

The Army of the Commonweal.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—History is repeating itself in our age. We have reached another transition period in national life. Old parties and policies are worn out. We have lived without political or state reform for twenty-five years. Conservatism has changed to retrogression. The extremes have touched. Radicalism must follow retrogression. A new departure, a new alignment of forces must be had. The present conditions mean death to all progress. The old order is dying hard. It assumes the role of a martyr, and will die without confessing its sins. We are in a period of unprecedented decay. The administration, the congress, the courts, are devoid of the springs of intelligent action; over all pervades an atmosphere of hypocrisy and imbecility. Like Belshazzar, they are feasting while the Meads are approaching. With shameless disregard of the rights of the people, the theory and traditions of popular government, the rulers of the nation have struck off at one blow more than half of an already short currency fund. This is the greatest and most unjustifiable public crime of the century. A gold standard and its incidents, a policy of monarchical government, is adopted without let or leave of the people, and without any modification to meet the altered conditions of a new and free country. A false and unsettled issue over tariff reform is kept up in congress which allows a few "home industries" to plunder and throw out of employment, a patient and long-suffering people. Government is held with its "nozzle against the bank," away from the masses, for fear that they will get the benefits of the "paternalism" that the gold-bugs and home "industries" enjoy. The majority must put up with "individualism" and "competition," while the minority have the harvest fields of "paternalism" and "monopoly." The attitude of government in this country is no different or better than monarchy. It is employed to assist in the discrimination of the few against the many. We have in operation the converse of what popular government should be. These wrongs have not passed unnoticed and without protest. The weak small voice is abroad through the land. The word of warning has gone forth. It has been drowned in a confusion of tongues. A few true men have spoken out in the national council, but they have been jeered and mocked. Petitions of grievance have found their way into the waste basket. The people, the right, must not be heard. This is a rule that has served absolutism for centuries, but they must and will be heard.

The army of the commonweal is a petition "in boots" to congress to correct existing abuses insofar as that body can do so. Nothing is asked but what congress has both a legal right and moral obligation to do. The opposition to this army is on line with the opposition and disregard of the people that have actuated the national rulers for years. It differs now only in being direct, instead of indirect, as heretofore. Coxe's army more nearly represents the people in sentiment than the rulers now in power. A Coxeite who would not make a better legislator than John Sherman, or president than Grover Cleveland, is unworthy of a day's rations.

But what is the meaning of all this? The meaning is that the people are goaded to desperation. Wrong has been borne from governmental agencies as long as it can be well secured. The people of the colonies bore with government injury until it reached a point where they flew to dangers that they knew not

of to escape the pressure of known evils. The land is liable to blaze into war at any moment if striking the flint is kept so near the tinder.

If congress would grant the relief asked, and kings have granted more to their incensed subjects, the army would disband. But should not congress do that, the army has the constitutional right to assemble and petition it. The constitution grants that right. It was bought with the blood of the revolutionary fathers. If the army is chafed, it is a menace undoubtedly, but if not chafed, it may be as harmless as a petition from a remote constituency. But though this army pass away, is there not an example left behind for others to follow? If present conditions do not abate, it is liable to happen again, and draw additional force and purpose. Evil deeds bring evil incidents. The army is a natural consequence of legislative evils. As Satan could not conquer sin because derived from him, neither can the present authority conquer the army because derived from it.

How can the conditions be removed? Legally and constitutionally there is but one remedy, that is the ballot. The ballot has not done its duty. If it had, there would have been different rulers, and juster ones. But a just and patriotic use of the ballot might not always avail to prevent the present conditions. The electoral machinery is defective, and should be amended. It lacks the popular initiative or response in a great many important particulars, and this lack has partially caused the present conditions, and the muster of the army. If the people had been permitted to take a direct vote on the repeal of the "Sherman law," or the veto of the "seigniorage bill," or the rule for counting a quorum, or the "Wilson bill," far different results would be recorded. The servants would not be above the masters. The masters would not have to assemble at Washington to confront their recreant servants.

Government is carried on in this way in the republic of Switzerland. We might profitably learn a lesson from this little land of patriots and statesmen that would at one and the same time keep down arrogant authority and render assembled democracy unnecessary. As it was said years ago, so it may now be said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Is there anyone so dull as not to comprehend this? If so, let him look into the faces of his helpless family. Let him in this trial of the passing of the "bitter cup" resolve to stand close to the flag, and what it symbolizes. Lay aside prejudices and party. Come out as a patriot in times of peace as he would in war, and help save the only fabric of government in the world worth saving. Do justice to the "tramp" and the "millionaire," and see that they do justice. The harvest of many fields will soon be garnered, or lost in the winnow of the threshing floor.

D. MADDEN.

Cottonwood Falls, Kas.

From the Winfield Amendment Club.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—Tuesday evening, May 1, an equal suffrage contest was held in Manning's opera house under the auspices of the Winfield Amendment club. This club numbers over 300 members. The exercises were introduced by singing. The invocation was by President Phillips of the Southwestern Kansas college.

O. A. Hott, a republican real estate agent, spoke on the subject of "Woman and Man." He referred to Columbus, who could not sail on his voyage of discovery until he applied to and received

help from a woman. So it must ever be woman who equips man for all great voyages of life.

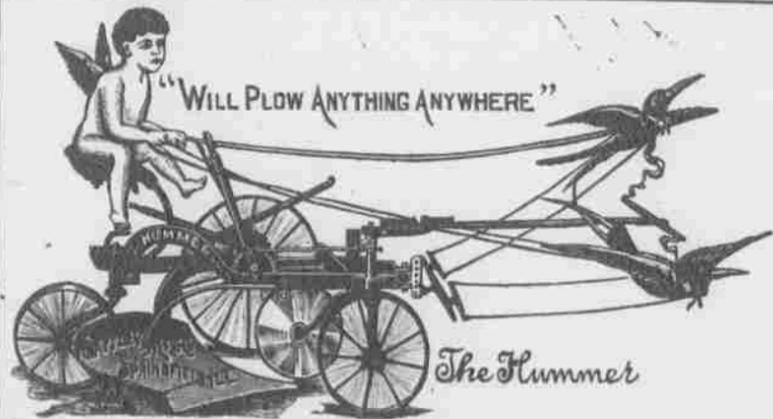
Dr. W. T. Wright, a physician of renown, who also is a republican, spoke upon "The Inalienable Rights of Woman," and why they have so long been deprived of these rights. He says woman has the same inherent rights as man, and receives them from the same source.

The Rev. D. C. Hoover, a noted prohibitionist, spoke on the "Tyranny of Prejudice." The ravages of prejudice are found everywhere. Every new idea is crucified on the cross of intolerance. This will never be a free nation until all the intelligence and patriotism have a voice at the polls.

The Rev. E. P. Hickok, a republican, and one of our best prohibition workers, recited "Two Stars." This was, in part, original, and spoke very touchingly of the only two stars on the woman's flag.

H. T. Trice, a stirring real estate agent, and a republican, took for his subject "Women and Her Political Peers." He illustrated with pictures in a pleasing manner.

The last contestant was a democrat,



our ex-mayor, P. H. Albright. Kansas has never known a more thoroughly reliable loan agent than he. Mr. Albright's subject was, "The Indian and the Eggs." The Indian could eat but six of the seven eggs given him, so he gave one to his wife. It is the brute in man that opposes woman's suffrage. The most intelligent men are in favor of it.

While waiting for the decision of the judges, J. C. Bradshaw, of the People's party, editor of the Free Press, spoke on the subject, "It Is Just, It Is Right." He gave a beautiful tribute to woman and mother.

The Rev. H. T. W. Kuehne, a republican, with pleasing remarks, presented the prize, a beautiful bouquet tied with yellow ribbon, to the successful contestant, the Rev. D. E. Hoover.

German Baptist Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the German Baptist brethren will be held at Meyersdale, Pa., on the Pittsburg Division of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, commencing May 24th, 1894.

For this occasion the B. & O. Railroad company will sell excursion tickets to Meyersdale and return from all stations on its system of lines at rate of one first-class fare for the round trip. From points east of and including Pittsburg and Wheeling the tickets will be sold from May 22 to 28 inclusive, and will be valid for return passage within thirty days from date of sale.

From points west of Pittsburg and Wheeling the tickets will be sold from 21 to 26 inclusive, and will be valid for return passage within thirty days from date of sale.

For time of trains, etc., address nearest agent of the B. & O. Railroad company, or O. P. McCarty, Gen'l Pass. Agent, B. & O. S. W. Railway, St. Louis, Mo.; L. S. Allen, Asst Gen'l Pass. Agent, B. & O. Railroad, Chicago, Ill.; E. D. Smith, Div. Pass. Agent, B. & O. Railroad, Pittsburg, Pa., or B. F. Bond, Div. Pass. Agent, B. & O. Railroad, Baltimore, Md.; Chas. O. Soull, Gen'l Pass. Agent, B. & O. Railroad, Baltimore, Md.

A "Hummer" and No Mistake.

Four hundred plows sold the first season of its introduction into Kansas is last season's record of sales by the Avery Planter company, of Kansas City, on the now-famous, three-wheeled, sulky plow, "The Hummer."

"The Hummer" embodies every conceivable improvement to make a perfect plow, and is the result of many years of costly experimenting. Durability, lightness of draft, and remarkable ease of management are among some of its special features. Once set at the desired depth, it can be raised from the ground any number of times, and will always go to the same depth when again lowered without the use of a ratchet.

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that does this. Before purchasing your sulky plows, send for our fine descriptive catalogue of this new wonder among plows.

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