

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"Max Nordau, the Hungarian political economist, has recently published a book," said Brown, "in which he advocates the confiscation of property by the state on the death of the owner. He holds that the community at large, by its presence, and by allowing the individual to monopolize natural opportunities and valuable franchises enables him to grow rich at the expense of the people, and advocates that at his death the people, or rather the Government which represents the people, should again resume possession of its own. This certainly would prevent the amassing of large fortunes, but would not prevent the community from being the play of the capitalist for all that, the only difference there would be is that once in a life-time the people in their turn would be enabled to rob the robber."

"In England," said Phil, "they have a probate tax, but they don't go to the extent of taking all that is left; the principle underlying both schemes, however, seems to be the same; Nordau merely going a step further than the English government. Now, I believe that if a man has acquired property in a lawful way this property should be his to do with as he liked, but if our laws are so framed as to allow him to wrong others in his pursuit of wealth they should either be abrogated or so amended that it would be impossible for him to lawfully wrong anybody. To confiscate property which has been acquired in a lawful manner, simply because the law allowed the perpetration of wrong, would be as great an injustice as to allow a man to lawfully fleece another man or the community at large. If the monopolization of natural opportunities and valuable franchises by private individuals or corporations is unjust to the people and detrimental to their interests, then the community should retain control of them and operate them for the benefit of all; two wrongs never have and never will make one right."

"If I understand you correctly you would have the community transact all business now done by individuals or private corporations," said Gaskill, "for that is what your argument virtually amounts to."

"And why not?" replied Phil. "Is not the Government competent to do it just as well and better than it is done now? Will you contend that any private contractor could collect and distribute the mails with greater promptness and despatch, or more intelligently than the Government does now? Can you even produce a single sane man who considers this monopoly of the Government of carrying mails an injustice to himself or an outrage on the people. The working of our postal system is most intricate, yet very seldom indeed a hitch of any kind occurs. The mails themselves, in addition to this, are an uncertain quantity, yet there are always clerks and carriers enough to handle them, but never more than are actually required. The consequence is the best possible service at the least possible expense. How different is this way of doing business to that practised by individual tradesmen. Without facilities to estimate the demand or ascertain the supply of the various lines of goods in the market the trader works absolutely in the dark, in a kind of wild-cat style; is it any wonder then that one out of every nine goes to the wall? There is not a trader in Canada to-day who, with every possible advantage on his side, can come within a wish of correctly stating what amount of his particular class of goods will be required by the people of Canada, or what amount is held by others in the same line as himself. He cannot say whether he will sell one or a thousand of any one article in his store during the year. The

same applies to the manufacturer; it is all guesswork, nothing definite, nothing positive, with the consequence that a vast amount of labor, time and capital is annually wasted which otherwise could be turned to good account. Now I maintain that by compelling the Government to assume control of each and every industry and trade in the country all this would be obviated. With trades thus centralized correct estimates could be made which would place industry upon a scientific basis and prevent one of the greatest wastes of society. We see that this is a fact wherever a combine or trust has obtained control of anyone trade throughout the country. Their only drawback is that they are run with a view of benefitting a few shareholders, whereas a national combine would be run to benefit the whole people. Max Nordau's plan, while undoubtedly removing a great burden from the shoulders of the people would merely perpetuate a system which arrays man against man in the struggle for existence, while the socialist plan would range them side by side in pursuit of the common good, and virtually make them brothers in more than name.

BILL BLADES.

OUR NEW CITIZENS.

It is calculated, says The People, that there was an increase of 105,000 persons in the voting population of New York by naturalization since 1890, divided as follows among the various nationalities: natives of Ireland, 25,000; England and Scotland, 5,600; Germany, 42,400; Russia and Austria, 17,500; Italy, 4,700; French and Switzerland, 1,900; Scandinavia, 1,400; all other countries, 7,200. Politicians do not view these figures with satisfaction. They know that most of the new citizens who were born on the European continent are wage-workers in sympathy with the great international labor movement, and that the day must soon come when a majority of the votes of the American metropolis will be cast for the Socialist Labor party.

The latest figures of immigration are even more suggestive. In the eleven months ending May 31, 1861, the number of immigrants from the European continent, and more particularly from those countries where Socialism has lately made considerable advance, shows an increase of 20 per cent, over the corresponding period of last year. While no increase is apparent from the countries which have heretofore supplied the most "conservative" foreign element of our voting population, it must be observed that the men who now come from Great Britain and Ireland, for instance, are on the average far more advanced in their views than previous immigrants from the same countries. It is, indeed, a fact that some of the most active and intelligent agitators recently acquired by the Socialist Labor party in this country are of English and Irish birth.

GOULD'S READY MONEY.

He Can Create a Panic Any Time by Withdrawing \$12,000,000.

How much is Jay Gould worth?

His contemporaries, associates and critics put him down at about \$150,000,000. I suppose it is not much exaggerated. We know, who are brokers and in the banking business here, the influence of his ready money. He has got the best money in the country; it is all liquid money.

What do you mean by liquid money?

Money which flows like a liquid—like quicksilver, according to the inclination, up or down. The Astors, for example, do not have liquid money: their money is in real estate, upon which they could not realize in tight times as well as in easy times. But Gould's money is here in time of panic as readily as in flush times.

Almost any time he can withdraw from the market \$12,000,000, or can keep it loaned. Now, the bank surplus is only \$10,000,000. So you see the prodigious power that money has in the mere ebb and flow of it. When Mr. Gould withdraws it, as he is said to do, though I have no knowledge on the subject, the times are terribly tight here. Up goes the rate of interest. Men with obligations are ready to pay almost anything. This money comes to him in the nature of his property.

His property is always earning money in cash. If he resolves to purchase some costly piece of property, like the Union Pacific railroad, he may put his money out to let interest accumulate upon it. He is not, however, a money lender in the sense of Russell Sage, who lends money to earn money. Mr. Gould lends money with an object in view, in the nature of a large merchant. Yet he is without the conditions of such a man—a polite person. A friend of mine not long ago borrowed \$1,000,000 from him in the midst of a panic

This man did not conceal his temporary necessity, but said to Mr. Gould, or rather wrote to him, that whatever interest he was minded to ask would be satisfactory. He says that Gould said to him, "Go along until you get through, and we will see about the rate then." When they came to settle all that Gould asked him was ordinary interest—6 per cent. Such things he does quietly without further remark, and hence many persons who are not very intimate with him, but have had exchanges of that kind to take place, think of him with as much respect as they speak to him.

It must be remembered, however, that he has not lived this life and encountered long hostility and abuse to become a mere philanthropist. He is a gigantic merchant in transportation.—"Gath" in Cincinnati Enquirer.

MILLMEN STAND FIRM

Against Increased Hours of Labor.

St. John, N. B., June 29.—The largest labor demonstration ever seen in St. John was held to-night in Berryman's hall, which was packed to overflowing with millmen to take action on the notice of the mill owners that after July 13 ten hours shall constitute a day's work. All the mill owners signed this notice except Messrs. Hamilton, Straightshore, Gregory & Clarke, in Carleton, and S. T. King & Sons, at Kingsville. The men struck to-day in all but these four mills and at to-night's meeting unanimously resolved to hold out to the end against a return to the long hours of a year ago. H. A. McKeown, M.L.A., made a rousing address to the men advising them to stand up for their rights, in which they would have the moral support of the people of St. John.

Over 1,500 men are involved in the strike. Both sides seem confident of success, but the refusal of Clarke Bros. and Messrs. King and Hamilton to sign the notice is regarded as evidence that there are already dissensions among the mill owners. If both the mill owners and the men hold out and the mills all keep shut down it will be quite a serious drawback to business, as about \$22,000,000 are paid out in wages every fortnight. The situation is a serious one.

A prominent tugboat man said to a reporter that it would be impossible to make room for the logs that are coming down if all the mills shut down. He thought that either the men or owners must give in, for the mills must be kept going to keep the logs clear. Millmen interested in the matter, however, say they can better afford to pile the logs than to saw them at a loss and they think there is plenty of room for booming and piling the logs that are out.

"CORNERING" THE CASH.

A Pleasant Little Way English Banks Have of Robbing Folks.

A remarkable event occurred lately in London. The six joint stock banks of that great financial centre combined with the Bank of England to lock up money for the avowed purpose of assisting the latter in maintaining a rate of interest. The public pretext for this action was the supposed necessity and patriotic duty of enabling the bank "to discharge its functions as the keeper of the monetary reserves of the country." There is an old theory, first advanced by an ingenious Shylock, and accepted ever since by the cunning and the silly alike, that a high rate of interest prevents the outflow and concentrates the circulating medium in the vaults of great banking institutions, where it is argued that it should be kept when industry and trade need it most. In the practice, however, banking institutions first grab the money and then raise the interest, the high rate of which is not the cause but the effect of scarcity thus artificially produced. At any rate it is a significant fact that the combination above referred to proved a complete failure as to its particular object, but succeeded admirably in causing general alarm. The conclusion arrived at by eminent organs of capitalism—the London Economist and the New York Commercial Bulletin among others—is that "in these times it is vastly more difficult to manage a corner in money than in wheat, pork or any other staple." This conclusion is quite sound, and the reason of its being so is quite obvious. In the matter of money a corner arrays a few capitalists against all the other capitalists, but in the matter of the necessaries of life all the capitalists stand united against the penniless multitude.—N. Y. People.

THE LABOR COMMISSION.

Exciting Sitting of a Sub Committee

LONDON, July 3.—At to-day's meeting of committee 'A' of the Labor commission there was a stormy exposition of views, which resulted in the court being cleared by order of the chairman, the Earl of Derby. The excitement commenced when Donovan, a stevedore, was questioned regarding the composition of the Shipping federation, and in reply began a warmly worded speech, which seems to have so disturbed the earl's feelings that he peremptorily silenced the 'bold stevedore.' 'Ben' Tillet, a well-known labor leader, followed

A RAILROAD CALAMITY.

NINETEEN PERSONS KILLED.

CLEVELAND, July 3.—At 8 o'clock this morning at Revanna, Ohio, on the N. Y. L. E. & W. Railway, the fast express bound for New York, whilst standing at the station awaiting orders was dashed into from the rear by a freight train. A day coach in the rear was completely telescoped, and 19 passengers were killed and 38 severely wounded. The coach and two sleepers took fire, and were soon consumed, burning many of the bodies so that they were almost unrecognizable.

The story of the way the accident happened is almost incredible, showing that there must have been great carelessness on the part of the officials. The flagman is blamed, but he claims to have gone back the proper distance. The fast freight came thundering along 25 miles an hour, and as there is a steep grade the signal was of little use.

The railroad men made an official report of 18 men killed, but the indications at present are that more than that number perished in the flames and as many more are severely injured.

Donovan, and he also commenced the delivery of what seemed to be a long speech upon labor matters in general, when the earl stopped him impatiently, saying 'I cannot listen to all these details. Kindly condense your remarks.' Tillet was then permitted to resume his remarks, and pronounced himself in favor of municipalization of docks, saying state municipalities ought to co-operate in work, erect workshops and find employment for all. The state, according to Tillet, should provide technical education for youths and adults and find necessaries of life for all. Tillet added that, in his opinion, if a lady would not work she ought not to eat. The state should be the universal employer, and as it was the recognized duty of the state to teach convicts a trade, the state should at least extend the same benefit to poor non-convicts. Tillet then began making serious charges against certain persons, when the Earl of Derby, whose patience had long been exhausted, ordered the court cleared.

In the Quinn-McMahon wrestling match, the latter won on a foul.

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