

The Question of The Trains.

Standing amid the realities of the present and viewing with watchful eye the national highway on which we have been traveling we see it strewn with the hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows, the struggles and triumphs of the human race. We see the "countrified sons of toil" perishing miserably because of unrewarded labor. We see a favored few intrenched in the thrones of justice and holding in their mighty grasp the destiny of forty million people. We see children compelled by necessity, stern and relentless as fate itself, to make their play-ground in the gutter, and in the tender years of childhood to pass the school-house on their way to the mines and factories, there to labor through the long weary hours of the day for barely enough to sustain life. Utterly deprived of an education, the only means that will ever enable the race to break the shackles that for centuries has bound them to the rock of ignorance and made them the unwilling slaves of the millionaire. We see men baptised in ignorance and enslaved by superstition. We see the laborer toiling for barely enough.

to enable him to live and toil. Earning five dollars and receiving one dollar. The "rich growing richer and the poor, poorer."

Such has been the condition of the working-man for the past quarter of a century. By a judicious use of money in legislative halls, the iron coils of tyranny & oppression have been drawn closer and closer around them until at last in desperation they throw law and order to the winds and rising up in one body they demand that justice, though tardy, shall at last be meted out to them. They inaugurate what is commonly called a strike and with what result? The factories shut down, they are thrown out of employment, and unable to obtain work elsewhere many of them perish miserably in the streets. Fathers and mothers look with despair in each others faces as they see their little ones pine and perish for the food which they are willing but unable to obtain for them. Distress and misery everywhere. The groans of want and poverty come alike from the lips of innocent children and the

pallid cheek of age. We recognize in these the same influences that sent Sparta, Persia, Greece and Rome down to national decay and struck them from the roll of nations.

Well might the genius of humanity be represented as looking on with drooping wings and a countenance of mingled pity and despair as she sees enacted and re-enacted all over this broad land the disgraceful scenes of the Haymarket riot of a few years ago. But the blood stains on the pavement stones of Chicago told there more in accents plainer than words that anarchy and injustice could never succeed. This is, and ever must be, the inevitable result of this system of address. All good people must and do deplore the fact that the laboring man does not receive the full benefit of his toil, but they are just as misled in saying that he can never hope to succeed by lawlessness and violence. Taught by a long and bitter experience that strikes

can avail them little or nothing, they are gradually turning their attention to secret organizations, Trade Unions and ect. These oath-bound leagues with their signs, pass-words and grips, meeting in the dead of night and then under the influence of a few unprincipalled demagogues they hatch their nefarious schemes and intoxicated with a feeling of real or imaginary wrongs they rush directly from the presence of their men to do their combined will. Under these circumstances is it any wonder that the Capitalist refuses to employ the men who are his worst enemies, the men who have destroyed his property and in many cases menaced his very life, who claim it as their inherent right to dictate to him whom he shall employ and the wages he shall pay.

Many and various are the schemes that have been propounded to alleviate all these wrongs, but each in its turn has been found insufficient, until at last the oppression becoming too strong to be resisted he has sought wisdom in council, strength in unity,

and harmony in organization, and as a result all over this broad land "reform" has become the keynote of a mighty movement among the masses. a movement founded upon the eternal principle of justice and right a principle that embraces within its mighty folds the welfare of a whole people. It is a revolution of brains and ballots, the only means that can ever emancipate the toilers, and bring redemption to struggling humanity. The great car of reform freighted with public opinion, is rumbling on and on, with ever increasing momentum. Animated by progress and combined with the work of millions of others the laboring man is at last demanding recognition in the legislative halls of our country, because it is upon this broad arena that his battles must be fought and won. Slowly but surely he is receiving the recognition which is due him and I believe I can see the sunlight breaking on dawn of a brighter

happier day, when under the beneign
influence of education and social
intercourse the laborer will stand
erect in patriotic manhood, ask-
ing and receiving a fair share in
the profits of his toil.

Yours Truly
Robt Brock.