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"NO CARDS."

(AUJOURD'HUI)

He came up behind me—my frame's near
the door—
Looked over my shoulder; spat on the
floor
In a manner that to my experienced eye
Betokened the fact that the stranger was
"fly."
Yet ne'er a wing did he seem to possess,
But 'twas easy to see he belonged to the
press.
You 'e'en could tell it 'thout any guessing.
At least, I assure you, such was my im-
pression.
"I've just struck the town—came in from
the "Plug,"
Said the stranger, as I had about scanned
his "mug"
"Footed the road till I came to that bridge,
"Sat out there all night—beyond on a
ridge;
"Jumped a 'fright' as the light's struggled
out in the east,
"Say, could you help a pilgrim like me to
a fast?
"Or, if you're half strapped yourself, just
give some wad.
"I'll keep off a bit, chappie, I might mix
the bread.
"Something tells me I've met you, back in
the past.
"I'd see rather clearer if I but had some
repast.
"What? Should not have struck this
town? Nor out of trouble?
"Wal, if that is so, pilgrim, I'll do the
road double
"They said beyond there they thought it
was over—
"If I'd known it I'd sooner have added to
Dover.
"When 'no cards' is the racket I'll leave
for ever;
"But could I know how to get 'cross
that river?
"There's a mighty slim chance of walking
around it,
"If I try Byron's Hell-sport act I'd get
drawn ed.
"But you know, 'Lives of great men also
remin' us'
"All sich shaky places we must leave be-
hind us,
"So I'll bid you tal ta! and here's for the
border,
"Let the boys understand that I skipped
in good order;
"For although not burdened with this
world's goods,
"Nor bedecked in raiment like unto the
dudes.
"I'd sooner, by jingo, have my name stand
as 'square'
"Than to see alongside it the term 'unfair.'"

A TRUE PICTURE.

Prof. DeLeon, of Columbia College, in a recent address before a stenographers' association, spoke as follows:
"At the time of the establishment of the Republic of America, it would have been a perfectly rational prophecy to have said that the Republic could not last. Madison said that a republic could not be a permanency when any large number of the people were simply cattle. But the Republic has not gone down. Neither did those of Greece and Rome go down at once. To-day one man can produce as much as took 100 to produce 100 years ago. The same quantity of wealth can be produced in one fifth of the time. This is through machinery. By steam power the necessary hours of labor have been reduced to one hour as compared with ten. Transportation, giving the means of exchange of commodities, has combined with these to increase the productivity of labor one thousand fold. In view of this, wealth ought to be the most plentiful thing in the world. But if statistics are approximately true the average laborer does not earn nearly \$1 a day. Wealth may have increased in the hands of some, but has not in proportion among the others. There is not enough actual wealth in the United States to supply all its inhabitants for one month. Under the present system the non-productive army is enormous. The middle men come in also in equal numbers to the producers. All the stores dealing in the same commodity in the same neighborhood are unnecessary and prejudicial to the general good. From this follows the misery of the many and the immorality of the few. This necessitates all the police and soldiers. The people of our Four Hundred, those of Fifth avenue and Madison avenue do not trust one another. They smuggle detectives into their ball rooms to prevent their diamonds being stolen—by whom? By their own guests!"
Bellamyism was the Professor's subject, and he spoke for the Nationalist party. Every wrong that Mr. DeLeon complains of could be exterminated in eight years through the ballot, if all honest men could be marshaled under the banner of common sense reform—a reform free from vagary and crankism. Trusts could be abolished; water, upon which the people pay enormous dividends, could be squeezed out of stocks and bonds; the hours constituting a day's work could be fixed beyond repeal or appeal. Good and honest men could be elected to execute them. Why not, then, use means at hand to usher in a new era of reform? If workmen would set themselves to work and organize and federate themselves, land, trust, monopoly and corporation piracy would soon cease.—New Era.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSEKEEPING.
The Scheme Which Will Be Carried Out in West Philadelphia.
The wave of co-operative enterprise is sweeping over West Philadelphia now, and soon housekeeping may be conducted on the mutual plan. A circular was prepared by Dr. John Taylor which is being handed around among the residents of that neighborhood for signatures, and as soon as a sufficiently large number of names are attached the central cooking house will be established, and servants in private dwelling will be dismissed. The following is a copy of the circular which is being distributed:
"We, the undersigned, having formed a favorable opinion of co-operative housekeeping, hereby express our willingness to help form an association for that purpose when as many as ten families or thirty persons will agree to join it. We also agree to attend all the meetings necessary to effect an organization of the society."
A number of names have already been subscribed, and the promoters of the undertaking are very sanguine of securing the signatures of a large proportion of the neighboring population. Meetings are held weekly at the residence of Dr. Taylor, and a permanent organization has been effected.
The association is in communication with similar concerns in western cities, but the Philadelphia system will differ somewhat from all others now existing. The idea is not so much to secure cheaper living as to do away with individual household work. At first the cook in charge of the

central culinary establishment will purchase all provisions necessary, hire the needful help and collect from each family its proportion of the expenses. The families will be charged according to the number of persons each contains, special prices being made for babies and very small children. After the lapse of a few weeks the association will settle upon a regular weekly rate.

Purchasing fuel and provisions in wholesale quantities, the association will buy at a much lower rate than that charged individuals. Families can either take their meals at private tables curtained in booths in the main dining room of the central supply house or have them served in their own dwellings. The former place is the one usually selected, and can be carried on somewhat cheaper than the other.

Speaking of the association and its future Dr. Taylor said recently: "If the plan works, as we have no doubt it will, besides having a central cooking house, there will be established a laundry, electric light plant and house heating apparatus. A good system is to have one central supply house for each square. The dwellings are built as usual, with the exception of the dining rooms. They are built away from the main structure and along a covered aisle leading from the central house to the middle of the four sides of the square. The dining rooms are one story structures, and they are connected with the main dwelling by little archways. Thus each family eats in its own dining room, but is served from the common supply house.—Philadelphia Record.

LESS WORK AND MORE REST.

Still better than the eight hours a legal day's work would be a voluntary agreement between employees and employers to that effect. There seems to be a fear that the different trades will demand ten hours' pay for eight hours' work, but such fear is groundless, observes the Mechanics' Journal. There has not been, so far, anything in the agitation of an eight hour working day that could lead any one to suppose that a demand, which would practically amount to an increase of wages of thirty per cent., is the principal object aimed at. The necessity for less work and more rest, the desirability of giving work to the thousands now without it, the need of more time to devote to mental and physical culture, these are the main purposes to be accomplished. What has been possible in Australia would certainly be possible here. We have already adopted another great reform originated on the distant continent and found it to work admirably—the secret ballot box—and were we to give a trial to the eight hour working day, there is every reason to believe that it would prove equally feasible and beneficial to the people of this great industrial country.

WORK FOR A HERO.

Our task is here where our hands and feet are, in the mud and filth of the earth, where thistles and brambles grow. Let us make the mud and filth grow lilies and roses, or at least cabbages and turnips. Let us root up the brambles and thistles and replace them with those strayed children of paradise, the flowers. In place of fixing our spiritual vision on the end of our big toe, and musing on the mystical virtues and potencies contained in the sacred word "Om," let us rather every morning, when our eyes first open to the blessed light, realize that another day, as fresh and original every whit as the first day of creation, has dawned, and that another chance has been given us to play the part of a hero. And what is it to play the part of a hero? To struggle successfully to attain wealth or fame? To be the temporary idol of the foolish or knavish multitude of those whose prototypes once cried out: "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Far from it. Rather it is to master yourself—that sweet gentleman who thinks the world was made for him; that he ought to be fed on sweet-meats, let his brother be fed on husks or wind, or what not. Kill yourself. Thus only can the phoenix rise from the dead ashes and soar into the blue empyrean. Live with the determination constantly before you to justify God's act in having created you, by making the world the better, not the worse, for your having been born into it. The little children, ragged and hungry, physically, morally and mentally stunted and deformed,

are crying out to us from underground mines and babel factories, where all the iron wheels are grinding life down for its mark; are crying out to us from foul slums of all the cities of Christendom to come and deliver them from the grasp of the devouring ogre, who rules the present competitive industrial system. Gaunt, hollow-eyed women, 'distressed needle-women,' making shirts at fifty a dozen, are turning their tearless eyes toward us from all quarters of the globe. Their husbands and brothers—the producers of all the wealth which the people drone and thieves of society own—enjoy—go their weary, monotonous round like imprisoned horses in treadmills; they are calling to us to come and free them. Do you think there is no work for a hero to do at this hour of the world's history? Oh, fools and blind! And in emancipating these, your brothers, you at the same time emancipate their masters, also your brothers, just as the mancipation of negroes effected the greater emancipation of their owners.—Judge Frank T. Reid Northern Light.

PREVENTION OF STRIKES.

A writer in a London periodical thought out a plan of doing away with the dangerous and expensive contests between capital and labor known as strikes and lockouts. It is simply a method of compulsory arbitration, or, more strictly speaking, judicial determination. The writer proceeds upon the assumption that all strikes should be settled by law in case where negotiations fail and either party refuses to submit the questions involved to arbitration. A strike is defined to be an attempt by a person or persons to modify the terms of employment otherwise than by offering or demanding a higher or lower rate of payment—by paying, coercing, or any way persuading any one, whether engaged in the employment or not, to engage or not engage in the employment at modified rates, whether the persons so coerced, or persuaded be employers or employees. Recognizing the injurious results of strikes—injurious to the trade of the country as well as to those directly engaged in it—and realizing that strikes are not terminated upon their merits, but on the sources of the disputants, it is proposed to make them unlawful and to hold those engaged in them liable in the same manner if engaged in a conspiracy to utter a verbal libel against the person or business concerning whom such action is taken, is then provided that all disputes as to employment shall be decided by the court of the county, each party submitting a statement. The verdict shall be binding for three months, unless the decision shall be appealed by the court on appeal of the party. The court is to be allowed to call in assessors, subject to challenge by either side, if, owing to challenges, he is unable to assessors, he must decide himself, would be a simple and satisfactory method of preventing strikes, in one sense at least. The side that had a weak or questionable case would necessarily fear to go before court, and therefore would settle by agreement. If compulsory arbitration would be accepted at all, there is no more satisfactory tribunal for calling it into effect than the courts. It probably be found very difficult in the present state of public opinion to secure passage of a law making it a misdemeanor to declare or engage in a strike or to a lockout.

POLITICAL ACTION.

The condition of the workingmen farmers of this country will never be improved if they do not unite in political action for self preservation. The idiotically intrust the exclusive management of their most important interests, selfish, designing and dishonorable persons who have little or no sympathy in common with them, may be reminded that they will not protect a dove, and selfish dishonesty are not accustomed to kindness for benefits received. Nothing in the history of man has surprised than the phenomenon of the universal subjugation of strength to weakness, solely from the neglect of the number having no effective organization. The physical strength resides even in the governed, and, whenever the first any symptoms of decided opinion are treated with respect and aged with delicacy, because it is well understood that, when once excited, they overturn the most deeply-rooted political