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Chewing Gum.

A stick of gum may be had for 1 cent. People think so little of this that they often buy gum off-hand, or for the mere pleasure of seeing the machine work, until it becomes a habit. Nobody enters "Gum, 1 cent," in the daily expense account. The pennies that go for gum are apparently as so much chaff. And yet it is the gathering of this chaff that has made one corporation enormously rich. The American Chicle company, which is, in brief, the gum trust, has just distributed \$900,000 in dividends on preferred and common stocks and reports a surplus of \$776,000. During the year it has built two new factories, paid for out of the earnings of the company, and it is about to build others.

It will be seen that the dividends distributed by the gum trust represent 90,000,000 pieces of gum. This is probably half of the gum chewed during the last fiscal year of the company. Under the circumstances, it is not possible to be exact, but on the face of the figures given it may be assumed that 180,000,000 pieces of gum were consumed by the American people in twelve months. Approximately, this is two sticks and a half of gum to each man, woman, and child. More gum than this is consumed, however, since it is not all made by a trust, but the figures given show somewhat the extent of the gum-chewing habit, and warrant the conclusion that we are indeed a nation of gum chewers.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Speaking of "Barrels."

Mr. Bryan declined to discuss candidates, saying that this was not the proper time; besides principles were the more important. His attention was called to a recent remark by Henry Watterson that the Hearst boom consisted of a big barrel with a dollar mark on one end and Mr. Bryan's picture on the other.

He remembered having read Mr. Watterson's statement and said: "For the benefit of those who really want to know, I will say that I am not supporting any man's boom for the nomination," and smilingly added: "If Mr. Watterson will inspect the barrel with which he is most familiar he will not find my photograph on either end."—Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald.

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GERMANY AND SOCIALISM

(Continued from Page 3.)

becomes more and more unbearable. The masses, as their insight into the general trend of affairs develops, become daily more and more conscious of the contrast between the exploiter and the exploited, and in all countries with an industrial development society is divided into two hostile camps, which wage war on each other with ever increasing bitterness.

"To this class-war is due the origin and continuous development of social democracy, the chief task of which is to unite these factions in an harmonious whole which they will direct to its true goal. Industrial combination on a large scale can be converted from a source of misery and oppression into a source of the greatest prosperity and of harmonious perfection when the means of production cease to be the exclusive appanage of capital and are transferred to the hands of society at large. The social revolution here indicated implies the liberation not only of the proletariat, but of mankind as a whole, which suffers from the decomposing influence of existing class antagonism whereby all social progress is crippled."

One of the most influential of the German socialists in answer to a series of questions submitted by me said in substance:

First, the general aim of socialists in Germany is the same as the aim of other socialists throughout the world—namely, the establishment of a collective commonwealth based on democratic equality.

Second, the socialists of Germany have organized a liberal party of unrivalled strength; they have educated the working classes to a very high standard of political intelligence and to a strong sense of their independence and of their social mission, as the living and progressive force in every social respect, they have promoted the organization of trade unions; and have by their incessant agitation compelled the other parties and the government to take up social and labor legislation.

Third, German socialists at present are contending for a legal eight-hour day and for the creation of a labor department in the government, with labor officers and labor chambers throughout the country. In addition to these special reforms socialists are urging various constitutional and democratic reforms in the states and municipalities—in the latter housing reforms, direct employment of labor, etc.

Fourth, there may be some difference of opinion among socialists in regard to the competitive system, but being scientific evolutionists they all agree that competition was at one time a great step in advance and acted for generations as a social lever of industrial progress, but they believe that it has many evil consequences and that it is now being outgrown by capitalistic concerns whose power to oppress has become a real danger to the community. They contend that there is not much competition left with these monopolies and that, as on the other hand, education and the sense of civic responsibility are visibly growing, and will grow more rapidly when socialism gets hold of the public mind, socialists think that the time is approaching when all monopolies must and can safely be taken over by the state or municipality as the case may be. This would not destroy all competition at once—in industries not centralized some competition might continue to exist. In this respect also all socialists are evolutionists, however they may differ as to ways and means and political methods.

Fifth, as to the line between what are called natural monopolies and ordinary industries, the question is partly answered by the preceding

paragraph. There is a general consensus of opinion that natural monopolies should, in any case, be owned by the community.

I find that even in Germany there are degrees among socialists—some like Babel and Singer emphasizing the ultimate ends of socialism, while others led by Bernstein are what might be called progressionists or opportunists—that is, they are willing to take the best they can get today and from that vantage ground press on to something better. It is certain that the socialists of Germany are securing reforms but so far they are reforms which have either already been secured in other countries or are advocated elsewhere by other parties as well as by the socialist party.

The whole question of socialism hangs upon the question. Is competition an evil or a good? If it is an evil then monopolies are right and we have only to decide whether the monopolies should be owned by the state or by private individuals. If, on the other hand, competition is a good then it should be restored where it can be restored. In the case of natural monopolies where it is impossible to exist the government would administer the monopolies not on the ground that competition is undesirable, but on the ground that in such cases it is impossible.

Those who believe that the right is sure of ultimate triumph will watch the struggle in Germany and profit by the lessons taught. I am inclined to believe that political considerations are so mingled with economic theories that it is difficult as yet to know just what proportion of the three million of socialist voters believe in "the government ownership and operation of all the means of production and distribution." The old age pension act was given as a sop to the socialists, but it strengthened rather than weakened their contentions and their party. It remains to be seen whether the new concessions which they seem likely to secure will still further augment their strength. The Germans are a studious and a thoughtful people and just now they are absorbed in the consideration of the aims and methods of the socialist movement, (mingled with a greater or less amount of governmental reform), and the world awaits their verdict with deep interest. W. J. BRYAN.

National Arbitration.

Congressman Foss' bill for the creation of a national arbitration tribunal provides that it shall consist of six members, one of whom, as member ex officio, shall be the secretary of commerce and labor. The other members are to be appointed by the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, for terms of from two to six years at salaries of \$8,000 a year.

Whenever a controversy arises concerning wages, hours of labor or conditions of employment between employer and employes, and threatening a strike or lockout, either party to the controversy may present to the tribunal a petition setting forth their claims and demands, this petition serving as a request to the tribunal to investigate all matters involved therein.

The petition, it is provided, shall also express a full agreement on the part of the parties thereto to abide by the tribunal's decision as to the questions involved in the dispute and to accept the decision as a final and binding award. It is further provided that if the parties to the controversy accept the decision and in accordance with it, the petition, testimony and entire record in relation

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to the controversy shall be kept private, or made public only with the consent of both parties concerned. The tribunal is given jurisdiction in controversies involving commerce with foreign nations or among the several states.

The tribunal is directed to publish a bulletin of its transactions. It is given power to administer oaths and to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of all books, papers and documents generally relating to the matter in hand. In cases of disobedience to the subpoena the aid of any court of the United States may be invoked. Witnesses are exempted from prosecution or penalty on account of any revelation made before the tribunal, except for perjury.

The tribunal is empowered to require the filing of a bond conditioned for the performance of its decision. In controversies of special character or difficulty the president of the United States is authorized to appoint two additional members without confirmation by the senate.—New York World.

An Enthusiastic Meeting.

Cheer after cheer greeted William Jennings Bryan, who last night addressed one of the largest audiences in the history of the Montgomery theatre. His reception was an ovation.

For an hour before the great man began his address people began pouring into the hall and very soon the house was filled to its capacity, thousands of people being turned away at the doors and some few being lucky enough to be allowed to hear the distinguished speaker from behind the stage.

Mr. Bryan took as his subject "Moral Issues."

The address was at times fiery, full of the soundest thought and truths, and had a ring about it, that sent a thrill of enthusiasm through every patriotic democrat who heard him. Bryan, the leader in two presidential campaigns, although defeated, was out stronger and more forceful than ever heard before by a Montgomery audience. The incessant cheers and repeated outbursts of applause were significant of the fact that Bryan told them the truth and they appreciated it.—Montgomery (Ala.) Journal.