

INDUSTRIAL HARMONIES.

During the middle ages all Europe was in a seething state of constant warfare between petty feudal rulers. The country had become sufficiently settled for one baron's interests to impinge on another's, and the result was fierce and chaotic competition. Men's lives were mostly spent in protecting their own territory or trying to snatch that of their neighbors. Finally, out of this chaos of unscrupulous individual struggle, cities were evolved, and out of the cities principalities, and out of the principalities kingdoms. Thus was systematic and civilized government evolved, though with a terrific waste of life, time and wealth.

Our own country has escaped this savage process as far as government is concerned, but its industries have been going through the same evolution. As long as our industrial beginnings were still small and isolated, there was comparative peace. As soon as they began to be organized sufficiently to interfere with each other's territory, there began to be attacks and reprisals. The feudal era had begun. The last quarter of a century has constituted the middle ages of American industry. There has been a constant and bitter struggle between factory owners, mill owners and foundry owners for the rich trade territory close to the producers. There has been a jangling chaos of cut-throat competition. The industrial waste of this condition of things has been almost beyond computation.

Our industrial development has also been retarded by strikes, lockouts and labor wars. There has been friction and irritation between capital and labor. Overproduction has been another source of weakness and another cause of misunderstanding between employers and workers. Thirty or forty factories in the same line of production, scattered over the country and running in blind independence of each other, naturally often overproduced their commodities. Their products had to be unloaded at a serious loss to the producer. Then the crippled manufacturer or foundry owner naturally, though unwisely, tried to recoup himself by cutting the wage scale of his workmen. Of course this resulted in more strikes, lockouts and labor wars. The time will come when this era will be looked upon as the dark era of American industry.

Today our vast productive forces seem to be rapidly organizing into something like industrial civilization. They seem to be reaching a position where we may reasonably hope for less friction, less overproduction,

and less trouble between labor and capital. Labor unions and federations are being strengthened and are wielding an increasing influence. They are becoming more responsible, are getting more intelligent men and ideas, and are choosing more conservative leaders. On the other hand, the employers are also passing out of their feudal stage, and are about to find a better way of living than by cutting each other's throats. This is the real significance of the present momentous movement in the industrial world.

Men of large responsibilities are cautious about going into any great enterprise that is likely to cause loss to themselves or hardship to those whose destinies they control. The combines now forming, if honestly capitalized and legitimately conducted, will be in the interest of peace and harmony. Our producing industries, organized into great trading companies, combines, trusts—call them what you will—will be in a position to avoid overproduction and the terrific waste of murderous competition. If they try to raise prices illegitimately of the consumer, there are natural laws that will quickly intervene to punish the evil. Meanwhile, if the labor leader will meet the industrial leader intelligently and fairly there is reason to believe that wage wars, with all the miseries they entail, are nearing an end.

Seen from an economic point of view, the combining of companies into compact and well officered bodies should place us in a position to enjoy industrial harmony and ultimately to command the industrial markets of the world. The conquests of the future are to be won by industrial armies. We lead the world in our knowledge of labor-saving machinery and in the intelligence of the workmen who operate them. The present swift evolution may be destined to place us as far ahead of the rest of the world as civilization is ahead of feudalism. The so-called trust movement has its evils, but so had the evolution of European kingdoms. It is not a thing to be condemned offhand, but to be regarded as a product of natural forces, as a thing to be studied closely, candidly, fearlessly, with the realization that we may be building wiser than we know, for consumers and wage-earners as well as for capitalists.

MUSIC.

The western part of this country, including that in which we live, may be properly called a musical desert, in that outside the large cities one may spend a lifetime without hearing any music worthy the name. This is not be-

cause the inhabitants are indifferent to music; on the contrary, it is the desire and purpose of each one to have it in his home, as is shown by the amount of money invested in private musical instruments, which will in every community aggregate an enormous amount, in proportion to the outlay for any other form of pleasure or education. It is simply a case of arrested development; wishing to hear music, we have seen no other way to that end save to teach our daughters the difficult art of producing it with their fingers, usually on the pianoforte. Every house, nearly, therefore has its piano; but from their silent insides no anthem pealing startles the passer-by with strange alarms; not once, we should say, in a month, on an average. We invest several hundred dollars in delicate apparatus, and we expend a greater or less amount in employing such instruction for our daughters as we can obtain; but the daughters, alas, seldom or never arrive. The reason is plain; piano-playing is a profession by itself, and requires not only as much special education as any other trade, but a very exhaustive and long-continued physical training; now we have too many other uses for our daughters to allow more than one in ten thousand to become an expert pianist, and none but an expert can get the proper results from a piano.

We may yet hope to have our music, however, for the American inventor has not overlooked this field, and mechanical genius will yet enable the daughter to relieve her shoulders of the burden of mechanical performance; thus skipping at once the long and usually abortive years of finger-training, and starting in where the present system can only aspire to end. This will make life much easier for the friends and neighbors, and it will be very good for the girl's health besides. And it is all in the line of natural progress; not so very long ago the daughter was expected to manufacture the pictures with which we adorned our walls; but now we find it cheaper to buy pictures reproduced by mechanical processes; we can have more pictures in that way, and they are really very much better pictures than the young ladies used to make.

A PUZZLE EASILY SOLVED.

The last syllable of a recent presidential candidate's name and the first syllable of Anarchy are exactly the same. However, there is nothing very odd or unexpected in that, for the reason that the outcome or end of the one has been always the logical beginning or creation of the other. No government is Anarchy; government with "the peerless" is Bry-anarchy.