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THE SITUATION IN CHICAGO

The situation in Chicago is assuming every week a darker outlook. Ignorant alike of economic causes and effects, but acting upon the capitalistic principle of economy at any cost, the directors of the World's Fair have broken their pledges to the organized labor of that city and are attempting to carry out their gigantic enterprise with the cheapest labor which they may be able to obtain. The result of this heartless and narrow-minded policy is already seen in the fact that the great exhibition, which was expected by all the people of Chicago to be such a boom in many ways, is a curse to them even before its foundations have been laid. Thousands of unemployed are pouring into the city from all points of the compass. Unable to find work at the World's Fair, where a full contingent of scabs have already been engaged, they apply everywhere but in vain, until, finally, they must tramp away, or starve, or steal. The freight trains on all the railroads centering in Chicago are loaded with such people, and we are credibly informed that in some instances tramps actually took possession of passenger trains, refusing to pay fare or to get out. The streets of the city have become insecure to an unusual degree, crime is rampant, and the police, who boasts of its ability to put down free speech and to terrorize honest labor, is paralyzed by burglars and murderers.

For this concentration of unemployed labor at Chicago and its fearful consequences the directors of the World's Fair are justly held responsible. Had they kept faith with the organized trades of the city and proclaimed through the press that they would under no circumstances employ men who were not good standing members of those trades, no such influx of scabs and tramps would have taken place. They could have obtained from the unions all the labor, skilled and unskilled, that they needed, and at the most reasonable rates; for the labor organizations of Chicago viewed the coming exhibition with favor and pride, and were not inclined to make other than moderate demands in return for honest treatment. But instead of looking upon the Fair as an achievement that the labor of all countries in general and of Chicago in particular might be proud of, the mean speculators who control its management considered merely that it afforded an excellent opportunity of further degrading that labor. The occasion was therefore improved from the very first stroke of the pickaxe and, as it turned out, with unprecedented rashness. Aliens were imported in contravention of the law of the State of Illinois, and probably also in defiance of the United States law, against foreign contract labor, and in the middle of a hard winter, while thousands of resident workmen were hungering and freezing in enforced idleness, these poor scabs, victims themselves of capitalistic greed and cunning, were set to work at the lowest rates of wages.

That there is a conspiracy between the directors and the capitalists of Chicago can

not be doubted. Their scheme is as transparent if not as pure as crystal. It is expected that millions of dollars will be invested in new buildings, and the object of the speculators is to attract to Chicago from all parts of the world an enormous supply of unemployed labor, through which they may be able to defeat the eight hour movement and reduce wages to a minimum. In making themselves the instruments of this scheme the World's Fair directors have covered themselves with infamy.

We trust, however, that they will not succeed. It is the duty and it is in the power of organized labor throughout the country to keep a sharp lookout upon them and upon all the firms from which they may be expected to draw their supplies of building materials. All such firms should be warned, by a timely and public proclamation, against making any contracts with the World's Fair directors, under penalty of an embargo, not only upon such materials as they might attempt to produce and deliver for the World's Fair, but upon their whole production, regardless of destination.

But while it is a matter of simple duty for the organized labor of other cities to sustain in every possible way the organized labor of Chicago, the latter has it in its power to do for itself and the cause of labor in general what no one else can do, or do so well under present conditions. A solid vote of the workmen of Chicago for the ticket that the Socialist Labor party will soon place in the field would be of more practical value to them in every sense than any advantage which they might gain otherwise over their unscrupulous enemy; while on the other hand, their failure to support this ticket would strengthen the hands of capitalism to an enormous extent by plainly showing that no amount of ill-treatment and bamboozling can rouse them to an intelligent use of their most formidable weapon—the ballot.—Workmen's Advocate.

Fatal Pit Explosion.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., March 6.—An explosion of gas occurred at the Buckridge colliery at four o'clock this afternoon, which resulted in the serious injury of D. S. Lewellyn and son and Wm. Smith, a son-in-law. They were working together in a breast and were about to quit for the day when a door boy turned the course of the fan. One of the men carried a naked lamp, which caused the gas to ignite and the explosion followed. The men were frightfully burned, and the death of young Lewellyn and Wm. Smith is hourly expected.

Imperial Federation.

LONDON, March 6.—The United Empire League for the commercial union of Great Britain and the colonies is rapidly growing in membership and influence. It now includes 70 members of the House of Commons, prominent merchants and colonial statesmen. The Liberals, who are as earnest for free trade as ever, assert that the movement is the last resort of the so-called fair traders or protectionists. It is apparently a lively institution.

OLD MAIDS' PARADISE.

Dakota the Place for Women who are Anxious to Marry.

He looked like a farmer as, with his pantaloons tucked in his unblackened boots and his large white slouch pushed back on his head, revealing the entirety of his honest countenance, he walked into the Tremont House this morning and placing an old-fashioned, home-made carpet bag on the floor, asked Clerk Cobb if he could have a room. And when, after registering his name and address—John Austin, Bismarck, N.D.—he got into conversation with a boarder, he said that he was a member of the Farmers' Alliance.

"There is one thing," said he, "I know the Alliance should have put into the platform, for Dakota needs such a plan, and that is an invitation or something of the sort to get women to come into the State. We need water and money out there bad; but we need women more. As things are now, there ain't half enough women to go round. And until this is changed Dakota will never amount to much.

"You see it takes homes to make a good State. Men can go out there and break enough land to farm without a wife. But he gets lonesome after a time, and when a bad season strikes him he gets discouraged and quits. Now, if he had a wife and little ones to cheer him they would encourage him and most likely in the end he'd come out all right. There's lots of women in the east, I hear, more than there are men, and they want husbands, I suppose. Now they ought to go to Dakota. They'd find husbands there. They might not be duds or bankers, with full dress duds and carriages, but they'd be hard working, honest fellows, and they are the ones who make the best husbands. Yes, Dakota needs women the worst way. I know, for I have tried to hoe my row alone out there for five years, and I have had a hard grind. But I am all right now—leastwise I will be soon, for I'm going back to Ohio where I was raised to get married. There's lots of complaint about Dakota, I know, but if there were more likely women out there there wouldn't be half so much."

ANNA DICKINSON.

In the later days of the anti-slavery struggle, just preceding the war, there appeared on the stage a young girl of good presence and excellent voice, who denounced the wrongs of slavery with a passionate eloquence that captivated her auditors. When the war broke out this same woman spoke from the rostrum in all parts of the country, filling audiences with enthusiasm for the continuance of the great struggle for the overthrow of slavery. Afterwards the enthusiasm that had characterized her work took the direction of extreme partisanship, and Anna Dickinson became a recognized stump orator in many States of the Union. She was a vigorous talker, regarded by her opponents as vituperative, but she always held her audiences by the power and passion of her speech.

When the demand for such oratory ceased Miss Dickinson took to literature, writing a novel which shocked the susceptibilities of her Abolition friends by its open advocacy of the intermarriage of the races. Subsequently she became interested in the drama as a writer, and afterwards attempted the part of Hamlet on the stage, where she met with ignominious failure. The qualities that had befitted her for the earlier mission, in which she won fame, seemed unavailable in peaceful times, and her later life has been one of much privation and suffering, embittered by a sense of the ingratitude of politicians who cheated her. The sad end to all this has come with her commitment to the Danville, Pa., Insane Asylum by order of one of the trustees of the poor of her own neighborhood. Brooding on her troubles and her poverty finally unhinged her mind, and she has for some time been violently and dangerously insane. It is a sad ending to a career which at one time made Miss Dickinson one of the most conspicuous personages in the country.

IS ALL PROPERTY A TRUST?

In a sermon on "Socialism," delivered by Rev. Lyman Abbott to a wealthy Boston congregation on Sunday, February 15, the pastor of Plymouth Church said:

"Another great truth is that property is a trust. Henry George himself is not radical enough to suit me. He says there should be no private property in land. I say there should be no private property at all. And yet I am not a Socialist. My doctrine is easy to understand."

Dr. Abbott is right in saying that Henry

George is not radical enough to accept such doctrine, though we think he misuses the word radical in this connection. A radical, properly speaking, is one who goes to the roots of things, and Henry George does go to the root of the existing inequality in the distribution of the products of labor when he declares that the source of the evil is the power given by law to a few to exact from the many payment for the privilege of access to the opportunities through which alone wealth can be created.

The equal right of all men to the use of land being once recognized, Mr. George claims that the producer has a right to the thing that he has produced out of natural materials, to which he has rightful access. Mr. George, however, is a political economist, while Dr. Abbott, in declaring that there should be no private property at all, speaks as a preacher who claims that God not merely gives to the people the earth they inhabit, but the powers that enable them to labor, and that they hold their natural powers, natural opportunities and the products of both as a trust from their Creator. This is a doctrine that appeals to the individual conscience, and it cannot, in the nature of things, be enforced by law. There is therefore no necessity for any controversy between Single Tax men, who are seeking to rewrite the laws of the land concerning property, and Dr. Abbott, who is inculcating what he believes to be the lesson of duty to men who have obtained their property honestly.

A BRASS CENTRE.

A Great Industry to be Established in Buffalo.

The Calumet and Hecla Copper concern, is one of the most gigantic in the world, and the disposition of its output has always been a matter of moment. This company has purchased an immense area of land at Black Rock, and will erect smelting works for its ore there, as it presents the most advantageous position on the lakes for the reception of ore and securing coal with which to reduce it to ingots of copper. Following the Calumet and Hecla's ruder class of work we must look for the establishment of industries based on copper, and one of the most important of these is the manufacture of brass. Under existing conditions the country has been mainly dependent upon Connecticut for its brass, but with plenty of copper and wool, and with facilities as good as any for obtaining zinc, there is no good reason for not expecting great things from Buffalo as a brass centre. In fact, it is understood that there is a large amount of capital ready to be embarked in the making of brass at Black Rock, and a year or two will probably see a large and prosperous industry established there.—Sunday Truth.

RAILWAY STRIKE THREATENED.

CLEVELAND, March 6.—A Springfield, Ohio, special states that the employees of the Sandusky and Whitewater branches of the Big Four Railroads system will not be granted an increase of wages. Representative workmen met the officials of the company yesterday and laid their grievances before President Ingalls, who said that on account of the few trains run on the Sandusky and Whitewater branches the employees thereof ought to be satisfied with 25 per cent less than standard Big Four wages. It is probable that a strike will follow.

THE GROWTH OF TAILORING.

The first trace of any advance in the art of tailoring is afforded by the word "breeks," which, as proved by the old Irish brace, must at the period when the Celts still inhabited central Europe have been borrowed from the Celts by the Tentons and Slaves. No distinction seems to have been made in early times between the dress of the women and the men, and in the latest moment of the neoelectric epoch we find a distinct return, in the divided skirt of the Americans and Britons, to the epicene brace of the Celts of three or four thousand years earlier; the first tailor made suits worn by the ladies of our race.—William Dean Howells in Harper's.

Reduction in Wages.

ALLENTOWN, Pa., March 6.—The Adelaide Silk Mill to-day reduced the wages of heavy grade ribbon weavers 10 per cent.

[This is another evidence of the benefits accruing from a high tariff.]