

the laborer in Winnipeg has on his table, bananas, oranges and other tropical fruits, thanks to the large companies who grow and collect those fruits for shipment, to the large steamship companies who run regular refrigerator ships, to the railroad companies who bring them to Winnipeg in cars of proper temperature at all times of the year, and to the wholesale and retail stores who handle them when they get here. The same is true of his tea, coffee, cocoa and sugar, and of the fuel he uses in heating his home. He sleeps on a sanitary, steel-spring bed instead of straw, as he would if the extreme socialist had his way.

#### Socialistic Doctrines

You will rightfully say that the comfort of the working man is not the reason that Carnegie and Schwab built large plants and Jim Hill built a large railroad system. I care not what the incentive was,—the result is the same. The surplus earnings (capital) controlled by Carnegie, Schwab and Hill are doing just what I have outlined, and will continue to do good for the people of the world when those founders are dead. They will not take any of this capital with them across the Styx. They are only the stewards in whose care this capital is intrusted during the short time they are on this earth, and to my mind that capital has done a thousand times more good to the world than if it had been divided into ten million portions and hid in the belt of a socialist who does not believe or trust anybody on earth.

Never in the history of the world was the strife between individualism and socialism more serious than it is to-day, and to properly understand this grave subject would require years of investigation and study. I can only give you a brief synopsis of the more important facts. I think, however, that we can sum up in a few words the definition and doctrines of a socialist.

A socialist is one who wants to receive more than he is now getting, but who does not want anybody else to get more than he does, and there are all kinds of socialists, from the two-dollar-a-day man to the millionaire, but unfortunately the former are in the great majority, and it is the majority that rules.

We can assume that in a properly organized social country, the presidents, general managers, superintendents, foremen, skilled laborers and common laborers would receive the same pay. I do not know where you would get the men for the higher positions. I know from experience that if the prestige and remuneration of a section foreman were the same as that of a chief engineer, that I would much prefer the former position; and I know that the position of president and general manager is more arduous than that of chief engineer.

But why waste time discussing such a chaotic condition? There would be no incentive for individual exertion, and that is saying enough. Anyone can understand that instead of progress, the world's civilization would at once degenerate and in a short time revert to barbarism or worse.

The great error of the socialist is in the belief that the laboring man is the creator of everything, and that he is the only man who actually works, while the actual fact is that so far as exertion goes, the laboring man has the easiest time of any class in the world.

#### Education Needed "To Carry On"

Another mistaken idea of the more ignorant is that the wealth of the world is sufficient to keep him without work if it were only divided up. He entirely loses sight of the fact that we must all work or we will starve, and therefore any division he may make will in no way reduce the amount of work that he will have to perform.

Some will say: "The world as it is to-day is good enough for us. We will take things as they are and run them as they are, but with cheaper men in official positions." That is the gravest mistake of all their impracticable ideas. The plant of the world to-day, operated by private individuals and corporations with the keenest of competition, has developed a system with the smartest men in the world directing and controlling same. Ask yourselves what would take place if these men are replaced by those who have not had enough

energy or brains to provide even an education for themselves?

Now to sum up, I would like you to think of all classes of laborers as reasonable, sensible beings, and if we can get the "boss" and the "servant" to study each other, their differences will soon disappear. I would like you to think that there is no reward too great for individual exertion, and that the wealthy man is simply a steward over what he controls, and that so long as he is a just steward, he is one of God's noblemen and is carrying out in a satisfactory manner the work for which he was created.

#### TO PROMOTE ELECTRIC FURNACE PRODUCTS

**I**N order to promote the use of electric furnace products, a meeting of about thirty men interested in that industry and representing over a dozen firms, was held March 21st and 22nd in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Following is a part of the official report of the meeting which was mailed to *The Canadian Engineer* by the publicity committee:—

"Acheson Smith, vice-president of the Acheson Graphite Co., called the meeting to order and made a general statement of the importance of getting before the consumers of electric furnace products, and the public generally, the many great advantages of the use of electric furnaces, and the uniformly high-grade products which are made by them. He asserted that it was his belief that all interested in the matter could join together on a common basis to extend the use of electric furnaces and their quality products.

"A special emphasis was laid on electric steel, the tonnage of which during the past four years has shown a remarkable increase not only in the United States, but throughout the world. This has been brought about for two important reasons: (1) The higher quality which can be made by use of the electric furnace; (2) the lower cost of operation shown in most cases as compared with the previous method of manufacture.

"The meeting passed resolutions inviting all manufacturers of electric furnaces, electrical apparatus, electric furnace supplies and accessories, public utility corporations, designers and inventors of electric furnace equipment and the users of electric furnaces to become members and to join in making an aggressive and thorough campaign to disseminate to engineers and to the public accurate data as to the quality of electric furnace products of all kinds.

"The organization formed is to be called the 'Electric Furnace Association.' A permanent organization was created as follows:—

"President, Acheson Smith, Niagara Falls, N.Y.; first vice-president, C. H. Booth, Booth-Hall Co., Chicago; second vice-president, W. E. Moore, Pittsburg Electric Furnace Co., Pittsburg; secretary, C. G. Schluederberg, Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing Co., Pittsburg; treasurer, F. J. Ryan, American Metallurgical Corporation, Philadelphia; directors, the officers and C. A. Winder, of the General Electric Co., Schenectady, and F. J. Tone, of the Carborundum Co., Niagara Falls, N.Y.

"The president was authorized to get in touch with all companies and persons who should be interested in joining the organization. It is quite likely that the next meeting will be held in New York City at the same time as the spring meeting of the American Electro-Chemical Society."

On page 310 of the March 20th issue of *The Canadian Engineer*, in an article on "Standard Gauge Railway Work at the Front," it was stated that the usual track-laying train was made up of "track-layer, three tank wagons with steel, locomotive and sleeping cars as required." There were no Pullmans at the Front, as might be inferred from this typographical error. The reference was to "sleeper cars," or cars loaded with railway ties.