

COXEYISM.

The industrial army has arrived in Washington, and are camped on the outskirts of the city. Different contingents of the same organization are pressing forward as rapidly as possible, and their numbers are constantly increasing. It cannot be expected that these men will accomplish any result personally surrounding the capital and demanding the enactment of certain laws. It was an ill-advised movement from the beginning, and if there had not been such publicity given to Gen. Coxeys and his lieutenants the army would never have assumed the proportions it has. There is no denying the fact that the "commonweal" are more popular to-day than they were a month ago, and this is evidently the result of the free advertising they have received from the daily press. The right of petition is a sacred one with every member of the Anglo-Saxon race; but in the history of free institutions there has never been anything similar to the plan now being carried into execution by the thousands of unarmed, peaceable men, marching to Washington to present their grievances directly to the president and to congress in no session. There is not the least hope of this scheme being successful in any way; but it is a matter of regret to every lover of American institutions that circumstances exist in this country, teeming with natural wealth, that make such a movement possible. It makes emphatic certain truths that would not have been acknowledged by the most pessimistic a few years ago, and foremost among these are that distress is widespread, and that the people, who constitute the foundation of the fabric of free governments, have little confidence in those whom they have sent to Washington.

There is no use in attempting to stamp out the agitation by methods that would only be sanctioned in Russia or other despotic countries. This will only increase the evil and make it more difficult to combat. The members of this so-called industrial army are not all tramps or vicious men; but in some cases have been recruited from the ranks of mechanics and even the professions are represented. In no instance, in their journey through the country, have they been guilty of any act of violence, except in forcibly taking possession of trains. This is remarkable considering the different classes of men who have joined the roving bands. It is to be desired that no serious consequences may result from this mania, and that it may gradually die out as it began. Violent repression of such schemes always savors of persecution, and while very few will have any sympathy with General Coxeys and his subordinate commanders, if they do not openly violate the law they should not be treated like criminals.

THE IMPENDING CRISIS.

The question of the most gravity that presents itself to the public at this time, is where will the present agitation end? There is distress in all portions of the country, and there is a spirit of unrest among the people. Not only the "industrial army" are marching through the country, but labor strikes are prevalent in all portions of the land. In the history of the nation there has never been such a perturbed state of the public mind, and the republic has never approached so closely to the abyss of a social revolution. Mr. Cleveland is a man of firmness and decision, and will meet the emergency bravely; but when men are hungry and their families suffering from the ordinary necessities of life they are in an agreeable mood, and are difficult to manage. This is the condition of the people of the United States, and firmness and leniency should be exercised in dealing with them. They are not criminals to be shot down like dogs by a cruel and heartless soldiery, and the military should not be called upon except there were flagrant violations of law with which peace officers could not contend. It may be that the excitement will die out of itself; but irritants should not be applied if they could possibly be avoided. Our people are not liable to imitate the Parisians in the French revolution without the provocation is much greater than it is now, but such a culmination would be a death blow to free institutions on this continent. The present emergency requires cool and sagacious statesmanship, and congress should possess some of the elements as well as the chief executive.

Very many are of the opinion that if the Wilson bill were defeated the unrest would quiet down, and if the dominant party in power are patriotic they will not impel a crisis which threatens such direful consequences. The country was peaceful, happy and prosperous under the old regime, but since the new administration has been inaugurated the worst evils predicted by Republicans cannot afford to wreck its future prospects by following a policy that is causing such widespread discontent. A halt should be called.

JUDGE BELLINGER'S DECISION.

The act of Judge Bellinger, of the U. S. district court in Portland, in dismissing the "industrial" after giving them a reprimand and they had given a pledge not to molest property hereafter, will receive censure from some and commendation from others. It was for violating a mandate of his court that they were arrested by Marshal Grady, assisted by U. S. troops, and he should be the proper judge of the gravity of the offense committed.

"FARMING OUT" MONEY.

A Democratic contemporary that is in favor of free silver, publishes the following editorial: "If the government should farm out the flour grinding business to a few wealthy corporations and tax all other flour mills out of existence, would not that result in dear flour and cheap wheat, in the same faring out the money issuing business to wealthy corporations has resulted in dear money and cheap property? There is no more reason in money being scarce and dear when property is plentiful, than that flour should be scarce and dear when wheat is plentiful." There have been two attempts made by the commercial nations of the world lately to adopt bi-metallicism, and each has been a fruitless trial. This is the "farming out" the money business" only excites ridicule. If free coinage was in operation in the United States the capitalists and bankers would receive the benefits and the poor man would be the loser. The gold bug would buy up bullion and there it would be coined at the mint. He would gain over 40 cents on every dollar, and his wealth would multiply in a much larger ratio than it does now. The wages of the toiler would buy far less in the market than it does now, and there would be no increase in his pay. Democrats and Populists cannot legislate men rich or poor, and it is useless to make the attempt. The experience of the most successful nations in modern times has demonstrated that the present monetary system is safe, and there is no necessity for any new plan to be adopted.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

There are only four more weeks of campaigning in Oregon, and indications of a grand Republican victory are being given as election day approaches. With the important events that are now transpiring through the country the result of the coming election will be of national significance.

Great Britain could afford free trade, because she had no valuable home market to give up. The home market of the United States which she wants to give up to her, is equal in value to that of the world.

BI-METALLISM.

The action of Senator Sherman and others in telegraphing sympathy to the bi-metallic congress in London may appear strange to those who have in mind a mono-metallic; but in this conception of the position of Mr. Sherman and others, there is a grave error. Those who have opposed the free coinage bills in congress are not the enemies of the white metal. They believe in both metals being on an equality as circulating media, and this could not be attained by unlimited coinage. The tendency would be to depreciate silver by flooding the country with it. As President Cleveland said in his message vetoing the Bland-Altamont bill, the only way to keep a parity between the two metals is to limit the amount of silver in circulation. There is not a conservative man in the country that desires to see silver demonetized, and it can only be kept at par value by restricting its coinage to a certain degree. Free coinage would drive our gold to foreign countries, and the United States would suffer the evils of mono-metallicism—the circulation of only one kind of coin, and that largely depreciated. In this light, and it is the only way to view the monetary question, the best interests of the country demands bi-metallicism, and this can only be maintained by a careful, conservative policy. If the wild vagaries of the friends of free coinage were to become law, silver would sink much lower than it is now, and the disastrous consequences would fall on the poor man who earns his living by daily toil and not on the capitalist who would buy cheap bullion in all the markets of the world.

The subject will have a different aspect if the commercial nations of the world adopt a standard of value in the coinage of silver. Then the American dollar will be as valuable in England as it is in this country, and the English shilling will be at par in the United States as it is in the country where it was coined. Senator Sherman desires this, and so does President Cleveland and all those who are denominated "gold-bugs." This cannot be accomplished without an international agreement, and if any country attempts it alone it will result disastrously to commerce and business. The standard of value must be determined, and this must be upheld by all parties to the contract.

Bi-metallicism in the world is desirable; not alone in the United States, but in England, Germany and the other countries of Europe. While this country is attempting to support a 40-cent dollar currency she will be handicapped without she keeps constantly in the treasury sufficient gold to make it good in international commerce, and the amount of silver coined cannot go beyond a certain limit without causing disastrous consequences to our trade.

A petition is said to be in circulation by the Humanitarian Brotherhood of Camden, N. J., to "His Imperial Highness, William II, by the Grace of God Emperor of Germany and Chief of the Triple Alliance," asking that the petitioners may obtain the benefits of law, justice and order through the favor of his gracious majesty's assistance. This is a later manifestation of Coxeyism, and of a more violent type. The followers of such a movement should not be found outside of the insane asylums of the country, and that they exist in communities following their chosen vocations without being disturbed proves beyond doubt that this country has no law against imbecility if the victim is not dangerous to the life or property of his fellow citizens.

Last Monday night was one of terror in Portland, and after the "commonweal" had been discharged, fully 3000 sympathizers paraded the streets. In this emergency the authorities telegraphed Gov. Penney for the militia to be placed in readiness to protect life and property. No attention was paid to these men other than to read them to the people whom the governor was addressing. Fortunately the exigency passed without serious consequences; but it furnished indisputable evidence that the citizens of Portland would have little or no protection by the executive force from the mob in the event of a riot. Republican papers must not make capital for the enemy in their efforts to crush the Coxeys movement. When they state that there is no necessity for idle men in the country, they are making good campaign capital for Democrats. During the past year hundreds of thousands of honest toilers have been thrown out of employment, and the wages of others have been reduced fully one-half. Never in the history of the country has there been such a complete stagnation in business and such widespread distress as has happened since 1892. The principle on which Coxeys has organized his army of the unemployed is a menace to popular government, but distorting facts will not crush the movement any quicker. President Cleveland has been the subject of severe criticism since his inauguration from party organs, and has still kept forward in the course that he has mapped out for himself; but if the following excerpt from the Washington Independent, published at Pomeroey, and over whose columns Rev. F. W. D. Mays presides, should reach him, it may be doubted that his firm attitude on public questions would still be maintained: "We can say to the Democratic administration that if it does not get a move on itself and show that it intends to do something for the people in legislation better than that abortion of a Wilson bill, there are those among the old-line members of the Democratic party in this state who will aid the Populists in their effort for better government. The Democrats could have carried this state at the next election but for Cleveland's policy and betrayal of Democratic promises and ignoring of the men who have borne the abuse of lying bootlickers in fighting for Democratic principles when Mr. Cleveland was posing as a lawyer in Buffalo. Such elegant and handsome bootlickers should undoubtedly claim the attention of the executive and lead him to carefully consider his future actions before making himself the victim of any such rhetorical thunder."

TELEGRAPHIC.

Washington, May 1.—The commonweal army was sent early today upon Brightwood Heights with preparations for a procession to the capitol. There was an early breakfast of eggs, bread and coffee. Banners were packed into the wagons and the army was in motion by 10 o'clock. At the men carried staves with which they waved flags with the motto, "Peace on earth, good will to men." The men passed to music on the march, singing on the march, and on their way to the capitol. Before the start Carl Browne forced the men into a hollow square and put them through a most remarkable drill. The staves were handled like guns, and when Browne shouted "Glory and Peace," they chanted three times and waved the sticks in the air. The Philadelphia committee led in a march to the capitol building, and down the line on a station. A band drum beat solemnly and the bagpipers emitted shrill strains. After a march twice around the grounds, the men were drawn up in line and more cheers and drilling followed. Browne harangued the men in the customary street fair strain, telling them they had received permission to march to the capitol grounds, where they must disband and enter individual citizens. He said: "Whether or not we will be permitted to speak I cannot say, but you must be careful to keep the peace; then we will reform and march to a new camp near this. This demonstration will be more powerful than force, than guns or the ragged army of the unemployed."

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TELEGRAPHIC.

Washington, May 1.—The commonweal army was sent early today upon Brightwood Heights with preparations for a procession to the capitol. There was an early breakfast of eggs, bread and coffee. Banners were packed into the wagons and the army was in motion by 10 o'clock. At the men carried staves with which they waved flags with the motto, "Peace on earth, good will to men." The men passed to music on the march, singing on the march, and on their way to the capitol. Before the start Carl Browne forced the men into a hollow square and put them through a most remarkable drill. The staves were handled like guns, and when Browne shouted "Glory and Peace," they chanted three times and waved the sticks in the air. The Philadelphia committee led in a march to the capitol building, and down the line on a station. A band drum beat solemnly and the bagpipers emitted shrill strains. After a march twice around the grounds, the men were drawn up in line and more cheers and drilling followed. Browne harangued the men in the customary street fair strain, telling them they had received permission to march to the capitol grounds, where they must disband and enter individual citizens. He said: "Whether or not we will be permitted to speak I cannot say, but you must be careful to keep the peace; then we will reform and march to a new camp near this. This demonstration will be more powerful than force, than guns or the ragged army of the unemployed."

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