

### Individualism as a Sociological Principle.

If there is in old-fashioned competition the helpfulness to production in which we have been taught to believe, what must be said of those gigantic monopolies, with power to be helpful but in fact often cruel, which the let alone system cherishes to new power and numbers daily, whose purpose and whose result is to kill out competition within their scope. When, in Henry VII's time, Lambert Simnel sought to impose himself upon England as Edward Plantagenet, Earl of Warwick, son of the murdered Duke of Clarence, it was objected to him, first, that they did not want another Yorkist on the English throne any way, and, secondly, that he was not a Yorkist at all, but an impostor. Similarly, one might object to our old economic order; first, that laissez-faire at all, is in many ways an evil at best, and, secondly, that the system so named frequently does not yield genuine laissez-faire at all, but quite the reverse. Witness our railway pools, coal pools, beef pools, manufacturers' leagues, the Knights of Labor, trades unions and innumerable other combinations similar in nature. Current tirades against the tyranny of labor organizations contain most telling arguments against the laissez-faire theory. In fact, nothing could be more erroneous than to identify the let alone policy with a real individual liberty policy.

Many cling to the delusion that these mighty combinations of capital are to pass away, and old-time competition to return. Bills have been brought before half the legislatures of the Union to compel free competition by making trade syndicates more illegal than they are. Depend upon it, such legislation is vain. The age of competition as we have known it is gone forever. Recall it? As well try to waken the dead. In simple industries, whose capital is small and little specialized, competition has worked well and will continue. The weakest party drops from the strife to day, to-morrow the next weakest, and so on. But each loss is slight. The unfortunate entrepreneur lets himself for wages, and his stock passes to another. In such businesses competition is the best practicable way to insure a healthy life. Not so when the competitors are industrial Titans, each with a plant worth its millions, much of it so specialized that to relinquish business is to sink it utterly. In such cases, which more and more each year represent the world's industry, competition cannot end with a little friction. It grinds, and, in time, kills. The great mill, placed at a disadvantage by position, by some tariff act, or perhaps by railway discrimination, is yet forbidden to shut down. That were to lose all. Better keep running and lose less than all. The least penny over fixed charges and running expenses is better than nothing. Down to that dead line at least the strife is likely to go on, the stockholders impoverishing themselves that their mill may compete. At last a bankrupt sale ensues, machinery going for junk, the building left to collapse from decay. Competitors survive, but of course poorer because of the war. Here, too, competition has proved a regulator—as Caesar kept the peace in Gaul.

Fortunately, men have learned of a better regulator, viz., combination. Instead of keeping up that mortal conflict, they unite, pool their interests, make common cause against others trying to enter the field, parcel out the production in as fair a way as possible and fix buying and selling prices so that all alike may realize gains. Joining hands in this way is the industrial fashion of the day; nor will the change end till every great industry has taken on complete solidarity of organization. Such a syndicate has in it the power to become an extraordinary blessing to society in cheapening production, so immense are the advantages of massed capital and centralized control. But we ask the reader specially to observe, what is widely overlooked or denied, that when a business comes under the trust form, no more economic law

is going to force the change to bless society. So far as economic law is concerned, it may and, unless looked after, probably will, prove a curse instead. When a commodity is produced under trust conditions, cost does not regulate selling prices. This is done quite arbitrarily for a time, the seller's whim being perhaps sobered a little by his memory of old competitive rates. Slowly, caprice gives way to law; but it is a new law—that of men's needs. Prices go higher and higher till demand, and hence profit, begins to fall off; and they then play about the line of what the market will bear, much as they used to about that of cost. The producer can be more or less exacting according to the nature of the product. If it is a luxury, the new law may not elevate greatly above the old notch. If it is a necessity, he may bleed people to death.—George Ethelbert Walsh, in the Chautauquan.

Ernest Riale, the promoter of the Bill Williams dam, south of Signal, Arizona, who has made The Needles his headquarters for a month past, will leave in a few days for the east in the interest of his irrigation and water-storage scheme.—Needles Eye.

Three men at Redlands, California, fought over the disreputable affections of one woman; result, one man shot twice, another stabbed and a third fatally cut; two of the men will die, and the disreputable affections are still for sale in open market.—Prescott Courier.

Denison, Texas, claims to have discovered a six-year-old boy who has been a tramp for two years, plays poker, drinks whisky, can swear like a pirate, and is an expert with the pistol.

In Denver the street cleaning is done by a bureau managed by the city, and the cost is \$8.75 per mile per day. Chicago has the contract system and the cost is \$22 per mile per day.

The breaking up of the practice of usury at the Government departments by Shylocks who loan money to clerks at outrageous rates of interest is being again agitated.

Attorney General Maloney of Ill., has begun quo warranto proceedings against the Whisky Trust. It is declared that the trust was misused and perverted its powers.

A Mexican in Phenix was bit by a dog about a week ago, and he is now suffering from hydrophobia, from which he is expected to die.—Prospector.

The New York Socialistic Labor Association has raised \$1,000 for the Socialistic voters of Germany at the election to be held in that country June 15.

Vanderbilt's wrecked yacht Alva has finally been blown to pieces. The explosion lifted about two acres of Long Island Sound water 200 feet skyward.

Five ministers of Macon, Mo., are being tried upon the charge of libel for publishing a circular denouncing a school in which dancing is taught.

Mrs. Frank Hare of Lansing, Michigan, killed her nine-year-old son because she feared he would become a thief. The woman is said to be insane.

Senator and Mrs. Brice gave a magnificent dinner at their residence in Washington, D. C., in honor of the Grand Duke Alexander of Russia.

The Board of Lady Managers of the World's Fair have set apart a place in the Woman's building for an exhibit by the Afro-American women.

The first paid admission to the Columbian Fair was very appropriately received from Paul Columbus. His home is at Laporte, Ind.

The New York Chamber of Commerce has turned over \$27,000 to its committee on the entertainment of World's Fair visitors.

It is rumored that a tall building is to be erected in Chicago in which there shall not be a stone, brick or piece of timber.

### "Penological Reform."

It is an axiom of modern scientific penology that swiftness and certainty in the infliction of the legal penalties for wrong-doing are prime factors in their preventive influence. As the chief object of legal punishment should be the prevention of crime it is obvious that apart from all conscientious and sentimental considerations, capital punishment is a melancholy practical failure. The 236 illegal lynchings during the past year, which, however indefensible from a high moral or legal standpoint, have at least been swift and certain in their operation, have doubtless thus fulfilled the true function of a preventive penalty far more efficiently than the legal executions. It is unquestionably the dictum of enlightened penologists at the present day that the penalty of imprisonment for life as a hard and useful labor, or even for a definite term of years, with proper restrictions of the pardoning power, would be far more effectual as a deterrent than is the taking of the criminal's life, in the existing state of public opinion in civilized countries. With reference to the pardoning power, it may be said indeed, that as a prerogative of governors and presidents, its survival is an anomaly under our republican institutions. It is essentially a royal prerogative—a direct inheritance from the monarchical system, under which the "divine right" of the king was assumed to render him superior to the decrees of courts and legislative bodies. This power, in minor offenses, should give way to the operation of the indeterminate sentence system which involves the release of prisoners on parole and the reduction of sentences for good behavior; and in the higher crimes it should be vested only in a properly constituted court of pardons, with clearly defined and limited powers, giving the judges authority to act only upon newly discovered evidence, or in those extreme cases where humanity and sound judgement justify a shortening of the sentence.

It is another axiom of modern scientific penology that society has no right to inflict punishment in the spirit of vengeance or retribution. It has, first, the right to protect its members from the unsocial and predatory acts of the criminal classes, and secondly, the right and obligation to submit offenders to such discipline and instruction, under humane and enlightened methods, as will transform them, if possible, into productive and law-abiding citizens. With hardened offenders of mature years, this is, of course a difficult task. With the young and with first offenders, the case is more hopeful. Here the problem is to furnish criminals with an environment which shall supplement the lack of physical, mental and moral discipline under which they have developed criminal tastes and habits; to overcome, as far as possible, those congenial defects, both bodily and mental, which predispose to criminal weakness; to increase the power of the will over the inclinations; to improve the physique and health of the subject, and thus rid the constitution of abnormal physical appetites; to develop moral sensibility; and finally, to give instruction in some useful trade or occupation, so that when the person again enters society he will be able to earn remunerative wages and not be compelled to "live by his wits," which generally means to drift through life as witlessly as possible.—Dr. James G. Janes, in New Occasions for June.

The Pennsylvania Company is straightening its line between Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, and in consequence the line is being gradually shortened, while many of the curves are being entirely done away with.

At Louis Sand's lumber camp, near Lake City, Mich., which was attacked by forest fires, eight men took refuge in a well and were cremated by burning timbers falling on them.

Baltimore is now insisting that the price of gas shall be reduced from \$1.25 to \$1 per thousand feet.

The Slater Mill and Power Company's building at Providence, R. I., was burned Sunday afternoon. It was occupied by several concerns, and the total losses will reach \$200,000.

Valuable concessions for agricultural, mining and industrial colonies, granted by Mexico to Americans, have been forfeited by a failure to make the necessary cash deposit.

Mrs. Anna Jack of Farmington, Ill., was taken with a severe coughing spell, some time ago, and a lump was ejected which is reported to have been a mass of common pins.

Old Fly, a mare folded in 1855, who served in the Civil War for three years and passed through eight battles, is still living and well-preserved in Posey county, Ind.

The Baltimoreans complain that the rapid-transit cars sweeping swiftly through the streets of that city raise clouds of offensive dust as high as the house-top.

Six carloads of exhibits sent by the United States to the exhibition at Madrid have just been returned to this country, and will be forwarded at once to Chicago.

A man arrested at Wilkesbarre, Penn., has confessed to having started the fires which twice destroyed a Methodist church at Scranton, causing a loss of \$250,000.

A receiver has been appointed for the Vermont Investment and Guarantee Company and for the firm of Hammond, Bush & Co., bankers, located at Orville, Vt.

Senator Morrill of Vermont is in better health than he has been for several years, though he recently celebrated the anniversary of his eighty-third birthday.

Thirty-one million four hundred and seventy-five thousand five hundred and nineteen barrels of domestic beer were consumed in the United States last year.

The Union Pacific shops at Omaha are repairing the old car in which President Abraham Lincoln traveled in the '60s for exhibition at the World's Fair.

A New York paper says that 1,000 policy shops are doing business in that city, and that \$25,000 a day is being dropped by the "suckers."

Governor Tillman of South Carolina is testing the new liquor law in the Supreme Court of the State before putting it in operation.

In a factory at Bridgeport, Conn., several girls have been ill or driven crazy by the foolish practical jokes of their companions.

Dr. Talmage announced to his congregation Sunday that the debt of the Tabernacle had been liquidated, whereupon he was cheered.

Pickpockets got among the Drunkards at Munice, Ind., Sunday and relieved many of them of pocket-books, watches and diamonds.

Chicago now declares that the extortions which are carried on in connection with the Fair are perpetrated by outsiders.

Rev. Dr. John R. Paxton of New York, the noted Presbyterian divine, is under surgical care for a very painful disease.

Governor Hogg of Texas has commuted the death sentence of a convicted negro rapist to life imprisonment.

After pegging away all the way from New York on foot, three Germans have just arrived at Winnipeg.

An organization of descendants of American colonists who sided with the English Government has been effected.

The Whisky Trust is in a state of dissolution, several distillers having given notice of withdrawal.

A vigorous fight against the intrusion of cholera will be made by the New York health authorities.

Portland, Maine, boasts, or rather doesn't boast, the possession of a rum-seller ten years old.

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