

to last. But the sharpest business eye may sometimes be blind to the signs of the times.

Another ground for hope, in the contest between any ring of capitalists and

**Hope.** the whole country, is based on the simple fact that capitalists soon die, while the country lives. Not often are the heirs in whose behalf the trust magnate labors capable of carrying on his work. When he drops out, therefore, his capital and his skill usually go in different directions, and the people profit by the change. When the Rockefellers and the Havemeyers and the iron kings pass off the stage, will they leave successors as formidable? Furthermore, there is a disposition on the part of owners to popularize their stocks, of making friends and conciliating opponents, which helps to extend ownership over a wider circle. Associated with this is a movement which has already made some headway and is destined to make more—to admit employees to ownership. The trial of this plan made by the Illinois Central railway is said to be very successful. The establishment of a common interest between workman and capitalist may easily prove a shrewd policy on the part of that corporation—which has already suffered from a bad strike—and may thus set an example which will be widely followed. This does not exhaust the field of possibilities, looking to natural remedies for the trust evil; it only tends to show that our case is not hopeless, if our legislative work against it is directed at the two vital points, monopoly and secrecy.

A discussion of the combinations called trusts must needs show much that is vicious in them, yet it hardly

**Evil and Good.** seems fair to conclude it without calling attention to things that are more vicious, more dangerous, and more important to guard our country against.

If our monetary perplexities are going to lead us into paying debts with false coin, or offering anything less than a hundred cents on the dollar in the recognized money of the world as an equivalent for what we have promised, then we are incurring a far worse peril than any to which the mightiest trust could subject us. Better submit to extortion, if we must, than to a general corruption. Better be wounded than introduce a poison into our blood; for a sound currency is the life-blood of the body politic.

Again, if the successful war we have just finished shall lead us to waste our

**War.** strength, our substance and our national character in further military preparations; if the increase in our army and navy appropriations, from forty to two hundred and forty million dollars in a single year, is something to be persevered in and not promptly reversed; if we are to make any more such bar-

gains as that which bought us the Philippines, and with them a war on which we are spending, directly and indirectly, about as much every day as we have ever gained from their commerce in a year; then we must look on this awakening of the military fever among us, and not on the trusts, as our more dangerous enemy.

Only the blindest of enthusiasts or wildest of lunatics could overlook

**Burdens.** the crushing burdens under which the countries of Europe are now ground down by their military establishments, and rush headlong to thrust their own necks under the same yoke. A very few years ago, both this country and Britain paid their way and steadily reduced their indebtedness; neither does so now. Our sinking fund is neglected, and our kin beyond the sea, with ever-increasing outlays, are in no better case.

All continental nations are perpetually piling up heavier debts; Germany about **Debts.** twenty million a year, Italy a little more, Austria-Hungary more yet and Russia still more—while for twenty years past the annual deficit of France has been about a hundred million dollars. Spain is bankrupt; Portugal, Greece, and the South American republics are following the same sad example; and even Japan is signaling her coveted admission to the roll of military states by accumulating a war debt. There is no relief in sight unless disarmament is possible.

At this very time across the Atlantic a handful of statesmen, assembled at

**Peace.** the call of the mightiest of Europe's war potentates, are writing a new page in the world's history. That gathering, like ours here, seeks to benefit not only its own narrow circle, but all men for all time. In a strict business view, the congress at The Hague ranks as the most important move ever made; for no waste of power or treasure calls so loudly for remedy as that of war—no reform could be more vital than replacing general havoc and destruction by general exchange of benefits. Commerce is the great missionary of today, which, as Garfield told us, "links all mankind in one common brotherhood of mutual dependence and interest." Give to it the wealth now wasted on armaments, put universal arbitration in place of the brute's appeal to force, and the most perplexing economic problem of the time will be solved. That this solution is coming every day's cable dispatches assure us. That our own loved country is taking an honorably prominent part in bringing it about, is most welcome intelligence to the true patriot. And the hope cannot fail us that the country will soon escape the dangers, not only of warlike entanglements, but of agitation

for a clipped coinage and of oppression by the machinations of organized monopoly.

#### THE CIVIL SERVICE ORDER.

The administration has been in office about twenty-seven months, and during all of that period, until the present, the president has not seen fit to issue an order depriving 4,000 employees of the protection of the civil service law. At no time was there in operation any law or rule restraining heads of departments from dismissing from office subordinates who proved incompetent, inattentive, or otherwise unworthy of retention in place. We may, therefore, confidently assume that the 4,000 employees affected by the new order have performed their duties satisfactorily to their superiors and with fidelity to the government, and that the protection of the merit system is withdrawn from them solely because their places are required for purposes of patronage.—Philadelphia Ledger (rep.)

The order is a compromise for the sake of expediency, and, like most such compromises, will offend far more than it will placate. It will stir up the criticism of the friends of civil service reform, and while it will anger the spoilsmen because it is not up to the measure of their greed, will encourage them to organize for another attack on the merit system. It is a sop to Cerberus; a small sop to be sure, and Cerberus is very hungry. The way to kill spoilsism is not to throw it small sops; it is to give it nothing whatever.—Boston Transcript (rep.)

Some of the positions which are taken out of the classified service should never have been included within it, but by far the greater number of them should have been permitted to remain where they were placed, even if we must impugn both Mr. Cleveland's intelligence and his good faith in the process by which they were placed there. Unless civil service reform is to be and to remain a farce, a beginning had to be made; and, human nature being just what it is, there is little chance or hope of such beginning affording a shining example of either intelligence or good faith.—Philadelphia Telegraph (rep.)

It is a reversion in the direction of the spoils system. It constitutes an encouragement to the spoilsmen in congress to believe that if they can pass a repeal of the civil service laws the president would not interpose his veto. The explanation offered, namely, that the order was issued to meet the exigencies of the moment in Ohio politics, is the worst feature about it. The distribution of patronage for purely political and partisan purposes is no new thing in this country, but it is an astounding development to have the president use his power to create spoils for such a purpose.—Pittsburgh Dispatch (rep.)