. They have performed a difficult task in a way to command the respect of this community.—Louisville Post.

It is said that a girl at the College of Industrial Arts built a beautiful Easter "dream," the materials for which cost only \$1.05. Will not the legislature increase the capacity of that institution by providing accommodations for 150,000 girls?—Houston Post.

The Washington Post believes the next congress will pass the ship subsidy bill. We rather believe it will. When it comes to taxing the many for the benefit of the few, "the next congress" can generally be relied upon to continue busy.—Columbia State.

Somebody has figured out that while the profits of trade between the nations of the world amount to \$2,400,000,000 a year it costs \$3,000,000,000 a year to maintain the military and naval strength of the trading nations. And the worst of it for Uncle Sam is that his outlay seems to be largely displayed in quarters of the world where he gets little or no trade.—Boston Herald.