

STRIKES ARE USELESS

There has been a craze for strikes among the workmen. At first the strikers won, but of late many have failed. The strike of the Fall River mill workers has failed and all the hands have gone back to work at the old rate after losing over a million of dollars in wages. If the mania for strikes continues it will be the ruin of the trade unions in this country. Tens of thousands of men have rushed into the unions who have no conception of the principles underlying them and grievous things have been done by the votes of these new members.

Of late the leaders of brains among the wage-workers have been giving the unions some very sound advice, but many of the unions failed to heed it. The fact should be pressed home to these wage-workers that strikes, even if successful, settle nothing. If the rate of wages is raised, the cost of living increases at a greater ratio and the burden comes right back upon the wage-workers themselves. Nothing is gained.

If the condition of the wage-workers is made permanently better it must be by some other method than a raise in wages. These men must take an interest in government. They must think out some plan for the more equitable distribution of wealth. They must vote for those men who will insist on passing such laws as will destroy special privileges. The bankers, the railroads, the manufacturers and every division of the wealthy classes have accumulated their wealth by special privileges. Before the great franchises were given away and the other special privileges were granted, there were no strikes and no labor unions. The granting of these special privileges made labor unions a necessity. The conditions of labor will never be better until the laborer learns to vote for his own interest instead of the interest of the classes who despoil him of the wealth that he creates. That is what labor unions must learn. Let them stop all the efforts to prevent an increase of production and instead thereof bend every effort to increase production. Then see to it that the wealth that is produced is equitably distributed.

POPULISTS AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

From the very beginning the populists have taken the position that there were some things in any civilized community that must be owned in common and some things that must be the private property of the individual. The streets of a city and the roads in the country must be held in collective ownership. The personal belongings of every individual must be private property. There is no man of sound mind who will deny this general proposition. When it comes to considering what other things should be owned in common and what by individuals, the differences arise. The socialists claim that all means of production and distribution should be owned in common and that takes in all manner of property. The populists advocate the public ownership of all those things in which the public as a whole is directly interested. That includes the telegraphs, telephones, railways, postoffice system and the educational system. Further than that in public ownership the populists for the present refuse to go.

LOW DOWN POLITICS

The populists have had no criticism to make of the agricultural department and until lately it has not been used as a political machine to advance the interests of the republican party. There is no more disreputable thing than using that department and the literature that is paid for by all the people than to make its bulletins and reports a vehicle for the advancement and defense of the most disreputable doctrines of plutocracy and imperialism. That was what was done in the June crop report "published by the

authority of the secretary of agriculture." In that "crop report" there is published a statement concerning the Philippines which has no place in such an official document and is as partisan as anything that ever appeared in the republican press of this country as the following extracts will show:

"The people (of the Philippines) almost universally are favorable to American occupation and government; they are more prosperous and contented under our honest and equitable administration of their affairs than they have ever been before."

After all the official reports and after the appropriation of \$3,000,000 to keep them from actual starvation, to publish such a statement as that in the official crop report, is about as low down politics as was ever discovered. But there are other statements just as absurd. One of them is this:

"I consider the climate ideal the country wholly attractive and the people kindly and well disposed, though it cannot be denied that centuries of oppression have developed traits of hypocrisy and treachery that time alone can eradicate."

The real animus of this is shown in another paragraph which is as follows:

"This is a country of wonderful possibilities. Labor is cheap and cost of production in every direction low; and, while the native laborer is apt to be improvident, there are thousands of Chinese here who can be employed at very low wages and who make the best workmen as well as the most faithful. This virgin field will not remain virgin very long; the opportunities are too great and favorable results too certain to be neglected."

That fellow has a scheme of exploitation and the agricultural department is used to do his advertising for him.

SOMETHING ASTONISHING

One of the signs of the times that indicate a coming revolt against the universal rascality by which fortunes are accumulated is that even the Wall Street Journal has raised the question as to morality of certain transactions that have been very common during this reign of Mammon. The directors of a railroad determine to purchase the stock of another railroad and by that means consolidate the two roads. After this action is taken these directors go out individually and buy the stock of the road to be purchased for themselves at 60 to 70 cents on the dollar. Then they make the announcement that the corporation that they are trustees for as directors will buy the stock of that road and it goes to over 100. The directors then sell the stock which they have privately purchased to their own company at a profit from 30 to 40 per cent and put the cash in their own pockets. The Wall Street Journal has advanced far enough to question the morality of that kind of stealing, which is a very great advance. Such tricks as that have been the common thing in Wall street and this is the first time that the question of "morality" was ever raised. "Morality" has been an unknown thing in Wall street and the fact that some one has taken a thought on the subject there is simply astonishing.

VICTORY IS NIGH

For some time The Independent has been saying that a revolt against the worship of money was near at hand. The signs continue to multiply. Even the Chicago Tribune has at last editorially repeated what this paper has been saying for years and when The Independent was saying it the Tribune was engaged in denouncing all such papers as this as anarchists and socialists. At that time the "captains of industry" were the idols of the Tribune which it worshiped and fawned upon. Now it says:

"The object of all chevaliers

HAYDEN'S Special Mail Order Clothing Sale

Write for Samples or Send Your Order. Every Garment Guaranteed Satisfactory or Your Money Back

Special \$5.00 Suit Coat and Vest \$3.75 Pants not sold separate

Men's Suits made from all wool worsteds will be sold by Hayden Bros. for \$5.00. All well made and have good linings and trimmings. They're put together to stay together; and come in regular sizes also stout and slim cuts, made in four button cutaway sack style. In all sizes from 34 to 46.

Your home merchant will tell you that it is cheap at \$8.00. If you don't like them after you get them we want you to send them back to us and we will refund your money. This applies to anything we sell as well as these suits.

Pure Worsted Four-Button Sack Suit \$9.00

Coat and Vest, \$7.00. Pants not sold separate.

Men's fine pure worsted suits in a neat stripe and cut in the very latest styles, four button cutaway sack.

This material is made from pure long worsted yarn, will probably wear longer and give as much satisfaction as any cloth that you can procure no matter what price you pay. The coat is made with hand padded shoulders, hair cloth fronts which keeps coat in perfect shape; also lined with a good serge lining and well tailored throughout. Comes in sizes from 34 to 46, regulars.

NEW GROCERY LIST NOW READY FREE FOR THE ASKING

HAYDEN BROS. Wholesale Supply House Omaha, Neb.

d'industrie is to get hold, by fair promises and unfair dealing, of wealth which others have created. The big ones manage to do it without coming in conflict with the law. The little ones are scooped up in the net and dumped into the bait box."

What a mighty change is here! The Independent is no longer "a voice crying in the wilderness" as it was for so many years. A great mass of people, and among them some of those who were then demanding the heads of all modern John the Baptists, are beginning to preach the same gospel that The Independent has been preaching all the time. So it says to the true and tried who have come all the way over the trail: "Cheer up. The day of victory draws nigh."

It has even occurred to the Tribune that all the syndicates put together have not created one dollar of wealth. The wealth was created by those who toil and the Morgan syndicates have simply been engaged in gathering it to themselves. It even intimates that Morgan and all like him are nothing but common liars, who by means of lying have been engaged in robbing the people. Listen to it:

"The unscrupulous person who takes a dozen or more plants, some of them valuable and some worthless, consolidates them, and issues against them bonds and preferred and common stock whose face value is from three to ten times the value of the plants and offers his securities to the public with assurances that they are worth their face, knows they are not and never will be."

But a few months ago this class of individuals, in the opinion of the Tribune, were "great captains of industry" whose brains were making this nation a world power, and it held them up as models for the youth of the land to pattern after. What has happened? The Tribune sees the end approaching.

RAILROADS AND MADDEN

A great many things may result from the postoffice investigations at Washington not at all contemplated when the thing began. The populists have been continually calling attention to the excessive rates paid to the railroads for carrying the mails. The fact that the enormous sum of \$60,533,217 was paid to the railroads dur-

ing the year 1902 for carrying the mail is being commented upon even in some of the great dailies. It is a fact known to all newspaper men that newspapers are carried by the express companies on the same trains and often in the very same cars for one-half cent per pound when the government gets one cent and yet that is the class of matter the Madden and Loud gang claim produces the whole of the deficit. If the express companies can carry newspapers for a half cent per pound and make a profit, it should follow that the government could carry them at a cent a pound and not make a deficit, providing that the same rate was charged for their transportation that the express companies pay.

The truth which the great dailies have long refused to publish is that the railroads have so dominated the republican party that it has paid to them three or four times as much as the service was worth and much more than the roads charge private corporations for the same service.

The Independent in the last few years has many times called attention to the exorbitant amounts paid to the railroads and perhaps that is one of the reasons why Madden has let loose the dogs of war upon it so often. If the facts which this paper has published had not been suppressed by the dailies, the wrong would have been righted long ago. The correspondents of those papers in Washington have known all about it for the editor of The Independent has seen them present when the facts of the excessive charges of the railroads were laid before committees of the senate and house. He knows that some of these correspondents did report the testimony given and sent it to their papers and he knows that it never appeared in print. Such papers as that would never be troubled by Madden if they should mail a half million extra copies at pound rates.

