



MUDDLED SCIENCE.

LABORIOUS THINKING BY STAR ECONOMISTS.

Sun-Spots, Taxation, Currency and Free Trade Golden Age of Civilization Too Much of a Good Thing - Imbecile Gibberish.

It is a not-worthy fact that however put our friends, the economists, are with the laws governing the material well-being of society - there seems, nevertheless, to be something a little awry in this pretended science. To hear them declaim about the beneficence of the present industrial system, one is half-persuaded, even though starving, that it's just about perfect. (See Sumner's "What Social Classes Owe to Each Other.") Yes, one is almost convinced - even when meditating whether it would not be best to put an end to the misery of his breadless children with poison or the knife, that it is the only true and reliable golden age of civilization.

To a simple-minded person it would seem a logical sequence that the aggregation of immense fortunes in the hands of the few must result in the distribution of inadequate pitances in the hands of the many, and hence something must be wrong. But no, this is just as it should be. How, do you ask, can this be? You say: "Why couldn't the fortunes be a trifle less immense - and the pitances a little larger?"

Well, the economists don't say anything as to that; perhaps they haven't thought of it. Peradventure if we keep real quiet, so as not to disturb their laborious thinking, they'll get to that part of it, and then we shall be told all about it.

Listen to the words of one of these luminaries - he says: "There is every indication that we are to see new developments of the power of aggregated capital to serve civilization, and that the new development will be made right here in America."

This was written over two years ago. Whether the "new developments" didn't "pen out" just according to the indications, or what, we can't say, but it appears as though civilization will have to "go it alone" or find some other, and we trust, more reliable servant than the "power of aggregated capital." But let us return to our first statement, that there seems to be something awry in this science.

Of course a science of anything is understood to consist of the facts composing it and their relation to one another. If the facts are mainly guessed at, and their relations only dreamed of, then it's only a theory. A theory is a tip-top thing when used as a tool, to speak, to get at the real facts and their relations, but sometimes people try to make the facts fit theory, which makes a bad job of the whole business. Horse-doctors, lawyers and "political economists" are very prone to make this mistake. Now, civilization, during the past hundred years, had been periodically disturbed by so-called crises, and these eminent men with their presentiment science have been trying to tell us all about it.

But strange as it may seem, they have never been able to agree as to the real cause of the trouble. Some attributed it to the sun-spots, others again laid it to the failure of

its crops, then again one of the star performers said, lably, that it was owing to "improper taxation and unwise currency legislature." And this is where this "social science" seems a trifle off. Certainly one would suppose that there would be a little more agreement among these learned gentlemen as to the cause of the hodge-podge their much-lauded industrial system is continually getting itself into. We think the sun-spot claim to be the most tenable of any advanced, and for this reason: The sun is always around when these social disturbances take place. As to the matter of spots, that could be readily adjusted, for if there were none of them visible just about the time of any specified crisis, it might still be maintained that they were there in great numbers, in fact, enough for a dozen crises - but a little undersized and hence, not discernible. But with the other alleged causes this procedure will not work as well.

When people, for instance, were about convinced that the "failure-of-crops" diagnosis was the correct thing, lo! in walks another crisis right on the heels of the most bountiful harvests that the world had ever seen. Just as we are expecting to be told that too much of a crop is bad for business on the principle that "too much of a good thing is good for nothing," it is announced that the money caused all the trouble; but when the matter is inquired into it is discovered that the same trouble existed when the money was all right.

Now, we have this free trade explanation, but unfortunately for this interpretation, it so happens that in free trade countries, they are having just the meanest kind of a business depression. No, these explications are evidently not equal to the sun-spot affair. We would advise the gentlemen to stick to that. It's decidedly the handiest.

So we see, "things are not always what they seem;" the pretended science of political economy is decidedly awry in this respect.

It is a fine science when things are serene - it works like clock work then; but when a tempest is upon us and we are in sore need of sound counsel, we are comforted by an imbecile gibberish of sun-spots and free trade.

NEW LABOR LYCEUM.

Bridgeport Stepping Into Line - Competition Must Go.

The opening of our Labor Lyceum was a glorious affair. No standing room, and as intelligent and good-natured a crowd as ever filled a public hall. Robert Pyne delivered the inaugural address and did honor to himself and the occasion. The gist of all the speeches was: "The workers must emancipate themselves, and not look to those who are interested in the existing anarchy for assistance. Organize for universal co-operation. Competition must go." May our temple of labor soon be followed by others all over the land. The workers have their destiny in their own hands if they but act with intelligent unity.

Bridgeport does not propose to be any longer behind in the labor movement. Our motto is, "Love, Light and Liberty." SEILER.

"Yes," said the deacon, "our Heavenly Father knows all our inmost thoughts." "Then," replied Fogg, "He must be possessed of a deal of worthless information."

AWAY DOWN EAST.

It is encouraging to see the progress made in the organization of labor among the Yankees, and the Pine Tree State of Maine is stepping forward in a manner that bodes ill for white slave drivers. Already there are about thirty local assemblies of the Noble Order of Knights of Labor carrying on the good work and spreading the new gospel of freedom among the sturdy sons of Maine. Besides this, they have an able defender in the Lewiston Labor Advocate, which has a large circulation, and flashes forth the spirit of unionism in every column. In its last issue, after announcing the prospective enlargement of the paper, the editor said:

We received a letter, Saturday, from Brother Price, saying that at a special meeting of the Richmond Assembly, Friday evening, one hundred forty members were initiated. This is the largest number of candidates that was ever taken into the order in one evening in this State. Richmond certainly takes the cookie this time. The assembly now numbers 370, a gain of nearly 300 in the past few weeks. The question is often asked, "What are the Knights of Labor coming to?" Our answer is invariably, "They are coming to the front."

Right, brother. Then we notice that there are narrow-minded and frightened bosses who try to defeat the object of the Order by bull-dozing their employees. One shoe-making firm in the town of Norway discharged all their lasters without giving any reason for so doing, and the Lasters' Protective Union requests all lasters to keep away till the trouble is settled. Besides, instead of having the effect hoped for upon the lasters, they are thinking of forming an assembly of the K. of L.

There is one thing noticeable in the Labor Advocate, and that is a large heading to an article, as follows: "MAINE'S JUSTICE IS LIKE HER RUM - OF A MIGHTY POOR QUALITY."

Then they have the "critter" there, after all! If its poor quality is an inducement to let it alone, it is well. At any rate, Hurrah for Maine!

ON WITH THE BOYCOTT.

John J. Caville, whom the tricky scab cigar manufacturers, Straton & Storm, charge with conspiracy against them, on his return to New York from the west, Tuesday, said to the editor of the Volks-Zeitung that the boycott against that firm's cigars had never been declared ended, neither would it be until the Cigarmakers' Progressive Union requested it. He also said that he had sent the following dispatch to the Knights of Labor in Massachusetts and elsewhere:

"None of the secretaries of the Order have ever been authorized to declare the boycott against Straton & Storm ended. Do not permit the agents of that firm to throw dust in your eyes, and have no faith in their false representations. The boycott is still in force. This is for the information of organized workmen and for the press."

Besides this, Mr. Caville declared that he was ready at any time, in the presence of a representative of the Volks-Zeitung, to personally demand of Storm proof of his charges, in default of which he could only regard him as a liar.

"Johnny, put that umbrella away before you break it." "O, shut up," replied Johnny. "What's that you say?" "Nothing, papa, I only told you the umbrella to shut up so I could put it away, as you told me to." The explanation came not a second too soon, for the old man had already arisen from his chair. - Donsville Beezer.

Henry F. Durant, himself a lawyer, said: "Law is the most degrading and narrowing of all professions. There is not enough of thought or principle in our whole system of law to occupy a man of intellect for an hour; all the rest is mere chicanery and injustice." This is expert testimony.

GOTHAM'S UNIONS.

VERDICT AGAINST AN UNJUST POLICE JUSTICE.

Chicago and Philadelphia to Boycott Amberg - "Help for God's Sake!" Assistance for the Striking Silk Weavers. Rat Reid's Work.

A very large number of delegates attended the New York Central Labor Union last Sunday. Before routine business was begun, a delegate moved the committee be appointed to draft resolutions condemning Justice Duffy for his treatment of one of the members of the Musical Union. Last Tuesday work John Mollenhauer, a musician, and member of the Central Labor Union, was arraigned before Police Justice Duffy charged with obstructing the sidewalk in front of the Thalia Theater, by giving out boycotting handbills. When asked what he had to say, Mollenhauer said he would wait for his counsel, who was not then present. Without waiting for the counsel, the police justified the prisoner ten dollars, and threatened him with six months on the island if he was brought up again before him on a similar charge. The committee subsequently reported the following, which was enthusiastically adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the fact that there is a United States law against the importation of foreign contract labor, it is in flagrant opposition to the spirit of that law for a Justice of one of our city police courts to fine a Trades Unionist for distributing circulars against the employment of such labor; and

Resolved, That Justice Duffy, by his action last Tuesday in fining a Trades Unionist for distributing such circulars, in denying the defendant a brief delay of sentence until his counsel could arrive, and in threatening to send him to the island for six months if he repeated the act, has placed himself in a position unquestionably antagonistic to organized labor, and merits not only the hearty contempt of all fair-minded workmen, but prompt removal by the proper authorities from his official position.

The committee was instructed to take legal advice whether an appeal could not be taken to a higher court. During the discussion similar resolutions were read from the Washington Association, adopted at its last meeting.

The cooperation of the Central Labor Union and other labor organizations in Philadelphia and Chicago will be solicited to boycott Mr. Amberg's theaters in those cities.

A letter was received from an employee of the Metropolitan Hotel calling upon the Central Labor "for God's sake" to do something to improve the condition of the help in that place. "The place in which they have to eat," says the letter, "is disgustingly dirty, and they don't get decent food." The matter was laid over for future action.

In a communication the Jewish Workmen's Union invited the cooperation of the Central Labor Union in starting a Hebrew newspaper which shall be devoted to the interests of the workers.

The committee on the Silk Weavers' strike reported having received \$50 from the New Haven Trades Council. The Danbury (Conn.) Hatters' Union stand at the head of the subscription list, having contributed \$659. The Central Labor Union contributed \$30 last Saturday. The committee reported having hired Irving Hall for December 3, in which to hold a joint indignation meeting on behalf of the Silk Weavers and agitating the Eight-Hour question. All unions were asked to send contributions for the girls still out of work.

It was reported by a delegate of Typographical Union No. 6 that agents of the Tribune were going around among the newsdealers of the city and subsidizing them, said the delegate, in order to boycott the good union newspapers. The proper committee was instructed to investigate the charge.

THE DERBY SILVER STRIKE.

K. of L. on Deck No Surrender. Boycotting Operations.

Newspaper reports to the contrary notwithstanding, the striking silver workers of the Derby Silver Company show not the slightest signs of weakening. On the contrary, they are in first-rate spirits and more determined than ever to obtain justice, and with the aid of organized workers, will obtain it.

The District Executive Committee and the local boycott committee were in session at the Bassett House, Wednesday, where they held a conference with some of the stockholders of the Derby Silver Company, relative to the strike. It is generally conceded that if a national boycott were placed upon their goods, they would share the fate of other manufacturers who would not take into account the power of organized labor.

The strike attracts universal attention in the town of Derby, of which Birmingham is a part, and the citizens are taking sides with the strikers with but few exceptions.

Two grocery and provision dealers in Shelton, just across the river, are being vigorously boycotted for assisting the silver company, by selling their goods for the maintenance of their imported scabs, who have to live at the factory because the boarding houses will not harbor them. A number of people who had ordered their Thanksgiving turkeys of these dealers countermanded their orders in consequence of their action.

Mr. Miller, one of the executive moguls of the silver company, it is reported, told a hack driver who toted him home the other evening, that he would sell out his property and leave the place - he was disgusted with it. Poor fellow, he will be apt to find that workmen are everywhere organizing to protect themselves against oppression. It would be wiser for Mr. Miller to stay and "stand in" with the boys, live a happy life and be respected.

New Haven looks with pride upon the growth of unionism in the "Valley," and the best wishes of our "boys" go with the brothers in Derby.

HENRY WILLIAMS.

The colored boy, whose history was printed in the ADVOCATE last week, has found many friends who will interest themselves in his behalf. His case is only one of many similar ones that are never heard of because of the humble position of the poor dupes of rich and influential tyrants. Organized Labor is not so much dependent upon the employing class as formerly - nor upon the especial servants of rich employers, the courts. Good old Uncle Boycott is the right hower of the oppressed who are organized. In the case of this boy, Henry, the organized workmen are but extending their operations in a proper direction, and it is only desired that justice be done, without delay or indecent haggling.

EXIT SHEPARD.

The skin game bureau that was so successfully advertised by the WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE as a fraudulent concern, has changed hands, it seems. Whether the new incumbent will continue the practices of his predecessor remains to be seen. But the purchaser of Shepard's little "headquarters" has found out his mistake already, though the wily "employment agent" had skipped before the truth flashed upon his dupe. Shepard was inveigled to this city again, and, while at his lawyer's office, was pounced upon. His lawyer gave bonds for him, however, and the natural supposition is that the lawyer was fixed with collaterals by Shepard. If he settles in New Haven, he will be

WIRY TUG-O-WAR.

GULLED, HOODWINKED AND BLINDED SCABS.

Advertising for Scabs in Vain - West Wire Drawers Warned - Offended Ambulance Driver - Boycott Banahan, Ale Agent.

With the present week the fifth month of the wire drawers' strike begins, and both the opposing parties are evidently as determined as ever to continue the "little unpleasantness," notwithstanding the fact that the company have secured a goodly number of the vermin who, possessing neither honor nor respectability, become the plant tools to cut not only the throats of their fellowmen but eventually of themselves.

dupes! to be gulled hoodwinked and blinded into forging chains binding them tighter and tighter about their necks; to be deceived by fine promises never intended kept.

One of the prominent members of the Wire Company has appeared in a Western paper where they guarantee a number of scab wire drawers steady work and wages, but up to date not a man turned up from that section, men in the West are fully aware of the way the twenty-five men used who came here shortly after the strike and trusted too long in the honor of the scab import.

The finer grades of work attempted unsuccessful attempts at best, been abandoned, and prospects of the main out-put mill (coarser sizes) do not appear very brilliant, judging from sales and the necessity of shears being erected to demolish accumulating scrap.

In our last issue we saw offended a certain employe of a mill, and there are good grounds to believe that other people in the same view with apprehension of some new disclosures in this issue.

The ostracised proprietors of Hotel Svea has at last secured an agent for the Brewing Company, Y. Han of Pine Street, Philadelphia, taking pity on this men of humanity and four rooms in the Pine Street, formerly of the H. Close as a carriage well, Michael, you would that organized workmen finger in the pie and this paper reaches our glorious boycott will be your XXX.

WHAT.

An exchange of the stars in a nail keg a nail fence to dry, put to soak, unluckily to dry and let out the never debate yourself you can escape the tory unless you pay

The editor of the is permitted to cell, but the light sufficient for him at all familiarious bias of joy this as the very ty. - Brooklyn

Good wages are pros