

## THE DANGEROUS CLASSES.

There is peril in the social elements that environ us. There is danger in the powers and combinations that confront us. There are dangerous classes among us. Where are they? We have been wont to enroll them among the poor and the ignorant at the bottom of society; but it begins to be suspected there is a mistake about this, and that, instead, the danger lies higher, and is entrenched behind great wealth and riches. And so, now, what we have most to fear are those who are engaged in amassing colossal fortunes. These are, in fact, the dangerous classes, the giants who tread ordinary men under their heel, and care not how much the people suffer, or how much the ignorant poor must endure in order to make the ends of life meet. These people are absorbed with a mania to accumulate exhaustless wealth, and as they increase their unmeasured gains they are so lifted by their own conceit and greatness that they lose all sympathy and commonality of feeling for the mass of mankind and live as if the world belonged to them. The cries of want are unheeded. The appeals for justice and charity are spurned. The demand for co-operation in works for the general relief of the masses, who need assistance, is slighted. The general public weal is ignored, while in the absorbing pursuit of their own supreme inclinations their millions are poured in the channels of their own selfishness. To the credit of humanity we are quite willing to record a few extraordinary exceptions. Like Senator Stanford, for instance, whose beneficence and good works tower above all ordinary surroundings. Apotheosis for him will rise to the sublime heights of goodness and greatness, while the meaner characteristics of many of his co-millionaires will sink in the dust. They are corralled in the records of oppression, and their deeds of cruelty make dark the annals of the poor, while the undercurrents of society are corrupted thereby. In monarchical countries the people endure so long as they can barely live; but in a republic like ours the time of account will come sooner. Here the people will not wait until they are completely ruined. They have some intelligent ideas about rights and some forethought of impending evil, and so, perchance, they may anticipate their own crisis, by making a crisis for others. How is this to be avoided? There is doubtless an answer. The dangerous classes to whom we have referred must be rendered harmless. The laws must be adjusted to their conditions, and through their operations thereof the props and supports which have given them power and strength must be taken away. Give us good laws suited to this work, and make sure that they are faithfully executed, and we may hope for the best. Begin by electing honest, capable men for office. Then look out for the rest.

## THE CONDITION OF LABOR IN THE OLD WORLD.

From Special Correspondence of The Voice.

The Royal Commission on Labor has heard some startling evidence on the condition of the men at work in the mines in Lanarkshire, Scotland. The witnesses testified that the 8,000 men of the Larkhall collieries are prevented from forming a union by the employers' opposition. Men who agitate are treated unfairly or dismissed, and are unable to obtain employment elsewhere in the district. Houses are not held by the year, and employers threaten to turn dissatisfied men out of their houses. Owing to the lack of inspectors the provisions of the Mines Regulation Acts are infringed daily. Compensation for accident can only be obtained through the law court. Employers' insurance tends to diminish safeguards. In spite of all grievances men take work, as wages are higher in

Lanarkshire than in any other part of Scotland. Miners' houses are not equal in comfort to a first-class stable. Rooms about six feet square have neither coal-cellar nor wash-house, and the tenants take in lodgers sometimes. Coroners' courts would be better than the present inquests into fatal accidents, for which a Home Secretary's order is requisite. The fears of employers that their output would be reduced by foreign competition are groundless. The influenza prevailing has been a force against labor, retarding work and dealing distress and death among the sons of toil. Local Government instructions have been issued. This is a sign of its abatement, it is hoped, as departments never do anything until it is of no use.

The London Society of Compositors have held a meeting in support of the bookbinders' efforts to obtain an eight hour day, in preference to increased wages, and have determined to refuse work in shops where non-unionist binders are employed.

The first number of a new labor paper, The Labor Prophet, has made its appearance. It announces that its mission is to develop the religion of the labor movement into clearer self-consciousness.

There is to be a World's Labor Exhibition in May, in the West of London, the objects of which are to exhibit the arts and handicrafts of artificers; to establish a central labor exchange with branches; to abolish sweating, and avoid strikes by conciliatory methods.

One of the last things the Miners' Federation did at their recent meeting was to empower their executive committee to make arrangements for giving, at the expense of the Federation, a proper reception to the foreign delegates to the International Labor Conference, to be held here next June.

The railway men in and around London are combining to obtain pay for Sunday work, claiming a six day week instead of seven.

## PRINTERS' HONOR THE LABOR CANDIDATE.

The following is taken from the Witness of last evening:

A banquet was last night tendered Mr. L. Z. Boudreau, the Labor candidate for the Centre Division, by the employees of the Witness composing room and several of their friends at Pengelly's dining-rooms. Mr. Boudreau, who was somewhat late in arriving, having had to attend a public meeting in Point St. Charles, received quite an ovation the moment his portly form appeared in the room. After justice had been done to an excellent repast, the chairman, Mr. James Wilson, proposed the toast of "The Queen," which was drunk with musical honors. Next followed "The Craft," coupled with the name of Mr. J. T. Sadler, who reviewed the progress made in the printing trade, and referred to the latest invention to be used in the art, the Linotype machine, of which, he said, the managers of the company had one in working order. He did not think it would hurt the compositor, but rather tend to increase work. "The Press," was then toasted, and Mr. D. Taylor, of THE ECHO, responded in an able manner. Next in order was the toast of the evening, "Our Guest." Mr. Boudreau, on rising to respond, was greeted with vociferous applause. His speech, he said, would not be a lengthy one, as he had already spoken twice earlier in the evening to large audiences. He thanked the company for this expression of sympathy, one which he would always remember, more especially as he knew every one personally, having worked with them for a number of years. Such an honor from those who so intimately knew him was, indeed, very encouraging. He was confident of success in the fight in which he was now engaged. Mr. Sadler, foreman of the Witness composing room, paid a very flattering tribute to Mr. Boudreau, whom he knew as an upright, honest and honorable workman. It gave him great pleasure, he said, to have an opportunity of adding his testimony to the fact. If all knew him as well as he, the speaker, and the assembled company, all doubt of his election by an overwhelming majority, on March 8, would melt into thin air. Although he posed neither as a Conservative nor a Reformer, he saw no reason why a "Labor" candidate should not be as good as either. Mr. D. Taylor next proposed the toast "Success to the Witness," which was honored with great enthusiasm, and

Mr. H. Rush proposed "Success to THE ECHO," a paper strictly devoted to the interests of the workingman, Mr. Boudreau as one of the proprietors, responded. "Our Host," was neatly proposed by Mr. Pickard, and brought that gentleman to his feet for a brief space. The proceedings were enlivened by a programme of songs and recitations, and notwithstanding the fact that the cup "which inebriates" was conspicuous by its absence, a most delightful and mirthful evening was passed. The company dispersed about midnight after the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the "National Anthem."

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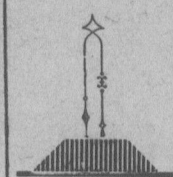
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