

slavery than the southern states. The lawlessness of the "best element" of Boston and the subservience of the clergy in the early days of the anti-slavery agitation are too much matters of history to need more than passing mention. At length, however, the issue which politicians fought so hard to sidetrack became the paramount question, and men felt what Lincoln later expressed, when he declared that the nation could not remain half slave and half free, and it must become all slave or all free. At the crucial hour the great prairie State of Illinois sent forth an adopted son destined to stand among the most commanding figures in history. *He was a plain, homely man to look upon, but he had the keen preception and tact of a statesman and the conscience and heart of a man.* He was unmercifully caricatured by the eastern press, and abuse and calumny took the place of argument. It was said he might be a good rail-splitter, but he was wholly unfit to be the Chief Executive even in a time of peace. *The people thought differently.* They trusted the man whom they knew by their instincts to be honest, patriotic, and noble-souled. They nominated and elected him in spite of the bitter opposition and brutal ridicule of conservatism and conventionalism. Today he towers aloft in the pantheon of fame, one of the noblest and manliest figures in the history of our nation.

Abraham Lincoln was a prophet; he saw with alarm the rise of a plutocracy through *special privileges*, and expressed his well-grounded fears for the future. What he foresaw has come to pass. We are at the present hour in the midst of an epoch-marking conflict as clear-cut as those which marked the other struggles our republic has undergone, as boldly outlined as that which was consummated when the partisans of ancient Rome overthrew the Gracchi and established an oligarchy of birth and wealth more terrible than a limited monarchy, on the ashes of republican Rome. Today democracy is on trial and Illinois has again furnished a son to lead the forces of freedom, progress, prosperity, law and order against the money changers and the opulent and lawless trusts, monopolies, and baleful Old World influences. This time the standard bearer of the people was born, raised, and educated in Illinois, after which he moved to another great western

commonwealth, and singular enough, he settled in a city bearing the name of the great commoner and emancipator of our last great epoch. Will he triumph? That depends upon the various factors which have been present in other great struggles. The corrupt power of the gold ring of Europe and America, with unlimited wealth, aided by the trusts, monopolies, and combines and an administration false to *every instinct* of democratic government, are arrayed against the people. The odds seem insurmountable; but so they seemed in the times of Jackson and Lincoln. If the people fail now, the growing misery of the past thirty years will be greatly augmented, while the few will grow vastly richer, until the burden of the masses will be unendurable. Then will come a change, or the republic will go as did ancient Rome, and society will be, in even a more real sense than when Hugo made his observation prior to the downfall of Napoleon III, "one part tyrant and the rest slave." Hence, as patriots, as freemen, and as lovers of peace, prosperity, and the triumph of the principles of free government, a solemn and August duty confronts every true American. The present is no time for halting or indecision. All voters should sink party prejudices and array themselves against the double-headed party of plutocracy and centralized wealth. If there ever was an hour when freemen should refuse to sell their birthright, and be vigilant workers for home, freedom, prosperity, and the great republic, that hour is NOW. The election of Mr. Bryan will mean the rejuvenation of democracy and the salvation of republican government from a lawless plutocracy, the most dangerous of all depotisms.—Arena.

Something About Paddy Vail.

The following clippings will show where Paddy Vail and his gang stand on the labor question.

Ely Miner—A branch of the Northern Mineral Mine Workers' union was organized in this city Wednesday evening of last week by Robert Askew, president of the union with headquarters at Ishpeming, Mich. Unions have also been organized in all of the Mesaba range towns and at Tower.

The majority of the business men of the city, called a meeting at the Temperance hall for Sunday

evening to which all were invited, married men and their wives especially, and discussed the advisability of the existence of a labor union in this section. Speeches were made by Major M. Burt, Captains John Pengilly and H. B. Sturtevant, Mayor Vail and Rev. E. H. Bull. The gentlemen spoke from past experiences with labor unions, all concurring in the fact that unions have a right to exist providing they do not to the detriment of the community in which they play their part. The past peaceful conditions existing between labor in this city was dwelt upon at length by the speakers.

The prevailing ideas of the speakers seem to dwell on the fact that labor unions beget strikes, and that as long as a community has no labor unions, strikes were almost an impossibility and the speakers were of unanimous opinion that strikes were worse than fire for any town.

The Tower Journal in speaking of the union situation at Soudan says: "A membership of about 80 was enrolled, and it was understood that a large number would join at a meeting Sunday. During the week, however, a ripple of excitement was caused by notices posted in conspicuous places at the mines to the effect that the Minnesota company would not retain members of the union in its employ."

President Beacon says he believes in unions but says he does not think much of the men at the head of the local union.

It only remains to be seen what will develop.

Ely Times:—The meeting was called to order by Superintendent John Pengilly, of the Chandler mine, and Mayor P. R. Vail was chosen chairman. The latter, on taking the chair, stated the object of the meeting and introduced as the first speaker Major M. W. Burt, superintendent of the Zenith mine. The major asked the question, who was benefited by labor organizations, and showed pretty conclusively that it was neither the employer or the employee, but the men who organized and officered the labor unions. In proof of the proposition that the laboring man was not benefited he contrasted the condition of the laboring man at Ely where there never had been a labor organization of any kind, and the condition of the laboring classes at Ishpeming and other points on the different ranges, where such organizations were in existence, and the odds were strongly in favor of