

"The Industrial Army," says the *New York Outlook*, "has risen from the proportions of a national joke into those of a serious national problem." The phenomenon is indeed a startling one. From all parts of the Republic, except the Old South, large bodies of men, and in some cases, we believe, of women, are on the march, converging towards the national capital. Their avowed object is to demand work. The underlying fact seems to be that the patience of the unemployed has become exhausted while their legislators have been for long months, and are likely to be for long months to come, wrangling over the tariff question and struggling for personal or party advantage, instead of enacting the legislation which might do much to set the wheels of the various industries again in motion. Meanwhile the hungry thousands out of employment are left to struggle on as best they can. Seen from this point of view, the uprising is less erratic than one might at first thought suppose. As the leader of one of the Western parties put it, in a speech at a great public meeting in Omaha, "When we reach Washington and present our living petition to Congress—a petition that cannot be pigeon-holed, referred, or put in the waste-basket—something must happen." It is noteworthy that while the papers in Washington, and in other great centres in the vicinity of the capital, deride and ridicule the movement, and the local authorities are discussing plans for bringing it to a speedy and ignominious end, the various branches of the army, along all the different routes, "are helped along and recruited by an almost passionate popular sympathy." It is difficult, in the jumble of contradictory representations, to form any reliable opinion as to either the numbers taking part in the movement or the class of men directing it. It is pretty clear, however, that the army is not the conglomeration of tramps and desperadoes which many seem to suppose. Some of the local commanders, at least, are men of character and ability. Some are university graduates, others men of intelligence and local standing.

It appears, moreover, that the stories telegraphed to the Eastern papers of train-stealings and other outrages are unreliable and in some cases false. The reported "capture" of a Union Pacific train was, we are now told, made with the knowledge and consent of the managers of the road, and the army that took it was composed of law-abiding workmen out of work. In another place, when five thousand Omaha trades-unionists had marched across the Missouri River Bridge, captured a train and placed it at the disposal of the army, "General" Kelly, the commander of the local branch, refused to accept it, saying that the movement stood for the principle of obedience to the laws, and the "army" trudged on afoot. It is impossible to foresee what will

be the outcome when the divisions meet in Washington, as they will probably do during the current week. Much will depend upon the spirit in which they are met. It must be evident to the wise that it will hardly do to resort to the cavalier methods which some have been recommending. The right of the people to petition in person, if they choose, is one which will not be readily surrendered. If the army is found to be law-abiding, and is really made up in any large degree of respectable workingmen, out of employment, it will be entitled to a very respectful hearing. If it has the sympathy of the masses to anything like the degree indicated, it might prove an extremely disastrous proceeding to refuse them such hearing.

What is the real principle involved in the movement? Clearly it is that of the right of the unemployed, in a democratic country, to demand employment from the national government. "Impossible! Absurd!" one is ready to exclaim at first thought. If six thousand of the unemployed may this week demand and receive employment, twelve thousand will be in Washington next week and twenty-four thousand the week after. Thus the demand will swell until it far surpasses the utmost limits of the national resources, unless those resources are replenished by something approaching to wholesale confiscation of the property of capitalists. "And this is really, no doubt, what many of those who take part in the movement would like to see. Stated in this way, the proposition seems simply an outrageous denial of the rights of property, which would soon reduce the whole nation to beggary and anarchy. And yet, when we put ourselves at the point of view of the hundreds of thousands who find themselves utterly unable to find employment and see their families in actual want of the barest necessities of life, while untold wealth, produced, as they believe, by their labors, is lying unused in the hands of the few who are living in ease and luxury, we cannot but wonder whether we should not feel and reason somewhat as they do, were we in their position. The problem is as old as humanity, yet is taking on ever new phases, of which the newest is, that, it has just now assumed, in the great American Republic. Will the Republic find a new solution?"

Vessels salute each other at sea by dipping their colors over the taffrail in the ship's wake.

Miss Mary Philbrook, of Jersey City Heights, who is the first woman in New Jersey to apply for admission to the bar, first became interested in law while typewriter and amanuensis in a lawyer's office, where she had access to legal literature. She is only twenty-three years old, but her employer, Mr. Min-turn, Corporation Attorney of Hoboken, calls her a capable young woman, and expresses full confidence in her ability to conduct cases in court.—*Harper's Bazar*.

PRISON REFORM.

For some years past the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada has been striving with praiseworthy persistence to procure certain reforms in the treatment of prisoners in the Dominion. With regard to the substance and aim of the reforms immediately sought, there is probably not much difference of opinion among right-minded and thoughtful persons. Foremost and chief among these is the removal of the necessity of sending youthful offenders to such institutions as the Central Prison of Toronto, and the Kingston and other penitentiaries of the Dominion, where they are thrown into association with the most depraved and hardened criminals, and from which they too often emerge, after serving longer or shorter terms, with every propensity towards vicious and criminal careers strengthened rather than weakened. The practice which it is thus sought to abrogate is so obviously indefensible that argument for a radical change seems unnecessary and almost insulting to common sense and right feeling. The only difficulty in the way of a change must be, we are sure, the practical and economical one.

A second and somewhat radical change desired grows naturally out of the first. It is the adoption, within prescribed limits, of the reformative, as distinct from the punitive, idea and method in the treatment of the younger classes of offenders. This principle is already recognized in such institutions as the Industrial School, the Mercer Reformatory, etc. It is desired to extend it to the other classes of criminals indicated, and in order to the greatest possible efficiency it is desired that the indeterminate instead of the fixed period of imprisonment be adopted. This method, as our readers are no doubt aware, has been tried for years, with generally satisfactory results, at the Elmira (N.Y.) and other prisons. The prospect of earlier release brings the stimulus of hope to the reinforcement of whatever real desire to reform and lead an honest life may exist in the bosom of any convict, and among juvenile offenders, whose consciences are not wholly hardened, the proportion of those possessing such a desire should, under proper influences, become very large.

How is it proposed that these ends be reached? It is quite possible that, with substantial agreement in regard to the aims to be kept in view, there may be serious differences of opinion as to the best means for the attainment of those ends. It was recommended by the Prison Reform Conference, which met in Toronto in November, 1891, that "the strongest pressure be brought to bear on the Dominion Government for the establishment of an Industrial Reformatory, conducted largely on the system now in use in the Elmira prison and other similar institutions in the United States." Mr. J. G. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries, in his report to the Minis-