

LABOR TROUBLE PREVENTIVE

Co-operation in All Lines of Business Will Prove Most Effective

Louis A. Ehrlich discusses in the Forum the relations between employer and employee. He says, in suggesting a rational preventive of labor trouble, that the corporation is owned by stockholders, who are bound together only by the pages of the stock ledger. They are represented by a board of directors, who have the management. The purpose of the corporation is simply the earning of dividends. The directors, if they have one ear open to the claims of the workmen employed by the company, listen with a hundred ears to the demands of the stockholders whom they represent. They do not study the human hopes and needs which agitate their employes. They coldly study the credits and debits of the balance sheet. If earnings are large the salaries of the president and manager may be increased, but the ordinary employe obtains no increase. If earnings decline no cut is made in the salary of the officers, but they are instructed to reduce expenses. In other words, the employe of a corporation is under the domination of an employer with whom he never comes in contact, before whom he has no voice, and from whom he can expect no consideration. He is simply a tool worth so many dollars a week as long as he is needed. How can any feeling of loyalty develop under such conditions? Is it not easy to comprehend that lack of genuine interest and ultimate antagonism are bound to take root where the tie of employment is a cold balance sheet in one hand and an uncertain monthly wage on the other? A remedy must be found. A new condition must be introduced which, in some degree, can take the place of the man-to-man loyalty of the past. To me there seems but one solution: Make the employe loyal to the corporation. Make him a stockholder and give him representation on the board of directors.—Chicago Times.

General Booth in Omaha

General Booth of the Salvation Army started over a year ago a colonization scheme to save the "submerged tenth," the lowest stratum of the slums of the great cities. He thus describes the environment and misery of those trampled down and crowded under by the rich and strong:

"Human misery is very much alike the world over. In the submerged class we find the man in the lowest depths of degradation, misery and wickedness. Who cares for him? Who cares anything but the anguish of the human soul in his condition? We have endeavored to assuage the evils which have brought these men to this frightful condition. First, we ascribe their condition to destitution. Some of them are always hungry. They have lived and died and all but rotted in the streets. They lived in the slums, and it is difficult to convey to an audience like this what a slum really is.

"You can imagine a dark and narrow alley, hedged with lofty buildings, and into which the light of the sun seldom, if ever, penetrates, and in which the fetid odor from heaps of garbage and filth continually breed misery and disease. In the dilapidated structures on either side of these loathsome alleys are rooms in which whole families are compelled to live and die. One room for the man, wife and children. One room in which to eat, sleep, to be sick in, to die in and to lie in until the undertaker comes with his hollow shell to carry away the poor carcass of humanity to its last resting place."

The General then drew several pictures of life in the slums, such as would stir the heart of adamant. In speaking of the scheme of the Salvation Army he said: "The great question is, how can we help these submerged classes? The Salvation Army scheme contemplates first of all, work. We first find the man. We give him a warm place to sleep for 2 cents, with a piece of bread thrown in. For 2 cents more we give him a bath, with hot and cold water, and towels. For another 2 cents we give him a good meal. And then we talk to him. We interest him in his own welfare. We find him employment, and then, best of all, we endeavor to convert him. We don't ask him for his pedigree. We accept him as we find him, dirty, drunken, miserable, wretched, and we lead him first to independence and then to salvation.

"Our colonization scheme has worked admirably. We have outside of London 5,000 acres of land settled with men and women and children we have saved from the slums of London. We hope to push the colonization idea all over the world. There are in America, with millions and millions of acres of unoccupied land, the golden opportunity to be seized. We have convinced the world that the work of rescuing people from the misery of the slums can be done not only cheaply, but at a profit. "We want to establish a place of refuge in every city, town, village and hamlet of the world, and from these places of refuge we want to transfer the men and women we have saved to homes where they can live in contentment and peace on the fruits of their own industry."

Where Are We At?

Editor WEALTH MAKERS: The election being over it would be well for us to inquire, "Where are we?" What have we done? What are we going to do in the future? As to where we are at, I wish to say, that we have reached a period in our history the most critical. It is for our leaders to determine whether we are to sink into oblivion or rise to a position where we can shape the destiny of this nation. Shall we, as a party, choose for ourselves the results experienced by the old Greenback party? Or shall we profit by their experience? Just at the time that party began to be felt as a factor in the nation, the old parties, realizing that something had to be done, either to appease the wrath of the common people, then arising in their might, or lead them into a trap by which they would become harmless, they sought to flatter. The weaker of the twins was induced to court the fair maiden and lure her into its clutches by pretending that they were in favor of many of her measures. Thus deceived by the false pretences she was led to fuse

with one wing of her old enemy. The result of that act is already a matter of history. As regards the second question, what, as a party, have we done? I wish to say that we have killed our would-be seducer, or at least have so mangled him, it, or her—whatever you wish to name it,—that if we are a mind to we can either capture that part of the enemy or drive it to the other wing. And as far as we are concerned it would make but little difference. There are but two places for the voters of America to go. The gold bug Democrats have already found shelter in the Republican fold. All others will have to go to the Peoples' party, unless we throw away our opportunity by fusion. Had our party repudiated the Omaha nominations and thereby compelled the Democrats to run their own machine, we would have been off to-day. The result of the election shows, to my mind, the fact that at least half of the Democrats (notwithstanding they endorsed most of our ticket) voted for the Republican candidates. I venture the statement that there were more Democrats voted for Majors than for Holcomb. Had it not been for the vote for Holcomb of disappointed Republicans Holcomb would have shared the same fate of the rest of the ticket. Had the Democrats thrown half of their ordinary strength to that part of our ticket which they endorsed, they would have been elected by a safe plurality. Counting the strength of the Democrats in the state at 60,000, thirty thousand of that vote given to the nominees of their own party, in connection with the Independent vote, would have elected every one of them. But the treachery of the World-Herald in advocating the election of a gold-bug congressman, and the advice (as was published in that sheet) of our state committee for the Independents in Douglas county to vote the Democratic ticket [Is this a fact? Editor WEALTH MAKERS] lost us the respect of many Republicans in other parts of the state, that would have voted with us, thus losing us votes we otherwise would have got. Let it be understood now, that if we are constantly going to run after either of the old parties who have betrayed the people and have led us to the verge of bankruptcy, that we had just as well quit. If our basic principles do not differ from other parties, why have we tried to organize another party on their foundation? This never has succeeded and never will. Every intelligent Peoples' Party man knows that every fundamental principle underlying our reform movement differs as widely from that of any other party as day from night. Then why try to patch the old garment with the new cloth? Or to put new wine into old bottles? I have just as much hope of securing the reforms we advocate through the Republican party as the Democratic. But measuring my hope from either source it is as nothing against nothing. Now as to the future. Let us declare from this on, that we ask no quarter, and give none. Let those that endorse our principles understand that they must muster with our army or paddle their own canoe. Until the old parties abandon their present basis I will never run for any office where any principle is at stake under any endorsement from either old party. I would far rather go down under defeat than succeed where there would be the least compromise of principle. Thus far I have done what I could in my humble way to forward and build up the cause of our party. And I expect to do the same in the future, if our leaders will keep free from entangling alliances with other parties. Right here I wish to say that Judge Holcomb can go far in establishing the party upon an independent basis. Should he in his appointments, undertake to place in office Democrats instead of tried and true Independents, it will cast a shadow upon our future success. There have been men that have fought hard and long in our ranks, who have made it possible for such as he to occupy the highest position in the gift of the people of Nebraska, who ought to be given the preference and thus gather around him a force and give him a power that will help shape the destiny of our party, and free it from the elements of suspicion that would otherwise rest upon it. Hoping the ship will be steered clear of rocks of disaster, I remain true to our principles. J. H. DARNER.

That One Plank Party
The one plank party can't be born. There is no one to maintain and sustain the infant. There never was a one plank party, and probably never will be. One idea won't run a nation like ours. It takes more ideas than one to manage Uncle Sam's business. The Populists of Texas will not even consider the one plank proposition. While they favor the free coinage of silver plank, they also favor other reforms of greater importance. The Colorado free silver people are talking about a free silver party. They had best organize a free silver party in that state first before they attempt to start a national party on that issue. If the silver plank people think they can swallow the Peoples' party they will find, on trial, they are a Jonah swallowing the whale. There are 200,000 Populists in Texas, and all of the single silver plank party men among them can be counted on one's fingers and have fingers left. No change is needed. The Omaha platform is good enough for the Peoples' party of Texas. If it can be engrafed on to the government body, not only free silver buds will grow, but a number of others that will bear good fruit. If the one plank free silver party is designed to disconcert the Populists organization it will fail. The Populists are satisfied with their platform and with the success it has achieved before the people. They propose to keep right in the middle of the road and forge ahead.—Southern Mercury.

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IF CHRIST SHOULD COME TODAY
BY JAMES G. CLARK.

I have come, and the world shall be shaken
Like a reed, at the touch of my rod,
And the kingdoms of time shall awaken
To the voice of the summons of God:
No more through the din of the ages
Shall warnings and chidings divine,
From the lips of my prophets and sages,
Be trampled like pearls before swine.
Ye have stolen my land and my cattle:
Ye have kept back from labor its meed:
Ye have challenged the outcasts to battle,
When they plead at your feet in their need.
And when famers of hunger grew louder,
And the multitudes prayed to be fed,
Ye have answered with prisons or powder,
The cries of your brothers for bread.
I turn from your altars and arches,
And the mocking of steeples and domes,
To join in the long weary marches
Of the ones ye have robbed of their homes:
I share in the sorrow and crosses
Of the naked, the hungry and cold,
And dearer to me are their losses
Than your gains and your idols of gold.
I will wither the might of the spoiler,
I will laugh at your dungeons and locks,
The tyrant shall yield to the toiler,
And your judges eat grass like the ox:
For the prayers of the poor have ascended
To be written in lightnings on high,
And the walls of your captives have blended
With the bolts that must leap from the sky.
The thrones of your kings shall be shattered
And the prisoner and serf shall go free:
I will harvest from seed that I scattered
On the borders of blue Galilee;
For I come not alone, and a stranger—
Lo! my reapers will sing through the night,
Till the star that stood over the manger
Shall cover the world with its light.
—The Arena.

For 1896

Make the best of your spare moments between now and the great contest of 1896. Study the questions of *land, finance and transportation*, the three essential planks of the Peoples' party platform. The air is vibrant with a thousand and one reform remedies, not incorporated in the platform, some good, others questionable and still others that are both impracticable and bad, but none of which have received the endorsement of the Peoples' party. Do not let these confuse you, they have at this time no place on the party program. Populism is a power today all over these United States. Don't weaken it. Don't credit it with reforms not mentioned in the platform. To you and us they may appear to have superior merit, but not so by the majority of the party. In advocating the principles of the party be reasonable, dispassionate, accurate, firm. You will thus disarm prejudice and what you have said will be weighed and considered. Around your own fireside there will be no brass bands to distract your hearer, no spread eagle orators belching forth sophistries, no hectic hue oil cloths and tin helmets to dazzle the eye. None of that. Just yourself and friendly neighbor reasoning together in a quiet, practicable, sensible way. For the next eighteen months the old parties will be fighting over the spoils of office. If we are wise we will take advantage of every hour and educate and organize and make every preparation for certain victory. God gives us the strength to do right and persevere to the end though beset with reverses and discouragements.—Pittsburg Kansan.

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