

CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE.

The Lancaster, Pa., Leader Finds a Deep-Rooted Cause for Hard Times.

We are once more experiencing the effects of a general business depression similar in character to the panics of previous years, inasmuch as it is brought about by a shrewd manipulation of the monetary system by a small coterie of parasites who are backed by such a powerful ally as the daily press. Extreme business stagnation such as the present only occurs periodically, but invariably after a resumption of business we find that the number of people into whose hands lies the power to control the financial affairs of the world has been reduced. There are persons who pretend to believe that the fact that the wealth of the world is rapidly being concentrated into hands of a few men is all unbecomingly notable the editors of the daily papers, who are continually telling us that we must get rid of the 53 cent dollar, and the way to do it, they say, is by repealing what is known as the Sherman silver purchase law. If this were a fact, and the repeal of this law is all that is necessary to bring about a general state of prosperity, what an easy thing it would be to remedy the very serious conditions that threaten us at the present time. This, however is not the case, but as stated above, it is due to the skillful manipulation of the medium of exchange by an extremely small minority of the world's population. This is a fact, and a monstrous wrong that is being perpetrated upon the people. Who then is responsible for such a condition of affairs? We are loth to admit it is the people themselves that are to blame. You, workmen, and those of you who are in business in a small way, are the guilty ones. Year in, and year out you are complaining of the hardships you are continually encountering. Year by year the bonds of poverty are tightening about you. Why is it? You are being slowly crushed by that huge octopus interest, whose slimy arms extend over the entire world. Its grip is growing stronger with each succeeding panic. You know this. You have been told time and again, yet you who boast of freedom are bound in worse than chattel slavery. In your sober moments you resolve to use your right to vote independently. You are convinced that it is time to call a halt. With this noble resolve uppermost in your mind you are heard proclaiming your disgust with the manner in which the people are being fleeced of the wealth they create. If you happen to be a member of organized labor, you may be heard denouncing the injustice of our political institutions on the floor at your meetings; but alas! what a change comes over you when election time comes along. You read your old time party paper. In it you see it stated that the condition of the country demands your support for the old party. It may be perhaps that the tariff is to be attacked or a force bill enacted. This you are told will work incalculable harm to you individually. You are told that all this nonsense about equality you have been preaching is simply anarchy, socialism, communism, or some other kind of ism, and you scratch your head, and while you still admit that something is wrong, you make up your mind to vote the old ticket, and thus perpetuate one of the most damnable systems imaginable; and all this because you are afraid of being called an anarchist. Fools that you are, you deserve nothing better than what you get!

Victims of Necessity.

The San Francisco branch of the W. C. T. U. is making an effort to rescue the women and girls employed in the drinking dives of the city. At a recent meeting called to discuss the subject a young Swedish woman, married and of respectable social standing, related her experience as a waitress for five years in the dives of New York and three months in San Francisco. In summing up the facts adduced from her personal observation she said: "Young girls from Sweden are systematically decoyed to America, placed in the dives and kept there. They know that in the old country respectable women work as waitresses where beer is sold, and men who patronize them are respectable. The different condition of the American dive is not understood, and the victims readily accept the flattering offer. They come and cannot get away again. When they become disgusted and alarmed, they tell the proprietors—their captors—that they want to get away. But they are only laughed at and told that they can do nothing else; that nobody else will employ a girl who has worked in a dive. They are made to understand they are leading wrong lives, and their lives are made wrong. What can they do, where can they go, helpless and alone in a strange land where their language is not spoken?"

Paternalism.

Did some body say paternalism? Do they know what it means? Is a fatherly affection such a terrible nightmare? Are those who speak averse to taking office? They want the masses to be opposed to the public conducting business and furnishing employment, but they are all anxious to draw public pay. Their action gives the lie to their words. It would be good thing for all if the public furnish employment in the creation of wealth, which, when created, would belong to the workers instead of the trusts. Trusts are more than paternal—they are infernal. Like interest, they never sleep. Sick or

well they are sucking away the substance of the people. Working for these machines is not paternalism, oh no! The workers have become part of the machine, with no alternative but to obey or starve. They have no voice in the matter as they would have if their work was of public conduct. They are now children of a beast bound to obey the beast or be eaten. Men who oppose a thing simply because somebody calls it "paternal" are as foolish as little children who are frightened by a "bugaboo." Shame that men should be so easily duped.—The Coming Nation.

In a Hundred Years.

We of the nineteenth century now drawing to a close ask ourselves: What changes will the world experience in the social and political autonomy in the next 100 years? What will be the history of the twentieth century, and who will make that history? In the past great movements have often been wrought by the predominance of one man, ambitious and autocratic, who for his own aggrandizement has caused the blood of thousands to flow like water and in the pursuance of his own selfish ends has created for mankind a thousand woes. Such a man was Napoleon, the greatest accretion of conceit, unscrupulousness, arrogance and knavery that the world has yet seen.

The time has gone past for this sort of thing, and the history of the future will be, must be, made by the people—the common people. In all the nations the heaven is working toward an amelioration of the conditions under which the majority of mankind are existing, and the indications are that the people who live at the end of the twentieth century will see a world so different in its essentials that we of today, were the changes prophesied, would regard them as chimerical and visionary romances.

Though many predict that certain changes in the history of the world, which now seem to be inevitable, will not take place without bloodshed and struggle, the very ideas that gave rise to these changes prove that the world is becoming better instead of worse, liberal instead of conservative, generous rather than selfish.

Today most men believe that every man should not only theoretically have the right of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," but that he should be subject only to conditions tending to conservation of those rights. The battles of the future, if any such there be—which God forbid—will not be battles between nations, of potentate against potentate. They will be the struggle of brother against brother, labor against capital, of the sweat of a man's brow against the almighty dollar, and if that spirit speaks truly which breathes its influence on the eve of all great events the dollar will not be the victor.

For great occasions are great men made. The great men of the future will arise as they are needed and their achievements will not be for their own individual aggrandizement, but for the forwarding of all the better and larger interests of humanity.

During the next hundred years there will be great revolutions in our social, economical and industrial conditions. It will be remembered that Edward Bellamy, in "Looking Backward," claimed that the changes he foresaw would all transpire within a hundred years. Though it is probable the world will not advance directly along the line which he predicted, yet doubtless as great changes as he foresaw will be effected.

At the end of the twentieth century it is probable that men will not be satisfied with an eight hour labor day. No one will then work more than five hours at labor which procures him a livelihood. The rest of the time will be devoted to social and intellectual improvement.

Men invent machines that men themselves may not work. At the end of the twentieth century all men will claim half a day of leisure every day. There will probably be some great wars in the twentieth century, but they will be such destructive ones that all nations will become afraid of war, and consequently all war will be abolished. All this may happen within a century.

May the history of the twentieth century read fair, and may it not be written with the sword.—S. Waterson Ford in Yankee Blade.

If you agree this year to pay a man a debt next year by letting him have a hundred bushels of wheat, and before payday comes around he secures the passage of a law changing the "standard bushel" from thirty-two quarts to sixty-four, you would probably call him a knave and a robber. But this is exactly what the shysters are doing in exacting the gold standard.—Chicago Standard.

If the single gold standard idea is successful in this country and the control of the circulating medium of this country passes into the hands of the money lenders of England, what will be the fate of the small fry capitalists of the west, such as the owners of the Journal, World, Herald, Bee, etc.?

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Labor Organizations.

"The tendency of English legislation and judicature," says ex-Senator John J. Ingalls, "for six centuries has been steadily and relentlessly hostile to organized labor. Invidious distinctions have been made between those who hire and those who are hired. Wagoners have been reluctantly emancipated from the degrading conditions of inferiority and servitude. Even in this country, where class distinctions are abolished and all men are ostensibly equal before the law, it has been difficult to be just. The legislature of Wisconsin, one of the most advanced and progressive states, passed two laws at the same session a few years ago—one to prohibit blacklisting by employers, the other to prevent boycotting by workmen. The offenses are substantially identical. The punishment of the employer for blacklisting was imprisonment not to exceed thirty days or a fine not less than \$50. For the corresponding offense on the part of the workman the penalty was imprisonment for not more than twelve months and a fine of not more than \$500—tenfold harsher and more severe on the laborer than upon the capitalist. If tenderness, partiality and clemency are appropriate they should be exhibited towards the weak rather than the strong. The fundamental error of employers is in regarding laborers merely as producers from whom the maximum of service is to be exacted at a minimum of cost, instead of consumers who furnish the market for more than three-fourths of our manufactured commodities. Wants are the measure of wages, and their standard is fixed by the cost of living. Higher wages and fewer hours of labor for the 30,000,000 working men and women of the United States mean greater activity in all branches of business, increased consumption of products, better education of children, happier homes, purer politics, firmer guarantee of constitutional self-government. Lower wages and more hours of labor means starvation, depression, and moral, intellectual and physical deterioration. Labor organizations, therefore, instead of being stigmatized and repressed, should be favored, fostered and strengthened by legislation, the courts, the press and public opinion. They are vast conservative agencies in the threatening tumult of modern society. Being composed of human beings they sometimes err. The walking delegate and the political demagogue might be dropped from the rolls with advantage. Foolish and ineffectual remedies for admitted evils are sometimes seriously advocated. Indefensible wrongs dictated by passion and revenge occasionally alienate public sympathy, but much of the beneficial legislation that has contributed largely to an industrial progress and the amelioration of social conditions is directly due to their intervention. With the demands formulated in their declaration of principles for a more equitable distribution of the burdens and benefits of society, for the speedy administration of justice, for the protection of the life and health of workmen and operatives, for the prohibition of child labor, for the elevation of women and the substitution of arbitration for strikes and lockouts all patriotic and thoughtful men must sincerely concur. They are an assurance that reforms are to be sought by constitutional methods; that changes in existing institutions are to be accomplished by the ballot; that wrongs are to be redressed and rights enforced by legal tribunals and not by the revolutionary and violent propagandism of dynamite and anarchy."

Among the Carpenters.

The opening meeting of the Carpenters Union Thursday evening was one of the most successful of the series. The attendance was not just what it should have been, but enthusiasm was manifest on all the subjects discussed. Among the subjects taken up by the speakers was "The Union Man in Politics," by George Daggett; "The Tax System," by President Johnstone; "Into Politics," C. E. Woodard; "Divorce from Political Parties," Ed. N. Thacker; "Our Monetary System," Fred W. Kent; "The Initiative and Referendum," C. A. Cook; "The Benefits of a Shorter Hour," J. W. Vogan. Other gentlemen present spoke in a discursive manner on the subjects named. None of the speeches extended over ten minutes in length, and all were punctuated with the enthusiasm of earnestness in the cause of the betterment of the conditions that surround the workman.

Mr. S. J. Kent, general organizer of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, had been expected as the speaker of the evening, but he was still suffering from the effect of a railroad smash up near Philadelphia some three weeks ago, and at the last moment found that he was too weak to attend. Mr. George Daggett offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the union brotherhood and fellow workmen assembled in open meeting hereby tender our sympathy for Brother S. J. Kent and regret his unavoidable absence through injuries incurred in a railroad accident, and unanimously request that he address us in open meeting on the evening of the last Thursday in this month.

In accordance with the resolution an open meeting will be held on the date named.—Weekly Unionist.

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