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LABOR AND INDUSTRY

SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST TO UNION WORKMEN.

Northern Labor Problem as Viewed by a Southern Newspaper—No Monetary Legislation This Year—Russia's Railways.

The Last Man.
(An Old Favorite.)
All worldly shapes shall melt in gloom,
The sun himself must die,
Before this mortal shall assume
His immortality!
I saw a vision in my sleep,
That gave my spirit strength to sweep
Adown the gulf of Time;
I saw the last of human mould,
That shall creation's death behold,
As Adam saw her prime.

The sun's eye had a sickly glare;
The earth with age was wan;
The skeletons of nations were
Around that lonely man,
Some had expired in fight—the brands
Still rusted in their bony hands;
In plague and famine some.
Earth's cities had no sound nor tread,
And shifts were drifting with the dead
To shores where all was dumb.

Yet, prophetic-like, that lone one stood,
With dauntless words and high,
That shook the serene leaves from the wood
As if a storm passed by,
Saying, "We are twins in death, proud
Sun."

Thy face is cold, thy race is run,
Thy mercy bids thee go;
For thou ten thousand thousand years
Hast seen the tide of human tears,
That shall no longer flow.

What though beneath thee man put
forth
His pomp, his pride, his skill;
And arts that made fire, floods and earth,
The vassals of his will;
Yet mourn not I thy parting way,
Thou dim, discerned by kind of day;
For all those trophies art,
And triumphs that beneath thee sprang,
Held not a passion or a pang
Entail'd on human hearts.

Go, let oblivion's curtain fall
Upon the stage of men,
Nor with thy rising beams recall
Life's tragedy again.
Its piteous pageants bring not back,
Nor waken flesh upon the rack
Of pain anew to writhe;
Stretch'd in disease's shapes abhorr'd,
Or mown in battle by the sword,
Like grass beneath the scythe.

Even I am weary in yon skies
To watch thy fading fire;
Test of all sunless agonies,
Behold not me expire.
My lips that speak thy dirge of death—
Their rounded gasp and gurgling breath
To see thou shalt not boast.
The eclipse of Nature spreads my pall—
The majesty of darkness shall
Receive my parting ghost!

This spirit shall return to Him
That gave thy heavenly spark;
Yet think not, Sun, it shall be dim
When thou thyself art dark!
Not it shall live again, and shine
In bliss unknown to beams of thine,
By Him recall'd to breath,
Who captive led captivity,
Who robb'd the grave of victory—
And took the sting from death!

Go, Sun, while mercy holds me up
On Nature's awful waste
To drink this last and bitter cup
Of grief that man shall taste—
Gleefully that night that hides thy face,
Thou saw'st the last of Adam's race,
On earth's sepulchral clod,
The darkening universe defy
To quench his immortality.
Or shake his trust in God!

—Campbell.

Northern Labor Problem.
New Orleans Playmate: The mine-owners at Pana, being unable to induce their operatives to enter the mines at any lower price than that named in the scale, brought in negroes from Alabama to take their places. The governor of Illinois found it necessary to use state troops to enforce and maintain order, and the troops are still on duty at Pana and Virden.

The meaning of all this is that there are 800 mines in that state, and 785 of them are now operating under the Springfield scale. The only mines which shut down were those at Pana and Virden, but they are now operating with negroes, at such wages as will enable them to undersell all the Illinois coal mines. Should this competition reach the point where the other Illinois mines will be forced to import negroes from the south, many thousands of white miners will be driven out of the business to make way for the cheaper negro labor. If all the Illinois mines should be driven by such competition to adopt negro labor, that might have so profound and far-reaching an effect on the coal market as to force all the western coal operators to secure cheaper labor also. It may take some years to bring this about, but, the premises considered, the outlook is by no means unlikely. At any rate, the negro question is going to become so closely involved in the labor problem of the northern states that it will profoundly affect political and social conditions there.

The Days That Are Gone.
Of all our earthly possessions time is one of which we are possibly the most recklessly extravagant, and it is the one we can least make good when it is squandered. A measure of health may be brought back oftentimes when it has been wrecked, by much effort; wealth, if lost, can be regained; talents, if estranged, can be won back; knowledge acquired by earnest study;

even blasted reputations can be restored; but moments sped can never be recalled. They have slipped silently out; the other hours which come so swiftly to us are not the same. Other duties come pressing home with them, which fill all the days and leave not an instant to make up for lost time. Our days are but a span breadth, and after a while they will be numbered.

God has given us many opportunities with all the days that were, but how few of them we really and truly make proper use of. Now we sit in the shadow of the old year, and think back upon them, and it is with regretful longing. Could we only bring them back again! But this can never be. And even if we could, should we have done any better than we are now doing, or than we did? Probably not; but there is a deep lesson to be gleaned from this retrospective view into the days that are gone, and that is, if we have a desire to perform a good action we must do it, and do it now. The present only is ours, and if we let the experiences of the past teach us their proper lesson it must all be summed up in this thought, "We must do with our might whatsoever our hand findeth to do, and do it now, redeeming the time, for the days are evil."

No Monetary Legislation.
A canvass of the house has been taken to ascertain the exact sentiment of that body on the advisability of holding an extra session for the consideration of monetary legislation. The result shows an almost overwhelming majority in the negative. The Indianapolis monetary commission, of which H. H. Hanna is chairman, has been supporting a lobby at Washington, and the canvass was made at Mr. Hanna's instigation. The Indianapolis people are also flooding the country with literature calculated to mold public sentiment in favor of further legislation.

The gold-standard Republicans, as well as Republicans, are almost unanimous in favor of letting what they force themselves to call well enough alone. The President, it is said, wishes the subject to go over until the next regular session of congress. By that time he figures he will have a Republican in place of a silver majority in the senate, and any measure which the house might agree upon would stand a chance of becoming a law.

This would postpone the whole subject until December, 1899, and the spring of 1900, and make the question again a campaign issue, and the action of the Republicans a party pronouncement.

Japanese Morality.
The Yoruudo, a newspaper of Japan, published in a recent issue a long article roasting the Japanese members of parliament for their lax morality. The paper says that once upon a time a Chinese emperor took a fancy to a slender woman, and the court ladies laced themselves so tight that some of them squeezed their little souls out of their bodies. So with the Japanese members of the house. The paper says the masses follow in the footsteps of Marquis Ito, Marquis Yamagata, Count Okuma and Count Itagaki, which action has engendered a low standard of political and social morality. If these great men do it, why should not the humble Jap, who certainly has certain vicious tendencies, and he does, and the influence of Confucianism and Buddhism is destroyed. The paper then makes the startling statement that the women of Japan are insulted in various entertaining ways, but very rarely respected. Woman is a household chattel, but that is all.

Russia's Railways.
An American gentleman, who has traveled steadily for more than a year over the vast Trans-Siberian and Trans-Caspian railways, and who has just returned to London, says he has been taken by train to the Persian frontier, to the Indian frontier, and to the Chinese frontier, and that Russian troops are being moved about with an ease which shows that Russia can presently concentrate half a million soldiers at any point on the frontiers, and that British supremacy on the sea cannot alter the fact that Russia will drain the whole trade of Asia through her mighty railway system, which is far beyond the reach of British warships.

It is this tremendous fact that impels British statesmanship to seek to alienate the United States from Russia and to convert Russia into an enemy rather than a friend. British spies are watching every foot of railway construction along the Asiatic frontier.

Mild Request.
"I wish," said Cholly to the barber, "that you would cut a nick or two in my face, to make it look as if I had shaved myself. It is such awfully bad form to get shaved in a public shop, you know."—Indianapolis Journal.

Agulnaldo becomes unruly at a most inopportune time. Mr. Sherman had a letter for a fine notice next to pure reading matter.

THE OFFICE OF MONEY

AS SUCH INTRINSIC VALUE DOES NOT EXIST.

Judge Henry G. Miller Offers Some Plain Facts That Cannot Be Successfully Refuted by Advocates of the British Gold Standard.

The leading financiers of Europe and of this country act upon the assumption that the great body of our people do not understand and never will understand the principles of money and circulation and the effects of financial legislation. As this is already the richest country in the world, occupied by a most active and enterprising people, engaged in prosecuting industries of every clime and diligent in supplying their own and the markets of the world with the products of these industries, these financiers regard it as a most inviting field for the display of their skill in devising financial measures from the operation of which vast fortunes can be realized. Our government was founded upon the theory that the people would take an interest and become sufficiently acquainted with public affairs to choose those policies best calculated to promote their welfare. The only agency they can exercise in the affairs of government is in selecting from their number, from time to time, the men who make and administer our laws. The details of legislation they are not required to master; they must leave this labor to their representatives, plainly indicate the policies they favor, and it is the bounden duty of their representatives to see that the will of the people, as legally expressed at the polls, so far as it is embodied in the laws of the land. It is this that makes this government of ours a popular government. No more important question can be submitted to the people of this country than the one that is now distinctly before them, which is: What shall their money be? Shall it consist of gold alone or of gold and silver? For upon the correct decision of this question depends their industrial and commercial prosperity. We can confidently say this, that when our people once grasp a subject that so greatly concerns them, they will never drop it; it never will be settled until it is rightly settled. The question is enveloped in no mystery. It only requires the mental effort of an ordinary intellect to throw a sufficient light upon a man's pathway to the polls to enable him to exercise an intelligent choice. The considerations that should prevail with him can be very plainly stated: 1. That the only value of money is found in its relation to commodities and other forms of property; that the value of any given sum of money is the amount of property it will exchange for—in other words, its purchasing power; that in a commercial sense neither gold nor silver nor any other thing has any intrinsic value; that its value is wholly extrinsic and is expressed in the terms of the thing it will exchange for. 2. That the value or purchasing power of money depends entirely upon the mass or quantity in circulation, and not be any extent upon the character of the substance in which it is embodied or by which it is represented. Consequently as the volume of money is increased its value or purchasing power falls, and this is manifested by a rise in the prices of other forms of property, including wages, and that while money is falling in value it will engage in productive industries and give a larger employment to labor; that as the volume of money in circulation diminishes its value or purchasing power increases, and this is manifested by a fall in the prices of other forms of property; that while this process is going on, money in idleness increases in value, retires from productive industries and seeks gilt-edged securities, and is quite satisfied with a low rate of interest; that falling prices means diminished profits, and that diminishing profits generate a war between labor and capital, growing out of the necessity for a new adjustment of their wage relations to each other, and that this terminates their friendly co-operation and arrests production, which is the greatest evil that can befall a people. 3. That the great struggle of mankind is not for the material of which money is made, but for the office it performs. They want money not to hoard it, but for the service it will render them. The truth of these very simple propositions is vindicated by our daily experience and the experience of all former ages. If this is so, but one answer can be given to the question, whether the metallic basis of our currency shall be confined to gold alone, or whether it shall consist of both metals, as it did practically the world over prior to that unfortunate year of 1873. It is said: "If money derives its value from the office it performs, and its value is dependent upon the quantity of it in circulation, and not to any extent upon the material of which it is made, or by which it is represented, why not use paper money for monetary purposes, and not waste so much useless labor in digging out gold and silver?" The answer is

that unaided human wisdom cannot fix a proper limit to the quantity of the circulating medium. A resort to the printing press for our money would work the same injustice to creditors that the single gold standard now does to debtors. When the relation of money to other forms of property is once properly adjusted, a dollar that is constantly falling in value is no more an honest dollar than a dollar that is constantly rising in value. What justice demands is the continuance of an even scale, and this can be better accomplished by the use of both instead of one of the metals in the currency. No. Let our gold and silver mines be our banks of issue, and then metallic money will perform its legitimate function in properly limiting the quantity of our paper currency, which is the most convenient form of money and which will always do the principal work of commerce.

HENRY G. MILLER.

The Living Issue.

We are the largest producers of silver in the world, and with a bimetallic standard, under conditions of stable parity, we would absorb and retain in our own currency only our distributive share of the entire production of the two metals. The first effect, however, of the increased supply of the metals at home would be felt on home prices; but having raised prices here the metals would gradually flow to other countries. Silver now goes out of the country only as a commodity at, say, 65 cents an ounce; but under conditions of bimetalism on the ratio of 16 to 1, silver would go abroad as money at \$1.29 an ounce; or, if at a ratio of 15 to 1, it would go at 1.23 an ounce. Under the stimulus of the higher price, more silver, too, would be produced in the United States, and it would make a very great difference whether a hundred million ounces of silver went to pay debts at 65 cents an ounce, or at \$1.29 an ounce. The difference in the value of the silver product alone of the United States would go a long way toward paying the interest on our debt abroad. Besides, more of the gold produced in the United States could be spared to pay debts abroad, if in parting with it the stability of our money system would not be disturbed, as it would not be under bimetalism, for then silver would be as available for all money purposes as gold. Secondly, the restoration of the bimetallic standard would put a stop at once to the fall of prices, and would no doubt result in a gradual rise of prices, for a time at least, over the whole world. The debts of the world would cease to grow heavier as a burden and could be more easily discharged. This gain would inure to the great advantage of all debtor nations. Since the change in the money standard, in 1873, debts have constantly increased through the appreciation of money, until, as compared with commodities, they have been fully doubled? As prices gradually rise, the increasing pressure of debts would cease. Thirdly, the restoration of the bimetallic standard, by putting a stop to the appreciation of gold and the fall of prices, would open the way to another era of prosperity; confidence would be restored; that is, by restoring conditions that make business success possible. Enterprise would be stimulated and wealth would be increased as never before.

Railroad Agent for the Senate.

Professor Gunton proclaims with much emphasis that Dr. Depew would be "the ideal senator" for the state of New York. With the doctor in the senate the professor says "New York would have a representation fully equal to thirty times—nay, perhaps 100 times—that given by a Murphy." He remarks that "no great question of national import would be up for consideration without New York being heard from." He declares that the doctor is at once an interested representative of all that is best in New York, and a specimen of the best type of national spirit and statesmanship." And more to like effect. The reader will not be at a loss to account for all this fulsome laudation if he will recall to mind the fact that Professor Gunton is not only a rabid advocate of the system of protection, which is essentially a system of law-made monopoly, but a confessed and outspoken defender of all manner of monopoly combines, from the railroad combines which have fared badly at the hands of the supreme court of the United States to the manufacturing combines which flourish in defiance of law. Dr. Depew was particularly conspicuous as a representative of the Vanderbilt interests in that huge combine known as the Joint Traffic Association, which was brought to a sad and distressful dissolution by a decision of the supreme court. He is a conspicuous advocate of the legalization of pooling by congress, of the repeal of so much of the interstate commerce law as prohibits pooling, and of the legalization in the case of railroads of that combining to defeat competition which the law strictly forbids in other lines of business.

Don't blow out the lamp of reason for the gas light of wit.

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BAPTIST—M. E. Weaver, pastor. Regular services, Second and Fourth Sundays at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m.; Sunday school, 10 a. m.; prayer meeting, Wednesday, 8 p. m. All invited.

LODGES.

Phoenix Lodge No. 38, A. F. & A. M.—Simcoe Walmley, W. M.; J. C. Trichel Jr., Sec. Meets First and Third Wednesdays at 7 p. m.

Castle Hall No. 89, Knights of Pythias—U. P. Breazeale, C. C.; Adolph L'Herrison, K. of R. & S. Meets Second and Fourth Thursdays at 8 p. m.

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