

the big Congressional picnic from Washington to that city. A New York paper which boasts of a "circulation among the best people," prints a description of the magnificence of these millionaires, and then goes on to say:

The granger Congressman toiling industriously in behalf of the dear people at his post in the House, writing innumerable epistles in questionable English to multitudinous plain living constituents and laboriously eating pie with his knife in the House restaurant, or nibbling in the corner of the cloak room at sandwiches brought in a handkerchief from his boarding house, is one thing.

The same statesman rolling luxuriously westward in a Pullman car with his wife and female descendants, delicately sipping Pomey Sec from dainty cut glass, inhaling the odor of 25-cent cigars, and fastidiously selecting from an elaborate menu, the triumphs of Parisian cookery, to satisfy his critical palate, is a different order of being. Brought under the influence of a refining civilization and the social amenities, surrounded by the good things of life and indulging in its creature comforts, the granger is not a bad sort of fellow, and develops mellowing qualities hitherto unsuspected.

Nothing remarkable about this except as it illustrates the rapidly growing un-American spirit of prince and peasant. The farmer is the butt of amusement and ridicule of these tariff fed monopolists and millionaires who invite him to a picnic that they may be amused by his antics and enjoy seeing him "mellow, under the influences of a refining civilization." The granger, who may or may not eat pie with a knife, is likely to be the superior of the club princes in all but the species of cunning that goes to make the successful money getter. There should be no reason in this country of alleged freedom why the granger shouldn't be "surrounded by the creature comforts of life," as well as the other party, whose wealth depends upon the farmer's toil and thrift. He may not know Pomey Sec from Spanish port, made in California, but there are a few other things he shows signs of finding out in which the merry millionaires are profoundly interested.

As a sort of foil to the foregoing self adulation of the "sixty privileged ones," the following is from the *Congressional Record* of March 3, from a granger Congressman:

Mr. Simpson—I am in favor, Mr. Chairman, of the adoption of the amendment of the gentleman from Iowa. In listening to the discussion on the Indian appropriation bill for the last week, I was very much gratified to see the interest that gentlemen took in the education of the heathen or Indian. I was very much amused to see how it went from state to state; how, when the appropriation for the school at Carlisle was under consideration, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Beltzhoover) responded for his, as did other gentlemen when schools in their districts were under consideration, because that secured some money for circulation in their particular districts. When that force rolled along and struck New Mexico, at once the interest of the delegate from New Mexico was aroused for the purpose of securing education for the Indian. So when every state or territory for which appropriations were touched, the patriotism of these gentlemen was aroused at once to secure an appropriation to educate the heathen.

It strikes me, Mr. Chairman, that we have heathen in our own country, in our own cities, for whom we should secure education as well as the Indians. I am entirely in accord with any appropriation that will increase the school facilities, or the facilities of poor children to get an education, or that will raise the standard of education in this country, although, Mr. Chairman, I am not one of those who believe that will cure all the evils that society is afflicted with. I am not one of those who thinks that will guard us against the rise of barbarism, or drive a free government back into barbarism; but I think it is a step in the right direction, and along with some other necessary reforms, I think we can maintain this as a free government in the interest of the people. Therefore, I say that every dollar that goes to increase the school facilities in this country ought to be voted in this House. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the gentlemen on that side who are understood to be in favor of retrenchment and

reform, will not apply that to this amendment, where it is intended to increase the school facilities in this great capital city of the nation.

Mr. Simpson—Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that when you have let in so many, it is injustice to keep out any. It would appear that we have ransacked creation to hunt up every charitable institution, or possibly these institutions have hunted us up; and we are making appropriations for them out of the money collected from the taxpayers of this country.

On page 33, I find an appropriation, "For Women's Christian Association, maintenance, \$4,000;" and on page 34 I find, "For Women's Union Christian Association, maintenance, \$250." These would appear to be pretty nearly the same thing. Running your eye over these pages you will find that for the maintenance of orphans here in the great capital city of the nation there is appropriated money enough apparently to maintain all the orphans the United States. It would seem that a raid has been made on the treasury for this purpose through these charitable institutions.

Mr. Chairman, it is not a commentary upon our system of government that this great city, the capital of the union, seems to be swarming with orphans and destitute people? In 1842, when Charles Dickens was visiting this country, he wrote home to some of his friends in Great Britain: "If an angel were to appear in the streets of Boston with a flaming sword it would not cause any more excitement or agitation among the people than would the appearance of a beggar." At that time beggars were practically unknown in this country. But now, after traveling through half a century of national existence under our free government and free institutions, we find, as I have said, this great capital city swarming with orphans; and it is proposed to appropriate this vast sum to support them. If the destitution is so great here in the capital of the country, what must it be in other portions of our union? It seems to me that we had some "calamity howlers" here in Washington as well as in Kansas. Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as we have let in all these other charitable institutions and appropriated money for them, I am in favor of letting in this institution also.

May we not obtain a vast amount of knowledge by and through comparison? J. C. H.

Washington, D. C., March 4, 1892.

THE ST. LOUIS PLATFORM.

THE ADDRESS.

This, the first great labor conference of the United States and of the world—representing all divisions of urban and rural organized industry—assembled in national congress, invoking upon its action the blessing and protection of Almighty God, puts forth, to and for the producers of this nation, this declaration of union and independence:

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation. We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized. Many of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places in order to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are subsidized or muzzled; public opinion alienated; business prostrated; our homes covered with mortgages; labor impoverished, and the land concentrated in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hireling standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down, and they are rapidly degenerating to European conditions. The fruits of the toil of the millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes, unprecedented in the history of

the world, while the possessors despoil the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—paupers and millionaires. The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the value of all forms of property, as well as human labor; and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and is taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once, it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization or the establishment of an absolute despotism. In this crisis of human affairs the intelligent working people and producers of the United States have come together, in the name of peace, order and society, to defend liberty, prosperity and justice.

We declare our union and independence. We assert our purpose to vote with that political organization which represents our principles. We charge that the controlling influences dominating the old political parties have allowed the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious effort to restrain or prevent them. Neither do they now intend to accomplish reform. They have agreed together to ignore in the coming campaign every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff, so that corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, "watered stocks," the demonetization of silver, and the oppressions of usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes and children upon the altar of mammon—to destroy the hopes of the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the great lords of plunder. We assert that a political organization, representing the political principles herein stated, is necessary to redress the grievances on which we complain.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birth of the illustrious man who led the first great revolt on this continent against oppression, filled with the sentiments which actuated that grand generation, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of the "plain people" with whom it originated. Our doors stand open to all points of the compass. We ask all honest men to join with and help us. In order to restrain the extortions of aggregated capital, to drive the money changers out of the temple, to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity, we do ordain and establish the following platform of principles:

First—We declare the union of the labor forces of the United States this day accomplished, permanent and perpetual. May its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second—Wealth belongs to him who creates it. Every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any will not work neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and urban labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

Third—We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations, a just, equitable means of cir-

ulation at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent, as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance or some better system. Also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

Fourth—We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

Fifth—We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

Sixth—We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

Seventh—We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand all national and state revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

Eighth—We demand a graduated income tax.

Ninth—The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual need, and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

Tenth—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

Eleventh—The telegraph and telephone, like the post-office system, being a necessity for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

Resolved, That we hail this conference as the consummation of the perfect union of hearts and hands of all sections of our common country; the men who wore the gray and the men who wore the blue meet here to extinguish the last smoldering embers of a civil war in the tears of joy of a united and happy people, and we agree to carry the stars and stripes forward forever to the highest point of national greatness.

ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS.

We demand that the government issue legal tender notes and pay the union soldiers the difference between the price of the depreciated money in which he was paid and gold.

We demand that the question of woman suffrage be submitted to the state and territorial legislatures for favorable action.

Whereas, The present practice of dealing or gambling in so-called "options and futures" on the various farm products and necessities of life is of national importance, and involves not only a moral principle but an economic question, being disastrous and pernicious to producers and consumers alike in comparison to which lottery gambling sinks into insignificance; and

Whereas, Our respectful memorials to Congress have so far been entirely disregarded, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we most solemnly protest against this infamous evil and demand the passage of such laws as will effectually eradicate all gambling or dealing in options and futures.

Twin Mound Sub-Alliance No. 1840.

Resolved, That this Alliance does hereby denounce the movement of the company known as the National Union Company and cordage trust; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE ADVOCATE for publication.

J. C. ADAMS,
ELLEN PARKHURST,
C. M. JOHNSON,
Committee.

W. S. LANGDON, President.

J. E. McCauley, Secretary.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE ADVOCATE.