

THE DAY BOOK

N. D. COCHRAN

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

220 SO. PEORIA ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

Editorial, Monroe 3523

Telephones Circulation, Monroe 2528

SUBSCRIPTION—By Carrier in Chicago,
25 cents a Month. By Mail, United
States and Canada, \$3.00 a Year.

Entered as second-class matter April
21, 1914, at the postoffice at Chicago,
ILL., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

THE PEASANTS OF AMERICA.—

As the facts develop in the East Youngstown, O., strike-rioting, when the town was partially burned, we find that the problem of immigration was to a large degree behind it all.

For thirty years the large manufacturers of this country have acted as if immigrants were an important department of their business. The more workers arriving every year—the more men standing outside their gates every morning waiting for any old job at any old wages—the better the big employers liked it. It meant plenty of hands at low cost for the hard, laborious, unskilled work. This in turn meant plenty of recruits anxious to learn the skilled work. Thus the cost of common labor was kept down and quiet maintained among skilled workers by the spectacle of more, and yet more, ready to jump into their jobs.

In every industrial locality there grew up "settlements" of uneducated, untrained strangers—peasants from the backward farm sections of backward south European countries.

Did the manufacturers have any thought for the welfare of these untrained people?

Did the big employers take steps to educate them or their children?

Did the fellows who capitalize immigration into big profits do anything to teach these strange-tongued peasants the American language or en-

lighten them on American customs and American laws?

Not one bit of it! They were perfectly willing to let them huddle miserably in their settlements where they learned nothing about the country of their adoption. The big employer wanted down-trodden peasants to remain down-trodden and ignorant, thinking the thoughts and living the life of the European backwoods.

There were profits in it—big profits. But these employers forgot the law that action is followed by reaction. The immigrant always wakes up. He sees better life about him, he hears of better wages, he learns that his labor is worth more.

So it was at East Youngstown. The peasant laborers in this steel mill heard that other steel mills were advancing pay. Moreover, they learned that the company's stock had nearly doubled in value, plain enough proof to the most untaught that profits were huge. And yet the company refused a little increase in wages. This meant rank injustice to them.

They were uneducated. Their intelligence was low. Law and order were indefinite things to them. Huddling together in undisciplined masses there was nothing and nobody to temper the wild and wilder discussion of men who felt that they had been imposed upon. They became savages—shooting, stabbing, burning—imitating the anarchy that is blazing its fearful way through Europe under the guidance of kings.

America can no longer play with the immigration problem. Immigrants are human people, not bloodless machines out of which captains of industry may squeeze profit. The peasants of Europe should not be permitted to become the peasants of America. Their training as citizens of America should begin the moment they step on our soil. If they don't want to become citizens we should see that they shall not at any rate become disturbers.