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## RECENT LABOR TROUBLES IN AMERICA.

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THE title of this essay is, to a certain extent, pretentious: for since consenting to write a paper on this subject I have found not only that it would require far more space than is at my disposal, but also that in several cases the official documents which would necessarily form the basis of it are either not available or as yet unpublished. I have concluded, therefore, to give a very brief outline of the growth of labor organizations in the United States, which, in all recent troubles, have played such a conspicuous part, and to conclude my paper with an account of the Homestead Strike of 1892, and in more detail of the American Railroad Union Strike at Chicago in 1894.

Down to the beginning of this century there were, in the modern sense of the term, no labor organizations in the United States. The reasons for this are two-fold. In the first place agriculture continued to absorb the energies of the people, as during the colonial period.\* There was no great concentration of population in the towns, where what little industry there was carried on was purely domestic in character. Under this system there was no occasion for organization, for, as a general rule, the condition of the journeyman was merely temporary,

\* Rabbeno—American Commercial Policy—Essay II., Ch. 1, Sec. 7, and Ch. 2 Sec. 16.