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MUST SUBMIT OR STARVE

On February 8 the New York World prints an interview had with J. Pierpont Morgan in Paris by Alexander U'lar, editor of Petit Journal of Paris.

Mr. Morgan lays down the proposition that the time has come when the great battle between capital and labor must be fought out. He tells the French newspaper man that the workingman has got to learn that he cannot control industry, but must accept wages that will make honest and profitable business possible. He adds that as thousands of men are now out of work it is better to keep them in that condition until they realize that they are powerless to prevent wage reductions. He is of the opinion that the present depression is extremely useful and as a capitalist he does not care to see it relieved at present.

Mr. Morgan also said: "Strike! They (the workmen) have got no jobs now. There are no stocks on hand; you know. We do not want to take up work again now. So what can they do? They will have to submit, or starve. The question is to be settled. They are to learn that they cannot control industry."

Well, maybe they will have to make a choice between starvation and submission. And, again, maybe they will not. If memory is not at fault, that is just what the French aristocracy thought about the French peasantry a few decades ago, but it seems that the aristocracy was mistaken. We haven't yet been convinced that John Pierpont Morgan is infallible and gifted with omnipotence and omniscience. A whole lot of monied aristocrats in the world's history have talked just like J. Pierpont Morgan talked in Paris, and then lived to see that they were mistaken. Time was when it took a lot of bloodshed to convince the monied aristocrats of their mistake, but it is to be hoped that in this day of ballot that is not to be resorted to. Still, there's no telling what may happen.

These workmen so sneeringly alluded to by Mr. Morgan might take a fool notion into their heads to control the products of their own labor, and if they should men like Morgan might have to hunt for jobs or go hungry. Stranger things than that have happened. We have read of a proud and mighty king who was compelled to go out and eat grass. Doubtless Mr. Morgan would thrive on that diet. However, on second thought, we opine that a diet of thistles would suit him better. A man who talks like Morgan talked in Paris is considerable of an ass.

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay.
For a bold peasantry—the country's pride—
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

Mr. Morgan seems forgetful of the fact that every such man as he might be sunk into the bottom of the sea together with all their gold, and the world would go on just as if they had never existed. But if the workingman to whom he so sneeringly alludes were to be destroyed, men like Morgan would soon starve to death and the country would cease to exist.

Submit or starve? Don't you fool yourself, Mr. Morgan. That sort of doctrine bathed France in a swelter of blood, and out of that flood arose a republic—wretched enough, to be sure, but it was the doom of the aristocracy that shouted as Morgan shouts, "Submit or starve!"

Commenting upon Mr. Morgan's foolish and incendiary utterances the New York American says:

"This reads like a threat—almost like a note of defiance. Does it not? Many of us complain of the harsh and unthinking words of some labor leaders, but let us dwell on these alleged sentiments of Morgan.

"They have got no jobs now." We see the awful spectacle of a man of great power, financially, gloating over the troubles, and coming possible starvation, of the unemployed. Is this the right way to promote harmony between the two great classes—capitalists and laboringmen?

"They will have to submit, or they will starve." Here is another stab at harmony coming from the lips of one who seems to forget that wealth is the result of labor, that the welfare of the nation itself depends upon happiness and plenty in the workingman's home, and peace with his employers. History bears witness to this fact. Look at Rome, for instance. The destruction of the peasantry and the recollection of wealth in the hands of a few certainly contributed greatly to the downfall of that great nation of antiquity.

"They cannot control industry." Mr. Morgan again forgets the great power exercised by labor. He for-

gets what a potent influence labor has always been, especially in the last twenty years, in controlling industry. He should not forget that the workingman in this country wields a power greater than that of princes, kings or financiers—the power of the ballot. How he will use this power in a great measure depends upon political and social conditions.

Workingmen have been sent to jail for language like that uttered by Mr. Morgan. We are anxious to see what a lot of newspaper organs will say concerning his interview. Will they denounce him for "arraying class against class?" Will they call him an "anarchist" and an "agitator?" Not on your life. If they refer to it at all they will do it in the most gingerly way. The vast majority of them will remain silent. It is so much safer to damn a workingman who utters threats.

THE BOOKBINDERS.

Have Won Out in Good Shape in the Greater New York Jurisdiction.

National officials of the Bookbinders report that the eight-hour day has been established throughout the Greater New York jurisdiction, with the exception of one Manhattan firm, whose binders are now on strike. Steady gains are also being made throughout the country.

The local union has again come to the front with a year's subscription to The Wageworker for each member. This loyal little bunch is setting a mighty good example to some of the larger unions.

Says the Omaha Western Laborer: "A very successful ball was given on last Friday night by the striking bookbinders of Omaha. There was a very

large crowd turned out, regardless of the stormy night and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. Among those who acted on the reception committee were Brother Jno. Kilian, president of the union; Otto Schlick, Frank Jacobs and Geo. Fries. The floor committee were Ernest Forkel, Frank Minkus and Gus Cook, and I must say these gentlemen were right to the front when it came to entertaining. Brother Paul Herring took charge of the check room, and what time he wasn't busy there he jollied the dancers along."

FOUR CRACKSMEN LOOT BANK.

Blow Open Vault at Sulphur Springs, Ark., and Get \$1,200.

Four men blew open the vault of the Bank of Sulphur Springs, Ark., and secured over \$1,200 in cash, besides notes and other valuables. The citizens were aroused by the explosions, but by the time the officers reached the down-town district the work of the thieves had been completed and four men were seen to mount their horses and ride westward, in which direction the mountains are filled with many gorges, and it is believed that the men have made good their escape. The bank is wrecked and the vault is totally destroyed.

CANAL IS NOW COMPLETED.

Fifty Mile Irrigation Ditch Finished in Big Horn Country.

The two large syphons by which the Big Horn Irrigation company of Basin, Wyo., carries its water across Elk and Antelope creeks are completed at a cost of about \$40,000. This now completes the entire canal of this company extending for fifty miles along the west side of the valley of the Big Horn river from above Worland to the Graybull river north of Basin and watering about thirty thousand acres of fine bench land.

The city of Basin has secured water rights from this canal for all lots in the city and the coming summer will see the town beautiful with lawns, trees and gardens. As a result of correspondence which

has passed between President Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot and western law-makers, and following suggestions of J. A. McQuire, editor of Outdoor Life, it is likely that an immense game preserve will be established by the government on the western confines of the Big Horn basin, the exact location probably being on the Wapiti fork of the north fork of the Shoshone river west of Cody. It will cover 210 square miles just east of Yellowstone park and is designed primarily to protect the elk, which are fast disappearing from the western mountains. It is a natural addition to Yellowstone park, as the elk of the park make it their habitat at certain seasons.

BANKERS GO TO PENITENTIARY.

Two Kentucky Men Sentenced to Five-Year Terms.

W. B. Smith and James S. Nail of Henry county, Kentucky, were sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of not to exceed five years in circuit court for conspiracy to defraud the Elkville, Ill., state bank of \$5,192. Nail was president of the Mississippi Valley Banking company of Grand Tower, Ill., which institution is now in the hands of a receiver.

It was charged that Smith came to Jackson county and organized a state bank at Elkville which had scarcely been opened when Smith and confederates in the south began to flood it with overdrafts and false drafts. Smith installed Nail as president of the bank. Smith was once president of the largest bank in Louisville, Ky. A fine of \$2,000 was assessed against Smith, in addition to the prison sentence.

CRUISER BREAKS THE RECORD.

An Unusual Number of Hits Per Minute By the Maryland.

A new world's record at target practice by the cruiser Maryland at Magdalena bay is reported by Stewart Edward White, who has just returned from there on a collier. The day's average of the Maryland was eight and forty-three hundredths (8.43) hits per minute, while steaming in battle formation at ten knots. The shots were fired at a target twelve by twenty-one feet at 1,700 yards.

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