

WHEN LABOR IS WRONG

No man denies that labor unions sometimes commit most abominable acts of tyranny. There is a case in New York where a member of a union was expelled for serving in the militia. The union then notified the employer that if the man was not discharged, all the men of that craft in the city would quit work and the man was discharged. That was as bad an act as was ever committed by a corporation in the days when the universal black list was resorted to, to down labor organizations.

But when a labor organization does a thing of this sort it is heralded all over the country in Associated press dispatches and plutocratic editors write columns about it. Every man, woman and child in the United States is informed of it and the danger of the tyranny of labor organizations is made the subject of thought for weeks by the whole population. On the other hand when combined capital does a thing much more tyrannical, the great dailies and the great editors have nothing to say on the subject, or in a rare case when they do, it is an article to mollify and appease the public, instead of trying to excite its rage. It is a pity that in some cases, though they seldom occur, that a labor union will be so short-sighted as to commit such deeds and discourage fair-minded men who wish to sympathize with the efforts that the organizations are making to improve the lot of the world's toilers.

It may be here remarked that the attitude of some labor unions toward the militia is entirely wrong. A citizen soldiery is necessary for the preservation of liberty, law and order. What laboring men should do is to vote together, take charge of the government and command the militia themselves. That is what the working people of New Zealand did.

THE STEEL TRUST

The Independent remarked some time ago that Morgan was not residing on Easy street just at present. The wise ones in the steel trust are getting out just as fast as they can. Five of the principal officials have withdrawn within the last few days. One of them is Percival Roberts, who was president of the American Bridge company before its absorption in the big corporation, and who is accounted one of the longest-headed steel men in the country. Another is Frank J. Hearne, who was president of the National Tube company, also at present a constituent concern in the trust. Two others are the controller, Edward Shearson, and First Vice President James Gayley. The best posted men also declare that Frick, Carnegie's old partner, has unloaded and is no longer a holder of steel stock. He wanted to get out so badly that he was one of the sellers of steel stock which caused the big slump. There are things brewing that make some of the trust promoters feel "mighty blue."

Does the possession of the most millions give the most happiness? Three sets of detectives constantly dog the footsteps of J. Pierpont Morgan—one paid by himself, one by the insurance companies and one employed by those whose financial interests are opposed to his. Three daily reports are made by these three sets of detectives, and Morgan lives constantly under the searching eyes of these men who follow him by day and watch him by night. Is a condition like that the acme of human happiness? As for this writer, he would prefer a lodge in some vast wilderness, to such a state of existence.

In the chaos that resulted from the election there is one thing that publishers all over the land will rejoice over and that is that Loud, California Loud, general express agent Loud, the inaffable, unspeakable Loud, has been defeated and he will no more as chair-

man of the committee on postoffices introduce bills into congress, report them favorably from his committee and urge their passage on the floor in the interest of express companies and to kill off the weekly newspapers. For all of which let all good men everywhere continue for six months to give thanks.

The highest financial authorities say that Morgan did not lose less than \$300,000,000 in that flurry on Wall street. They give him credit for standing by his guns, while five or six of his partners got out from under in a hurry. It is the opinion of The Independent that when the great "bust up" comes, that Morgan will stand in the same relation to it that the Barings did to the break down in 1893.

PROUT COULD DO IT

Some inquisitive people would like to know why Governor Savage has not yet found time to take that lid off Joe Bartley's cigar box. —Omaha Bee.

Attorney General Prout could take the lid off that cigar box better than any man in the state—if he had the ability and inclination to do so. There is a big judgment hanging over Joe Bartley which has not been cancelled. Why does not the attorney general take steps to enforce collection? It is his sworn duty to do so. Have an execution issued against Bartley. Doubtless it would be returned unsatisfied—but what of that? Joe seems to have plenty of money to bet on elections. Why not bring some suit in equity—a sort of "bill of discovery"—and find out where Joe has hid his wealth, or, if he hasn't it, what he did with it?

THE VANGUARD

Volume 1, No. 1, of the Vanguard, Green Bay, Wis., lies on the editor's desk. This publication—a 32-page magazine—is edited by J. M. A. Spence and is devoted "to the best things in life and literature," although three movements are given special attention: Rational religion, scientific socialism, and practical psychology. An excellent likeness of Edward Everett Hale adorns the first page. The Vanguard is printed on good book paper and presents a neat appearance typographically; its contents will be especially pleasing to those who are thinking the New Thought. Monthly, 10 cents a copy; three annual subscriptions for a dollar.

"I am a socialist, if you will permit me define the term 'socialism,'" remarked Judge Foster of Kansas. And there lies some of the trouble between the DeLeon socialists and the Debsites. Each faction insists on defining the term in its own way. As an abstract proposition with socialism or collectivism at the one extreme and ideal anarchy or individualism on the other, undoubtedly the trend of modern thought is toward socialism. But this does not mean that individualism is to be wholly wiped out. It is simply a swing of the pendulum caused by the fact that since the days of Adam Smith new factors in production have arisen that, treated from the "let alone" idea, have caused individualism to wane. Because private ownership of a home, a farm, a factory, was considered—and was—a good thing, it was believed that private ownership of a railroad would be equally good. Now it is evident that private ownership of railroads is wrong in principle—and, of course, the tendency is to apply the idea to other private ownership.

Senator Morgan was one of those who before the election expressed grave doubt whether it would be of interest to the party for the democracy to control the next house, and since the election he has announced that the result "was very much of encouragement to the party." Now let the republicans go to work and continue "this era of prosperity." That they are somewhat scarey about their ability to do it is shown by the many statements lately made in the big dailies. One of them says: "Tis not in parties to command prosperity. The immutable laws of trade are bound to work their will, whether congress is of one political complexion or another." Even the president remarked to the New York chamber of commerce that "the continuance of prosperity depends on sanity and common sense." All of which is very different sort of talk from what we heard from the

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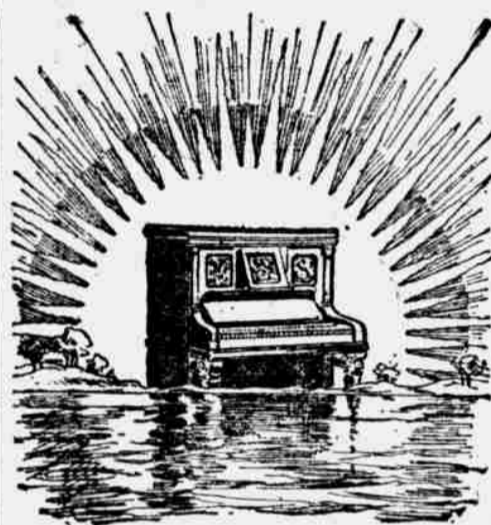
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republican spell-binders during the campaign. Even Ross Hammond has gone so far as to acknowledge that the republican party does not make the rain fall.

Two ladies have written to the editor to say that he was badly mistaken in his criticism of President Roosevelt's Thanksgiving proclamation. They say that the phrase criticised is Shakespearean and from the play of Macbeth. That being so, it should have been in quotation marks. The phrase was archaic and, as applied to modern times, meaningless, unless he was referring to a levy of troops to go and fight in some foreign country. Going in for imperialism, as this nation has, perhaps it was appropriate to thank God that there had been no "foreign levy." As the phrase stood not one man in ten thousand would gather any meaning from it. If it had been in quotation marks, most men would have applied it to other nations or other times. A Thanksgiving proclamation, of all public documents, should be written in plain, every-day English that every reader would understand.

In St. Louis the other day Edward Butler, a blacksmith, was sentenced to the penitentiary for three years for attempted bribery. This fact has been a theme for Associated press dispatches and long editorials for several days.

Why do all the people from Maine to Oregon take an interest in the conviction of this blacksmith? Is it because there is a doubt of his guilt? Were there any extraordinary features about the trial that attracted general attention? Not at all. It is simply because this blacksmith was worth \$1,000,000. Why should the conviction of a man worth \$1,000,000 cause all the world to wonder? Because our courts and criminal procedure have become so corrupt that the conviction of a man worth that sum of money has been thought to be an impossibility, and the conviction of a rich man, though there are as many criminals among them as among the poor, has astonished the nation. The fact tells a shameful tale.

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