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SENATORIAL QUIBBING

Desperate Efforts Constantly Made to Prevent the Truth Being Furnished to the People

The facts about McKinley's war upon the Filipinos will be suppressed if the thing is possible. When information is asked for by the senators every obstacle is thrown in the way of obtaining it that the sharp plutocratic lawyers in the senate can invent Of course they never say: "The people should not be trusted with a knowledge of these matters." They always begin with the statement that they desire that everything should be made public. Then they say, "but." A fair sample of this kind of work occurred the other day. Senator Pettigrew introduced the following resolution asking for information:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to inform the Senate whether General Torres, one of the officers of the Philippine army, came to General Otis with a flag of truce on February 5, 1899, the day after the fighting commenced between our forces and those of the Filipinos, and stated to General Otis that General Aguinaldo declared that fighting had been begun accidentally and was not authorized by him, and that Aguinaldo wished to have it stopped, and that to bring about a conclusion of hostilities he proposed the establishment of a neutral zone between the two armies of a width that would be agreeable to General Otis, so that during the peace negotiations there might be no further danger of conflict between the two armies, and whether General Otis replied that fighting having once begun must go on to the grim end. Was General Otis directed by the Secretary of War to make such an answer? Did General Otis telegraph the Secretary of War on February 9, 1899, as follows: Aguinaldo now applies for a cessation of hostilities and conference. Have declined [illegible] did General Otis [illegible] Was he directed [illegible] War to reply; and [illegible]ay, did he or the [illegible]nake to the appli[illegible]ating?

The first move that was made was to object to its present consideration. That had the effect to lay it over for a day. When it was called up in due course Lodge immediately took the floor. He began:

"Mr. President, I see no objection whatever to giving all possible information in regard to every transaction in the Philippines. I certainly, for one, have no desire to see anything whatsoever suppressed, and I do not believe there is any desire anywhere to have anything suppressed. But I do think that the resolutions of inquiry offered by the Senator should be put in a proper form."

Then a wrangle took place and the result of it was that a meaningless substitute was passed instead of the original resolution. That sort of thing occurs nearly every day.

TARIFF TRUSTS

Sell Goods to Foreigners for 80 Per Cent Less Than They Will Sell Them to American Farmers

The steel and wire trust has raised the price of wire and nails a hundred per cent during the year and the price now is four times as high as it was in 1895. While it has thus raised prices to the American farmer, it sends ship loads of wire and nails to England and sells them for less than half what it charges our own farmers who have voted the tariff that enables them to do it. All these facts were brought out in the testimony of John W. Gates, managing director of the American Steel and Wire Compny, before the Industrial Commission. Gates stated these things unblushingly He made no sort of excuse or evasion. The mullet heads of Nebrska will no doubt declare that Gates was lying when he made these admissions and that the benevolent Wire and Steel Trust would never think of doing such naughty things. However a review of his sworn testimony will reveal that he admitted:

That prices of wire nails, etc., had been doubled;

That his company exported 700 tons of wire a day;

That it furnished England with 60 per cent of her supply;

That goods were sold lower to foreigners;

That such prices were necessary to "hold outside trade;"

That not infrequently new plants were shut up and dismantled;

That this was done for "various reasons;"

That five plants had been closed;

That his company had a monopoly of the barbed-wire business;

That therefore higher prices were charged for these products;

That his company was making big profits;

That his company did not recognize labor unions as such;

That subsidies should be paid to steamship lines and to corporations with $5,000,000 or more capital.

The effect upon prices produced by the trust has been marvelous. A table of prices of wire nails printed in the Iron Age, January 14, from January, 1894, to the close of December, 1899, shows that wire nails have advanced in price from $1.17½ in 1894 to $3.53 at the close of last year. They are now quoted at $4.13.

Will the farmers who are building board fences because barb wire is too expensive feel like young to continue a tariff system which compels them to pay 88 per cent more for fencing wire than foreigners have to pay for the same wire? Large quantities of barb wire were exported from New York in December, 1899, at $2.20 per hundred, although the home price was raised at the end of the month from $3.88 to $4.13.

Apparently all foreigners are not treated alike. To be most favored and to reap the full blessings of protection you must not only be a foreigner, but you must reside at least 3,000 miles away from the land of McKinley and Dingley. Thus our neighbors, the Canadians, must pay for the privilege of living so near to us. However, the trust treats them better than it treats Americans. On December 2, 1899, Canadian Hardware, a Montreal publication, said:

"Retail dealers in the United States py $3.70 f. o. b. Cleveland for carlots for barbed wire and $3.80 for less than carlots, while the figure quoted to the retail trade in Canada is $3.25 f. o. b. Cleveland for carlots and $3.35 for less quantities.

"Plain wire is quoted to the Canadian dealer $11 per ton lower that to the home dealer.

"The explanation of these differences in prices is that, in the home market on account of the high custom tariff, the United States manufacturer has a monopoly, while, in catering for the Canadian trade he has to bring his prices down to a point that will keep out the product of British and German manufacturers."

It may be noted that when this trust was first formed we heard a great deal from the trust theorists about the economic advantages and savings of great combinations. Thus Mr. Garrit H. Ten Broek, of St. Louis, as counsel for the company, announced that "the only effect on the market that I can see will be a possible slight lowering of prices because of this economy, and also a steadiness of prices for the future." There are still numerous pro-trust theorists prating about the blessings of trusts, as if nearly all of the trusts had not in practice actually demonstrated that they are, under present conditions, all around curses. The blessings, so far, are enjoyed only by those who get into the trust on the "ground floor."

Some good old pop ought to take this article and show it to his mullet head neighbors. It will probably make them feel so good that they will all go on a tare to know that this same trust which charges them at a "basis" of $3.53 per keg for nails (about $4.50 at retail) export these nails and sells them to Europeans at $2.14 "basis" per keg, and that it exported about 70,000,000 pounds in 1899, to all parts of the earth.

It somehow happens that every time this trust raises wages in one of its departments the increase is heralded as one of the beneficent effects of great combinations. Recently many ponderous articles in great republican papers have been based upon the assumed fact that the supposed 26,000 employees of this trust are getting 40 per cent higher wages than before the trust was formed. Such misleading statements undoubtedly have a common source.

The facts appear to be that the new trust did, on March 1, 1899, raise the wages of its employees who were getting less than $2.50 per day from 5 to 10 per cent. In June, 1899, a few of the steel and wire workers probably shared in the general 25 per cent advance obtained by the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. On January 1, 1900, the trust advanced wages of tonnage workers, workers by the hour and day laborers 7½ per cent. As usual, it was announced in the papers that this "advance was unsolicited and unexpected." Possibly. But the Iron Age of January 4, 1900, contains a telegram from Pittsburg which says that "the National Association of Rod Mill Workers has presented a scale of wages to the American Steel and Wire Company calling for an increase in present rates of from 3 to 21½ per cent. The men have asked for the restoration of the wges in force prior to 1893 and a uniform scale. The company is given until January 15 to answer, and it is not expected there will be any trouble in arranging a satisfactory settlement with the rod mill men."

Webster's Sympathy

The following are the words of Daniel Webster, spoken in sympathy with Greece when she was struggling for self-government. Why do they not apply with equal force to the Filipinos?

"They (the Filipinos), contending with ruthless oppressors, turn their eyes to us, and invoke us by their ancestors, slaughtered wives and children, by their own blood poured out like water, by the hectacombs of dead they have heaped up as it were to heaven, they invoke, they implore us for some cheering sound, some look of sympathy, some token of passionate regard. They look to us as the great republic of the earth, and they ask us by our common faith whether we can forget that they are struggling as we once struggled, for what we now so happily enjoy. I cannot say, sir, that they will succeed; that rests with heaven. But for myself, sir, if I should tomorrow hear that they have failed—that their last column had sunk beneath the opposing guns, that the flames of their last city had sunk in its ashes, and that naught remained but the wide melancholy waste where once the islands were, I should still reflect with the most heartfelt satisfaction that I have asked you in the name of 8,000,000 of freemen, that you would give them at least the cheering of one friendly voice."

A lot of children's shoes 35c at Sanderson's.

STANDARD OIL POWER

It Runs the Government of the United States and the Treasury Cash is Part of Its Loanable Funds

The correspondence given in the public document entitled "Transactions With Certain Banks," sent to congress by Secretary Gage, on pages 34 to 148 inclusive and 187 to 292 inclusive, shows:

First—That there was a "combine" between the Standard Oil Company, acting under the guise of the Standard Oil (National City) Bank, and the United States Treasury, manipulated by Secretary Gage, Assistant Secretary Vanderlip and Treasurer Ellis H. Roberts.

Second—That the bonds used in securing free government deposits for speculations and speculative loans were in large part bonds owned by and held in the name of the Standard Oil Company.

Third—That this Standard Oil-United States Treasury "combine" began in June, 1897 three months after Gage, Vanderlip and Roberts took charge of the United States Treasury Department; that it began with the appeal of Hepburn, Vice President of the Standard Oil Bank, to Gage: "If you take the pains to look at our list of directors you will see that we also have very great political claims in view of what was done during the canvas last year;" that it continued with steadily increasing "kindness" on the part of Gage, Vanderlip and Roberts until it culminated in the grant by Gage and Roberts to the Standard Oil Bank of the internal-revenue farming contract. Secretary Gage says of that contract (pages 12 and 13 of the "Transactions") that on December 19 he held a "conference with the Treasurer of the United States" on the subject of concentrating the internal revenues, and "as a result of this conference" the Standard Oil Bank was made the reservoir.

Fourth—That the deals inaugurated by the "combine" and managed to the profit of the Standard Oil Company included the Union Pacific funds, the Central Pacific funds, the $200,000,000 Spanish war loan, the $20,000,000 payment to Spain, the Custom House sale, the bond purchase of last November, the internal revenue pooling contract—in fact every Treasury operation of any size since Messrs. Gage, Vanderlip and Roberts took office.

There never was a greater set of rascals than this treasury gang, some of whom have the most unsavory records in private life. Roberts is especially of that character. He has been convicted in the courts of stealing from his sister, but he is the Standard Oil's treasurer of the United States. His court record reads as follows:

Fifth—That between said 6th day of November, 1895, and the 1st day of January, 1897, said defendant (Ellis H. Roberts) appropriated and converted to his own use out of said moneys of said plaintiff (his sister), and without her knowledge or consent the sum of $19,200."—From report of referee in the case of Jane L. Brooks against Ellis H. Roberts and approved by the supreme court. Judgment was rendered against Ellis H. Roberts in the sum of $21,147.76.

His record in the office which he now holds is like unto it. He proceeded to make the United Stes treasury a branch bank of the Standard Oil National City Bank, as soon as he got himself well seated in his chair at Washington to which fact he has testified in his own handwriting. Read the following:

The necessities of the public service as a rule require that the deposits referred to be made with the Assistant Treasurer of the United States. Nevertheless, in view of the apparent accommodation to your bank, this office will authorize you to make the deposits as suggested, with the understanding that the arrangement is to remain in force at the convenience of the department."—United States Treasurer Ellis H. Roberts in a letter to President Stillman, of the Standard Oil Bank, who had requested permission to make deposits of surplus funds at the Treasury through a Washington correspondent.

This is a specimen of the crowd who announce in the Senate and in the daily papers that they are under direct guidance of the Almighty, who holds with them special communications and tells them what is the will of heaven and reveals to them, to the exclusion of all other mortals, what is the destiny of this nation. What else could anyone expect from them, when he remembers that every one of them was put there by Mark Hanna?

THE FIGHT ON BRYAN

The Middle-of-the-Roaders Intend to do all in Their Power to Down Him.

There can no longer be any effort to compromise with the followers of Wharton Barker. The leaders of that movement mean to defeat Bryan if the thing is possible. They will do all that is within their power to prevent votes being cast for him. That being the case, we who have known Bryan, believe in his integrity, and want to see him elected president, can have no further fellowship with them. They belong to another party—a party whose aims are diametrically opposed to the party to which we belong and which has gained such a commanding position in this and other states west of the Mississippi river. The following items clipped from the Southern Mercury, Wharton Barker's paper in the west, will show that we have come to the parting of the ways and that they must take one way and we the other. They will not support Bryan under any circumstances. We determined to support him. That ends all fellowship. The Mercury shows the animus of the Wharton Barker crowd in the following squibs;

Keep your eye skinned for traitors.

There is a warm time ahead in populist politics.

Don't let the banner of the gallant "103" trail in the dust.

Fusion is wrong in principle and pie will not make it right.

Keep your eye on the populist who is in "practical politics."

Straight ahead is the only rule of action for the people's party.

Wharton Barker is a populist, and is giving his energy to building up populism.

Send none but true men as delegates to your district convention.

Let the boys in the trenches speak out on the proposed sell-out of the people's party.

Who puts up the expense money to pay the way of those who seek to commit Texas populists to the fusion policy?

There is no such word as surrender in the lexicon we use at the Mercury office.

Filipino Liberation

A society has been formed at Los Angeles, Cal., called the Filipino Liberation society. It has issued an emancipation proclamation for all Filipinos. This document affirms that the Filipino war was inaugurated unconstitutionally. It declares the principle that individuals are not bound by the immoral acts of the official authorities of the nation. Each citizen is so responsible for the wrongs committed by his nation that he is bound personally to annul, and refuse to obey, them. Otherwise all principles of right may be overthrown and all justice trampled on in the name of "nation." Government shall not constrain individual conscience, nor shall it constrain actions in conformity with that conscience.

WHERE THE GOLD IS

The Gold Stock is Being Reduced in all the Great Countries of Europe Except Spain

M. Edmond Thery, a statistician and economist well known in Europe, has recently written an article first printed in "Le Nation" of Paris that is attracting a good deal of interest among economists everywhere. The following is an extract from it:

Gold stock of the nine principal issuing banks of Europe at the end of the years 1897, 1898 and 1899 (in millions of francs).

Counties.	1897.	1898.	1899.
France	1,964	1,826	1,879
England	770	765	732
Germany	774	702	636
Austria Hungary	766	755	811
Belgium	91	102	87
Spain	236	276	340
Holland	66	109	95
Italy	300	304	295
Russia	3,068	2,600	2,314
Totals	8,005	7,439	7,189

Even if we take no account of the fall in the gold stock of the Imperial Bank of Russia, caused by the Russian monetary reform, it is none the less evident that, in spite of the enormous increase in the world's gold production, the gold stock of the European banks is in process of being reduced, taken as a whole.

On examining the table given above we see that it is the Bank of Spain which has gained the most gold between 1897 and 1899. If we consider the special needs of Germany, where the rate of discount is at 7 per cent: the delicate situation of Austria-Hungary, where the valutor has not yet been completely regulated; the requirements of Russia, who must defend her new monetary regime; and of France, whose enormous fiduciary circulation necessitates a very large gold reserve, we arrive at this singular conclusion, that, at the present moment, only the Bank of Spain could come to the assistance of the English money market.

The Bank of Spain, in fact, possesses 340 million francs in gold which are of no use to it, since its notes are redeemable in silver, and further, when the discount rate is 4½ per cent in Paris, 5 per cent at Brussels, Amsterdam and Rome, 6 per cent in London, Geneva and St. Petersburg, 7 per cent in Berlin and 8 per cent at Bucharest, it is only 4 per cent at Madrid and Barcelona.

It seems that Spain has learned enough to shake off the money sharks of the old world and is about to start out on a new tact. She is on the silver basis, and if she has only the courage to stick to it and follow out the wise policy that has brought such blessings to all the people of Mexico, she may take a new start in life. The thing that she should do is to sell all of that gold, for as Thery says, she has no use for it. It is no more use to her than so much mud. France and the other Latin nations that have stuck to silver have no trouble these days. It is the gold standard nations that are in the doldrums.

If you want cash each week for selling Stark Trees, that grow and bear fruit, write Stark Nursery, Louisiana, Mo., for terms.

AFRAID OF THEIR RECORD

Every Effort is being Made by the Plutocratic Senators to Hide McKinley's Nefarious Work.

Washington, Jan. 23—(Special Correspondence.)—In the Senate and the House the republican leaders have been kept busy dodging flying missiles of all sizes and shapes which the opposition are sending in from every direction. The Gage—City National Bank matter will not down, and all the efforts of the republican leaders to put it to sleep and hide the fact of its existence from the public, but serves to attract more attention to it. So far as the treasury officials can do so the policy of denying all information of the progress of the deal is adhered to. Things will leak out, however, and information will come to the front from unexpected sources, until the administration supporters are getting into a dreadful state. For instance, it has been revealed during the past day or two, that although it was given out the first of the year, or rather forced out, of the Secretary of the Treasury, that it would require about twenty millions of the government money, put into the selected depositories to save Wall Street from the "prosperity panic," that this was not the real amount used in this scheme. There is now on deposit with these favored banks under this pretty little scheme over thirty millions of dollars of public money, and the indications are that more is to follow. The last conclusion is reasonable because if the banks could demand it as Hepburn did force compliance with their demands as they seem to have done, they will, like the horse leech's daughter, continue to cry for more, just as long as there is a dollar in the west or at the disposal of the government. This continued agitation of the matter has aroused the country and the determination of the democrats, populists and silver republicans in both houses to push the administration to the point of a complete exposure or else a flat footed denial of all information to the people, is causing more uneasiness than ever. The introduction of Senator Allen's resolution, asking for information as to whether the Transvaal Republic had ever accredited any diplomatic or consular representative to this government, and if so, when and for what reason he was denied recognition, brought out some curious talk in the Senate. The flat declaration of Senator Spooner, to whom the attack on the resolution seemed to be given, that the Senate had no right to demand information concerning the actions of the Secretary of State or the President in a matter which had been closed, and about which there was no pending diplomatic arrangement which might be frustrated if made public, was a stunner to many. It is the enunciation of the position that the administration is forced to take. The President and his cabinet officers assume that the people of the country are not entitled to know how their servants have discharged their duties, and this is founded on the conviction that the manner in which the trust has been performed will be unsatisfactory when the people do come to know it. But what a condition that is where the servant dares not let the master see his work.

This same condition, of arrogation of the right to keep from the people the manner in which the public business is conducted, prevailed in Nebraska a few years ago, and the people came to know of it and they brought about a showing of the books that is not yet forgotten. The attitude of the supporters of the administration in these days is causing thinking people to wonder why there should be so much anxiety to conceal things. There is another branch of the government which is being looked after, and that is the department having in charge to "colonial?" government and appointments. In a general way it is known that there are a great many appointees of the government in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines. It is also known in a general way that some very fat salaries and soft places are provided for political favorites of the administration in these islands. But the attempt to get specific and detailed information as to how many of these appointees there are, what they are supposed to do, and how much they are costing the government and the people of the islands, met with the same decided opposition the other day that all other inquiries have. What will this inquiry show when it is finally pushed to a conclusion? Is there a condition existing under the "policy of imperial grandeur" that is sometimes talked about and which is patterned after that of England, that will, when brought to light have some of the elements which made Clive's administration forever memorable when he under authority of the British government looted India? If everything is straight why don't the administration court instead of obstructing, a full investigation?

The Nebraska delegation has been bearing its full share in the work of the past week. Senator Allen has his bill to pension Mrs. Mary L. Stotsenberg well on the way to a successful passage through the Senate. Bills were introduced in the House and Senate providing for a public building at Norfolk by Representative Robinson and Senator Allen.

D. H. BRADLEY.

Holt County Redeemed

One day last week the county board of supervisors went through the tedious process of counting about $70,000 in cash, in warrants and securities held as cash by County Treasurer Henry. It was all there—every cent six years ago Treasurer Mullen started in with a generous balance left by the republican county officers of twenty-two cents. Two dimes and two pennies left in the vault by the Frontier's pets; these patriotic republicans also left other tokens of their affection for the dear people. They left nearly every school district in the county holding the sack for the amount of their apportionment and the sinking fund accumulated for the payment of any bonds that might be outstanding. They drained every fund they could reach—they held up the taxpayers individually and collectively, and left the county over $100,000 in the hole and with a name that smelled to Heaven. Holt county has been redeemed under six years of populist administration. Our warrants are at a premium and claims as good as gold. Every populist should be proud that he is a populist and proud of the record as a party—Holt County Independent

DIVIDING THE OFFICES

It is one of the Things That Troubles Every Party and is Never Satisfactorily Accomplished

Editor Independent: In the last issue of the Independent I see mention made of some appointments and promotions in the Auditor's office. For the benefit of a great number of your readers I would like to have you publish a list of those persons that have been chosen by the different state officials to fill the positions of clerks, deputies, etc., that have been chosen from the humbler walks of life, such as farmers, laboring men, etc. As far as my observation goes, I think the above named class are not as fully represented as they should be. I think it is not because of lack of ability among the laboring men that they do not secure their share. I have my views on the matter and would like to have you express yours.

T. P. TEAGARDEN,

Odell, Neb.

The United States government prints a "Blue Book," but so far as known to this writer, no state government does. To get a list of all the state employees and their occupations before their employment by the state would be a very large undertaking—so large in fact that no private individual would like to try it. The information asked would be very interesting, and the editor of the Independent would like to get hold of it himself. For one, he cannot see why the state should not print a blue book as well as the general government, and if he were a member of the legislature he would bring in a bill to that effect.

The appointment of state officers and employees is one of the most difficult questions any party in power has to deal with. No doubt an effort has been made to divide the offices up fairly, first in regard to the share of each of the fusion parties, next as to the different interests and occupations next to the parts of the state and so on, but it has never been done to the satisfaction of any party or interest or occupation. The editor of the Independent is fully satisfied of one thing and that is that the farmers who made the party and sustain it have never had any where near their share of the offices. One reason for this is that all of the most lucrative offices must go under the law to the legal pedagogic and medical professions. Of course all the judges, attorneys and many other lucrative places must go to the lawyers. The educational places must be filled by the professors. The great asylums and other institutions of that character must go to the doctors. The university and the superintendence of the education must go to the pedagogues. After all these places are filled it leaves but poor picking for the farmer and the laboring man. The people might send a farmer or an editor to congress once in a while, but seldom do.

Our Policy

It is constantly asserted in the imperialist press that those who oppose a war of subjugation on the Filipinos have nothing to offer in its place. Nothing is more false. Mr. Bryan has on several occasions outlined a policy. The other day Senator Hoar told the senate what ought to be done and how to do it in these words:

"Let me state what I would do today as I have stated what I desired to do before the war broke out. The Philippine armies are scattered. Aguinaldo is a fugitive, and in concealment. I would send General Wood or General Miles or Admiral Dewey to Luzon. I would have him gather about him a cabinet of the best men among the Filipinos who have the confidence of the people and desire nothing but their welfare. In all provinces and municipalities where civil government is now established possessing the confidence of the people, I would consult with their rulers nd representatives. I would lend the aid of the army of the army of the United States only to keep order. I would permit the people to make laws and to administer laws, subject to some supervision or inspection, till the disturbed times are over and peace has settled down again upon that country, insuring the security of the people against avarice, ambition or peculation. So soon as it seems that government can maintain itself peacefully and in order, I would by degrees withdraw the authority of the United States, making a treaty with them that we would protect them against the cupidity of any other nation, and would lend our aid for a reasonable time to maintain order and law."

IS THERE PROGRESS?

Has not the System of the Middle Ages Returned in Spite of Boasted Advancement.

Now, as in the middle ages, one of the barons has more weight with the government than ten thousand of the retainers. Now, as then, government is bent for the barons' special protection. Now, as then, the barons divert the revenues for their own profit, play tricks with the treasury, and evade their proper share of taxation to throw the burden upon the inferior creatures that toil.

Is there any progress in that?

There are kind-hearted barons of industry now, as there were kind-hearted barons of castles then. The kind heart of the baron makes no difference to the slave so long as the system goes on. There are slaves that are well housed now; there were slaves that were well housed then. The kind of house makes no difference so long as the vast majority of men must waste their lives in barren toil for less of the fruits of the earth than they need and the few fortunate masters perform no labor at all for more of the fruits of the earth than they can use.

Names change, externals change, essential conditions remain the same.

The telegraph and telephone are desirable things; the steam engine performs wonders, we have the most luxurious sleeping cars in the world, we produce great quantities of the most intricate and amazing machinery, we make light with electricity, we are carried about by steam.

Will some one kindly mention one of our inventions that has not been turned into an additional bond for industrial slavery? One that has not become the instrument of organized greed? One that has not been made a vast machine for wresting the fruits of the earth from those that have too little and adding them to those that have too much?

It is no doubt a fine thing to have machines that make shoes. What about the darkened lives and hopeless toil of those who run the machines?

Against the telegraph and telephone I put the East End of London and the rear tenements of New York; against the cotton mill, the men who operate it; against the sleeping car, the anthracite coal regions of Pennsylvania; against the trolley car, the black list and the company store; against the dynamo, John D. Rockefeller and Mark Hanna.

Is there any progress visible in this prospect?

Go into one of those Pennsylvania mining towns. Observe the terrible struggle for existence, the squalid houses and the famished children, the saddened lives, the toilers robbed and cheated kept in their employers' debt, dogged by spies, denied the privilege of doing enough labor to get themselves food, without hope, without light, without cheer.

Can the car coupler or the threshing machine or any other noble triumphs of nineteenth century civilization make amends for such condition s?

In New York the poor shiver for lack of coal; in Pennsylvania are mountains of fuel, the earth's free gift to man, and thousands of men anxious to mine it that they may get bread and live. And between stand the barons of industry who will not let the miner mine so that the poor shall shiver until they pay a higher price for warmth.

Do you see any signs of real civilization in that?

The whole world tells the same story.

What is the use of talking about civilization and progress when the nation called the most civilized is now engaged in making war for sundry lumps of gold upon a nation a pygmy by comparison? Why talk of advancement when the strong deliberately purpose for the sake of gain to obliterate the weak? Why boast of better conditions in the face of an international crime far more savage and cruel than the partition of Poland? Why prate about an enlightened public opinion when the world sits by and permits this monstrous spoliation?

The end of the century sees all the nations of Europe except two still clinging to the huge, ineffable absurdity of thrones and kings. It sees legislators and rulers still wielding power by the divine right of birth. It sees a subtle strengthening of remaining feudalism through the profound reactionary influence of England. It sees the toilers everywhere crushed under the appalling burden of militarism and armaments. It sees nations building empires with the slaughter of races and the robbing of lands. It sees even in the freest countries the steady absorption of power into the hands of a few.

It sees race still hating race; it sees the greatest activity of nations directed toward the means of war and methods to destroy human life; it sees Great Britain spending $300,000,000 to kill Boers and permitting the famine-stricken people of India to starve to death.

Is there any progress in that?

No doubt from all this evil in the slow processes of time good will be evolved, as man was evolved from the ape. No doubt some day the frightful ideals of the Bismarcks and the Chamberlains, of bloodshed and aggrandizement, will cease to curse mankind. But looking at the matter impartially is there any evidence of such progress in the nineteenth century as justifies the pean of joy?

And if there is, where is it?—Charles E. Russell in New York Journal.

Another Worker

Editor Independent:—Last Saturday I received sample copies of your grand good paper and have placed each copy in hands where I think they will do good as I realize that every little helps, and going to do all I can, (which I expect to say is but little) to help enlighten people and thus make people [illegible]OO, ILL.

J. M.

South Sioux City, Neb.