

Their daily bread was the consideration. Not only laborers but shopkeepers signed under the force of the same tyranny. A saloonist signed and said: "I sign it, for otherwise I shall have to drink my beer alone."

These are straws; the whole Saar region, with its churches, its laborers, its merchants, its officials, its press, is said to be under the despotic sway of this monarch. Some have censured the preachers for their temerity in speaking for Christ, for the church, for humanity, for their own manhood and their independence, instead of yielding quietly to the demands of Stumm. The system for which he stands is called conservative, traditional, patriarchal; even the name Christian is degraded by applying it to his method. The exposure in the secular and religious press, by conservatives and liberals and socialists, in pamphlets and conferences, is doing fine service. The exposure means that such survivals are not fit to live but are fittest for burial.

Content amid Discontent.

A storm of an hour's duration causes more excitement than months of calm weather and quiet development. This is due to the fact that sudden change arrests the attention and disturbs consciousness. On this principle we must explain the interest excited by the industrial agitations of the day, by the turbulence of the masses, by the changes demanded and actually taking place, while the even processes of business, the quiet industry and actual contentment of multitudes are overlooked. More attention is given by the public to a strike in which one thousand men are engaged than to the noiseless toil of millions in the various industries. The result is that a false view of the situation is formed; the great silent forces which constitute the substance of the national life are ignored, while what is superficial, spectacular, and sensational is regarded as the dominant power in the nation.

The turbulent powers are apt to be the more dangerous because they excite so much interest and become contagious. But the thoughtful inquirer into the situation will also see the importance of considering the industrial factors which work peacefully. We can call these the evolutionary in distinction from the revolutionary forces. Thus amid all the discontent there are many laborers who are content and happy. As a rule, the considerate employer has considerate employees. Where the latter are not too numerous the employer can know them personally and enter into friendly relations with them. Perhaps he is himself a workman at their side, sharing their toil and interested in their welfare. In that case the laborers will be ready to admit his rights as capitalist, manager, and employer. His personal interest in them will secure a personal interest on their part in his business.

Not only is such a relation possible where the industries are on a small scale, but also in the country where the farmer and his hired men work together and largely share the same lot. The latter may in fact be in the more favorable condition, not being harassed and troubled by the numerous cares and anxieties of the farmer who is responsible for everything. No one who studies the present financial depression can fail to discover that in very many instances the employed with their definite task and fixed wages are far better off than numerous employers who are embarrassed by debt, whose profits are uncertain, and whose eventual success is extremely doubtful.

It is the increasing recognition of facts like these which make the situation hopeful. The question is whether the content can master the discontent, and whether the evolution can overtake and overcome the revolution.

With the recognition of this substantial and reasonable content still found among the masses one fact deserves study. The bitterness against knavish cunning in competition, against un-