

THE TARIFF COMMISSION

DEMOCRACY is not so cock-sure of itself as it was in the first flush of its youth, when the nineteenth century also was young. In these latter days his giantship is going somewhat crest-fallen, stalking with less unconscionable strides. Whilst the business was to pull down what our fathers found to be good and useful, democracy succeeded admirably. Now that all is levelled, hope has given way to perplexity, and glee to stupid amazement.

Those panaceas which were vaunted as the sovereign remedies for all human ills have had fair trial. Equality was proclaimed, yet the few are masters and the many serve; and this service is not more tolerable, which is rendered to the steam engine and the machine, those monsters which we have created for our own oppression. As a result of this industrial development by which all were to have equal opportunity, the factory worker in a modern city is more miserable than a Macedonian shepherd, and less efficient than a Chinese peasant. All human skill is expended upon the construction of machines, and none is left for the making of those things which the machine makes so badly. Fraternity has accomplished its perfect work in those brotherhoods of whose principles the Messrs. Macnamara have constituted themselves the exponents in America, and Messrs. Potaud and Pouget in France. By freeing themselves outwardly, men have limited themselves inwardly. They have gained the whole world; they have acquired liberty and sacrificed their inner freedom. Liberty has turned out to be what the Germans call a wind-egg. There are yet slave-drivers, and the drivers themselves are slaves.

Each failure brought forth new remedies. When the franchise turned out to be ineffective, more voters were added to the list. When it was found that voters were capable of