

The Debs Fiasco.

"Perhaps there has been no more senseless talk, called discussion, were it not of excitive, and dangerous character, on issues aside from the money question, than about the suppression of the Debs riot in Chicago, in 1894. To hear cheap orators, and those that have everything to make personally, and nothing apparently to lose, talk themselves hoarse on the subject, one might suppose the matter something for which the republican party was responsible.

"In the first place, the causes that led Debs, in his senseless attempt to tie up the railroads of the country, were the direct outcome of democratic policies. It was but a sympathetic strike anyhow, and was incited for no other reason than to force George M. Pullman to concede the demands of his workmen. It took on such proportions that life and property became not only unsafe, but were destroyed. For President Cleveland under his oath of office to sit idly by, in the White House, amid such scenes as occurred in Chicago, would have been just ground for impeachment. The action that he felt compelled to take in the premises was no affair of the republicans.

"Eugene V. Debs in legal contemplation was guilty of an act of treason, by levying war against the government of the United States, and its peace and dignity. Every good and law-abiding citizen, at the time, believed in his heart that President Cleveland did the right thing, and what was only proper under the circumstances. But it has remained for Bryan and Altgeld and Tilman and men of that ilk, to seize upon the occurrence for a possible coign of vantage and to work into their rotten platform, at Chicago some cheap demagogic utterances about "government by injunction."

"Debs got only what he richly deserved. His acts were aimed against the government, and every citizen thereof. What harms the government, harms the citizen of which he is intimately a part. And it is not too late, it is hoped, to write in this year of grace that the government is one of laws and not of men.

In such a government the citizen that breaks or violate the laws, simply invites and merits the fate that awaits him. It must be so. It cannot safely be otherwise in civil order else human society is maimed in every part. Government cannot assume to take care of the many as regards their property right or protect the lives of individuals, except that it punish law breakers, and in this class was Debs. He was dictator for but a few hours when the majesty of the law, no respecter of persons reached for him duly, in his little brief authority, and took him in his episodal career, and he appeared then to the great mass of peaceful, liberty-loving citizens of the republic, but as a wart on society. But it remains for the Bryans, the Altgelds, the Tillmans and the Townes to build upon such odious foundation, a structure to elevate themselves.

"These worthies should remember that only liberty regulated by law is the hope of mankind and the republic.—News Tribune.

The News Tribune claims the labor vote for the republican party. Then it utters a wordy screed against "Dictator" Debs. If the News Tribune ever got near enough to organized labor to know anything about its sentiments it would drop such rot like a red-hot stovetid. The last set of men on earth to tolerate a dictator are the men who make up the rank and file of labor unions. It has been the necessity of making common cause against capitalistic "dictators" that has driven the workingmen into organization. No organization in the world are more thoroughly democratic in their methods of conduct than labor unions. Whatever action Mr. Debs took in the Pullman strike he took not as dictator but as representative of the organization interested. Labor unions are practical. When they put forward a representative to act for them they clothe him with executive power to do effective work. The action of the A. R. U. was the result of a vote of its duly accredited representatives, and the membership thereof has never evaded its responsibility, nor sought to shift them on its executive's shoulders.

What the News Tribune really means, when it calls Debs a "dictator," is that he dictated to the railway corporations. If to refuse to stand idly by and be a party to tyranny and injustice, that would have disgraced an absolute monarch in the darkest of the dark ages, was dictatorial, would to God we had a hundred thousand more dictators.

The only trouble with the powers that rule in corporation circles is their instincts are all foreign and imperial, and the action of the workingmen in standing even for their commonest rights, to them appear arbitrary, presumptuous, and grossly treasonable. A "sympathetic strike" has something about it peculiarly atrocious to a plutocrat. No wonder. A tiger is never so ferocious as when somebody attempts to rescue the poor creature it is about to devour. And as to the property destroyed, has the News Tribune forgotten that it was proven to have been set on fire by special officers sworn in at the request of the railroad

managers for that special purpose, in order to excite a public outcry against the strikers, and these same special officers were caught red-handed at their crime?

Why don't the plutocratic defenders face that Debs question on its merits? They don't dare to. They don't dare say to the American people that the legal proceedings which sent Debs to jail, which they have endorsed, involved a denial of the right of the trial by jury. They don't dare say that Debs was imprisoned through a method denounced by the Declaration of Independence as one of the crimes for which the English sovereign forfeited any claim he had upon the allegiance of the colonies.

Government by injunction and struck juries are part of the political faith of the News Tribune and go hand in hand with the personal interests of its proprietors.

It used to be supposed that the American idea of government was to protect the weak against the strong. Of course, we don't expect the News Tribune to believe it, but nevertheless there are millions in the country who do believe that "an injury to one is the concern of all." And if that is so, any attempt to prevent the abuse of our fellow citizens, even if they are poor and humble, is a movement for the good of all, and therefore the charge that the action of the strikers was detrimental to every or any citizen of this government, falls to the ground, another of plutocracy's exploded fallacies.

As to "a wart on society" the heroic deeds of Eugene V. Debs and his associates will go down in honorable mention to posterity for all time to come while the News Tribune is a blot on the fair fame of Duluth; despised and ridiculed.

William Butchart deserves the votes of every man who believes in the cause of free silver. His efforts for the whole ticket is returning good results. The administration of the office for the last two years has been all that anyone could wish for and if we are not very badly mistaken he will be elected by as large majority as he was two years ago.

Millions belong to the churches pray to God, help the poor, then go out and rob them.