

HE DON'T LIKE HARDY.

The Proposition to Have the Federal Soldiers Shoot Down the Anthracite Coal Miners Excites His Wrath.

Editor Independent: I see in Hardy's Column an article that I disagree with most emphatically. He seems to think that King George Baer ought to be able to use the state troops to suppress the strikers so that anybody that they could get to work for them, experienced or not, could fill their places; which would be very dangerous. We have a law that the men must have two years' experience. Had it not been for this safeguard the strikers could not have won, but the green hands would have caused terrible accidents, as I am informed coal mining is a most hazardous occupation. I think this Mr. Hardy must be a friend to the trusts. Every time I come across this item it riles me and I cut it out to send to you and hope to never see it again or anything like it in your paper.

I scarcely have time to vent my feelings of disapproval of this item and hate to let it go as it is. I wish to ask you if you approve the sense of the article. I would like to have your opinion on it. He puts me in mind of General Gobin's order, "Shoot to kill." I am a carpenter by trade and always wanted fair wages and I think any one of reasonable thinking capacity can tell that the coal barons take all they can get out of the men, paying them barely enough to keep soul and body together. Now since the strike is over, they will reimburse themselves for loss by charging 50 cents extra on every ton of coal. Who will do anything to make up the loss to the men who sacrificed everything so that future generations might have a fair chance to earn a livelihood? I would like to see this Mr. Hardy to ask what he meant by offering the suggestion to get out the United States army to shoot down a set of workmen whose cause was as just as was the cause of the thirteen colonies when they issued that grand document, the glorious Declaration of Independence. The heroes of that famous struggle never reaped their financial reward, but look what they left to us. And so it will be with after generations of the coal miners. After the settlement of this gigantic struggle their descendants will have some chance to get their rights. These men will never receive much personal financial benefit for their struggle, but their descendants will. It ever was so and ever will be so to the end of time.

With all my effort I feel that I have not made my meaning as clear as I would like to have it. I will repeat, that to see such an item in your paper is too much for me and so entirely at variance with the general sentiment of The Independent.

J. C. YINGST.

Harrisburg, Pa.

(The item referred to was as follows:

"There is one thing that state governments are neglecting and that is the protection of free laborers who want to work in the coal mines or anywhere else. If the state of Pennsylvania cannot do it the government should call home the standing army in the Philippines and place the men on guard at the different mines, with guns loaded with bullets, and protect the men who want to work. This is yet a pretentious free country and one man has no right to prevent another man from working at honest labor."

The editor of The Independent wishes to say to Mr. Yingst that the old readers of this paper, and especially those in this state, know Mr. Hardy, who is a very old man and long a resident here, and make allowances for the bad breaks that he sometimes makes. The Independent never stands responsible for what he, or any other of its correspondents say, but believes that it is good policy to let every man have his say as far as it is possible. Mr. Yingst will find some of about the worst economic rot ever printed in this issue of The Independent, but it will start people to thinking and keep them interested. It will do just what this item from Hardy has done, bring forth from the readers of the paper some such splendid writing as appears in Mr. Yingst's own letter. The Independent does not remember of having seen anywhere a better answer to this infernal plutocratic idea than appears in Mr. Yingst's reply.—Ed. Ind.)

News of the Week

One thing that has attracted the attention of the people of Canada and the United States during the week is the strange conduct of the inhabitants of the Russian settlements of the Dominion. These people, called Douk-

hobors, are a vegetarian religious sect, non-resident, clean, hard workers, and among whom crime is unknown. For a century they have been most horrible persecuted in Russia because they would not recognize or attend the services of the Greek Catholic church, which is the state church of that empire. By the aid of Tolstoi and some other philanthropists they were able to emigrate to Canada. There they have built many little villages and have been prosperous and happy with no one to molest or make them afraid. Now there is no good affection, principle or policy which, if carried to an extreme, will not become injurious or even a vice or a crime. Even love, the purest of affections, can be hurried to such an extreme that it is hurtful. This is what happened to Doukhobors. They were vegetarians, at first from necessity, for a long series of years while in Russia they could not earn by the hardest work more than 3 cents a day and with that sum they could not buy meat. So they lived on the cheapest grains. Then vegetarianism became an article of their religious faith. They carried this doctrine to such an extreme that lately they refused to use animals for work, saying that it was sinful to make the poor dumb beasts labor for them. Then they took a sudden idea that they should start out on a march to convert the world. They abandoned their homes, turned all their domestic animals loose on the prairies and men, women and children started off on a march, not knowing whither they were going. The women and children suffered terribly and many of the sick were carried by others on stretchers. Finally the Canadian government took a hand in the matter. The police were sent out and gathered up all the live stock that had been abandoned and other property that would go to waste and sold it and accumulated a fund of more than \$30,000. At last as the wanderers entered a town the authorities took charge of the women and children and provided for them, telling the men that they could go on. They made no resistance. The Canadian government says that it will see to it that these poor, crazed people do not suffer. When the \$30,000 are exhausted it will provide more. What the end of this religious fanaticism will be no one can foretell.

Among last Sunday's cable dispatches was this: "One of the shocking sights of London and the other big cities of England and Scotland is the number of drunken women to be seen in the streets, especially on Saturday night. As many women as men are to be seen in the saloons of the poorer quarters of the cities." Ella Wheeler Wilcox says that not long since the wife of an American millionaire whose name is constantly in the papers on both sides of the ocean went into a New York store drunk and behaved in such a beastly manner that she disgusted the proprietor and clerks alike. This worship of gold and the miserable moral wretches who have accumulated millions will in the end bring upon this and other nations as severe retributions as ever did chattel slavery.

Aside from this demoralization by drink the American woman is showing marks of degeneration in another and more dangerous way. There are three great American actresses drawing immense crowds in Chicago and New York—Mrs. Leslie Carter, Mrs. Patrick Campbell and Mrs. Fiske. The plays that they are presenting are "Du Barry," "Iris," "The Joy of Living," and "Magdala." This last play is based upon the following passage from St. John: "And the Scribes and the Pharisees brought unto Him a woman taken in adultery, and when they had set her in the midst they said unto Him: Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act." All the other plays are based upon the same theme. The actresses in defending themselves say that only those sort of plays will draw an audience that

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will fill a theatre. All this goes to show that the concentration of wealth and the worship of money is producing exactly the same effect upon the population that it did in the most disgusting period of the Roman empire and the sensuous days of Cleopatra and Marc Anthony.

Among the Mammonites of New York, money enters the most sacred and holy relations of life. The millionaires when their daughters are to be married hire beautiful women for so much a head to appear as bridesmaids. The usual fee is \$100 and a gift of the beautiful dress that is worn upon the occasion. At several recent weddings a long string of these sort of bridesmaids have appeared.

It is announced in the papers that Morgan's recent trip west was for the purpose of forming a soft coal trust. As Mark Hanna controls one of these large fields, Morgan ran his special train into Cleveland and held a several hours' conference with him. Everything in the United States will be soon trustified and Morgan and Mark Hanna will boss the world.

In the Molineux trial in New York the handwriting experts have again made a spectacle of themselves. One set swear that certain documents were written by Molineux and the other set swear just as positively that they were not. It is about time that the courts sat down on the whole crew. There has never been an important case yet where the same thing did not occur. Such testimony is utterly worthless.

Florida had the quietest election in the whole United States. There was but one ticket in the field.

A heavy snow storm was reported from western Texas last Sunday. The Texans are bound not to be forgotten.

General Dewet started from London for South Africa last Saturday. A large crowd that had assembled to see him off cheered most heartily.

What they call "ladrones" have been waging very active war in the Philippines lately and especially near to and around Manila. "The war is over."

While General Dewet has gone back to South Africa, General Botha has written a letter to Mr. Van Vliissingen of Chicago that he will visit America as was originally intended.

Arbitration seems to be in the air all over the world. The French coal operators have concluded to arbitrate with their miners. This strike was of vast proportions and threatened very disastrous results.

The Johannesburg chamber of mines has presented a formal protest to the British government against the proposed tax on them to help pay the cost of the Boer war. They brought on the war and it is really poetic justice that they should now be forced to pay the greater part of the expenses.

Smallpox has been reported from several cities and towns during the last week in Iowa and other states. That is what the doctors said would happen this fall and winter.

It is reported that there is a defection in the Catholic church in the Philippines. One riot has already occurred. This independent church movement is being watched closely by the government. The extent of the defection from the church of Rome is not known, but it is claimed that a majority of the native clergy sympathize with the movement.



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