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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1897.

EDITORIAL.

There should exist a fellow feeling between J. Pierpont Morgan, emperor of American finance, and Nicholas, emperor of all the Russias. Nicholas is in danger of assassination because of hard times and unrest in Russia, and Morgan's life is threatened in England because of the effect his operations is having upon conditions of trade in Great Britain.

There are many persons who oppose socialism upon the plea that socialists propose to divide up the property of the wealthy so that each person will have an equal share but as socialists only intend to divide the work and share the profits arising from labor, we are of the opinion that the division of the work is often the bugaboo which frightens the opposition.

Industry's Mortal Foe

What is the goal toward which the trusts and trades unions are leading with their strenuous effort in destroying competition? The only way to answer this question is to look for what competition has done for the world and what competition has done for the world is simply marvelous.

Prior to the dawn of life, progress consisted of the gross battle of the elements. Wind warring with wave, centrifugal with centripetal, heat against gravity, integration against disintegration—out of all these arose the planet itself, its seasons, its diversified surface, its plains and poles, mountains and plains, rivers and sea, gulf stream and Gobi, which flow, changing seasons, night and morning, and God saw that it was good.

With the advent of life, the scene only changed; the plot was the same. All that has been done came through struggle. All that can be anticipated has been built up through struggle, which alone gives strength. In struggle is development, in the ruins of sea for the soil, balmier and more fertile that evolve for only the strong made strong, are the weak and incompetent eliminated. Do we want men? The only path thither lies over the rough rocks of competition and denial. Do we want immortality? The price is leaden from opposition, clinging the lighter, stunning the knights. Do we want character? Only through temptation, resist strength, through pain, endurance, through sorrow and tears.

What gave New England its mental ferment in American science? Did it not arise from the struggle of a people who had left all for conscience's sake? What made Gettysburg the first military power of the states for the perpetual measure of armed and sleepless foes? What made Dewey great at sea but the battle fleets that menaced her pelted island's very existence? What has given us modern electrical appliances of every kind but the pressure of competing interests upon inventors? What but the fierce rivalry of opposing companies has perfected telegraphy and steel manufacture, and red phosphorus and gold catching process, the texture of our fabrics, the marvelous of our newspapers, the appearance of trains and steamships, the convenience and endurance of our buildings, the excellence of the very clothes we wear and the food we eat?

Blind to Nature's way, we are dissatisfied and will inevitably seek her. Is one man more expert than another? Then he shall get the lion's share of the work that he may make and earn no more pay. Is one factory better equipped than another? Then it shall run fewer hours or close up altogether. Has one railroad better or fine than its rival? Then it shall run on slower schedule. Is one superintendent more deft than another in dealing with his men? Then he shall deliver his authority over to an employees' association, that all may share alike. The rain shall fall on the just as heavily as on the unjust, and they who work all day in the vineyard and they who struggle up at the eleventh hour shall all receive likewise every man a penny.

Socialism is in the air. It has conquered the ranks of labor and perverted the schools of learning, and now it marches on the citadel of individualism, the clear-eyed and iron hearted band of the great captains of industry. The brainy organizers of finance, trade and manufacture, who have denounced trades unionism and scoffed at the world's mental aberrations of pulpit and section and pedagogue—these, of late, are tired of competition, and set themselves to looking down the ladder on which all advancement, rung by rung, in pain and loss and strife, has come up.

They may not succeed. But if they succeed, they will fail, and in the wreck of their failure will go down the most colossal relic of human history. One civilization after another has failed. Egypt, Nineveh, Babylon, Carthage, Greece, Rome—and this great Teutonic Empire. Fabric of overbuilded industry may crumble in the dust as prone as any. In the day that the competitive system is thrown away, our doom is sealed. Without incentive, ambition will die away. Without rivalry, exertion loses its point. Without competition, improvement becomes needless and impossible. Without struggle, the very faculties atrophy, purpose flags, nerve pals and muscles are enfeebled with disease.

Whenever "harmonizations" become complete, nobody will need to build new railroads, or improve facilities, or invent new machinery, or study economy, or reward exceptional ability or energy. We shall fall to a dead level of mediocrity, stagnation and then decay. The agencies that have built us up will be destroyed, the prizes will be withdrawn. The great machine will resolve a whole of its own accumulated momentum, and then it will stop. And upon the ruins of what is left the survivors will erect another system, imperfect, no doubt, but purged of the fundamental error of monopoly. Through some such dire experience as this we may have to pass, for Nature will tolerate her laws make man, at whatever cost in misery, to learn what he will let alone. The process, of course, is not to be interrupted because some of the people are lost in the struggle. Or, rather,

Industry's Mortal Foe

Portland, Or., March 23. (To the Editor.) Referring to your editorial in the Oregonian of March 19, on Industry's Mortal Foe, you say "If they succeed the socialists have at last, they will fail, and in the wreck of their failure will go down the most colossal relic of human history." You point to the historical failures of Egypt, Nineveh, Babylon, Carthage, Greece, Rome and those. Perhaps there would be very serious, had they been more wholesomely formed or treated, but they were established on the opposite principle from those of our day. Take our government, for instance, it is established on the principle of equal rights to all, and it is the only one of the kind in the world. Its success is a matter of history. Its failure would be a matter of history, if it should be overthrown by the socialistic principle of the government owning the means of production and distribution. Under such a government the people would be the slaves of the government, and would be compelled to do what it commanded them to do, and would be compelled to take what it gave them for their labor. Under our system the people control the government, and make it do what they want it to do. Under socialism the government would control the people, and make them do what it wants them to do. Under our system the people are free to do what they think best for themselves, and to take what they think they earn by their labor. Under socialism they would be slaves to the government, and would be compelled to take what it gives them for their labor. Under our system the people are free to work when they think it best for them to work, and to quit when they think it best for them to quit. Under socialism they would be slaves to the government, and would be compelled to work when it commanded them to work, and would be compelled to quit when it commanded them to quit. Under our system the people are free to think and act for themselves, and to reap the benefit of their thought and action. Under socialism they would be slaves to the government, and would be compelled to think and act as it commanded them to think and act, and would be compelled to take what it gave them for their thought and action. Under our system the people are free to own property, and to use it as they think best for themselves. Under socialism they would be slaves to the government, and would be compelled to own property, and use it as it commanded them to own property, and use it. Under our system the people are free to own and use machinery, and to use it as they think best for themselves. Under socialism they would be slaves to the government, and would be compelled to own machinery, and use it as it commanded them to own machinery, and use it. Under our system the people are free to own and use money, and to use it as they think best for themselves. Under socialism they would be slaves to the government, and would be compelled to own money, and use it as it commanded them to own money, and use it. Under our system the people are free to own and use land, and to use it as they think best for themselves. Under socialism they would be slaves to the government, and would be compelled to own land, and use it as it commanded them to own land, and use it. Under our system the people are free to own and use their own bodies, and to use them as they think best for themselves. Under socialism they would be slaves to the government, and would be compelled to own their own bodies, and use them as it commanded them to own their own bodies, and use them. Under our system the people are free to own and use their own souls, and to use them as they think best for themselves. Under socialism they would be slaves to the government, and would be compelled to own their own souls, and use them as it commanded them to own their own souls