

Industrial Competition.

BY AUGUST STORME.

An industrial cry of alarm is coming from across the Atlantic which Americans ought to study.

Mr. Samuel Smith in the London Times makes the following comments on the economic situation in England:

The great industries of Lancashire have been giving but very poor results for the last few years. Profits have disappeared and I dare claim that many big plants did not earn 6 pence for their owners.

A gigantic competing industry has arisen in India and Japan where labor is to be had in unlimited quantity for 12 cents a day.

Last year some cotton factories earned from 16 to 25 per cent. for their owners. I am greatly in doubt if profits in Lancashire reached 2 per cent. The natural consequence of this is the emigration of English capital to countries where greater profits are to be made, and the strikes incited by socialist leaders, who do not understand, are unknown.

If we are to escape serious social convulsions in the future, it will only be on condition that employers and employees be just toward one another, that they recognize their interests as identical, and avoid differences which result in nothing but the death of industry.

We like first to state a few small facts before commenting. Everything that Mr. Smith says is no news to the socialists. We have prophesied that the unbridled capitalistic production, which is producing to gain, without considering the human wants of the workers, would go to India, China and Japan, to die probably in the virgin forests of Africa and Brazil, where the monkeys and bushmen would be sought to spin and weave for a few cocoanuts daily. This is the civilizing tendency of capitalism.

Secondly, we find a conclusive reply to the false claim that wages always correspond with the profits of manufacturers. It proves, though the (honest) manufacturers earn from 10 to 25 per cent., they none the less pay only 12 cents a day to their wage slaves.

Let us now come to the bottom of the matter.

We neither deny the Hindoo nor Japanese competition, although we make two reservations about it.

When England, Belgium, France and Germany are still standing up, notwithstanding these competing wages of 12 cents daily, it is pleading undeniably in favor of the higher civilization and working power of the better fed and better instructed workers.

Must this civilizing tendency now be counteracted for the pleasure of capitalist employers, who come in competition with Japanese and Hindoo manufacturers?

Never will the European workmen permit it! Our whole struggle is the denial of that barbaric principle: to work at 12 cents a day to save the present anarchist mode of production.

This, though, is the conclusion of Mr. Smith: "Workmen, if you want peace in Europe, work for the wages of Chinese and Hindoos."

We respectfully declare, Mr. Smith, that we would rather fall in a revolution than to become galley-men and the lowest of all slaves.

Behold the infamy of capitalization! The high famed western civilization, Australia and America, with their colossal capital, their highly improved machinery, their universities, and whole collection of lawyers, preachers, scientists, political economists, kings and emperors, becomes subjected to the barbaric east, thanks to capitalism. The defenders of the family bring us under the influence of polygamy and a low, uncivilized, brutish population.

The defenders of religion go with the adherents of Buddha and other gods to hunt up the elements that starve Christian workmen.

The friends of private property prepare by their moving the expropriation and misery of millions of workers who made their fortunes for them, and even the expropriation of the middle classes, who become their accomplices in robbery and oppression.

The east with its coarse morals, its monkeyish, rice-eating population, is now held up as an example to us.

The bourgeoisie has descended very low.

And what a terrible lesson for the poor for whom thus capitalism suddenly arises as a brutal international power (outside of religion and morals), which is in a struggle with humanity and civilization.

Against this terrible situation only one way of salvation is possible: Europe must become socialist, with Australia and North America.

These continents possess all the elements, raw materials, knowledge and machinery to regulate their production, to create and keep peace and prosperity in their territory, in spite of all the Japs, Chinese, Hindoos and Negroes in the world. Besides, these continents can, by their influence, change the way of living and working of these eastern nations; eye, even force them, just like we force our little ones to go to school.

Barbarism must not triumph in the world. The east, the rice bellies and child murderers, superstitious fanatics and dirty fellows must not set the tone, but the civilized, intelligent and freed producers of America, Australia and Europe have to. Therefore, we once more say, with pride and justice, socialism alone will bring civilization to its summit.

VOORUIT.

The above is a literal translation from a prominent European nationalist daily paper, on which comment would be superfluous, if not a majority of Americans labored under the delusion that restriction of immigration and exclusion of foreign goods is all that is required to again make Americans prosperous.

Keep all foreigners out of this country and they will all go to South America, Australia, or some parts of Africa, but especially to Argentine and Brazil, who provide every head of family with transportation, land, one team, seed grain, etc., free, against payment to the government after a certain number of years. From food consumers the majority would become food producers, and drive the American farmer from the markets of western Europe. The American farmer's consuming power would be destroyed and countless numbers of them foreclosed to swell the ranks of the workers in the towns; besides, the wages of farm hands would be cut down to nothing and most of them driven to the towns to look for employment. The other new countries of the world would be built up as fast as the United States has been, as well in manufacturing as in agriculture, and in the future become industrial rivals of the United States, instead of becoming a market, as is now hoped for.

Refusing to trade with European nations is suicidal to America, because European nations can create food supplies, by building railroads and opening new fields for the farmers in other parts of the world, but cannot take American farming products, without being enabled to pay for them with industrial products, for then Europe would have to send hundreds of millions of money to this country every year and be drained of all its money in about four years. Whereas consumption is impossible without production, if the Americans could by legislation restrict European production, they would by that same act restrict European consumption to correspond with the shrinkage in production. But let us admit even that we would sell our surplus products without trading back, this country would become glutted with the money of the world, and money not being wealth, we would have parted with real wealth for the sake of its shadow.

And of what possible benefit would it be to us to sell our real wealth for the sake of unusable money, for having then too much of it for home use and not accepting real wealth in payment of interest from foreign countries we could not invest our surplus money there. (See Protection vs. Free Trade by Henry George.) To condense and conclude, I say all authorities declare that at least five times as many protected home-made goods are sold in this country as imported; which means that the people pay five times as much to the protected industries as to the treasury: or if the home-made goods, sold for less than foreign prices, with tariff duties and interest on tariff duties on top, there would be no imports. Before the prohibitive McKinley bill the import duties amounted to an average of \$220,000,000 a year; five times that sum made \$1,100,000,000 for protected industries, who pay less than \$600,000,000 to the 2,000,000 men, women and children they employ and have reduced to slavery.

Americans, quit boasting about your freedom and superior intelligence, and think more for yourself instead of blindly following the leadership of old party papers and politicians. I am intensely opposed to unrestricted immigration, but not for the reasons you are, and do not look upon it as a cure. The cause of our trouble is the steady advance of improved machinery (which creates an international money power) and contraction of the currency. That same international money power develops industries in all countries, until every nation will only have to produce for its home market. America having presently machinery to supply its own yearly market requirement in seven months, and a protective system, taxing raw materials (which no European nations except Spain have) making it impossible to produce for foreign markets, it is no wonder that we are in a worse fix than Europe, bad as it always is there.

Americans, study up on nationalism, for nothing else will make you happy forever. Do not try to fight and shed blood for the money power's anxious for a fight; it knows that if the workers keep quiet a little longer they will find out what ails them, and slavery be abolished forever. Whereas they hope to find idle men enough they can hire to shoot the fighting workers down in order to delay the coming of the millennium for another generation.

A NATIONALIST. NOTE—In Europe the anti-socialists preach that socialism would break up family life, which is a willful lie and slander, to discredit socialism or nationalism, which is literally the same, therefore the socialists sometimes call their adversaries the defenders of family life. Bourgeoisie means the untitled, well-to-do classes.

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PEOPLE'S PLATFORM.

Adopted by the Convention at Omaha Nebraska, July 4, 1892.

Assembled upon the one hundred and sixteenth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the People's Party of America, in their first national convention, invoking upon their action the blessings of Almighty God, puts forth in the name, and on behalf of the people of the country, the following preamble and declaration of principles:

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized; most of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled; public opinion silenced; business prostrated; our homes covered with mortgages; labor impoverished; and the land concentrating in the hands of the capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hired army, unrecognized by our law, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the possessors of these in turn despise the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires.

The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; a vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded into gold-bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold, by decreasing the value of all forms of property, as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprises, and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization, or the establishment of an absolute despotism. We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon the suffering people. We charge that the controlling influence dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop, without serious effort to prevent or restrain them.

Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff; so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, the demonetization of silver, and the oppressions of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of Mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires. Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation, and filled with the spirit of the grand generation of men, who established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the Republic to the hands of "the plain people," with whose class it originated. We assert our purposes to be identical with the purpose of the national constitution:—"to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty ourselves and our posterity."

We declare that this republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation; that it cannot be pinned together by bayonets, that the civil war is over and that every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it; and that we must be in fact, as we are in name, one united brotherhood. Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world. Our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production; the existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange. The results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings, and the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that if given power we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation, in accordance with the terms of our platform.

We believe that the powers of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people, and the teachings of experience, shall justify; to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land. While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions—important as they are—as secondary to the great issues now pressing for solution; and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depends; and we ask all men to first help us to determine whether we are to have a republic to administer, before we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered; believing that the forces of reform this day organized will never cease to move forward until every wrong is righted and equal privileges established for all the men and women of this country.

UNION OF THE PEOPLE.

First, That the union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated, shall be permanent and perpetual; may its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind. Second, Wealth belongs to him who creates it; and every dollar taken from industry, without an equivalent, is robbery. "If any man will not work neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies are identical. Third, We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations will either own the people or the people must own the railroads; and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing the railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be protected by civil service regulations of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

We demand a national currency, safe sound and flexible; issued by the general government only; a full legal tender for all debts public and private; and that without the use of banking corporations; a just equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent per annum, to be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1. We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita. We demand a graduated income tax. We believe that the money of the country should be kept, as much as possible, in the hands of the people; and hence we demand that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and the facilitation of exchange.

TRANSPORTATION. Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity; the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people. The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity, for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interests of the people.

LANDS. The land, including all natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes; and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

RESOLUTIONS. The following resolutions were offered independent of the platform, and were adopted, as expressive of the sentiments of the convention:

Resolved, That we demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections, and pledge ourselves to secure to every legal voter without federal intervention, through the adoption by the states of the unperverted Australian secret ballot system. Resolved, That the revenue derived from a graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation now levied upon the domestic industries of this country. Resolved, That we pledge our support to fair and liberal pensions to ex-Union soldiers and sailors. Resolved, That we condemn the failure of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world, and crowds out our wage-earners and we denounce the present ineffective law against contract labor, and demand the further restriction of undesirable immigration.

Resolved, That we cordially sympathize with the efforts of organized workingmen to shorten the hours of labor and demand a rigid enforcement of the existing eight-hour law on government work, and ask that a penalty clause be added to said law. Resolved, That we regard the maintenance of a large standing army of mercenaries, known as the Pinkerton system, as a menace to our liberties, and we demand its abolition, and we condemn the recent invasion of the Territory of Wyoming by the hired assassins of plutocracy, assisted by Federal officers. Resolved, That we commend to the thoughtful consideration of the people and the reform press, the legislative system known as the Initiative and Referendum.

Resolved, That we favor a constitutional provision limiting the office of a president and vice president to one term, and providing for the election of the senators by a direct vote of the people. Resolved, That we oppose any subsidy or national aid to any private corporation for any purpose. H. E. TAUBENCK, Chairman, Marshall, Illinois. J. H. TURNER, Secretary, Georgia. LAWRENCE McFARLAND, Secretary, New York. M. C. RANKIN, Treasurer, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Our State Platform.

We, the People's Independent party of the state of Nebraska, reaffirm the principles laid down in the national platform adopted at Omaha, July 4, 1892. We emphasize the demand for free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present ratio 16 to 1. We brand as treason to labor in every field, and to labor in every field, and to the best interests of the whole country, the unconditional repeal by congress of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. We demand both state and national laws for the encouragement and promotion of the irrigation of our arid and semi-arid lands.

We demand that congress shall speedily pass a law by which the federal courts will be prevented from suspending the operation of a state law at the dictation of corporations.

We demand a liberal service pension to all honorably discharged union soldiers and sailors of the late war.

We declare for municipal ownership of street cars, gas and electric light plants and water works.

We demand compulsory arbitration of all controversies between employers and employees.

We heartily approve the course of Senator William V. Allen and Congressmen W. A. McKeighan and O. M. Kern for their fidelity and loyalty to our entire interests, and we compliment Congressman W. J. Bryan, who, though elected as a Democrat, has given strong support to many of our reform measures. We demand a more economical administration of our state government, and a more strict accountability of money appropriated and expended.

We reiterate our demand for a maxi-

mum freight rate law or the enforcement of the one now on our statute books. We demand the amendment of our state constitution by the adoption of what are properly known as the initiative and referendum. We demand the enforcement of the present law for the investment of our permanent school fund as directed, and not through bond investment companies, at a loss to said fund or profit to speculators and money sharks. We demand that all officers, both state and county, be paid a reasonable salary, in accordance with the labor to be performed and the amount of skill required, and that all fees be turned into the general fund for state and county purposes.

We commend to the favorable consideration of the state the building of what is known as the Gulf & Interstate railroad, now under process of construction. We demand that immediate steps be taken for the relief of the drought sufferers of our state, and that some means be devised to give them employment and wages.

Having stated our demands, we cordially invite all persons who are in sympathy with them to co-operate with us, regardless of former party affiliations.

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