

SALARIES.

Because some citizens have acquired, by studying their own experiences, the art of doing certain things, in the industrial world, with skill, economy of production, and almost perfectly, they are in demand and at big salaries. Corporations, for gainful purposes, are criticised by common day laborers, who are unskilled, and by common blatherskites, who are ignorant of economics, as very extravagant in salaries paid to some of their managers of departments, and to some general managers. But there is no corporation which does not pay as little salary as possible and secure efficiency.

The supply of men, skilled and equipped, in a business which can be learned only by years of hard study and hard work, in the school of the business itself, is hardly ever up to the demand for such men. However, those vocations which require little application, few intellectual gifts, and only a short service for proficiency, are generally crowded.

The supply of stablemen is always in excess of the demand, while the supply of engravers upon steel is always limited. Almost anybody has brains enough to easily learn the duties and perform the work of a stable boy. But to become an engraver upon steel requires ability, application and patient industry. It is easy to become a switchman for a railroad, but it is difficult to become a good traffic manager. Human nature generally seeks the easiest and quickest route for livelihood, and is content to take that livelihood with the least possible effort and the least possible luxury and comfort, rather than to begin a career which can lead up to infatuation only through years of persistent, patient and intelligent labor. Human nature is to be blamed, and not the gainful corporations, because the soon-learned and least brain-requiring callings are crowded so as to make wages lower; and the hard-to-understand and a-long-time-to-learn duties of the higher and more-mind-requiring places are avoided so as to make salaries higher.

The schools are free to all. The paths to the highest salaried places in manufacture, commerce and the professions, beset as they are with asperities, are open to all. But schools cannot make brains, ambition, and that persistent pluck, for fools, which wins success. The system of education which the state furnishes, is as incapable of making indolent dunces equal to hard-working, bright students, as a horse trainer is incapable of making draft horses trot in the same class with the standard bred.

Government is an incorporation for the protection of life, liberty and property. But the government pays, relatively, very meagre salaries for the highest character of

services, and relatively, for common services, the most extravagant compensation. A door-keeper may get eight hundred dollars a year, and a bacteriologist twenty-two hundred dollars in the agricultural department at Washington. Doorkeepers are never called to higher pay in non-governmental places. But each bacteriologist is called to Yale, Cornell or some other institution, as soon as his skill and scientific attainments have made him known to the country. Public salaries are too small for those services which can be rendered only by men of irreproachable, moral character and great experience and attainments, and too large for the doorkeeper and watchman class.

The absurdity of the schedule of salaries by the state is grotesquely illustrated by the supreme court of Nebraska, whose judges get twenty-five hundred dollars a year, and their clerk somewhere between ten and fifty thousand dollars a year. Few men are really well-qualified for supreme court judges. But there are scores and scores of men able to do the duties of the clerk of that court.

The pay of judges should be quadrupled, and the pay of clerks reduced. Then the most experienced and ablest members of the legal profession may be induced to accept judgeships, and then the chances in litigation may be reduced, the expenses of the court lessened and the reputation of the state judiciary exalted.

When the corporation called government copies the gainful corporation and, by paying big salaries, gets big men into its service, taxes will be lessened, laws better administered and prosperity prolonged.

THE COMMON PEOPLE.

A hundred years ago John Jacob Astor of New York was a very common German emigrant. But he had uncommon judgment, energy, temperance, industry and frugality. Exercising all these potentialities with judicious efficiency, he became a man of property. He left, at his death, great wealth to his descendants. Vast public benefits have accrued to the common people of New York because of his uncommon judgment and his accumulative sagacity. The Astor free library is only one of the monuments to his character, acquisitiveness and name. Yet demagogues in 1901 denounce his posterity—which in every war has furnished patriotic and gallant defenders of the United States—as plutocrats and unworthy the respect of plain people.

Philip D. Armour fifty years ago was a day laborer and yet when he died in the beginning of this year he left a gigantic fortune, notwithstanding he had endowed col-

leges and established institutions of charity and religion which had taken away from his fortune several millions of dollars. He was of the common people, raised in frugal industry, inured to hardship and ennobled by physical and intellectual labor. His benefactions to the race will live and thrill with energy, nerve with ambition the sons of the people for generations to come, while the oratory which denounces men for acquiring and controlling capital will be remembered only as phenomenal eruptions of self-seeking demagoguery.

Less than fifty years since a brawny lad of Scotland came to America and to work among the common people with uncommon power and perception of opportunities. His libraries donated all over the country tell how a wonderful Divinity uses the manual and mental forces of one man so as to make blessings and benefactions for millions of minds seeking learning and the luxury of literary indulgence. But Carnegie is denounced by the demagogue who wails about the common people and poses as their self-appointed protector.

The common people in America have a right to aspire to climb to competence and capital. It is the pride and glory of the United States

that no citizen remains common except by his own volition. The day laborer of today may be the capitalist and employer of tomorrow. The day laborer of yesterday is the rich man and banker of today. The man, whether he be a populist candidate for the presidency or only an editor, who divides his fellow citizens into classes and transfixes them—stereotypes them—as plutocrats, middle class and common, is not possessed of common sense enough to appreciate the opportunities and possibilities of citizenship in the republic founded by Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson and their compatriots.

REMEMBERED MEN.

The men who dare today to work for tomorrow are remembered best. The trimmer and office-seeking politician who complies with the seeming demands of the multitude and forsakes convictions for expediencies, is not an upbuilder of either the material or political welfare of the Republic. The man whose whole record is of words, words, and void of deeds as the sea is of dust, will be forgotten. But the man who has acted and achieved will be remembered and honored. When Bryan shall be merely a shadow, incidental to the current history of his time, Cleveland will be defined and accentuated as a statesman and a patriot, than whom there is none better in our day and generation.