



THE CONDITION THAT CONFRONTS US.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

MISERY is the shadow of injustice.

NO LEGISLATION is better than bad legislation.

THE People's party is rapidly becoming so in fact as well as in name.

THE present Congress has reduced the work of doing nothing to a science.

It seems to be a case of dry rot that is troubling the United States Congress.

"SURE things" in politics are bad. An element of uncertainty is always productive of better results.

TO THE producer belongs the full results of his efforts. If this is not true, to whom does the product belong?

IN 1888 the labor vote in Kansas was but 10 per cent of the total vote cast. In 1892 it was over 50 per cent.

NOTHING succeeds like success. With such a showing as the People's party made last fall, what will the harvest in future elections?

EVERY big daily paper in the country calls anti-option legislation "lunacy." They will find that there is method in such madness.

THE limited number of souvenir half dollars makes them worth 100 per cent premium. The scarcity of other money makes it cost too much.

A REPUBLICAN exchange devotes a great deal of space to show that its party is growing better. It ought to be getting better, it is dying.

A CAREFUL study of election returns indicates that the number of people who regard voting as being purely a commercial transaction is growing beautifully less.

AN insane telegraph operator in New Jersey imagined that he was a piler driver. Various people in the West have had good cause to imagine they had been struck by one.

A DEMOCRAT for Senator from Kansas may not be exactly pleasing, but it is an improvement. Kansas Senators have been like the old lady's breath, so bad that "asafetida would help some."

THE bankers of Missouri and Kansas have formed a co-operative club to visit the World's Fair. A big club-house has been erected on the lake shore and expense is not being spared. We have seen no notice of a similar organization of western farmers.

JUDGE DUNDY of Omaha has decided that George M. Pullman must pay taxes on cars he uses in Nebraska, and unless he does so his cars may be sold for taxes. This looks sensible. The millionaire should not be exempt from taxation simply because he is a millionaire.

SUCH tactics as the Republicans have resorted to in Kansas are annoying, but they may serve a good purpose after all. It will keep the fact before the people that a State that a few years ago was the Republican stronghold in the West has been wrenched from the hands of the g. o. p.

INJUSTICE is the result of ignorance. If those who do injustice knew how much pleasure there is in doing justice they would change their conduct; if those to whom injustice is done knew how much better off they would be if they were justly dealt with they would not long delay insisting upon justice.

If labor is not the producer of all wealth, what is? Labor is not only physical and mental energy expended in digging ditches, or harrowing the fields, or fashioning materials. Labor is physical and mental energy directed

to the production of anything that makes people comfortable and happy, that satisfies any human want. Those who do not exert energy toward these ends are a burden to society.

THE people are soon to be relieved, in a measure, of the telephone monopoly. Some of the patents held by the Bell Telephone Company expire in a short time and there will be a chance for others to enter into the telephone business without paying tribute to this octopus. But the Populists will not be satisfied until the people collectively get all the benefit there is in the telephone by the government owning all the telephones and running them in connection with the postoffice. The telephone is not only a luxury any more; it has become a business and social necessity and must be run as a social institution. Its accommodations and profits must be socialized; it must not continue to be the property of private parties. Its functions are public; it therefore must be owned and operated by the public in the interest of the public.

How absurd it is for the Populists to demand that a currency can be floated based upon the products of the farmers and mechanics! How much better it is for the government to issue bonds, sell these bonds to the gold bugs and money lords and then issue a currency based upon the bonds! It is true the bonds are based upon the products of the farmers and mechanics ultimately, but to allow the mudsills to issue currency directly upon their own property without the intervention of Messrs. Bondholder and Banker would be an innovation entirely destructive of that beneficent institution called interest. Such financing as that would not be circumspection enough, and would dispel the mysteries of finance. It would show the people that money is only a medium of exchange, a tool of trade, and does not need the mystic surroundings of a national banker to give it sufficient value to accomplish its legitimate functions. The laboring men of the country financiers, indeed! Does the country believe Shylock is to let go so easily? Preposterous.

OF the numerous organizations for the betterment of the conditions of labor there is none of a semi-secret nature whose special aim is to right the wrongs of labor at the ballot-box except the National Industrial Legion. The Knights of Labor, the American Federation of Labor, the Alliance, etc., all have platforms which cannot be carried out except by political action, and yet there is not one of them but which handles the question of political action as though it was a tarred stick. Here there is an organization which all who believe in political action as well as political talk can join and not interfere with their trades unionism or their non-partisan fealty to their other organizations, which are assumed to be more for education than for real, earnest participation in the political affairs of the State and nation. The Industrial Legion is a political body, as well as educational, and its declared object is to carry out at the polls the principles of the People's party. If the workmen of the different organizations really believe that their salvation is to come about by the ballot they should take advantage of the machinery of the Industrial Legion and help push their ideals to realization.

THERE can be no question that railroads are public highways, just as much as the old plank roads were public highways. The people had to pay toll on these public highways. How did they abolish this toll? Simply by the governments, local and State, taking them and running them in the interest of the people. Would anybody like to return to the old plank road system? Hardly. It is the mission of the Populist party to bring all the railroads under control of the

government. It does not only aim to make laws regulating rates, but its ultimate object is to own and operate the railroads, as the postoffice is now owned and operated, and give the railway service to the people at actual cost. If there is any profit in the railroad business let us all have a whack at it; if there be loss in their operations we can all better bear the loss than to throw the burden upon the poor Goulds and Vanderbilts. If the railroads could be built and run exclusively upon private property there might be some excuse for letting them remain in the hands of private individuals for private profit, but no road can be built except it be built upon public property. We have, therefore, that which is the property of all used for the benefit and profit of a few. This is a violation of equal rights.

The Souvenir Half Dollars. As is well known, Congress donated \$2,500,000 to the World's Fair. The donation was in the form of 5,000,000 half dollars. As soon as the arrangements were made for the coins speculators began bidding for them and as much as \$7,500,000, or \$1.50 for each coin, was offered for them. The exposition authorities decided to sell them at the rate of \$1 each, and at that rate they have been steadily going. They will doubtless all be sold at that price before this year has gone.

What gives these coins such a value? There is but forty odd cents' worth of bullion in them. Cannot a Jasson in finance be extracted from the incident? Does it not prove that the value of money does not depend on the intrinsic value and that it does depend on the demand and supply? To be sure, these coins are regarded as curiosities and it is not intended that they should ever be in general circulation. But their value depends on the fact that they are issued by the United States government, and that they help commemorate the event that the world will celebrate in Chicago this summer.

It seems that half dollars that sell at \$1 each should help to impress on the minds of all that people have faith in Uncle Sam. When such an unstable thing as popular sentiment doubles the value of his coins, there need be but little fear that any of his coins will depreciate in value. He has said that forty cents worth of silver is a souvenir half dollar and his saying so makes the coin worth a dollar.

Pertinent Paragraphs. Charles E. Barnes, member of the State Central Committee of the People's party of Michigan, and formerly State Master Workman of the Knights of Labor and ex-Deputy Commissioner of Labor Statistics, has been appointed organizer for Michigan for the Industrial Legion.

And now there is a pedro game called the "Middle of the Road." Hugh O. Pentecost, formerly editor of the Twentieth Century and a radical of radicals, has joined Tammany Hall and is a member of a prominent committee. Benjamin R. Tucker, editor of Liberty, says this is retrogression, and he is not far out of the way. It would be interesting to know how Mr. Pentecost can square himself with his conscience now.

A Prophecy for 1896. A gentleman who predicted the sweeping election of the Democratic National candidates in 1892 said this to the writer the other day. "Now I wish to make another prediction. The people of the West and South had grown tired of Republican promises and joining in their weight struck down the monster party of monopoly. But the change is merely from the frying pan into the fire. The masses have no more in common with the Democrats than the Republicans. Both are diametrically opposed to the principles enunciated at Omaha. Four years of Democratic rule will have transferred the voters of 1892 to the real party of the people. Look for a Populist President in 1896. I feel sentiment for such a climax already. There may be fusion in 1896 but it will be between the Republicans and Democrats."

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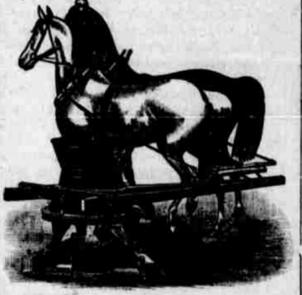
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