

GREAT EDITOR 50 YEARS AGO

CHARLES A. DANA IN THE DAYS OF LONG AGO.

His Ideas on "Corporations," "Reformers," "Industrial War," "Money Feudalism," "Commercial Robbery," "Right to a Living," Etc.

The very recent death of Charles A. Dana, the great editor of the great New York Sun, naturally recalls some of his opinions, utterances, sayings and epigrams during a long and many-sided career as a socialist, war correspondent, lecturer, thinker and editor. The following extracts, taken from Mr. Dana's editorials in "The Harbinger," a small paper published about 1846, are of peculiar interest to the readers of the reform press. Here is what the great editor wrote fifty years ago, when he was young and in touch with humanity. He said:

ON CORPORATIONS.

A corporation has no heart, no human sympathies; it has a rule to be rigidly followed, a treasury to fill, it recognizes no brotherhood; acts of friendship are forbidden to it; it is not a part of humanity; it is a machine for making money. The operative, crushed by the sense of weakness, yields to despair, or, what is worse, falls into brutality.

Go through the great manufacturing cities of France, for example, or those of England and Belgium, where the system is much nearer its final perfection than in this country, and tell us if such is not the wretched lot of the proletarians, that is, the hired laborers. And to this state American laborers are approaching!

ON REFORMERS.

The true reformer ought never to despair. Let him remember that error alone can fail, and that the truth he serves can only be obscured for a season. Does the world scorn him and mock at him as one by one his cherished hopes are frustrated, and the labor of years seems fruitless? Heed it not, noble heart! Thy exceeding love for them that thus despise thee is not wasted; not vain thy yearning to bless them that answer thee with sneers!

It is not for the day thou workest, but for the ages; fear not that the ages shall lose the harvest of thy deeds. Commit thyself to the Providence that guides all things; faint not though thy bare and weary feet are torn with brambles; over the path that with thy life thou beasteat out humanity shall come hereafter in triumph and joy!

ON INDUSTRIAL WAR.

We shudder at the horrors of a battlefield, where a day, an hour, has hurried thousands, amid groans and shrieks and the rage of hellish fury, into one bloody ruin; but afterward, over that field have sprung up the flowers and waving grass and grain, as the peaceful hand of nature has effaced all marks of the terrible havoc.

But in the unnatural warfare of civilized industry—a struggle in which no high principle is engaged, but the mere force of capital waging destruction, which, under a false system it cannot avoid, against helpless masses of God's children, whose only resource is to yield themselves, body and soul, to their fate, there is no respite, no amelioration; and as new generations throng up into this breathing world there await them only a more hopeless misery, a more certain wretchedness.

Each increase in their number and each improvement in the machinery that aids their toll, is not a blessing, as it should be, but a curse, and but arms with a new weapon the power that tramples them beneath its feet. The Sutlej, red with the blood of the slain, will flow again tomorrow in its crystal clearness, but at some Leeds, or Manchester or Spitalfields (to mention no American names), to-morrow's sun will rise on even a sadder scene than it has looked upon today, and so we know it will be for year after year.

ON THE MONEYED FEUDALISM.

It has come to this, that the moneyed feudalism, which in the world grinds out the very life of men, stupefies their souls, and ruins their bodies, so that their families become extinct in three generations, is laying its unrelaxing hand upon our own brothers. Talk of free trade and of protection! Each has its advantages, each is, in its time, an element of human progress, but what shall we say of competition in labor, of the universal hostility of the interests, on which this accursed system is based? Shall it last forever, shall it have possession of our country also, and of the whole world? Shall every workingman become a mere dependent, a hireling retainer, with such pittance only for the hardest toll as will barely save him and his from death by starvation?

ON COMMERCIAL ROBBERY.

Our commercial relations are in a similar condition; the same anarchical despotism prevails in them. We are as little protected against individual cupidity as is the Turkish peasant. The difference is that he is robbed outright and by main strength, while we are operated upon by a more delicate and less tangible mechanism. The general good is as little respected in one case as in the other. We can only wonder at the blindness of the public, which has allowed itself to be plundered by irresponsible commerce without seriously inquiring if it could be helped. We say blindness, but it must be acknowledged that a more forcible expression would be more exact.

But it is not to be wondered at. Indeed, one soon learns that in civilization no absurdity is astonishing. The fault lies not so much with the public as with economists, who, with a few magical words, such as "balance of trade" and "taisees aller," have fairly humbugged the world and endowed the most hideous of monsters with a sort of captivating beauty.

ON THE RIGHT TO A LIVING.

Every person born into the world has an indisputable right to a subsistence, but this does not imply a right to either a large or small portion of the soil. It does imply the right to labor and the right to the fruit thereof. A man of mechanical genius, for instance, may have neither the desire nor the ability to cultivate the soil. Society is not then bound to furnish him with land, but only to supply him with such work as is adapted to his tastes and capacities, and to see that he receives the just value of what he produces. But to each man the community owes absolutely protection of his right to labor. It is bound to furnish such as desire to engage in agriculture the means of doing so. In order that it may do this it must hold the land itself. Otherwise, what shall prevent monopoly and the destruction of the right to labor?

Of what benefit to me that I am guaranteed the use of a little piece of land if civilised commerce yearly fleeces me out of three-quarters of its product? What good do I derive from my farm if I am left exposed to the knaveries and frauds, like hungry cube flocking round their infernal mother, of free competition? If I am not guaranteed the fruit

of my labor my land might almost as well be located in Nova Zembla.

These strong anti-monopoly sentiments can be easily accounted for by reading what Mr. Dana said in a lecture delivered at the University of Michigan on the 21st of last January:

They (Mr. Ripley and friends) organized a society called the Brook Farm Institute of Agriculture and Education, and began work. This organization was conceived in transcendentalism and designed to carry on social life in accordance with democratic and Christian ideas. There had been all the time a notable agitation respecting the unsanitary habits of college students, of people who pursued literature and learning. They used to sit in their studies and get no regular exercise, and had no life in nature; they did not go out in the free air and gain their livelihood by the sweat of their brows.

The argument was that while any one was pursuing literature and philosophy, and physiology, and mathematics, he ought to work on the land, to cultivate the earth, and the man who didn't work on the land could not have first claim to the land.

You may like to know something of the mode of life there. In reorganizing society the teaching of Fourier, which we adopted, was that all industries should be carried on in groups and series. For instance, there should be a series of gardeners. One group of them cultivated trees, another small fruits, another vegetables, and there were half a dozen of these different but connected groups. So it was all through the establishment.

There was a series that managed the domestic labor, however. There was one group called the group of the dormitory, that made the beds, and took care of the bedrooms generally; one called the consistory, that had charge of the parlors and public rooms, and one called the refectory, which included the cooks, the waiters and the dishwashers. They were organized and worked together. I know that, because I was head waiter. And it was great fun, I can tell you.

There were seventy people or more, and at dinner they all came in and we served them. So every department of the establishment was carried on in that way. Each person chose what he wished to do, what group he would work in, and none of the boys and girls tried to shirk. There was more entertainment in doing the duty than in trying to get away from it.

There were young people, the middle-aged and the old, should be all ready to do a duty which may be inconvenient, as well as that which it is convenient for him to do. For instance, Mr. Ripley, the head of the Phalanx, was chief of the cow-milking group. I belonged to the same group. That was a universal quality and characteristic of the society. Just as a sculptor, who is carving an Apollo, an image of divine beauty, goes to his work with joy and passion, so among us every duty and every kind of labor ought to be performed with the same enthusiasm, the same zeal and the same sense of artistic pride.

THE FLY-AWAY'S.

Another New Religion of the Colored Folks.

The "fly away" preacher was at the police barracks last night for the purpose of paying the fine of one of his "fly away" sisters, who was fined Friday because she wouldn't submit to vaccination. The woman, as was stated in the Constitution, refused to be vaccinated because she believed she would never get sick or die, and that vaccination, like all other preventive, was sacrilegious. She was fined \$5, and not having the money, was sent to the stockade for eleven days.

Last night Rev. John Smith, the negro preacher who teaches the "fly away" doctrine, called at the police barracks and said he wanted to pay the good sister's fine. While he was making the arrangements to pay the fine he was questioned by a reporter of the Constitution.

"We have never lost our faith," said Smith, "in the divine promise that we shall not taste death. When we thought we would all be translated on the 15th of last March we relied upon a calculation which a white preacher had made. Now we will pay no attention hereafter to any dates. We will seek for no signs, but await the coming of the Lord. We know if we have the right faith we shall never die, but shall live until Christ comes again."

"How many members of your church are there now?" he was asked.

"We have over 100," was the reply, "and they are all, I believe, strong in the faith. They have sold all they have and are living with no thought for the morrow."

"Have any of your members ever died?"

"Oh, yes, a few."

"Well, how came it, then, they died?"

"They were not strong in the faith. If any more of us die then we know just as soon as they are dead that they were not of the faithful."

"Suppose you all eventually die?"

"Then that will be proof that none of us were strong in the faith. That is a simple proposition, isn't it? But we don't like to be called the 'fly away,' for that is not our name. We believe that we shall not taste death and we have nothing in our doctrine about dying."

"Windor Castle—To Hon. Grover Cleveland, ex-president of the United States, Trenton, N.J.: Felicitations on this day, the day of your happiness, and may your heir bring you joy."

"VICTORIA."

WINS ITS STOCK YARDS CASE

KANSAS SCORES ANOTHER VICTORY FOR ITS LAWS.

The Big Stock Yards Corporation Which Is Defying the Law Again Loses in the Courts—Appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Topeka, Kas., Nov. 2.—Judge Thayer's opinion from the United States circuit court of appeals sustains in every particular the opinion heretofore rendered by Judge Foster in the United States circuit court, declaring that the legislature had a perfect right to fix the rates of charges at the Kansas City stock yards. The decision is a big victory for the state of Kansas, and the live stock shippers, both of which parties have claimed the charges to be exorbitant and illegal.

When Judge Foster had concluded reading Judge Thayer's opinion in the federal court room this morning Albert H. Horton, attorney for the stock yards company, gave notice of appeal to the supreme court of the United States. Judge David Martin, with a vast smile beaming on his face, gave notice of objection to the decision or rather to certain points in it. Of course, Judge Martin was immensely pleased over the decision, but a lawyer is bound to raise objections in order to be prepared for the future review of the case in the higher court.

After Judge Martin was through with his objections, at which everybody, including the objector, smiled, Judge Foster insisted that it was his duty to make some order by means of which the patrons of the stock yards, in the event of the decision being sustained by the supreme court, could get a rebate of overcharges without having to go to any extra trouble or law suits. He therefore ordered that each shipper or his agent be given a slip of paper, designating the charges in items, which slip shall be a self-evident claim against the company in the event of the decision being sustained by the supreme court. The shopkeeper is liable to be heavily fined and imprisoned and has to display conspicuously in his shop window or on his door for a year a large placard bearing the words: "Convicted of Adulteration."

The young lady composers of the Cloverport, Ky., News are vindicating the freedom of speech. Some time ago a notice was placed under the office clock, which read: "Am I determined on time?" The young ladies did not like it, but they made no organized protest. A few days ago another notice appeared: "Am I determined on time?" Fortnightly, the young ladies walked to the business office, demanded that the notices be removed, and, on refusal, struck.

Attorney General Boyle was not present, being in Southern Kansas laying the foundation for another fight against the coal mining corporations.

Judge Horton will, as a last resort, appeal the case to the supreme court of the United States, and it is unnecessary to say that the Stock Yards company will hold it up in that court as long as possible. Mr. Boyle, on the contrary, will make every effort to have his victory complete before his term of office expires.

Attorney General Smythe is pushing the Nebraska case with all the energy possible.

Ex-Congressman Indited.

Westchester, Pa., Nov. 2.—True bills have been found by the grand jury against ex-Congressman Smedley Darlington and J. Mitchell Baker, respectively of the independent Chester County Guaranty and Safe Deposit company. The former is charged with perjury in connection with certain statements made by him relative to the condition of the bank and Director Baker is charged with embezzlement. The prosecutor is a depositor in the concern. Both assert they can readily establish their innocence.

Queen Victoria to Cleveland.

New York, Nov. 3.—Ex-President Cleveland in his Princeton home, received the following message from Queen Victoria:

"Windor Castle—To Hon. Grover Cleveland, ex-president of the United States, Trenton, N.J.: Felicitations on this day, the day of your happiness, and may your heir bring you joy."

SHORT BITS.

Three of the men entombed in a mine at Scranton, Pa., perished.

While laying water pipes at Augusta, Ga., five men were buried in a cave and fatally crushed.

The Polyglot of St. Louis is a proposed magazine of twelve languages for the enlightenment of foreigners.

The French chamber of deputies has appointed a committee to investigate with a view of stopping gambling in grain and articles of food generally.

Fritz Sigrin fired five shots into the body of Miss May Small at Chicago and then put a bullet hole in his right temple. Both Sigrin and his victim are expected to die. The crime was prompted by jealousy. Sigrin is 50 years of age.

Mrs. L. Malcolmson of San Francisco, Cal., while traveling east over the Union Pacific railroad to visit friends in New York, became demented. The high altitude of the Rocky mountains affected her, and her condition gradually became worse as she journeyed east. During the trip through Colorado she became unmanageable and gave the passengers and trainmen such annoyance that on reaching Nebraska it was found necessary to take her from the train and place her in jail at Omaha. Her friends were informed by telegraph. The woman has a through ticket from San Francisco to York and considerable baggage. On her person was found a gold watch and birth ticket, but no money. She says she left her money at home, as well as her earrings. She gave her address as 112 South First street, San Francisco, and her mind is in such an unbalanced state that it is impossible to gather any information from her.

The rapidity with which the Armour Packing company has pushed forward the work on its packing plant at South Omaha has been surprising, though operating on a somewhat smaller scale, seems disposed to take no back seat in the matter of energetic building. Last Monday ground was broken for the addition to the exchange building, and before Saturday night the brick walls in some places were well advanced on the first story. Excavating was first commenced where the walls were to stand and bricklayers began laying brick, while a large force of men and teams were at work removing the earth from the basement. The plan gives promise of a model office building and residence when the old building is removed and the new structure completed. South Omaha will have the finest live stock exchange in the world. The addition in course of construction is 150x100 feet, with an ell 150x100 feet.

What is an average?" asked the teacher. The class seemed to be posed, but a little girl held out her hand eagerly: "Please, it's what a hen lays her eggs on." Bewilderment followed, but the mite was justified by the lesson book, in which was written: "The hen lays 200 eggs a year on an average."

I saw a merry little maiden recently standing in front of the doll counter in one of our big stores. She had just acquired one of them and was examining it with evident pleasure. "Little girl," said I, "that's a very pretty doll."

"Yes, indeed," she responded. "I've got ten. I save up all the time to buy them." I'm a regular devil on dolls."

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

A man by the name of Williston Palmer is in the Georgia penitentiary under sentence aggregating 200 years.

Tom Paugh of Backbone Mountain, the distinguished snake hunter of Harrison county, West Virginia, has done 122 ratters to death in the past summer.

Mrs. William J. Olmstead, wife of a motorman on the Troy, N. Y., city railroad, recently gave birth to four children, two boys and two girls.

An American eagle was in the act of flying off with the son of Michael Moore in Ohio the other day, when a hunter by the name of Ingles came to the rescue and killed the bird, which measured almost ten feet from tip to tip of its wings.

An inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Augusta, Me., has been smuggling in bottles of whisky into his wooden leg. The last time he disappeared they searched for him until they found him lying dead drunk in a graveyard with his wooden leg unclipped and the empty flask in the hole.

Howard Reed of Milford, Pa., started out hunting for partridge and woodcock and was followed by the house cat. All efforts on the part of the young hunter to drive the cat back home were futile; it was bound to go with him, and it illustrated its ability as a hunter by its "pointing," a woodcock, which young Reed shot. Then it "flushed" a partridge, which was also bagged by the hunter. Reed says he would not part with the cat for the best bird dog in the country.

Anybody who doubts the genuineness of an article of food that he has purchased from a Parisian tradesman may take it to a chemist and have it analyzed. It will cost him nothing to have it analyzed and the fact shown whether adulterated, and if the latter the law deals with the offender without further action on the part of the purchaser. The shopkeeper is liable to be heavily fined and imprisoned and has to display conspicuously in his shop window or on his door for a year a large placard bearing the words: "Convicted of Adulteration."

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Whether there is anything in that story or not will probably never be known; but poor, stammering Frank Weinbecker's taking off was one of the most strangely hideous deeds in all Connecticut's calendar of crime. It was cold-blooded in conception and brutal beyond description, a commission No one not wholly innocent could have had any share in it, and it could have been committed by no other. But about the prison, where she is often termed "The Queen of the Poisoners," there is a story that "Stuttering Jack" was only one of a fatal crew, some fourteen or fifteen in number, whose lives she took that she might sell their bodies to a medical school for a few dollars.

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