

REFLECTIONS.

Now is approaching that time of the year
When the politician will shed a tear
For the lowly, down-trodden, oppressed
and poor;
Now will he swear that the certain way
sure
For the toiler to get better pay
Is to vote for him on election day.

Now will the labor fakir jump
Into short-lived notice upon the stump:
He'll speak his piece, he'll get his scrip,
And back again into darkness slip.

And now is the time when the working
fools
Will make of themselves the willing tools
Of those whose love will have vanished
quite
At six o'clock on election night.
—Boston Index.

The Earth and the Fullness Thereof.

The platforms of the various People's party conventions are becoming so amplified that it would save time if they would simply declare: "We want the earth and the fullness thereof."—Philadelphia Press.

A happy thought; a most excellent suggestion. The men who put these platforms together are not, as a rule, practiced or professional phrase-builders, and they will doubtless be duly grateful to the Press for its timely suggestion. "We want the earth and the fullness thereof." That's the very idea. "The earth He hath given to the children of men," and the People's party should declare, as directly and forcibly as may be possible, that the children of men—the whole people—shall take possession of what he gave them. In their feeble way, dear Press, "the various People's party conventions" have been saying this very thing. When they have said that "The land, including all the natural sources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes," they have been trying to say, "We want the earth." Seeing that by means of money monopoly and transportation monopoly the wealth they have created has been legally stolen from them, they have demanded money and transportation reform, and when they have done so they have been but saying "we want the fullness thereof." Yes, our contemporary is right. Boiled down and put into the fewest possible number of words, the demand of the People's party, or of the industrial reform movement for which that party stands, is—"We want the earth and the fullness thereof." Would the press tell us why the people, or at any rate the wealth-producers, should not have the earth? To deny their right will be to assert that those who will not work have a better right to eat than those who do work; it will be to assert that the earth belongs to the few who hold parchment titles to it, and that if the many would enjoy its fullness they must pay the few for the privilege. Is the Press prepared to assert this? Come, friend, climb out of the slough of party, wipe the slime of partisan blindness from your eyes and say, are the People's party right or wrong in demanding for the world's wealth-producers "The earth and the fullness thereof?"—Journal of the K. of L.

The Toiler: A Memphis lawyer writes a friend here that he heard a merchant and good word worker say that he knew of about four hundred voters in several wards that are ready to join the People's party movement. There will be thousands in other cities besides laborers who honestly see the necessity of reform and will join the movement.

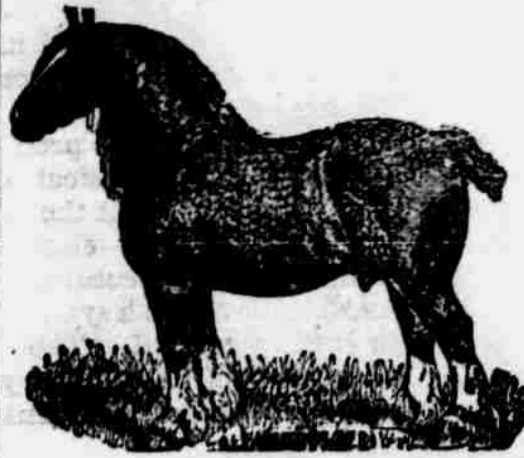
The Faulkner County Wheel quotes Thackeray: "A republic and an aristocracy won't amalgamate. A country must be governed by one principle or the other. But give in a republic, an aristocracy ever so little chances, and it works, and plots, and sneaks, and bullies, and sneers itself into place; and you find democracy out of doors."

CRIMINAL CLASSES GROWING.

Increasing More Rapidly Than the Population of the Country.

Probably one of the greatest dangers to organized society is found in the criminal classes. The laws of the production and confirmation of criminals, with their treatment, should be among the most thoughtfully studied branches of political science. The number of convicts in penitentiaries in 1880 was 35,538, while in 1890 it was 45,233, an increase in ten years of 9,695, or 27.28 per cent, and during this interval the total population increased only at the rate of 24.86 per cent. Again, the total number of prisoners in county jails in 1880 was 12,691; in 1890, 19,538, an increase in ten years of 6,847, or at the rate of 53.95 per cent. Coming to the inmates of juvenile reformatories we find the number reported in 1880 was 11,468; in 1890, 14,816, an increase of 4,378, or 29.46 per cent. It is thus shown by recent statistics that the various grades of criminal population are increasing more rapidly than the population at large. The same results have been shown by previous census reports. It must also be remembered that a large number of actual criminals are not under confinement, and are hence not included in the figures showing their increase. It has evidently become a vitally important question for decision by society as to the best plan to pursue toward the criminal. The Popular Science Monthly holds it to be a fact proved by statistics that a large percentage of criminals are defective either physically or mentally, and have had an unfavorable heredity and environment. Under the general system in this country no attempt is made to rehabilitate them during confinement. Criminals are first made to a certain extent by unfortunate heredity and unfavorable social conditions, and then confirmed by imprisonment. Weak character and environment bring out the unfittest elements, and society by its treatment hastens to provide for their survival.

The Coming Crisis: In a recent number of Puck is a cartoon that ought to set the great mass of people to thinking. It represents Cleveland as King Louis XIV. of France, surrounded by his nobles, Gray, Whitney, Gorman, Russell, Patterson, Palmer, Boies and Carlisle, with hats doffed, tendering their sovereign the presidential nomination, and the White house down a straight road, bordered on either side by enchanting landscape. The purple of royalty, the fawning of courtiers, and the total absence of anything so degrading as a tradesman or a working man is suggestive. "Après vous, Monsieur Cleveland." O, spirits of departed patriots of 1776! Has it come to this in one short century, that the glittering tinsel of royalty has come in play to attract support for a chief magistrate of this republic!



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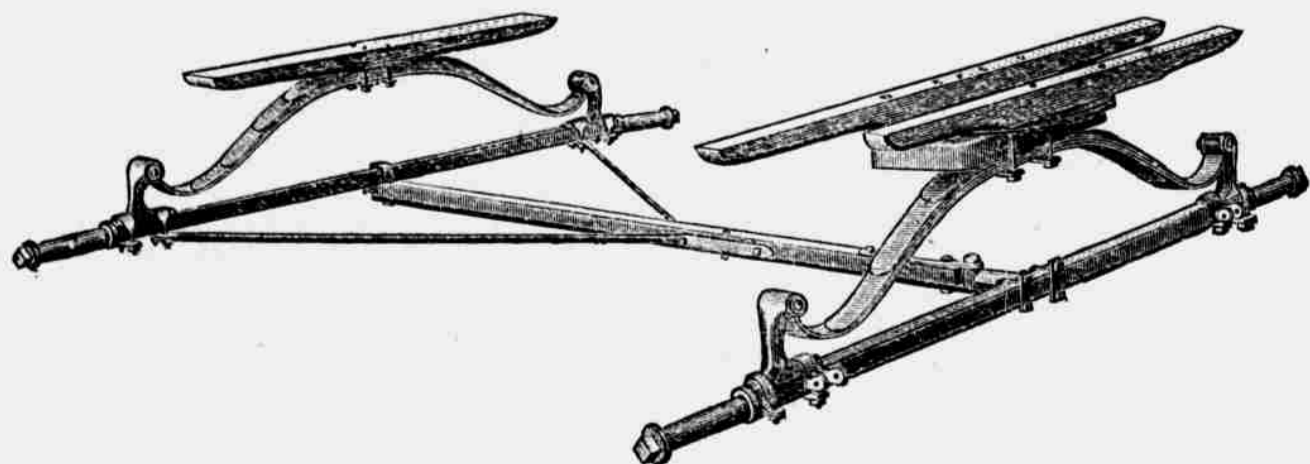
REFERENCES.

First National Bank of Omaha. 14-15
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Packers National Bank, Omaha.
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