

neighborhood, with a pack on his shoulder, is a tramp, that is, in the sense that newspapers place him in at the present time. Doubtless, there are to-day hundreds and hundreds of honorable and honest mechanics seeking something to do, and cannot find it, on account of the dullness in business; and throughout this vast territory thousands on thousands of unwilling idlers are roaming around in the vain effort to find employment for their willing hands, but cannot get it. For doing this laudable and praiseworthy act, they are set down by the newspapers as tramps, and, as tramps, should be treated accordingly.

Who made these thousands of honest workers idlers, or TRAMPS, as you will? Did they become so of their own volition or consent, or were they driven to it from sheer necessity? Who can solve the problem satisfactorily? It is not a supposable case that thousands of honest men would become so demoralized in such a short space of time, and overrun the country and become a terror and a curse to every village and hamlet, and a dread to all the women and children they meet. Other causes must be assigned for this unusual phenomena. Would it not be in place to attribute some of the woes to the evil-doers in high places of authority and trust? What about the many defalcations, embezzlements, bare-faced robberies, and terrible "crookedness" of the numerous presidents of savings banks, insurance offices, and other corporations, who have carried dismay and distress, by their villainies, to many thousands of poor people, who saved a little, in times of prosperity, to have it swept away by the dishonesty of those men who held their little all in trust. These are the men, to a great extent, who should be held responsible for the perilous times through which the country has been passing. These are the men who have uprooted confidence in business circles, and thrown thousands of men out of employment, and sent them tramping away from home, vainly endeavoring to procure what they could not get in places where they have located for years and raised their families. These are the men who have scattered the seeds of distress and poverty in many a family who have heretofore known no want. These are the men who should be held accountable for the wrongs committed, and not the so-called tramps.

Besides the above enumerations, take our numerous railroads. Stocks that commanded a

high price beyond their par value, and paying six and eight per cent. dividend, a little over a year ago, are now not worth one-quarter their value, without any dividends, either. What is the cause of this sudden collapse of values? Why was it not gradual, if from honest causes? It is coolly set down to dullness of business, and the stockholders shrug their shoulders, and are mute, submitting tamely to be filched out of their investments. Is there nothing back of this *depression in business*? Has the business of these great corporations been carried on honestly and economically, like any private concern, for all those interested? Could a correct rendering be got of the inner workings of these railroads, and the public be made cognizant of them, many stockholders would dilate their optics in astonishment at the rottenness and corruption that has eaten up their invested substances.

What is said of railroads might with safety be repeated in regard to city matters and finances, not in one city, but many. Corruption and dishonesty have deluged the land and held high carnival for some time past, the direct result of which is distrust and loss of confidence among business men, the consequence of which is the throwing out of employment, in the various branches of industry, thousands of honest and hard-working men, or, next to it, reducing their wages so low that it is impossible almost for them to make both ends meet.

Many printers have been and are out of employment. Doubtless many of them are out on the road, and must, of course, in the order of things, be classed as tramps. Being on the road is a sufficient cause. Had the great "art preservative of all arts" preserved them from such a misfortune as that, they would not be placed under the same condemnation, with their other co-seekers after an honest livelihood. But such is the lot of some. The stigma must be borne patiently by them, and it is to be hoped that, if these poor but honest toilers cannot get their just deserts here, they surely will receive their reward in the great hereafter.

This reminds me, before closing, to pen a few words in denunciation of some of your able correspondents in setting down printers who happen to work their way into their towns, as TRAMPS. Fie, brother comps, why place such a stigma on your fellow-craftsman, who is seeking an honest livelihood. Being fortunate your-