

# The Labor World

VOL. I.

DULUTH AND SUPERIOR, AUG. 15, 1896.

No. 10.



## Standing on de Co'ner.

ELLIS B. HARRIS.

Air—Standing on de Co'ner Didn't Mean  
No Harm.

Standing on de co'ner, didn't mean no fuss,  
Wid my daisy, my emblem;  
Up came a coon and he began to cuss  
My Bryan, my candidate;  
I out wid my augiment and gabe to it a fling  
Dat'coon found he was treading on de silber  
money wing,  
Now he's sorry dat he trifled wid de money.

### Chorus

Oh my constituents tell me true  
Do you lub me as I lub yo?  
Oh my constituents tell me true  
Do you lub me as I lub yo?

Dis coon said silber dolla's was only fifty  
cents

Dis hoo-doo, coo-coo;  
I said I'd buy at 80 and take de consequence,  
But de big ham didn't hab am;  
So he said de agitation ob de silber money  
men  
Was de reason he was busted and he'd hab  
gold dolla's when  
Mark Hanna plays de piano in de White  
House.

He said silber mon' was a lot of white trash  
Dis liber colo'ed sliber  
But he didn't hab anuff ob it to buy a plate  
ob hash

No indeedee, he was seedee;  
So I offered him a quata' an' when fo' it he  
reached  
I told him dat de gold bugs ought to practice  
what dey preach  
As I socked it in my pocket whar I got it.

Den he said de fall of silber didn't bring de  
fall ob wheat

Dis wig-wag, zig-zag;  
But I told him it was plainer den de bunions  
on his feet,

Fo' it did so, de hobo;  
Den I got him in a co'ner an dis is what I  
done—  
I held him wid my eloquence—he'll vote 16  
to 1,  
He's a beauty, true to duty 'deed he is.

## The Industrial Revolution.

GEO. B. LEONARD.

While the people are being led to a fool's paradise by the sweet promises of the see-saw politicians, the work of the social evolution goes unceasingly on, bringing from time to time to the unmindful observer some startling results. Men will not think if they can help it. And whatever little thinking is

done by the masses of the people comes as the result of an impulse given by the grinding wheels of our social fabric. Misfortunes in enterprise, in business, calling, profession or trade—an industrial panic—seem to be the greatest social educators in modern times.

But even then men will go for the solution of the "burning question" into side alleys and back yards and stop on protection or free trade, on the size and the quantity of coin and other financial schemes. As in olden days, so at present, in all those issues, whether they are directly or indirectly against the interest of the great masses of the producers, who alone are the up-builders of civilization, the latter are called upon to do the fighting. The workingman, who is the scape goat all through the year for the sins of the capitalist class, is appealed to by this or that faction of the non-producing, socially parasitic classes, as the bulwark of national glory and honor and the one and only one, the proposed panaceas are going to save. In the meantime cold facts of the gradual enslavement of the American people wrought by the competitive system now in sway among all so-called civilized nations, stare, with all their horrors of past and future wrecks in the industrial, intellectual and moral world, in the face of the greater portion of mankind.

Modern science has proven that nothing is at a standstill; society, like nature, undergoes a steady development, and the laws underlying it are as inexorable as the laws of nature. In modern commercial warfare cheapness is the successful weapon. To produce the most with the least effort is the underlying principle of modern social production, and concentration of human effort, division of labor, labor-saving machinery and the revolutionized methods of transportation are its necessary concomitants. The productive powers are increased immeasurably. Prices commence to fall in proportion to the increase of merchandise on the market. The downfall of small production follows, and with it the small manufacturer, tradesman and farmer are thrown overboard. The anti-monopoly, anti-department store agitation and other "anti" movements are nothing more than movements of despair, and are not to be credited with the knowledge and erudition which modern civilization offers. They are fruitless attempts of quacks, and their promoters are social prototypes of Don Quixote. The tenth annual report of the bureau of statistics of labor of the state of New York, for the year 1892, is full of instructive information in regard to the industrial revolution that has taken place

within a comparatively few years. On page 41 we read: "In the aggregate, as a rule, the capital invested in manufacturing industry has increased in a higher ratio than the number of hands employed.... The returns for seventy-five leading cities throughout the country show an increase of 122.51 per cent in capital as against the much less increase of 63.77 per cent in the number of persons employed. This is not a new tendency. It is in a great part the natural result of improved machinery, more costly but labor-saving.... It is one of the facts which confirm and illustrate the proposition otherwise established by Bradstreets statistics of failures, that the average amount of capital required to successfully engage in business is steadily growing larger." How fast the downfall of small production is taking place can be seen from the disproportionate increase in hired labor. "The number of persons employed in manufacture increased faster than population," (p. 42). In the city of New York the increase of population between 1880 and 1890 was 25.62 per cent, and the increase of the number of employes in manufacture, 48.96; in Brooklyn for the same period the figures are 42.30 and 110.10 respectively; for Buffalo, N. Y., 65.80 and 144.61. Similar figures are given for other cities, (p. 42). That like figures would be obtained in other occupations (trade, transportation, professional and domestic service) none will doubt. It may be safely asserted, that "at no previous time in the history of the country was so high a proportion of the population engaged as 'wageworkers.'" The report adds: "We are in fact nearing the European percentage in this respect." (page 43). These figures may also convey an idea of the extent of the displacement of the man by the woman and child in the pursuits for the necessities of life. For the same decade the increase of manufacturing establishments for the whole country was 1,704, or a trifle over one half of one per cent, (p. 45). "And as the capital engaged in manufacture showed an increase of nearly \$700,000,000, the inevitable conclusion was that a great concentration of the means of production had taken place during that period, (pp. 45-46). Even this small percentage would disappear if it were taken into consideration that for the last two or three decades ownership by corporation has been rapidly displacing ownership by individuals, and that the same individuals oftentimes under this disguise control more than one manufacturing establishment. That the same tendencies exist in trade and agriculture we may have a chance to show some