

Goodwin's Weekly.

Vol. XIV

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, FEBRUARY 27, 1909.

No. 17

The Unemployed

MR. GOMPERS says there are 2,000,000 men of the labor unions who were employed two years ago, who are now walking the streets. We think that is a mistake. We think quite half that number went to Europe when the depression and crash came a year and a half ago; but whether that is true or not, there are too many idle men in this country, and that fact ought to be a concernment to the Federal government and every state government, for enforced idleness is the most dangerous menace to free institutions. When a man is willing to work and cannot get work, if long enough continued the man, according to his nature becomes either an enemy of society or, his fibre broken down, a willing mendicant. Let a proud man be forced to beg for a few months and he is wont to conclude, his pride being broken, that it is easier to beg than to work, or, in shame and desperation, he is liable to assume that justice is dead, and that it is right for man to prey upon his fellow man. The government of course is only expected to clear obstructions from the path of the citizen, but in times of great depression, when the "great" financiers, through their manipulations, have brought panic and stagnation to business, then the thought of how the destitute ones can be provided for is, or should be, the foremost question of the government. There is plenty of work to be done which is needed. The nation's defenses are not nearly perfect; there are millions of acres of swamp lands which engineers say could easily be converted into fruitful fields; there are rivers which should be canalized and made navigable to relieve railroads from their overburden of freight, and to reduce the cost of transportation, and these needed works should be rushed now while poor men need employment. If necessary, the money to meet the cost should be raised by issuing bonds. Let the bonds draw 2 per cent and make them of the size of a gold note, to be redeemed in gold twenty years hence, and let them pass from hand to hand as money. The people would be glad to accept them.

The tendency of the land is for the money interests to run to combines, to make each combine a rolling snowball to gather all the snow near, and the very poor have no chance. When these rolling snowballs become avalanches then devastation follows, and the poor are stranded. The thing to do is to increase general taxation, to establish an income tax and make it progressive, light on a thousand dollars, heavy on a million, and keep the men who are willing to work employed.

We hear much about conserving natural resources, is there any resource so sacred and so rich as the labor of strong arms? Is there any other one thing so necessary as to keep every strong arm possible in productive work?

And speaking of labor and those who need work, there is another class which does not work, but which ought to.

We refer to the idle rich, to those who not being driven on by necessity, spend their days in idleness, and the pursuit of pleasure. This idleness is a most serious loss to the country and the world, for the lives of such people amount to little more to the world, than the lives of pet animals.

Longfellow and Emerson might have lived in

idleness, had a good time and by this time would have been forgotten. They would have missed the fame that is now theirs, but they would have missed also the joys which came of their work, compared with which all the pleasures that wealth can buy, are but Dead Sea apples. The loss to the country would have been measureless. Take away the inspiration and the incentive to try which these writings have given and will for all time to come give to the youth of this country, and who can measure the loss.

Grant and Sherman had each tried business and both had failed. When the war came on one was a clerk in a tannery, the other teaching a military school. Both were at work, but neither was doing his best. The war brought to them the necessity of doing their best and lo, the result! We suspect they both gave up their military studies when they left West Point, but then neither of them craved any military honors save in defense of their country. If they had we should have heard of them in some foreign land. Von Motke got leave of absence, went to Turkey and organized and put in fighting form the army of the sultan. He was there a dozen years. In that time he had reduced war to an exact science, so when under him the Prussian army struck first Schleswig-Holstein, and again Austria, it triumphed in a few weeks in the first war, in a day in the second, and was already for the war with France.

We see all around us men who are not doing their best, and the loss to themselves and the country cannot be estimated. Gray wrote:

"Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;
Hands that the rod of empire might have
swayed,

Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre."

But though he was a marvelous scholar in his own and half a dozen other tongues, all he left as a claim to immortal memory were a couple of short poems. "He died with more than half his sweetness in him."

Contrast him with Milton, his eye sight gone, but still in his darkness dictating Paradise Lost!

Suppose all Americans were doing their very best, what a land and race ours would be.

The Fleet Did Not Forget

THAT WAS a superb home-coming of the fleet on Monday last. They were all in perfect form and when the thousands of tens of thousands of their countrymen shouted their welcomes, in solemn majesty their great guns returned the welcomes as though the thrill of the home coming had infected those steel war engines and given a new splendor to their "all hails!" But one incident of the day has not been enough dwelt upon. When the guns were roaring, bands playing; when the flags were being dipped and the acclaims of thousands of voices were rending the air, suddenly as the noon hour struck, for a moment silence fell, then out of the hush, from every one of the great ships came the solemn salute of twenty-one guns to the memory of the first great president. What an answer to his words: "In time of peace prepare for war." Each gun answered affirming its preparedness; each ship was an object lesson to show that, at least in part, his words had been heeded, and that the Great Republic is alert and stronger than ever before; that a reverence deeper than ever goes out to the flag whose first baptism under a battle canopy was carried by him.

For a hundred and ten years the dust of him, who in life was George Washington, has been resting in the simple sarcophagus at Mount Vernon, but never a vessel passes up or down the Potomac that its bell is not tolled when passing that spot, and on Monday last when the festivities were at their height in the lower Chesapeake bay; all were stopped to follow the rule which is the rule of all American warships, that the president's twenty-one guns might be fired from each vessel, and the flags dipped in honor of the natal day of the father of his country. We know of nothing just like that in history. The character of a man grown so strong, as it is studied, that after he has been asleep in the grave for a hundred and ten years; a matchless, exultant fleet, while receiving the welcomes of thousands, suddenly, when the noon hour strikes, remembers that the day is the anniversary of the birth of its first Commander in Chief, and proudly in its celebration, opens all its solemn guns and its flags to the immortal memory.

It is a lesson for every American boy; every American boy should, so soon as possible, go to Mount Vernon to learn, while looking at the simple sepulchre there, that it is possible for every earnest American boy to earn for himself immortality, if he but possesses the brain, the heart, the courage, the integrity and patriotism, to win it.

The "Intelligent Juror"

THE TRIAL now going on in Nashville for the killing of ex-Senator Carmack has one feature which looks almost like a travesty on the assumed sacredness of a jury trial. It required more than three weeks to select the jury, and when that duty was completed, behold the outcome. Four men on the jury are absolutely illiterate, two others can barely read; the entire twelve declared that they had read no newspaper since the shooting and some said they had not read a newspaper in ten years. Much comment is being indulged in by the eastern press over that "intelligent jury," and it does seem strange that such a jury could be picked up in any one county in the United States.

And still who knows?

We, in the United States, get our reverence for the "right of trial by jury" from England. When that was established, how many men in England could read? Juries are supposed in a trial to judge the facts. It is a clear case that this Tennessee jury have no theories that they have picked up through reading newspapers and trashy books, to distract their attention from the facts as they are given on this trial. The only danger from them is that, no matter what facts may be established, their verdict will—unconsciously, perhaps—reflect merely the unwritten code which very often governs in Tennessee and other states. But would a knowledge of how to read and write, change the verdict? Again the fact that they have no knowledge as knowledge is esteemed by the world, is no proof that they have no wisdom. When the great war was at its height, a man who could neither read nor write, said to this writer: "If you could only write what I think, we could settle this business in half an hour." That showed at least that he was thinking and had his own opinions. That awakens another query. What is an "intelligent" jury? What constitutes that array of twelve men, which lawyers and newspapers delight in calling an