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A PRESENT PROBLEM.

Signs of Approaching Conflict Between Capital and Labor More Desperate Than Ever.

Lessons From the Late New Orleans Strike That Should Interest Every American Citizen.

The Giant Labor Has a Power That Is Terrible to Contemplate If Used Unwisely.

There are signs of approaching conflicts between labor and capital more desperate than this country has ever seen. The late strike in New Orleans indicates, probably, the new line organized labor will take, a line new not in principle but in practical application, that, namely, of many trades or many branches of one trade, taking up the battle for one. In the New Orleans affair, less noticed by the public than it would have been had it not occurred just before election, sixty-one unions were involved, the workmen of every skilled trade carried on in the city and day laborers also. The men of one union, the teamsters and loaders, went out on a strike because of trouble with their employers, and the other unions called their men out on a "sympathy" strike.

For nearly a week the busiest mart on our southern coast presented the extraordinary spectacle of absolute business paralysis, for labor stood with folded hands and said: "See how you can get along without me." Private carriages and walking were the only ways of getting about the city, for street car and omnibus men refused to work. So, too, did compositors and pressmen, and the morning and evening papers failed to appear. So, too, did the gas and electric light men, and the city was in darkness. So, too, did the bakers, and bread could not be bought. And so with every industry. True, in less than a week this strange strike was broken. The state authorities were invoked, the state troops called out, and settlement by arbitration was effected. But the object lesson was given, and it is a superficial student of his time who does not know it is a grave one.

Organized laborers driven into solidarity, as the endeavor to destroy their organizations will drive them, can bring about by simple refusal to work, conditions which will imperil the peace and safety of an entire community—which may bring hunger into the homes of rich as well as of the poor—which will demonstrate beyond cavil that great as is the power of wealth, impregnable as are its buttresses lawful and lawless, natural and fished, it is a pigny when opposed to the solidified ranks of the men who not only produce the wealth itself, but all the environment that makes that wealth worth more than apples of Sodom.

Those to whom it does not appear that this question of capital vs. labor is anything more than the stock in trade of "agitators" will do well to ponder over the lesson of the New Orleans strike. It was purely local, and its effect was confined to the one city, but in that city—where once slave labor, shackled hand and foot, was appraised as cattle and sold from the block—free labor, organized for self-defense and mutual assistance, held the commerce, the industries, the traffic, the very food of the citizens in its grasp. Imagine this power and purpose of concentrated action extended from one city to another, from one state to another over the railways that net them together!

It is not to be assumed that in such crucial hour, when the giant labor first really apprehends its full powers, those powers would be temperately, wisely, fairly exercised. The contrary is probable. Are the American people, then, wise when they evade the study of the problem of capital and labor as they do? Is it safe for the general public to remain indifferent to what so vitally affects the commonwealth? "Capital's rights" and "labor's rights" are shibboleths over which industrial warfare is waged all over this country. Isn't it time the rights of the commonalty against both should interest somebody?—Vanguard.

The President's Message.

The last annual message of President Harrison previous to his retirement from office is somewhat unsatis-

factory both in matter and manner, and its references to the tariff are especially disappointing and unstatesmanlike. Beginning with the unwarranted assumption that "the present tariff, constructed upon the lines of protection, is to be repealed, and that there is to be substituted for it, a tariff law constructed solely with reference to revenue." Mr. Harrison appears to intimate that a general process of wage reduction is at hand, and that frequent and threatening parades of American workmen may be expected in our streets. When his political opponents precipitated equally gloomy forecasts upon their horoscopes, previous to election, they were justly characterized as calamity howlers.

If, as President Harrison would have us believe, legislation like unto the McKinley bill has been the sole cause of present differences between the social condition of the masses of people in the United States and in Europe, what shall we say of our boasted public school system and our much vaunted free institutions and equality of opportunity for all children born upon American soil? If naught but the Ohio idea of protection stands between us and degradation to the level of Polish and Hungarian rioters, then the Magna Charta and Declaration of Independence were shams, and the courage and resolution of our forefathers from the landing at Plymouth Rock to the latest achievements of pioneer settlers in the great west, have been ill-judged and unprofitable.

But we believe President Harrison is as much mistaken in his gloomy anticipations of the future, as he is in ascribing his defeat in the recent election to the "strained relations between the employes and the employers of our great manufacturing establishments." The revolt against McKinleyism was not confined to manufacturing centers. It was very noteworthy in the counties of Knox, Logan, Richland, Seneca and Stark, in Ohio. These are all wool-growing counties. Columbus Delwano lives in Knox, Judge Lawrence in Logan, Senator Sherman in Richland, Hon. Charles Foster in Seneca and William McKinley in Stark.

We regret that in his last annual message previous to retirement, Mr. Harrison should not have risen to the level of his opportunity and left a document that might have been remembered as a statesmanlike attempt to prescribe that conservative middle course of action which is now desired by the great majority of intelligent American people.—The Investor.

A NEW SCHEME.

By Which Trade Unionists Propose to Bring Corporations to Time.

A movement has been started in Cincinnati, Ohio, which is causing quite a stir among the wage earners and business men of the country when the details are made public. The scheme is being discussed quietly and details are being gathered by leading trade unionists and no one but trusted members of organized labor have been admitted to the conclave. The promoters did not meet with much encouragement at first, but the idea has steadily gained ground and now hundreds of workmen are among its supporters, eager for a chance to give it a trial. The movement is designed to prevent a repetition of the disasters which followed closely upon the lock-out at Homestead, the Buffalo railroad strike and the miners' strikes in Idaho. It is proposed when a strike becomes necessary and is precipitated by unionists a general order shall be promulgated calling upon every union man in the country to withhold from circulation all funds that he may possess or control, so as to cause a stringency in the money market and thus compel the business men of the United States to bring such a pressure to bear upon the corporation having a strike on its hands that it will be forced to yield to the demands of its employes or show a disposition to settle the difficulties between them. This plan when put in operation will be far reaching, and the effect, it is claimed, will be felt in every branch of trade throughout the land.

The point of Postmaster-general Wanamaker's report is that everything the government owns or operates decreases in expense and increases in efficiency.—Nonconformist.

A CREATURE OF LAW.

The Supreme Court Says Whatever Power There is Over the Currency is Vested in Congress

If the Power to Declare What is Money is Not in Congress, it is Annihilated.

Congress Has a Full Constitutional Right to Authorize the Issue of Legal Tender Money.

In the case of Knox vs. Lee in the supreme court in 1871, after deciding that congress had a full constitutional right to authorize the issue of legal tender money, the court said:

"Here we might stop; but we will notice briefly an argument presented in support of the position that the unit of money value must possess intrinsic value. The argument is derived from assimilating the constitutional provision respecting a standard of weights and measures to that conferring the power to coin money and regulate its value. It is said there can be no uniform standard of weights without weight, or of measure without length or space, and we are asked how anything can be made a standard of value which has itself no value.

It is hardly correct to speak of a standard of value. The constitution does not speak of it. It contemplates a standard for that which has gravity or extension, but value is an idle thing. The coinage acts fix its unit as a dollar, but the gold or silver thing we call a dollar is in no sense a standard of a dollar. It is a representative of it. There might never have been a piece of money of the denomination of a dollar. There never was a pound sterling coined until 1815, if we except a few coins struck in the reign of Henry VIII, almost immediately debased, yet it has been the unit of British currency for many generations."

The court further said: "The states can no longer declare what shall be money or regulate its value. Whatever power there is over the currency is vested in congress. If the power to declare what is money is not in congress, it is annihilated.

"The constitution does not ordain what metals shall be coined, or prescribe that the legal value of the metals, when coined, shall correspond at all with their intrinsic value on the market. Nor does it even affirm that congress may declare anything to be a legal tender for the payment of debts. Confessedly the power to regulate the value of money coined, and of foreign coins, is not exhausted by the first regulation. More than once in our history has the regulation been changed without any denial of the power of congress to change it and it seems to have been left to congress to determine alike what shall be coined, its purity, and how far its statutory value as money, shall correspond, from time to time, with the market value of the same metal as bullion.

"No one ever doubted that a debt of \$1,000, contracted before 1834, could be paid by one hundred eagles coined after that year, though they contained no more gold than ninety-four eagles such as were coined when the contract was made, and this, not because of its legal value. The eagles coined after 1834 were not money until they were authorized by law, and had they been coined before without a law fixing their legal value, they could have no more paid a debt than uncoined bullion or cotton or wheat."

In view of the fact that a full bench of the supreme court in 1884 reaffirmed this decision, one would think that intrinsic value idiots would be afraid to go before the public with such foolish statements as "God made money."

SILVER AND GOLD.

Silver has Been Depreciated by Law While Gold has Been Exalted.

In a recent issue the London Economist remarked that the actual price of silver was obtained by an artificial market, and that it would be well to close that market which the unwise legislation of the United States has opened. A correspondent of the same journal combating this same argument asks: "But what do you think would become of the price of gold, if all the

governments decreed to abandon gold and to accept silver as a standard currency? In 1852, when the production of silver was increased so largely in a short time several nations were afraid of a depreciation of gold. Influenced by this fear, the Netherlands abandoned its gold standard and adopted silver as its standard instead. Now the very contrary is taking place."

The correspondent urges that silver has not been mined to a point where the production has increased so rapidly as did that of gold in early years of California and Australian mining. He concludes: "If all countries at once forbade the use of cotton for cloths, would not the price of cotton at once decline? So long as the principle countries, say, England, France, Germany, the United States, and Austria, continue to buy or coin gold at a fixed price the price of gold cannot decline, even if the production were to increase tenfold. If, on the other hand, the above named countries decreed to accept the silver standard and all the banks and mints of these countries began to buy and coin silver at, say, the former price of about \$1.29 per ounce, and to sell gold, the price of silver would undoubtedly rise at once, and all the produced silver would flow into consumption, while the price of gold would greatly decline, because there was no longer an artificial market for gold. Would it not be far better to coin both gold and silver at a fixed ratio as before? Undoubtedly, it is the only way to insure stability in exchange and the free flow of trade.

Industry, agriculture, and trade would then improve and flourish again." Another Englishman says: "Gold is as much too high as silver is too low, but the former is not realized, as there are no daily quotations of it, as is the case with silver. I maintain that silver has not depreciated any more, and in some cases not as much, as other commodities which are paid for in gold or notes, based on a gold redemption. Gold has been so exalted in value that it can purchase, roughly speaking, double the amount of merchandise, produce, cotton, silver, copper, iron and commodities than formerly. Trade, therefore, languishes, houses fall, nations default, incomes diminish."—Banker's Magazine, November, 1892.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The sentiment to keep the world's fair open on Sunday is growing.

President Harrison will take a trip down the Potomac during the holidays.

The Atchison Champion is kicking on the opening of a variety theatre in that moral city.

A Williamsburg, N. Y., synagogue expelled its pastor because he ate ham at a free lunch counter.

Editor Wakefield of the Lawrence Jeffersonian, is mentioned for appointment as state labor commissioner.

Colonel Nievarez Hernandez, who assisted Catarino Garza to escape from Mexico last year, was shot at sunrise Monday.

Robert Beatty was held in \$5,000 bonds last week at Homestead, Pa., for alleged poisoning of non-union workmen.

Augustus Hornsby of St. Paul, Minn., lost \$300,000 at the gambling table, and now is a fugitive from justice for uttering forged checks and deeds.

At Greenwich, N. J., George Bowers, a fireman on the New Jersey Southern railroad, was shot and instantly killed by his insane wife while asleep.

Charles A. Benson, the murderer of Mrs. Mettman, committed suicide in the Leavenworth jail last week, and his remains have been interred in the Potter's field.

Peter Hart, the old soldier who nailed the flag at the mast head at Fort Sumpter, after it had been shot away, is dying at his home in Brooklyn, from a stroke of paralysis.

W. S. Page, assistant general superintendent of the Rock Island with headquarters in Topeka, has resigned. Mr. Page expects to devote his entire time to private interests in Chicago.

Dr. Pratt is spoken of for appointment as superintendent of the state institution at Winfield. The doctor is deserving and would do the right thing if he should be given the chance.

George Gould has been elected a director of the Union Pacific railroad in place of his father, deceased. Sidney Dillon Ripley was also elected a director in the place of Sidney Dillon.

Four leaders of the cholera riots in Russia have been sentenced to death, eight to prison and hard labor, thirty to detention in the house of correction and forty to prison without hard labor.

A fireman in Brooklyn secured a verdict for \$16,000 for the loss of a leg. A house was left in the middle of the street, and his team and engine collided with it in responding to an alarm.

The state committee in dispensing with the ball during the inaugural of Governor Lawelling has voiced the wishes of the governor and also the majority of the people that supported him in the late election.

It is reported that Duane Freeman, late candidate on the democratic ticket in this district, is a candidate for United States marshal of Kansas. W. C. Jones, chairman of the democratic committee, is also a candidate.

Prominent colored men of the people's party held a meeting at Topeka Saturday for the purpose of organizing a colored branch of their party for the state. A. B. Cabbell, the colored presidential elector, was one of the chief moving spirits in this organization.

A dispatch says the eight populists

in the California legislature met last Friday and agreed to stand as a unit for the person the majority of the eight decide upon for the United States senate. They hold the balance of power, and may secure a United States senator.

The tale of a rejected suitor killing his sweetheart is getting somewhat old by reason of its much repetition. Is it indeed pitiable that a man can get the idea there are but two people in the world—the object of his affection and himself. 'Twere better had he never been born.

Bill Higgins might have been a pretty decent sort of fellow if he had been called William all his life.—Iola Register.

Screen doors, screen doors, for sale by the CHICAGO LUMBER COMPANY.

Buy the Aermotor, Eclipse and Perkins wind mills at Ennis & Walker's.

Ennis & Walker are unloading a car load of LaBelle, Fish Bros. and Bain wagons.

The Chicago Lumber company has the best and cheapest screen doors on the market.

Any catalogue prices met and express saved by attending Wittelschfer's cash inventory sale.

Dry salt 10 cents per lb., smoked bacon from 11 to 12 1-2 cents per pound, Swarts & Penn.

Pocket knives—the best 50 cent knife ever offered to the public. Call at the Goodland Hardware company and see for yourself.

Ennis & Walker wish to inform the farmers of Sherman county that they are handling the genuine Glidden wire made at DeKalb, Ill.

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