

IMPENDING SLAVERY.

WE ARE DRIFTING INTO SUCH A CONDITION.

The Progress Which Has Been and the Progress Which Still Must Be, Bring Us Face to Face With a New Peril to Liberty.

The New York Voice came out last week with editorials that have in them the true Populist ring. Lord! how this Brooklyn strike has stirred up the eastern editors against corporate greed. They are punching around to discover the "cat under the meal," and oftentimes hit close to bruise the hide. If the editors will keep at the good work success will crown their efforts.

The editor of the Voice came near hitting the right spot when he said last week:

In all the progressive nations of the world, civilization is to-day rocking amid the throes of industrial revolution. What is the matter?

In America, in England, in Germany, in France, and in other countries the story is the same—a persistent, unceasing, tumultuous grapple between labor and capital. The nineteenth century, which was ushered in amid the tumult and storm of political revolution, seems likely to go out as it came in, except that it is social and industrial rather than political revolution that the world has now to confront.

The Anglo Saxon race is one that has achieved its world-wide dominance by fearlessly looking issues in the face, and not by shutting its eyes and speaking softly and pretending that the issues do not exist or are not serious or will soon pass away.

Here is the stern and solemn truth that confronts the world to-day. We are drifting steadily and swiftly into a condition of industrial slavery.

Let us state the case in a few words. The development of steam and electricity in the last half century has revolutionized nearly every form of industry. To-day, the first requisite of success in any branch of industrial activity is a costly outfit of machinery. It takes capital to buy it. In Massachusetts alone machinery is doing the work of 100,000,000 men. It is fast becoming impossible for men without extensive capital to remain their own masters.

The little tradesman becomes swallowed up in the mammoth store, and exchanges his independence for the position of an employee. The artisanship of skill and intelligence who might have hoped in former years by the acquisition of a few tools to become his own "boss," now must confront himself with being a factory "hand" or a mill "hand," with the prospect of never attaining any other relation to his work. The concentration of capital goes on in a geometric ratio, capitalists unite in corporations, corporations unite in trusts, and anything like close personal relations between employer and employee becomes impossible. The employer class becomes more and more contracted; the employee class becomes more and more extensive. The hope of independence becomes a vain hope for a larger and larger proportion of people, and the inspiration that goes with that hope is lost. The sense of individual responsibility is lost also in large measure both by the capitalist employer and the wage-earning machine that calls itself an employee.

Now, what does all this mean? It means just this: That swiftly and surely we are coming to the pass that all the avenues through which men can earn a living and keep body and soul together here upon earth are to be controlled by capital. Those who own the capital can alone purchase the machinery; and those who own the machinery control the labor which is applied to it. Herein lies the secret of the struggle going on all over the world—a struggle on the part of labor against the absolute control by capital of all the opportunities of earning a livelihood.

What is labor contending for? For better food, for better clothing and better shelter? No! the fight is not primarily for these things. The laborer of to-day is better housed, better fed and better clothed on the average than ever before, and it is where he is the best fed and the best clothed that this struggle is the fiercest. Why, then, this intense, deepening feeling of resentment? The answer brings us to the very core and center of the whole struggle. The fight is not one for higher wages or shorter hours or better material conditions, but it is for liberty, industrial liberty—emancipation from the absolute dominion of aggregated capital. The negroes of the south were, we dare say, better fed, better clothed, and better housed on an average in the days of slavery than they are to-day. But their craving for themselves and children was deeper and diviner than the desire for these things; it was a craving for freedom. It is so of the wage earners of to-day. Raising their wages and shortening their hours will not alone cure or even diminish their restlessness or discontent. The craving which is rocking civilization is deeper than is sometimes expected even by the workingmen themselves. It is an instinct planted by God in man's very heart of hearts, the love of liberty.

Men and women of America, we must face the situation that we have been brought into by the progress of civilization. We must look beyond the tumult and confusion of the immediate conflict, beyond the strikes and the lockouts, beyond the vexations, the blunders, and even the wickedness of the combatants on both sides, and realize the ultimate purpose of labor's conflict and the spirit that sustains it. That ultimate purpose is emancipation from the impending despotism of capital.

That spirit is the same spirit of liberty that has in times past hurled political despotism from all the thrones of Europe and has planted republics and constitutional monarchies in their place. The despotism of kings is no more to be feared than the despotism of capital.

What, then, is the best way to avert this impending despotism? What is the solution? What is the remedy?

The first thing to be done is to secure a popular understanding of the nature of the conflict and of the real issues involved, and to that end the Voice proposes to address itself in the future more assiduously than it has ever done in the past. The rights of opportunity must be made as sacred as the rights of property. We cannot then back the hands upon the dial of time. We cannot arrest the progress of science and invention, and begin a backward march toward barbarism. But we can recognize the fact that the progress which has been, and the progress which still must be, bring us face to face with a new peril to liberty.

The Right of Revolution Remains.

The railway employees of Kansas who helped "redeem" that state last fall, will be fully repaid for their patriotism. A bill for their benefit has been introduced in the state legislature and recommended for passage. Behold:

Section 1 of the bill reads: "If any locomotive engineer, conductor, fireman or brakeman, or any other person employed in the running of any train, shall willfully and maliciously abandon his locomotive or train upon any railroad at any other point than the regular schedule destination of such locomotive or train, he shall be fined not less than \$20 nor more than \$100 and confined not less than twenty days nor more than ninety days in the county jail." The next section provides that "any person or persons who shall willfully obstruct the regular operation of the business of any railroad company or other corporation, or of the regular running of any freight or passenger train, or the labor and business of any corporation, firm or individual, shall, on conviction thereof, be punished the same as provided in section 1."

There you are, boys. Just what you voted for. There is no longer any doubt that Kansas is "redeemed." And the fellows who redeemed it for the railroads and money loaners, are going to fix railroad employees so they will be quiet hereafter. Say, boys, tell the truth—don't you feel just a little foolish about helping "redeem" Kansas? It is the same way all over this glorious land of liberty. The great landslide back to the republican end of plutocracy has given the most experienced pirates one more chance. And they will use it in every case to pass such stringent laws against the wage workers as to bind us down completely. But let them twist the screws—the right of revolution remains, even though plutocracy should take away our vote.

More Strikers Than Pullmans.

That there are men even now among capitalists who believe that the struggle between labor and capital will have a different ending from what it has heretofore, is shown by the remarkable letter which lately appeared in the Tribune, written by a man who is himself a large employer of labor, having thousands in his service. He concludes his letter with the following paragraph:

"To-day it may be possible for men like the Brooklyn presidents and Mr. Pullman to calmly suppress all appeals and arguments by denying that there is anything to arbitrate. There are, however, only two presidents to 6,000 trolley men, and one Pullman to 10,000 employees. Does there never cross the minds of the presidents and Pullmans the faintest shade of suspicion that the day will come when the thousands will be their masters, and that these thousands will, in even fewer words, decline to arbitrate, but subject their former masters to a harsher treatment than they are themselves to-day receiving?"

Notes.

The President recommends 50-year bonds, payable in gold, to enslave the next generation.

What is this country coming to, when a tool of Wall street dictates legislation?

And now it is a predicament.

We asked an old soldier what he thought of the President's special message, and he answered: "The most cold-blooded piece of villainy ever proposed on American soil."

Grover is serving the bankers faithfully—and great has been his reward.

The government don't need a dollar of gold to pay anybody but traitors, who deserve hanging.

The gold reserve must be abolished before it wrecks the government.

They are discussing the money question, eh? Wouldn't pay any attention to the Populists a couple of years ago when we proclaimed that the paramount question.

The gamblers are selling options on gold in New York.

Whatever is done or left undone, by the next congress, more bonds will be issued and the greenbacks destroyed.

There is a surplus of money in the treasury for the payment of current expenses—yet the President wants more bonds.

Though Ramsey, the defaulting cashier of Illinois, is dead, he has charged up against him on the other side of the river \$500,000—and worse than that, he was a grand old party whooper, one of the kind who denounce Populism.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Officials of eastern lines have apparently given up all attempt to stem the freight rate demoralization.

Whipple Post, G. A. R., will put an American flag on every school house in Kankakee county, Illinois, on Memorial day.

Anna Gould was married to Count Boniface de Castellane in New York, less than 100 intimate friends being present. Both civil and religious ceremonies were performed.

Bernhard Meuser, a business man of Beardstown, Ill., disappeared Feb. 27, and it is feared he has met with foul play.

Editor Weamer of Bristol, Ind., has brought suit for damages against three wealthy residents, alleging libel and slander.

Five thousand people fought for an opportunity to witness the ceremonies attending the burial of a murdered Chinaman at Los Angeles.

Mrs. Alfred Hines rushed into the pulpit of a Rochester church and said she had been commanded in a vision to preach.

Animated by Lawrence Gronlund's preaching, Californians have formed an organization similar to the famous Fabian society of London.

River and railroad miners of the Pittsburg district decided to refuse to work for less than 69 cents a ton.

Detroit's new health board secured possession of the department quarters by strategy and forcibly removed Commissioner McLeod.

Creditors and officers of the Ballou Banking company of Sioux City, Iowa, have agreed on a receivership to wind up its affairs.

Michigan homeopaths will fight the plan to amalgamate the departments of medicine at the university.

Ice gorged in the Susquehanna at Port Deposit, and the residents were forced to flee to the hills.

Hugh T. Galen, a millionaire mine owner and politician of Helena, Mont., was secretly married to a Seattle school teacher.

A. M. Jelleff, a business man of Franklin, Ind., turned on the gas in a theater box and lay down to die.

Engagement is announced of Mary Leiter, daughter of the Chicago millionaire, to O. Curzon, M. P., son of Lord Scarsdale.

Has practically been decided to hold an international mining exposition in Denver in 1896.

Extra guards have been placed about the glass works at Martin's Ferry, Ohio, to guard against a possible attack by union men.

The steamship Aurania reached New York from Liverpool with a million and three quarters in gold on board.

Telegraph operators of New York have formed a union which is intended to be national in its scope.

Lulu Harrington, a belle of Lincoln, Neb., has brought suit for breach of promise against Philip Manger of Booneville, Mo.

Gen. John A. McClelland is rapidly growing weaker and the aged warrior has given up hope of recovery.

The store of the Northwestern Chamber of Commerce at Toledo, Ohio, was entered by a miscreant, who destroyed everything of a fragile nature.

Reckless squandering of agricultural college funds has been discovered by the legislature of Oklahoma.

Relatives of Grace Vaughn, the actress, who sought to obtain her release from an Ohio insane asylum, found she has escaped.

Dun's trade review states that there is very little activity to be discovered in any line of business.

David B. James, a pioneer merchant of San Francisco, is endeavoring to incite the western states to secede from the union.

Matthew Roland of Mont Clair, N. J., has fallen heir to an estate left in Australia by an uncle, valued at \$3,000,000.

Bank clearings of the principal cities in the United States show a total decrease for the week of 7.3 per cent.

Missionaries on the coast of Labrador state that there is great suffering and starvation among the Nascapie Indians.

Eastern passenger officials failed to induce western agents to alter their plan for handling immigrant business.

Stock company has been formed to build an electric freight line connecting Valparaiso, Ind., with Chicago.

Railroad officials who met at Omaha to agree upon coal rates in Kansas, adjourned abruptly without a settlement.

Officers were elected and prizes distributed by the National Butter and Cheese Men's Association at Rockford, Ill., Thursday.

J. Hamburger & Co. of New York, importers of leaf tobacco, have made an assignment. Liabilities are nearly \$300,000.

Cattle shipments from Texas will show a heavy falling off this year, but will be continuous instead of bunched within a few months.

Refreshing sleep has come to David Jones of Elwood, Ind., after 152 days and nights of wakefulness.

LATEST MARKET REPORTS.

CHICAGO.

CAFFER—Common to prime....	\$ 1.25	6 21
HOGS—Shipping grades....	2.90	4 45
SHEEP—Fair choices....	2.25	6 40
WHEAT—No. 1 red....	6	53
CORN—No. 2....	48	49
OATS—No. 2....	27	24
RYE—No. 2....	66	62
BUTTER—Choice creamery....	23 1/2	00
Eggs—Fresh....	66	62
POTATOES—Per bushel....	53	62

BUFFALO.

WHEAT—No. 2....	59	60
CORN—No. 1 yellow....	45	45
OATS—No. 1 white....	32	32
CATTLE....	37.5	6 25
HOGS....	4.30	4 13
SHEEP....	1.50	6 11

PEORIA.

WHEAT—No. 2....	54	6 55
CORN—No. 3 white....	45	45
OATS—No. 2 white....	30	6 30

ST. LOUIS.

CATTLE....	8.50	6 00
HOGS....	3.95	6 45
CORN—No. 2....	51	54
OATS—No. 2....	40	44

MILWAUKEE.

WHEAT—No. 2 Spring....	52	54
CORN—No. 3....	45	45
OATS—No. 2 White....	28	29
CATTLE—No. 2....	65	53
RYE—No. 1....	54	54

KANSAS CITY.

CATTLE....	1.90	6 50
HOGS....	3.00	6 35
SHEEP....	2.00	6 49

NEW YORK.

WHEAT—No. 2 Red....	55	56
CORN—No. 2....	50	50
OATS—White Western....	33	34
LINEN....	11	21

TOLEDO.

WHEAT—No. 1 Red....	53	54
CORN—No. 2 Mixed....	52	52
OATS—No. 2 Mixed....	52	52
RYE—No. 2....	52	52
BARLEY....	52	52

PEORIA.

WHEAT—No. 1 Red....	55	56
CORN—No. 2....	50	50
OATS—No. 2 Mixed....	33	34
RYE—No. 2....	52	52
BARLEY....	52	52

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