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It can hardly be an "old-fashioned Fourth."

In old-fashioned days the country was ruled by law and not by Debs.

Sixty days hence men who now regard Debs as a little tin god on wheels will be cursing him as a stupid blunderer and enemy of labor.

It would be hard to find a more flagrant case of breach of public trust than the school board's high-handed action in refusing to require its treasurer to account for interest on the school fund.

Dictator Debs says he will try and have his forces keep the peace to-day, and that "if there is any trouble it will not be of our seeking."

Attorney-general Olney has shown himself equal to the situation during the present strike.

It is all very well to talk about compulsory arbitration of labor troubles, but what power can compel men to work for wages which they are unwilling to receive or employers to pay wages which they are unwilling to pay?

"General" Coxe, late of commonwealth fame, says of the strike that "something will come of all this."

It is a maxim of law that he who does an act by or through another does it himself.

"President" Debs is held legally responsible for the acts of those who act by his orders.

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compelled to carry on his business at a loss or carry it on at all if he does not choose to. However, the real issue is not whether Mr. Pullman is a mean man or not, but whether the railroad traffic of this country is to be controlled and the country itself run by organized bodies of dissatisfied men, and that not by the ballot but by force and violence.

SOLID GROUND.

The press of the country has been practically unanimous in denouncing the present strike and in demanding that some means be found to prevent such violent outbreaks and wholesale interferences with business, but the Journal was the first paper to suggest a constitutional and effective line of action. On an editorial of the 25th of June it took the ground that if the government had power to prohibit interference with mail trains it had an equal right to prohibit interference with passenger trains passing from one State to another. It was argued that the affairs of the people were not more sacred than the people themselves, and it was as much the duty of the government to guarantee the right of the people to travel from State to State as it was to guarantee the transmission of mail matter. "It certainly can do so," said the Journal, "so far as trains on interstate railroads are concerned. It is clearly competent for Congress to enact a law making it a felony for any unauthorized person to hinder, delay or interfere with the movement of any railroad train conveying passengers across the country or from one State to another." In another article of July 2 the Journal argued that the constitutional power of Congress to regulate commerce between the States embraced travel as well as traffic, and that it was the duty of the government "to exercise the power to any extent necessary to protect the people against arbitrary and lawless invasions of their rights," and that it could do this under the interstate-commerce law.

The order issued by the United States court at Chicago and reissued yesterday in Indianapolis by Judge Woods, shows that the government authorities have reached the same conclusion. The order goes much further than any other yet issued by a federal court, but not further than the Constitution and the interstate-commerce act justify. It virtually asserts the right of the government to regulate every form of interstate commerce, passenger as well as freight, and enjoins the strikers and all others from interfering with railroad trains of any character. The issuance of this order marks a new departure in the matter of government regulation of interstate commerce. It means that hereafter the same protection will be extended to passenger and freight trains that has heretofore been extended to mail trains. Having taken this position the government will not recede from it. It has planted itself on solid ground, and will remain there. This marks the beginning of the end of forcible interference with railroad travel and traffic in this country. It means that we have a government.

AN ENEMY OF LABOR.

The American people have never passed through a period of greater business depression than that of the last year. They have experienced bank panics, commercial panics and hard times, but never before so complete a combination of all these distressing conditions in one experience. The people have been waiting, hoping and praying for better times. It is nearly a year since an extraordinary session of Congress was called. It was hoped that the repeal of the silver purchasing clause of the Sherman act would tend to restore confidence and thus contribute to the revival of trade. It might have done so had not other causes intervened, but it soon became apparent that there could be no such revival as long as the tariff agitation continued. The regular session of Congress began on the 4th of December, 1893, and from that time to the present the tariff bill has been under discussion. After passing the House it has been before the Senate for more than three months. As it proposed radical changes in economic conditions, it was absurd to expect any revival of trade as long as the agitation continued. It would not be true to say that the people have waited patiently for the agitation to come to an end. They have waited, but with disgust instead of patience. Distrust of the wisdom and the honesty of the ruling party in Congress, and without any hope that they would legislate wisely, the people have waited with stolid endurance for the end to come, believing that whatever it might be the business of the country would gradually adjust itself to the new conditions and that there would be a return of better times. At last, after months of weary waiting, the tariff discussion is practically ended and the end is in sight. No matter what form the bill may finally take it will either pass or be defeated within a few days and the country will know where it stands, so far as the tariff question is concerned.

But just as we are about to reach a settlement of this question, and while people are congratulating themselves on the prospect of good crops and beginning to indulge the hope of better times, along comes Mr. Eugene V. Debs, president of the American Railway Union, and plunges the country into a new sea of trouble. In order to test his power and the strength and coherence of a new labor organization he orders a strike which, whatever its final outcome may be, cannot fail to have a most disastrous effect on business and indefinitely postpone the return of better times. In so far as workmen are interested in a return of better times and of conditions that will insure steady employment at fair wages Mr. Debs has proven himself to be the worst enemy of labor in the United States.

NO MORE BURDENS FOR NATURAL-GAS CONSUMERS.

There is no disposition on the part of any reasonable person to impose unnecessary burdens on the natural gas companies of the city. Some time since the Journal expressed its belief that for reasons which need not here be repeated the plan to tax the gas mains was not now expedient. There is

certainly no public demand for such action at this time, and it has only been brought forward in the natural course of discussion of ways and means and of municipal expenses. But while there is an undoubted willingness to afford the gas companies all the advantages, the proposition made by the Gas Trust to establish the meter system will, it is safe to say, meet with general and earnest opposition. The arguments in favor of it are not convincing. The gist of the communication to the City Council is that, whereas, the gas supply within reach is becoming limited and may not last many years, therefore it behooves the authorities to restrict the consumers' privileges now in order that the time of its use may be extended; also, as the trust has not made the profit it expected, it is proper that the price of gas should be raised in order that the company should make a profit and pay off its shareholders. This sudden solicitude on behalf of the shareholders, of whom it is said there are 2,600, is the more surprising since it was understood from the beginning that the citizens who took stock in the trust did so less as an investment for the purpose of profit than as a contribution to a general fund to secure fuel at low rates. So little did they value their stock that large numbers of them were in a short time persuaded to part with it at a large discount, and the statement that 2,600 still retain their shares will cause a general lifting of eyebrows. This view of the investment is supported by the assertion in the letter to the Council that "these stockholders have never asked, nor received, nor expected, nor can they receive a cent of profit." Just what is meant by this and the further assertion that they "have not received the full payment for the interest due them on the money they have virtually loaned for the good of the general public," is not quite clear in view of the fact that dividends have been paid at least twice. Only a few days ago the payment of a ten-per-cent dividend on the capital and 4 per cent interest was announced. Now, since it is admitted these 2,600 shareholders did not expect profit and that they went into the enterprise for the purpose of securing cheap gas, it is safe to infer that the majority of them would be in favor of remitting future profits and continuing to receive the fuel at the old rates. It is probably true that there is considerable waste of gas under the present system, though the estimate that it reaches 50 per cent is undoubtedly greatly exaggerated; but if, as the trust declares, the supply will give out sooner or later in any case it is reasonable to believe that consumers would prefer to enjoy the luxury while it lasts than to be compelled by its increased cost to return now to the use of coal. According to its own showing, the future expenses of the Gas Trust cannot be as heavy as in the past, and it seems possible that its suddenly-aroused sense of duty to the shareholders and its anxiety to pay its debt to them can easily be gratified before the wells have all been pumped dry—or "wet," as gas parlance has it. At all events, the need of establishing the meter system is by no means apparent on the face of the showing made.

THE NATION'S BIRTHDAY.

One hundred and eighteen years ago today the Continental Congress took the irrevocable step towards separation from the mother country and the formation of an independent government. All that had passed up to that time—the long years of stubborn controversy, the opposition to the stamp act, the destruction of the tea in Boston harbor, the battles of Lexington and Concord, and many acts of oppression on one side and resistance on the other enumerated in the Declaration itself—might all have been adjusted. But the Declaration of Independence, which was not adopted without many misgivings on the part of some of its signers and difficulty in bringing all the colonies to its support, made compromise impossible and war inevitable.

After all that has been written concerning the heroism of the act, it is still difficult to rise to the height of the spirit that actuated the men who thus threw down the gauntlet of war on the part of a few feeble and sparsely settled colonies against the most powerful nation in the world. Nor were the political sentiments embodied in the Declaration less heroic than the act of war which it involved. The equality of all men and the assertion of popular will as the true basis of government are principles which seem trite and commonplace now, but their public and solemn assertion in 1776 marked a new epoch in history and the beginning of a daring experiment in government. If these principles seem trite and commonplace now, it is because the success of the experiment which was then and there inaugurated has familiarized them to the world and given them the force of demonstrated truths. But in this case familiarity should not breed contempt, and Americans cannot be too assiduous in cherishing reverence for these time-honored sentiments and cultivating the spirit which they invoke. The Declaration of Independence, the war that followed and the Constitution which was the crowning work of all were a complete embodiment of the spirit of self-government and of liberty regulated by law, which was to become the corner stone and glory of the first government among men of the people, by the people and for the people.

We have but recently entered on the second century of the government of which the Declaration was the precursor. A hundred years is not long in the life of a nation, but it is long enough to effect great changes. The thirteen sparsely populated colonies of 1766 have grown into forty-four States, with a population of 79,000,000. From a simple agricultural people we have become a great manufacturing and commercial nation. The growth of population and the changed conditions of modern life have raised new questions and new dangers. It is not unlikely that the second century of our national existence will test the strength of our form of government more severely than it has ever been tested before, except, perhaps, in the civil war. Because we are a republic we cannot expect to escape the complications or the dangers that beset other governments. They must be met and grappled with. Upon the manner in which this is done depends the continuance of the

government the anniversary of whose birth we celebrate to-day.

Dictator Debs has furnished his ultimatum. He says the present strike will only be settled on the following terms:

First—There must be an armistice between Mr. Pullman and his employes on a basis satisfactory to the men and all the men must be at work.

Second—There must be an adjustment between the railroads and the strikers; all must be restored to work, and no wages shall be cut nor shall discriminations be made.

This is worth cutting out and pasting in one's hat for a little while. It may serve hereafter as a measurement of the difference between what Debs demanded and what he got.

Woman's Experience at the Polls.

The report of the "committee to work at the polls" in behalf of Mrs. Jenckes, at the recent school election, appears in full on another page, and is a most affecting and accurate description of the pathetic, it is of a character to bring tears to the eyes of the most stolid male person. This committee had arranged with various ladies who were more or less interested in the noble cause to be at the polls on election day to use their persuasive arts on the voters and induce them to cast their ballots for Mrs. Jenckes. Their first elementary lesson in practical politics came when they were informed, at 9 o'clock, that no women were on hand and no tickets for Mrs. Jenckes were to be had, but that the other candidates were active and that men had been coming up and voting for them ever since 7 o'clock. The amiable but uninitiated "workers" had evidently cherished the impression that "morning" meant any time before noon, but before the election was over they learned that it is necessary to be very early in one's day to keep even with much more to circumvent, perfidious men in their pursuit of office. Never before in the whole course of their lives had those lady workers seen such rude and inexcusable behavior on the part of men—perfectly horrid as they knew members of the voting sex could be when it suited them. When they politely handed a voter a Jenckes ticket and with sweet smiles besought him to deposit it in the box sometimes that graceless person said he would and then didn't, and sometimes—oh, sad and weary day!—sometimes he was tempted to stray from the strait and narrow Jenckes path by the offer of a cigar from one of the unprincipled male candidates. "Bribery" is the uncompromising term used by the committee of the female workers to characterize this distribution of cigars. They had no cigars wherewith to beguile the weak and uncertain voter into their camp, and would have scorned to engage in such corrupt and debasing practices. One man assured them that it was all a matter of wags, and that if they, instead of Mr. Appel, had engaged his vehicles all would have gone their way. Evidently the ladies derived some comfort from this until they learned that Mrs. McKay, in the other district, had this same man's wags and was not running a winning race either. Then they laid all the trouble to cigars—with "rumors of beer"—and when they discovered, late in the day, that Mr. Appel still had two boxes in reserve they knew Mrs. Jenckes had no longer any hope. To learn the height and depth of their indignation over this shameful masculine depravity the report must be read. The Journal sympathizes with them. It could have told them that they must not only get up early in the morning of election day, but must "fix" things over night if they wished to succeed. It could have referred them to that eminent nonpartisan, boss Frenzel, for instruction as to the most effectual way of fixing things—for, though the Boss did not get himself elected through having scattered his forces through the other districts too much, he knew exactly how to bring out all the "boys" and the "toughs," and how to have them vote his way.

But the Journal is not able to agree with the Jenckes contingent as to the debasing and immoral influence of the cigar as an electoral policy. Besides, the beer was only a rumor. The women should take courage. Though they cannot distribute cigars, tobacco in all its forms being condemned as a filthy weed by the local council, they can offer tea, and even icecream. Man, too, has been known to be touched on a tender spot by candy judiciously administered, and is not superior to the attractions of soda water, and soft-sour lemonade, and the like. Next time let the workers go prepared to meet the enemy at all points. The late election was an object lesson which taught them many things. Under the circumstances they did very well, but next time, with eyes wide open to the wily ways of the opposition, they will do far better.

The offer which Superintendent Jones has received from Cleveland to take charge of the public schools of that city is so attractive and comes to him in such an honorable way that it would be surprising if he should decline it. If our board could afford to offer Mr. Jones a salary that would justify him in remaining here in spite of the long journey from Cleveland, the Journal believes it would be wise to do so, but probably that is out of the question. That his departure will be a loss to the schools of this city goes without saying. While it cannot be said that he found a bad or inefficient system when he came here he has certainly done much to improve it and to place the public schools of Indianapolis in the front rank. The Cleveland people are evidently very much pleased with the prospective acquisition of Professor Jones. The Leader of that city publishes letters from several prominent educators commending his work in this city, and says editorially:

It must be remembered that the fame of the Indianapolis schools has been made far more than local under the management of the gentleman who has been chosen for a wider field of labor here. Superintendent Jones has been recommended by authorities of the very highest class. There is every reason to believe that he is an educator of the first rank and that he is thoroughly competent to administer the duties of the office for which he has been nominated in a manner worthy of his distinguished predecessor.

The retirement of Mr. Jones will devolve a grave responsibility on our new School Board in the choice of a successor, and under the circumstances there will be considerable speculation and anxiety as to how it will be met.

Everybody experiences great bodily discomfort in such weather as prevailed last week, but there are no visible indications that unusual mental depression is the result or that it is even common. People become irritable, it is true, and show other signs of nervous disturbance, but these are commonly recognized as the inevitable though temporary results of excessive heat and not at all serious. It must be, however, that this irritability in certain individuals is a symptom of a deeper-seated trouble; that the temperature which causes the flesh almost to melt causes the brain to weaken. What else can account for the unusual number of suicides that have occurred during the

past ten days? Several have been committed in this city, a remarkable number have been reported to the Journal from various parts of the State and the same condition of affairs has existed elsewhere in the country, as shown by the local suicide list in the Journal's exchanges. Probably the same variety of causes that lead to self-destruction at any season of the year have been in operation during this late torrid term, but there seems no doubt that the heat produced in some individuals an aggravated and unendurable sense of trouble that otherwise might have been overcome. There is a time in each cycle of twenty-four hours when the physical vitality is at its lowest ebb; it must be that the mental and moral powers also have their tides and are at their lowest when the temperature is in the nineties.

The request made to the Board of Public Works to substitute asphalt for brick in the paving of South Meridian street, because the noise from the brick would be detrimental to the Manual Training School, is well enough as far as it goes, but that is not far enough. With all its merits, asphalt is noisy when much traffic passes over it, and in that respect is but a shade less objectionable than brick. Wood, with all its drawbacks, is the only variety of pavement which deadens the sound of travel to a degree that saves the nerves of adjoining residents. And, when you come to think about it, the health and convenience of the citizens is rather an important consideration, too.

Messrs. Hendrickson and Blackledge were invited Messrs. Conner and Frenzel to act as advisory members of the Manual Training School committee. If the voters of the First and Tenth districts had considered the services of those gentlemen necessary to the proper management of school affairs they would have elected them to advise them on the committee after their defeat at the polls is an uncalculated reflection on the judgment of the citizens.

The six naval cadets out of this year's class of twenty-five, for whom no place in the navy can be found, are doubtless disappointed, but at least they have the advantage of a first-class education, and one of a sort which qualifies them for lucrative employment in civil life. Uncle Sam trains his soldiers and sailors thoroughly.

In his valedictory speech Mr. Frenzel said: "Since I entered the School Board many years ago the schools of this city have nearly doubled." He might have added that interest on the school funds has entirely disappeared.

So much talk about Pompell and Herculanone gives quite an antique flavor to Indianapolis conversation at times; but the talk soon drifts back to that very modern and most unpleasant topic—Debs.

How is the interest on the school funds divided, anyhow? Not that the people have any rights, but they would like to know.

You may break, you may shatter the board if you will, but the scent of John Frenzel will hang round it still.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal: Article I, Section 2, Clause 3, Constitution of the United States says: "Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to their respective numbers. Explain the relation of this to the income tax, and why it should not apply." E. E.

The Supreme Court has held that a direct tax is that which Congress votes to raise as a gross sum upon general property, as during the early years of the government, when the gross sum for all the States was \$3,000,000. The amount per capita is found by dividing the whole sum of the population, and then the tax per capita having been ascertained, States were called upon to pay it into the federal treasury according to their respective population, the State raising it on its general taxable property, as is revenue for local purposes and State expenditure. That tribunal has decided that a per cent. tax laid upon State bank circulation, which is property, is a duty rather than a direct tax. The same is true of licenses for the sale of spirits and tobacco—not a direct tax. Income tax, however, comes under the same head. It is not a general, and therefore a direct tax, but a tax laid upon specified amounts of property, and for that reason is regarded in the light of a duty.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

In These Hard Times. "My dear brother, are you making any efforts to save your immortal soul?" "Am I? I'm trying to save everything I can these hard times."

He Wanted to Know.

Tommy—Say, paw, you want now? Mr. Figg—What do you want now? Tommy—Can a whole knot be a knot whole when it is not a knot hole or not?

In the Mountains.

She—I wish we had met at the seashore instead of here. He—Why? She—You might be able then to show a little sand.

Aids, Too True.

"What do you think of Pythagoras's doctrine that a man may become a brute after his death?" "After his death? Plenty of men do that a few months after marriage."

THE DEBS INSURRECTION.

There will be no further dallying or talk of duty, not a direct tax. Income tax, however, comes under the same head. It is not a general, and therefore a direct tax, but a tax laid upon specified amounts of property, and for that reason is regarded in the light of a duty.

The striking railroad men are daily separating themselves further and further from the sympathy and good will of the American people. The strikers may as well understand first as last that the people of this country are infinitely stronger than the party, class or organization—Cincinnati Tribune.

If the strikers would stop listening to mischievous and irresponsible leaders, and exercise the privilege of thinking for themselves, they could not fail to see that their position is one which they cannot afford to occupy, and that they are doing the cause of labor much more harm than good.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

It is the duty of all classes of employers and employes to agree for the suppression of this strike. Their interests are one in bringing it to a close. Its authors are not entitled to sympathy from any body of men, nor from any labor organization. Good citizens will labor for the restoration of peace and good order.—Chicago Tribune.