

CHILD WORKERS

According to census figures just published, every fifth child in the country between the ages of 10 and 15 years is a breadwinner. Of these juvenile wage-earners every third child is a girl. There are 1,750,178 children regularly employed. This is an increase of 33 1-3 per cent in ten years. Alabama has the highest percentage of child labor, finding work for 27.2 per cent of her children, while Massachusetts has the lowest, having only 0.5 per cent of her juvenile population at work.

Victor Hugo said: "He that sins against a child sins against God." Think of it. One out of every five children of the tender age of from ten to fifteen years is a breadwinner. And then think further. One out of every three of these little children is a girl. Think of it, mothers and fathers of this land. And then think still further. These figures show an increase in the number of these little toilers for the past ten years of 33 1-3 per cent—one third more children of these tender years pushed out into the world to become "breadwinners" than we had in the preceding ten years. And of these ten years, mind you, eight have been years of "unexampled prosperity," "full dinner pail," "McKinley booms," "standing pat," "letting well enough alone," etc. Well enough, indeed, with these appalling figures confronting us. These figures say that in Alabama more than one out of every four (27.2 per cent) of her children of this age are at work, while in Massachusetts one out of every two hundred (0.5 per cent) of her children of this age are toiling. But the figures do not say that in Massachusetts largely live the kings who own the cotton mills of the southland where these little children's lives are being confiscated to mammon. They do not say that while these little infants are earning dividends for idlers in the north these idlers with pious faces sit in the pews of fashionable churches, and plead for contributions from these same little children to send to the "little heathen children, who know not Christ." And while the little ones in the orient "learn of Christ," through the sweat of the little faces of our own balmy southland, who do know him, our own little ones starve. Think of the playtime of these little ones stolen away; from home and tender influences divorced; education denied; health broken, and life crushed out, and then say that you tremble not for your country. Nations can no sooner violate the laws of God with impunity than can a single man. The avenging sword will be swift and sure, for "he that sins against a child sins against God."

The United States government charges 3,000 per cent more for carrying a package through the postoffice from New York to Brooklyn than the German government does for carrying the same package to the remotest part of Hungary, and the German government does it not at a loss but at a profit. The enormous charges of the United States government make it possible for the privately owned express companies to get all the business and pile up enormous fortunes for the privileged few. That is the result of government by corporations for corporation and a condition that the people's party was organized to overthrow.

A SCIENTIFIC RAMPAGE

John Brislin Walker has somewhere inhaled the same idea as Premier Balfour. He says: "Because we have had a false conception of matter the world has been obliged to grope its way forward." As far as one educated in the theories of the past can understand, to these gentlemen, matter is electricity, and the electricity is not matter at all. Then they say that electricity is not a form of energy, electricity can not be manufactured, matter is composed of electricity and nothing else. That seems to be about the same kind of a mix-up of ideas as occurs in a Christian Science meeting when some member gets up and describes a disease that any one will immediately recognize as typhoid, pneumonia, or dyspepsia, tell how he was cured within a few hours, and then declare that it was all a lie, a mortal error, an illusion, a "claim," that there is no substance in matter and no such thing as disease at all. All that we can do, if we know the man and know him to be of good character and always truthful, is to say we believe that you were sick and that you were in some way suddenly cured, but it is impossible for us to harmonize such contradictory statements—that is—that you were sick and not sick both at the same instant of time.

Sir Oliver Lodge, F. R. S., seems to have got into the same boat, but he tries to explain matters. He says: "If the atoms of a substance are such that they possess twenty-three times as

many electrons as hydrogen gas has, we call it sodium. If each atom has 200 times as many as hydrogen, we call it lead or quicksilver. If it has considerably more than that, it begins to be radio active. Matter then appears to be composed of positive and negative electricity and nothing else."

But electricity is invisible. In vibration it produces light, but light is not electricity. Matter is visible. There is something that we see. Is sight an illusion—a mortal error? Have all the scientists gone on a hysterical rampage?

THE BUTCHERS' STRIKE ENDED

The big strike of the packing trades has finally been declared off, in order to preserve the unions intact, as stated by President Donnelly. Mr. Donnelly stated that his men had lost the fight. Why did they lose the fight? They lost it because thousands of other hungry men were on the outside waiting for them to quit, so the hungry ones could get a chance. By why was it that there were thousands on the outside? Because, and only because, unjust economic conditions have made it possible for monopoly interests to lock up the resources of nature and prevent all men from applying their labor to mother earth for the purpose of satisfying their wants. Yet there are some rascally self-constituted leaders among organized labor, apparently in the employ of labor's foes, that use their whole effort to discourage and prevent the discussion of economic questions in unions. But until the unions do take up these questions and understand them, and then fight for simple justice at the ballot box, strikes will occur and then, after the men have lost millions in wages, it will be declared off, to save the union. Mr. Donnelly began to see the truth, and he was right in advising a cessation of the struggle. Let us hope that he will see a little further now, and encourage his men to strike where striking counts.

It is estimated that this strike cost the men \$5,000,000 in wages alone, and that the loss to the packers was \$7,000,000 in loss of business. In addition to this tremendous loss, we must consider the loss to the public in the increased price of packers' products. Half of this sum, if expended to educate the stupid asses of the nation against voting for their masters' nefarious economic schemes, would have accomplished ten thousand times more good for all concerned than this costly strike.

It seems that Dr. Dubois, professor of neurology in the university of Berne, has been running up against electrons, or some such thing as well as Sir Oliver Lodge and Balfour. Dr. Dubois says that "a complete cure can take place only through a change in mentality." They call this "psychotherapeutic treatment." This sort of thing is more distracting than politics. When we lay down to sleep and begin thinking over some of the new scientific theories, we can easily conjure up a world that does exist and does not exist both at the same time. We can say over and over again, "Matter is electricity, electricity is not matter," until we go to sleep.

HAVING CONVICTIONS

Roosevelt in his letter of acceptance says: "A party which, with facile ease, changes all its convictions before election can not be trusted to adhere with tenacity to any principle after election. A party fit to govern must have convictions."

That is brought as an accusation against the democrats and is well founded. But it applies with equal force to the republican party. If the republicans ever had convictions upon any subject except that of the tariff, it should be pointed out. It started out with quoting part of the declaration of independence in its first platform. It has completely reversed its "convictions," if it ever had any on that subject, and instead of insisting that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the people, it has adopted the very opposite policy and defends a government by force.

On the money question it made as quick and "facile" a change as the democratic party has done. The most logical and eloquent speeches ever made in congress for bimetalism were made by William McKinley and he made a change with such "facile ease" that Mark Hanna was able to elect the said McKinley president of the United States because he was a single gold standard man.

The republican party will make an anti-trust campaign, exhibit its trust buster as the great friend of the people and when the campaign is over, it will make a change "with facile ease" and the trusts will not be disturbed. In this regard the two old parties are as twin-like as in every thing else.

The Month of August

Is generally considered one of the dullest months of the year, but in the case of the

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it proved to be the best month since its organization, with two exceptions.

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JAILS WITHOUT OCCUPANTS

Dixon county, Nebraska, built a jail a year or two ago, but it has never had an occupant. Compare that sort of a community with the police courts of our cities crowded every day with scores of unfortunates. Reflect that they are all human beings, all, or nearly all of the same race and then try to think out what causes the difference. Is it because in the country there is always an opportunity to get work? Is it because that opportunity to work always provides food and clothing and none ever go hungry? Yet the wealth per capita in the country is insignificant when compared with the city. Wherever there are millionaires, there are always paupers and criminals in large numbers. Where wealth is more evenly distributed, even though there may not be so much of it, there are no paupers and few criminals. There are many county farms in the west that never had a permanent occupant. The concentration of wealth in few hands brings with it evils and suffering beyond calculation. To fight that accumulation the people's party enters the arena. It would seem that every lover of his country should be in its ranks. A nation filled with criminals and paupers is a weak nation, no matter what its wealth may be. Wealth does not make a nation great. It is free, independent men, though they

may be poor. There is something greater and more powerful than dollars.

W. W. Astor of London made visit to New York the other day. No one paid any attention to him on the steamer or after he landed except a newspaper reporter to whom Astor imparted the information that he was continually adding to his real estate in that city. That is the kind of a man the pops would like to get after. He takes out of the people of New York every year several millions of dollars for which he gives no return. It goes to England to be spent there, except what is used to increase his holdings in New York city, and most of it comes from the poor. No wonder that there are paupers in New York by the tens of thousands. Astor repudiated America and became a British subject several years ago.

SOME BIG LYING

It always will be a wonder to honest men how republican editors can have the face to lie after the manner in which they are so prone to do. Now here is the Evening News of Lincoln which says:

"When the fusionists were in power times were hard and fear of political defeat compelled the party leaders to keep appropriations down. It did not,