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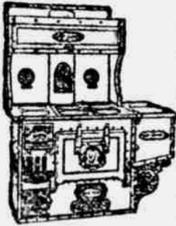
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COAL FAMINES AND STRIKES.

Among the instructions given to the anthracite arbitration commission was one to the effect that it should settle the dispute in such a way that strikes and coal famines would be prevented in the future. If there were one populist on that commission, the president would get a report from him at least, of the way to accomplish that object, but from this commission he will likely get nothing that will be of practical value on that subject. They may announce a plan to keep things quiet for three years, or until after the next presidential election, but no more. The populist would tell the president that the way to prevent strikes and famines would be to take over the railroads under government ownership. With several roads running into the coal fields, carrying coal at the same rates for all alike, the barons would find that their power was gone. If they oppressed their workingmen so as to force a strike, the independent miners would double their force of miners and shove out coal in such amounts that Baer and his Christian brethren would soon get very tired. The railroads can make or ruin any industry anywhere, and if they were in the hands of the government, there would be no necessity of calling on Morgan to settle strikes.

INSANE, PRISONERS AND DEAD

The Associated press sent the following dispatch from San Francisco last week:

"The transport Sheridan arrived in port early today, twenty-five days from Manila, via Nagasaki. She has on board 1,011 soldiers including six troops of the Ninth cavalry, consisting of 520 men, 285 casuals, 134 sick, eight prisoners and five insane men. She also brought the bodies of seventeen dead soldiers."

A pretty piece of business this imperialism is. Our boys still come back from the land of conquest when their terms of service expire, but many of them come as insane, prisoners, or dead. What do we get for this suffering, insanity, crime and death? What man who reads this can honestly say that he has ever received any benefit from all the sacrifices of life that have been made in the Philippines? Have these sacrifices been made in an altruistic mission for the benefit of the Filipinos? If so, what benefit have they received? Three hundred thousand of their people have been slain, their towns and villages burned, one hundred thousand more have died from cholera, a rinderpest has destroyed their beasts of burden, rice famines have caused the most horrible suffering and the awful demoralization that always follows in the wake of war and the quartering of foreign troops among another race rests like the blackness of night over the land. That is what the Filipinos have received from imperialism. The thing is a curse.

THAT FIFTY-CENT DOLLAR.

The above was one of the famous catch phrases of the last national campaign and it cannot be doubted that among the mullet head mobs it was a vote catcher. In every other paragraph in the plutocratic papers one was almost sure to find it. With flashing eyes, flushed face and swinging arms the spell-binder shouted it from every rostrum that he mounted. Republican campaign literature was burdened with it, and by its use the plutocrats got enough of the unthinking multitudes to vote their ticket to keep them in power and firmly establish the trusts.

But now after six years what is the result? What about that "fifty-cent dollar?" Of course every man knows that a dollar is not a dollar at all that has only fifty cents in it, for it takes 100 cents to make any kind of a dollar. The only thing that the phrase could mean was that they wanted a dollar that would buy twice as much as the one they were attacking. That is the kind of a dollar they all advo-

cated. They expressed as much contempt for "cheap money" as they did for that horrible "fifty-cent dollar." They did not have sense enough to express themselves in good plain English, but they declared that they wanted "good money," "sound money," "money that was good in Europe," and all that kind of thing. If any one could make any sense out of their talk at all, what they wanted was dear money, money that would be of double the purchasing power of that which we then had. They said they wanted the "gold standard" and that, if it meant anything, meant that we should have no legal tender money except gold, save possibly what was necessary for small change. A dollar about that time—a silver dollar or any other kind—would buy ten bushels of corn. Now it will buy only about two bushels.

What sort of a dollar, then, have the republicans really given us? In relation to corn it is about a ten-cent dollar, but taken all together a dollar now will buy about half as much as it would then. So they have made the dollars of 1896 really and permanently "fifty-cent dollars." There isn't any other kind to be had under the rule of this administration. And now these same spell-binders and plutocratic editors say: "Look at the prosperity!"

This is the day of triumph for the "fifty-cent dollar." It is another demonstration of the aphorism: "Truth crushed to earth will rise again. The eternal years of God are hers." The "fifty-cent dollars" has brought prosperity and given work to the unemployed.

A STRANGE PHRASE.

The Independent is no longer surprised that the Boston critics got after the president. Anybody would be excused for objecting to a sentence like the following in his Thanksgiving proclamation:

"Each has had to bear its peculiar burdens, each to face its special crises, and each has known years of grim trial, when the country was menaced by malice, domestic or foreign levy, when the hand of the Lord was heavy upon it in drought or flood or pestilence, when in bodily distress and anguish of soul it paid the penalty of folly and a forward heart."

"Domestic or foreign levy" is not Bostonese, English or anything else that anybody ever heard of before. Aside from that unfortunate phrase, the proclamation is a model for such documents.

MOTHER JONES.

According to the statements in many of the labor papers, it was not John Mitchell, but Mother Jones who saved the strike at the most critical period. A large number of priests and preachers had been sent among them by the Godly Baer, every one of whom advised the miners to give up the strike and they were on the point of doing so when Mother Jones appeared and made an address. The United Mine Workers' Journal, in describing the effect of that speech, says:

"Her appeal made every fiber of their beings thrill with emotion—she made their hearts' blood leap and throb. She made men sob and women shriek—old men, bent and bowed with the slavish toil, sprang to their feet like school boys, waved aloft their horny hands and uttered a father's curse on those who would yield. Young wives with infants in arms, with disheveled hair, danced and screamed defiance to the power of the corporation." No doubt Mother Jones saved the day, but John Mitchell sent for her, called the meeting and had her appear at just the right time.

The following passages from the scriptures should be railed up over the state house entrance: "In those days there were no passes."—Juges III, 28; and "Though they roar, yet they shall not pass."—Jeremiah, V, 22. Then when any one of them travels it may be recorded: "He paid his fare and went."—I, 3.

THEY ARE HELPLESS.

About a year ago the retail butchers in New York made a great outcry and furor over the exactions of the meat trust. They formed an organization to fight the trust just as the retail tobacco dealers are doing now. All their efforts have come to nothing. A New York daily says:

"The better grades of meat are already 3 cents higher uniformly than they were last year at this time. The housekeeper who is disposed to get the best pays anywhere from 25 to 30 cents a pound for sirloin steaks. Other meats are high in comparison. Pork is as high as 22 cents in most of the shops and ham brings 20 cents a pound. Chicken is high also, the Philadelphia kind, suitable for roasting, bringing as high as 30 cents a pound."

The spell-binders talked a great deal during the campaign about what the administration had done to the meat trust, but the result of it all is that meat is three cents a pound higher in New York than it was a year ago. That is the way Teddy fights the trusts and the trusts like it better than anything that ever struck them before.

It will be seen that before the power of these trusts the people are perfectly helpless. The railroads can take all the traffic will bear and the trusts can extort to the ability of the people to pay. Until the government itself is in the hands of those who are opposed to the trusts and will enforce what statutes there are on the books and enact any others that are needful to suppress them, the people will have to suffer.

A Lincoln retail tobacco dealer says that it is futile for the small fry to try to fight the trust. If they start out selling other than trust goods, shops will be started all over the city and sell tobacco for less than cost and the little fellows couldn't stand that for a month. Besides that the trust makes all the plug tobacco and none can be got elsewhere until a factory is built and another crop is raised. He says he's laid down and the rest of them will make a losing fight. In his opinion nothing short of half a million soldiers and the government at Washington behind them can ever down the trusts. The said dealer has always been a republican, but lately he has changed his politics.