

nature that those who themselves make no effort to set a good example are often prone to exult over the fall of one who is striving to follow a high ideal. For two decades Mr. Small led an exemplary life and rendered valuable service to his fellows and this service remains to his credit; if in an unguarded moment he has been overmastered by an appetite once strong, but long suppressed, let us be grateful for the good he has done, charitable toward his recent lapse and hopeful that he may yet have a long career of usefulness before him. If none but the innocent were in the habit of casting stones at the accused it would be easier for the guilty to hear and heed the admonition, "Go sin no more," which for nearly two thousand years has been both a correction and an inspiration to the erring.

Labor Day.

Another Labor Day has come and gone, and its lessons have been learned. Who, watching the parades that took place in most of the cities, was not impressed anew with the dignity of labor? Who would not prefer to have his son employed as a wage-earner in some honorable occupation than to have him waste his time on the streets spending the money of his parents? The day also gave opportunity for the discussion of those questions which concern the laboring man, and what important question does not?

Just at this time government by injunction and arbitration are of paramount interest to him, the first because it is intended to deprive the laboring man of a trial by jury, and the second because it is his only means of securing justice in a controversy with organized capital.

The labor organization is the means, and at present the only means, through which the wage-earner enforces his rights, and during the past twenty-five years this organization has done more to advance the interests of those who toil than all other means combined. It has lessened the hours of toil, raised wages, secured the prohibition of child labor, improved the conditions of mines and factories and lent its influence to great social, economic and political reforms.

It is not sufficient to say that labor organizations make mistakes—all people and all organizations make mistakes. "To err is human," but those who insist upon living wages and reasonable hours are not as likely to err as those who are endeavoring to collect dividends upon watered stock.

The labor organization has been of service to those outside of its ranks as well as to those within, for the former get the benefit of the rate of wages fixed and the hours prescribed by the organization.

It deserves encouragement.

An Instructive Incident.

One cannot always judge of the temper of a convention by the attitude of so-called leaders.

It will be remembered that at the state judicial convention, held at Springfield, Mo., several weeks ago, the resolutions committee reported a resolution which ignored the Kansas City platform. From the amount of noise made one might have thought that the Kansas City platform had few friends in that convention. Indeed, several newspaper correspondents, misjudging the temper of the convention, wired their papers that the Kansas City platform had been repudiated and the committee's resolution adopted. But when the friends of the national platform asserted themselves and insisted upon a vote, the result was an overwhelming triumph for the national platform.

The trans-Mississippi commercial congress met at St. Paul, Minn. On August 21 the trust question came up for debate and from the speeches delivered so strong seemed the sentiment in opposition to any expression unfriendly to these "industrial combinations" that a resolution intended to place the congress on record as against the trust

system was finally withdrawn.

But on the following day J. A. Gardner of St. Louis introduced these resolutions:

Whereas, The trust system has been and is a menace to our republican institutions, and,

Whereas, If allowed to form combinations in restraint of trade and the elimination of competition the wealth of the entire country will be concentrated in the hands of a few, and

Whereas, The said combinations are calculated to destroy the hope and ambition of the youth of the country, it being well understood that the ambition and hope of the young men of this nation have made it great; therefore, be it

Resolved, By this congress that the president of the United States be respectfully urged to use all the power vested in his office to the end that the growing power and the influence of the trusts may be destroyed; and, be it further

Resolved, That if in the wisdom of the national congress the laws now on the statute books are insufficient to suppress the growing evil, other more stringent and efficient laws be speedily enacted.

Although it had been generally believed the previous day that the temper of the convention was not antagonistic to the trust system, Mr. Gardner's resolutions being forced to a vote, were adopted by 190 yeas to 20 nays.

An important lesson is to be learned in incidents like this. The masses of the people feel very deeply on these great questions. The democrat who believes he is right need not be an orator in order to win a victory for the principles to which he is devoted. Let him refuse to accept noise and bombast as representation of a convention's sentiments. Let him force a vote upon resolutions upholding democratic principles; and as a rule he will discover that democratic conventions may be depended upon to give support to democratic principles without apology and without evasion.

Let Well Enough Alone.

When the steel trust was established a syndicate was organized, the purpose of which was to guarantee the financial future of the new organization. The guarantee was to last for a period of fifteen months. When it is remembered that the trust produces 67 per cent of the iron and steel manufactures of the country and is protected by a tariff that enables it to charge its American customers from seven to ten dollars per ton more than it charges its foreign customers, it will be seen that no great risk was run by this syndicate.

But J. Pierpont Morgan organized this syndicate and he knew what he was doing. The New York World describes the immense advantages given to the members of this syndicate in this way:

"These underwriters agreed to advance to the 'merger' any required sum up to \$200,000,000 within the fifteen months. It actually advanced only \$25,000,000 for eight months. For this service the syndicate's profits up to this time have been \$30,000,000, and its ultimate total profits cannot be less than \$56,500,000. This is at the rate of 220 per cent on the actual money invested. Morgan & Co.'s own share of the total profits will be \$11,300,000—a very modest sum indeed considering that Mr. Morgan was the chief engineer of the whole enterprise."

No wonder these people plead to "let well enough alone."

Work for Mr. Knox.

Mr. Foulke of the civil service commission has expressed the opinion that it is not at all out of place for the members of the cabinet to take part in a political campaign. Mr. Foulke declares that on the contrary it is the duty of the cabinet officers to set forth the reasons which justify their own political or official action and that of the administration of which they are a part. Mr. Foulke intimates that the people may get a better insight

into public affairs if cabinet officers go before them and explain their records and that it would be of advantage if these cabinet officers would take the people into their confidence.

A good beginning on this line might be for Attorney General Knox to explain to the people how it happens that he has failed to enforce the criminal clause of the federal anti-trust law. Mr. Knox might also explain how it happens that he has neglected to proceed against the coal trust, the steel trust, and the many other trusts that are thriving through impositions upon the public.

Hard to Please.

It is hard to please the republicans. When Mr. Bryan lectures, the administration organs ask, "Why does Mr. Bryan talk on a box-office basis?" "Why does he make a charge for the dissemination of the truth?" The fact that republican editors receive from their readers compensation for writing republican editorials, that republican officials receive from the public pay for republican legislation and administration, and that even ministers must be supported by those to whom they preach, does not soften their criticism. But when Mr. Bryan makes public speeches at Boston and at other places in the east papers like the Denver Times rise up and ask, "Why is he dropping his golden words at the feet of the people without money and without price?" There is a continuous joint debate going on between those who insist that he should never charge and those who insist that he should always charge, (with an occasional protest from those who think he should not speak at all), and during it all he perseveres in his work, writing every week to the subscribers of The Commoner and lecturing often enough to enable him to speak still more frequently at free meetings. He draws his income from the common people and (what provokes the monopoly press most) is under obligation to no one else.

Lots of Five.

The success of the "Lots of Five" plan inaugurated by the publisher of The Commoner has been gratifying. It has demonstrated that the rank and file of the democratic party are true to the principles of the party and anxious to spread and perpetuate those principles. Upwards of 2,000 have ordered "Lots of Five" subscription cards, and more than 25,000 cards have been sent out. Each card is good for one year's subscription to The Commoner when properly filled out and sent to this office. In order to place The Commoner within reach of all this plan was inaugurated and subscription cards in "lots of five" are sold at the price of \$3 per lot. This is at the rate of 60 cents per year. You will have no difficulty in disposing of these subscription cards among your friends, and by doing so you will aid in the work which The Commoner has undertaken. If you will undertake to dispose of one or more "Lots of Five" fill out the coupon printed below and mail to this office. Upon its receipt the cards will be forwarded to you. You need not pay for the cards until you have disposed of them. The Commoner invites your cordial co-operation in this work.

Commoner's Campaign Offer.

APPLICATION FOR

"Lots of Five Subscription Cards."

PUBLISHER COMMONER: Please send me five subscription cards. I am interested in increasing the circulation of The Commoner, and promise to use my utmost endeavor to sell these cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each when sold.

Name

Postoffice

County

State

If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Nebraska.