## "OUR" PROSPERITY.

IT RESULTS FROM THE PUBLIC'S SUR-RENDER OF PRIVILEGES.

How Channey Throws Bouquets at Himself and His Class-The Helpless Misery of the Workless Worker-Money and Transportation.

[Special Correspondence.] A man of enormous influence whose patriotism takes the form of aspiration for further ownership and control of his country each year celebrates his birthday by an after dinner speech directed to the solving of all industrial, social, educational and political questions. These speeches are before a large club in Brooklyn, whose guest he is, and they are printed and occasionally sent out with others of his to professional men throughout the country.

He says many good natured things and his story telling and optimistic philosophies mingle pleasantly with his modest mention, ingeniously incidental, of himself as a generous, well beloved employer, a friend to all deserving employees and a good churchman. Clergymen receiving this fine reading matter will naturally quote from the author, and doctors and lawyers seize on the stories, if not the theories, so that if for any reason this speechmaker wishes to make his opinions popular and his name a household word he has chosen a good

From his pamphlets can be gathered that, starting with a university education, the remainder of this patriot is self made. He has become a stockholder in great enterprises, a railroad president and a senator elected, as he states, without opposition. His social career has been so successful that some college has given him the honorary degree of doctor of laws, newspapers often call him by his first name with "our" or "the genial" prefixed, and he is much in vogue for after dinner speeches for business men and people of leisure and for after supper speeches for the working class. He being such a knowing man and representative of a knowing class, we might search in his pamphlets for possible suggestions as to how we may all acquire the prosperity which has come to him and them.

The genial philosopher advises work rather than worry, instancing as an example of the longevity that comes of work the case of Commodore Vanderbilt, who at 60 was worth \$20,000,000 and at 82 by frugal living and adaptation to work had acquired \$100,000,000.

Surely such singularly remunerative work must have had a worry dispelling influence. And how true it is that work and no worry is the key to health and happiness! About all that is good in life comes of good work, and all manner of functional diseases leading to organic disease and death may grow out of

There was a strong man like minded somewhat to the genial speechmaker, that sickly misfortune and all the pathos of life shunned him. He was one in whose presence one feels like apologizing for holding the view that this is not the best of all possible worlds. But the man worked in a railroad office, and a combination of his road with another necessitated his discharge with about half the other office help. The president of his road may or may not ave been a friend to deserving employees. The presence or absence of that sentiment was evidently immaterial. No business acquaintances happened to be in need of the man's services, and those not acquainted with him thought, as he had thought of others, that if competent and worthy he would not lack work. He quickly saw that he must push out after work and as quickly felt the coolness of strangers in strange towns. He felt condemned without a trial as a lazy, incompetent man. As he traveled an unutterable homesickness possessed him and sickening fear lest harm had come to his tender family in his absence. As one unaccustomed to walking on dizzy heights suddenly confronted with the necessity of crossing a deep chasm on a narrow support feels the head swim and the heart beat dangerously, although he knows that his only safety is in self control. so this man attempting to cross the chasm of unemployment suffered the effect of anxiety paralyzing the sympathetic nervous system. The blood cells, the muscle cells and nerve cells were unfed, for the system failed to carry on its processes.

The mental and physical decay of the would be worker and the ruined lives of his dependent family are too painful to detail.

·The moral character and the physical health of young people especially de-pend on work. But work is not awaiting all young people as they leave schools and colleges. An instructor informed in facts known to trades unions hesitates to cultivate young enthusiasm for the world's work. He feels uncomfortable and apologetic when a declaiming papil repeats "if you want a field of labor, you can find it anywhere.

When worthy work comes to be rejected or thanklessly accepted, as masters accept the labor of cheaply bought slaves, young aspirations fail and often the common virtues die.

Innocent men, Dreyfuslike, well meaning men by millions, are condemned to be prisoners of poverty, without even hope's inspiration left Will our colonels of commerce, our generals of finance, favor a plan for their honorable release and rehabiliment and the closing of prison doors to such men in future?

There are important personal reasons why they will not. To release the prisoners would be to compromise their own interests. Besides it's not to their taste. For the statement that fortunes of \$100,000,000 are accumulated by any man's own work and frugal living is pure fiction Such fortunes are ac- monopolies. — George Fred Williams.

cumulated through opportunities for getting possession of the proceeds from other people's work and frugal living. The directors, for instance, of the

horrible strike of millionaires against miners, reported by Henry D. Loyd, were this very genial philosopher and patriot, the one hundred millionaire, his sons and their New York millionaire friends, men whose names are household words. These were talking and writing as now of charity and religion. of law and order and rich men's duties. At Spring Valley, where they had brought families from several countries by promises of steady work and homes, they literally robbed the families of all their former savings and suddenly and wantonly closed the mines and stores against them, ignoring all questions as to when work would begin. When news of the doomed town reached Chicago, the millionaires waged a campaign of slander to stay the hand of charity and had the governor send the militia of Illinois against quietly starving families who, as Father Huntington found, did not even complain, bring dulled by

misery and not comprehending. The \$100,000,000 mentioned was obtained largely through monopolies of our carrying trade, and most phenomenal successes depend much on that, and that is why the pamphleteer protests powerfully against those who would have all rival roads combined under public management. But he states that the combinations, frowned on by the public, of 11 roads in the New York Central and six in the Lake Shore line, under millionaire control, has resulted in numberless economies, and he cannot understand a certain groundless prejudice which some sections of the country seem to entertain for railroad men in politics.

The class of people represented by this railroad president and senator have largely in their control the means of communicating intelligence, and hence for some years to come, as now, the most widely advertised speeches and the most generously circulated literature will be permitted with gratitude to that class and praise of their business and Christian virtues. In subtle ways the public will be influenced to repay generously with franchises that class which has shown itself so capable of developing resources. We shall continue to hear and read that work is waiting for the worthy and that highly organized, highly discriminating, automatic machine charity, administered through firm and polished boards, is the perfect complement of the magnificent system which at the beginning of the age of invention has brought such unexampled prosperity. The leading disseminators of these doctrines will be the bloated little class most interested or those who aspire to join that class, those who are dazzled by the brilliant appearance of that class, or those who see that poverty's prison doors will open to them if they do not help to keep the prisoners from escaping. Others will disseminate the doctrine by passing it along without examining it, knowing nothing.

Few valuable businesses can now be monopolists; for added to their hold meet threat, and who of us does not ods as in the gas department. All fithealth and happiness so marked carried on against the wishes of the on wage earners, salaried officials and professional men they make and unmake firms, and towns by their freight variations. They have for years been organized in a banking combine which pushes everywhere a plan which if carried out will evidently gradually suppress the circulation of all paper money except that bearing the tanker's stamp, the emblem of the tribute paid

to plutocracy. But if the people will decide to re sume their right to their carrying trade, their right to the issuing of their money and to such industries as are needed for their own employment it will not then be a few boastful monstrosities who will be possessed of all this phenomenal private prosperity, but public prosperity will healthfully enrich every worker.

One by one we discover these things and counsel one with another. Let every one inform himself and speak wisely of these matters to his neighbors. ELLA ORMSBY.

New Salem, Mass.

Government Railways.

Under government ownership the people are only changing the managers their highways, for these railways are the people's highways, and one of the greatest jurists that this land ever produced has said that "a public highway cannot be private property." And the people have the right to control their highways and maintain them on the principles of equality. One of the great advantages of national ownership is that the bonded debt necessary to acquire these roads could be placed by the government at from 11/2 to 3 per cent less interest annually than the bonded debts of these roads are now placed under corporate management. and this great reduction of interest would be an important factor in cheapening the cost of transportation upon the products of the people. But a greater advantage, a more overshadowing advantage of government ownership, is that then we would be able to shake off the grip of these monopolists from the throats of the people.-Hon M. L. Lockwood

Eternal Vigilance.

We are going to have two or three rears of great commercial activity During the time people are busy getting rich the already rich will be planning to destroy the republic and launch a monarch or dictatorship based upon rose to \$335,000,000 and in 1897 reachmilitarism. Better keep your eyes open ed nearly \$550,000,000. The annual deduring the coming years. The bees are, making honey now, but the day is coming when the hive is to be robbed. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."-George's Weekly.

Good Populism. If the people determined at the polls that railroad discriminations should telephone line between Moscow and St. cease, that would be the deathknell of | Petersburg, 400 miles, costs only 80 trusts My remedy for trusts is the full | cents, because the line is not owned public ownership of all the natural by a corporation.-St. Louis Post-Dis-

AN AWFUL CONDITION.

Herron on an Evil Principle-Suggests Ways to Free Ourselves.

Heavens, what lawlessness and wickedness, tyranny and fraud, the defense of law and order require! What monster thieves are divinely appointed to protect the rights of property! What shameless liars are commissioned to defend the truth! Does the Lord God ever laugh-grimly, I mean?

This spiritual principle is terribly illustrated by the orders of the government to General Otis to allow no news sent from Manila that would "hurt the administration." For the "honor" of the administration the president of the United States has for months been playing a miserable confidence game on the American people. The nation has been deait with according to the ethics of a pickpocket piety. The people who toll have had the enormous burden of the Philippine war forced racy, but have been officially told everything that is not true about that war and nothing that is true. The pious hypocrisy of the administration has brought us into the deserved contempt of the world. Even those who believe in expansion are ashamed and baffled by the sort of loyalty required to support "the administration," Moreover, some of us believe that this whole war of conquest is from beginning to end a black treason of the nation by the government. The principle of its conduct is identical with the principle involved in the condemnation of Captain Dreyfus-"for the honor of the army."

There are three remedies for this evil principle.

The first is, our recovery from the superstition that a thing is sacred change is the price of growth and freedom. That which is today sacred is tomorrow profane. The form of today's liberty is tomorrow's despotism. As Emerson used to emphasize in so many ways, nothing is sacred beyond its usefulness. The only thing eternally sacred is the human soul and its freedom. Our institutions and customs are not sacred merely because we happen to have them.

The next remedy is the complete equalization and democracy of power. The people must be their own government. Power must reside in the brotherhood. Direct legislation must take the place of representative government. There is no middle ground be tween democracy and tyranny.

Lastly, we must get over the worst of all superstitions - the superstition that it is dangerous for any man to tell the truth exactly as he sees it. There is no safety for the truth, or for anything else, save in absolute liberty for each man to see the truth, institutions, laws and God for himself and to speak what he sees with utter fidelity. Nothing in the universe is so wicked or wanton as the invasion of the citadel menace the liberty of our brother the moment a word is spoken that crosses the existing order? Where are the really free men-men who are servile to no one and to nothing, but who will see truth for themselves at all hazards and live it at all costs? For them the universe exists and travels; for them history toils; for them the world's disinherited wait and stretch worn hands of hope.-George D. Herron in New York Journal.

Growth of English Postal Banks. One of the most remarkable instances

of the encouragement of national thrift is that furnished by the postoffice savings banks in England. As a financial institution the postal bank is less than half a century old in the "tight little island," having opened its doors in September, 1861. At the end of the following year there were 180,000 accounts, aggregating about \$8,750,000, and in the five ensuing years the total sum deposited averaged about \$35,000,-000 From 1868 to 1875 the average stood about \$90,000,000 and from 1875 to 1880 it reached the great annual av-

erage of \$145,000,000. Great as was this phenomenal growth in deposits with corresponding increase in the number of depositors, it was not until Mr. Fawcett became the head of the postoffice department that it achieved fully the aim of its promoters in being an institution that could gather up every unemployed penny in England and make it the nucleus of further savings. Mr. Fawcett threw himself into the cause of popularizing the people's savings pank with an energy and zeal that, supplemented by his practical methods and sagacity, launched the postoffice bank upon that grander era. the evidence of which is furnished in the magnificent buildings, covering five acres of ground, now rising at West Kensington, dedicated by the Prince of Wales this year. Mr. Fawcett interested even the children of England in saving by providing the penny stamp slip. by which the schoolboy might accumulate the minimum deposit of 1 shilling by pennies at a time.

The system as developed by Fawcett was logically and economically complete, and the results are shown in the steady and enormous growth of the bank ever since. In the years between 1881 and 1885 the deposits rose to an average of \$200,000,000, in 1890 they positors between 1896 and 1897 reached 577,000. In all there are more than 7,000,000 depositors, with an average deposit of something over \$80 .- Chicago Tribune.

A Striking Illustration.

A five minute conversation over the patch.

## A THOROUGH TEST.

A CITY WHERE MUNICIPAL OWNER SHIP IS SUPREME.

Huddersfield, England, Furnishes Its Residents With Transportation, Gas. Electricity, Stoves, Fuel, Houses and Even With Beef.

In his pursuit of big things the American is apt to neglect the cities of of some \$7,000 per year. medium size in Great Britain and to concentrate his attention on London, Glasgow, Birmingham or Liverpool This is a mistake, for among the cities of 100,000 or 200,000 population there are instances of municipal enterprise not excelled by any metropolis. Such a one is Huddersfield, a Yorkshire town of 100,000, situated in the midst of the British textile industries.

Every municipal monopoly is under city management. The waterworks upon them by the governing plutoc- have been satisfactorily maintained for years. In 1872 the gasworks were taken over, the object being to reduce the price of gas and increase its use by the poorer classes. To this end the department introduced penny in the slot meters, which have been so well received that about one-fifth the population is now supplied in this way. When this meter is used, a stove is supplied and "fixed" free of charge. Not a penny need be invested, except for the 30 feet of gas sold for 2 cents. This is a great boon to the poor, who find it very difficult to save enough to purchase fittings outright Stoves alone may be rented for 10 per cent of cost price per year. and the department has its own stores containing styles to suit the poorest or the most fastidious. The price of gas has been steadily reduced, until now it is 2s. 9d. (66 cents) for lighting and 2 merely because it exists. Unceasing shillings (49 cents) for heating and trade purposes. Indeed, the city has been so considerate of public welfare in every way that practically the whole population consumes municipal gas. How does this compare with some of our cities-St. Paul, for example, where not more than one-fourth of the population use gas?

The workingman and the taxpayer have cause to rejoice as well. The hours of labor have been reduced to eight-Huddersfield was the first city to adopt the eight hour programme. About \$20. 000 is annually used to decrease taxes, and yet adequate amounts have been set aside for depreciation, renewals and amortization of debt. The object, however, is not to make a profit, but to lower the price as rapidly as possible. It is cheaper in some other cities, but the density of population is very, very low, being only seven per acre, which makes it necessary to have an unusually large number of miles of pipe. The interest and maintenance charges are correspondingly high.

The city did not allow electric lighting to fall into the hands of a private company, but constructed its own plant in 1893. From the first electricity has of a man's soul by any kind of force or been very popular, and consumption authority. Yet who of us does not has been stimulated by the same methtings and apparatus are rented on very reasonable terms, showrooms are maintained, and the price for cooking, heating, motors and trade purposes fixed so low-4.5 cents per unit-as to invite extensive use. For lighting the price is 12 cents per unit.

The management of the tramways shows the municipal esprit de corps at its best. Huddersfield was the first city in Great Britain to operate its street railroads, and it was forced to do so because no company would lease its lines. Believing that adequate transportation facilities were necessary for the best development of the city, the council decided to begin operation, although it might involve loss. Such, indeed, was the case until within the last year or two, when there has been a surplus.

Huddersfield has often been pointed to as an illustration of the failure of municipal operation, but in truth the city ought to be praised, not blamed. A deficit is not a desirable factor nor to be sought for, but a large profit is not the sole object of an efficient city government. No one will deny-and citizens of Huddersfield the last of allthat the tramways have been worth to the city all they cost. Further, the failure to make a profit is not due to lack of good management, but principally to the nature of the city. The city is very widely scattered, there are many hills, wages are above the normal, hours are short, eight per day; fares are low. all of which goes to increase the expenses of operation. That the system is greatly used and meets a want is shown by the fact that over 4,300,000 passengers are carried annually, equal to the population of London. Every man, woman and child rides upon an average 43 times per year, a wenderful record for a city of 100,000 population.

A unique feature is the letter box attached to each car, into which one can deposit his mail without extra charge. except when the car is stopped for that purpose; then 2 cents must be paid. This is a great convenience to all, especially those living in outlying districts. for letter boxes are not so plentiful as with ns

The housing of the poor has always received marked attention. The first model lodging house built by a city was constructed by Huddersfield as far back as 1853, about 20 years before Glasgow built a similar one Separate departments are provided for men and women at 6 cents each per night, and another portion of the house is allotted to married couples. A mechanics' home, intended for a better class than the nomadic lodger, supplies accommodations for 10 cents per night. A grade higher are the artisans' dwellings, of which there are 160, constantly occupied and of great benefit to the working classes.

as its industrial life. There is an ample municipal bath, the charges varying from 2 to 12 cents. Parks and recreation grounds, where musical concerts are given during the summer, afford conver Register.

the poorer classes abundant fresh air and sunlight. The city also maintains public halls, a municipal hospital and sanitarium, a public library, art gallery, refuse destructor, sewage disposal works and a technical school in addition to the schools maintained by the school board. Markets and slaughter houses are owned and controlled by the city, annually yielding a considerable revenue. And finally there is a municipal cemetery, which shows a profit

What more socialistic town? Beginning life in a municipal artisans' dwelling, the young man rides to his work on a municipal tram. He gets his gas or electricity from the city. His wife rents a gas stove from the city, purchases her produce from a municipal market and buys meat that has been prepared in a municipal abattoir. Both use the public baths, enjoy the city's parks and send their children to the city's playgrounds. Their house refuse is removed by the city. When sick, they go to the city hospital or, if unfortunate, to the municipal lodging house. Their mail is collected by a city tram. And in a thousand other ways their daily life comes in close contact with the city government. At last they are buried in a city cemetery. This may be socialism, or it may not be. One thing is certain—viz, that the citizens are satisfied and approve of every municipal enterprise.—New York Journal.

BANK NOTE DESPOTISM.

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Greenbacks With Bank Money. During the war, when gold and silver were at a premium, bank notes circulated on a level with greenbacks and were never worth any more, the reason being that national bank notes are payable in lawful money, and the greenback, being lawful money and at that time the cheapest money, was used by the banks for the redemption of bank notes. It is interesting now to hear these same bankers, who redeemed bank notes in paper when gold and silver were at a premium of over 100 per cent, talk about the dishonesty of a debtor, whether the debtor be an individual or the government, who would redeem his obligations in anything but the dearest money.

The bank note has been good because it has had behind it the bonds and the greenbacks issued by the government. Dr. O. C. REYNOLDS, If the greenback is good enough to stand behind the bank note, it is good enough to stand alone without any bank note in front of it. A national bank currency is objec-

tionable because it is gross favoritism

extended to a few. A bill reported by

the house committee on coinage, weights and measures in the last congress provided that the treasurer of the United States pay out gold coin in redemption of greenbacks and treasury notes; second, that the secretary of the treasury have authority to issue gold bonds, drawing not more than 3 per cent, to secure the gold to maintain gold redemption; third, that national banks be allowed to deposit bonds and receive bank notes up to the par value of the bonds so deposited; fourth, that the tax on national banks be reduced. If this plan goes into operation, the difference in its effect upon the individual and the national bank may be stated as follows: The greenbacks are to be retired and bonds issued. This will mean an increase in taxes to pay the interest upon the bonds. The individual who enjoys no special privileges will find his taxes increased, while the national bank that enjoys special privileges will find its tax diminished. If the individual buys a bond at par, he will lose the use of his money and must content himself with the 3 per cent interest. If a national bank invests its capital in bonds at par, it can deposit the bonds and secure bank notes to the face value of the bonds, thus securing a return of its investment, and in addition to that it can draw 8 per cent interest upon the bonds. In other words, the individual parts with his money and draws interest while the national bank gets its money back and draws interest besides. The individual must cat his cake or keep it: the national bank both eats its cake and keeps it. This is favoritism that ought not to be tolerated in a government which recognizes the doctrine of equality before the law. The moment the government begins to confer special privileges those in a position to profit by favoritism begin to clamor for legislation immediately in their interest, and as a result the instrumentalities of government are used for private gain and the true purpose of government forgotten.-William J. Bryan.

### Repudiation. Repudiators! Why, certainly. Re-

pudiation is all right. No one thinks anything wrong about the outlawing of a debt seven years old. There are a hundred reasons why the national debt should be lifted by some gentle form of repudiation to one for the private debt referred to. The public debt not only burdens us, but all of us; not us alone, but our children and grandchildren yet unborn, who by every natural law should not be born in debt. Still we would not urge repudiating the national debt itself, but the interest on it. It is a fact that we have paid our national debt twice over in interest. and by compounding we have paid it three times over. It would be a good law that would fix a time when interest would cease, especially on a national debt. Then the debt itself could be paid. When it gets so large that the energies of the whole people of the nation can only pay the interest on it. the power of interest or money should not be held more sacred than the blood and bone and sweat and life of the peo-The city's health is as well guarded ple, and interest should cease. Repudiation, of course. There are worse evils than that-for instance, suicide and slavery and slow obliteration of the ambition and soul of the people.-Van-

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