

The Daily Astorian. ASTORIA, OREGON: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1887. CONSERVATISM, PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

Gr the seven anarchists who are sentenced to death in Chicago for killing seven men, not one of them, so far as the facts have been disclosed, had any property, or had made any earnest effort to have any. If each of these men, on arriving in the country, or all but the one who claims to have been born on the soil, had not only taken the steps to become an American citizen, but had actually become such, and had thenceforth by well-ordered industry shaped his efforts toward the acquisition of a homestead: suppose each of them had finally acquired a homestead and had been recognized as an industrious, well-disposed citizen: does any right-minded man suppose that these seven men would have been engaged in a plan for the indiscriminate murder of men who had done no wrong, and who, for the most part, were earning a living as peace officers, and either had or were in the way of acquiring homesteads?

The anarchists of Chicago, with one exception, did not care enough for citizenship to seek or accept that franchise. They had given no bonds to society that they would become good citizens. Their hands were against every man who had acquired property. This doctrine of anarchy never had its inception in this country. It has been imported with the expectation that it would take root and flourish. Contrary to the expectation, it does not make much headway. One reason is that the anarchists have proposed no remedy for real or fancied evils in this country. Another reason is that there are no such evils here as have driven men to desperation in some European countries. The theory of these anarchists is that all property has been dishonestly acquired, and therefore it is right to make war on all property-holders. The great fact is overlooked that property dishonestly acquired in our country is only the exceptional instance. The great bulk of property amassed has been by hard and unremitting labor through many years.

Here and there a great fortune has been made by sharp practices and by means which would not bear a searching scrutiny. But these fortunes are not kept intact very long. The millions acquired dishonestly finally get into industrial channels. There are hardly more than a dozen instances of the perpetuation of great fortunes in all our country. What are these compared with the aggregate of moderate properties which millions of industrious people have acquired here! This industrial acquisition is going on in a healthy and natural way. Industry is creating wealth. Is this wrong? According to the theory of anarchy it is. Some of these industrial millions will acquire more than others. There will be some misfortunes; adverse influences will operate here and there. These inequalities have always existed and they always will. The great majority of people who have attained properties in this country have clean hands. They have violated no law. They are good citizens, whose influence is always on the side of law and order. They do not think it is a crime to be poor, and not a crime to be rich, provided wealth has been honestly attained.

In this country the opportunities for acquiring homesteads are greater than in any other. No man with health and strength need be hopelessly poor. The battle for a time may go against him, but in the long run he will succeed if he is temperate and willing to turn his hand to any honest labor. Probably no men ever had harder times than the early emigrants to this coast. Most of them had no capital. They came with brave hearts, strong hands and clear heads. They did not stop to rant against the few who had begun to acquire wealth. But they were willing to turn their hands to any honest labor. They went to the mines; they felled forests; they conquered the wilderness; they bent their backs to as hard work as ever fell to the lot of men. Some were successful and some were not. But the unsuccessful did not preach a crusade against their more fortunate fellows. They sought other opportunities. The greater number finally attained a good degree of prosperity. Some of them are rich. According to the anarchists' theory, they have committed a crime against society. What business have they to be rich? The great conservative element in this country, the element that stands for the support of law and honor, for the sacredness of human rights, is this property-acquiring element. Leaving out of view here the occasional misuse of large fortunes, the use of property in this country is in the aggregate beneficent. It is not used to create, to enrich in moderate ways, to stimulate

industry and enterprise. It is used to create thousands of new homesteads, to open up farms, create industries and means for earning, build towns and to make prosperous communities.

The crusade against property pleases a thrifless element which hates industry and has no respect for law nor for the existing order of society. There is no country in the world where it can do so little harm as here. And the reason is that the mass of the people are busy in creating homes, in acquiring a moderate competence. When the individual has a stake in the soil he cannot be converted into a blatant anarchist. He is conservative, respecting the rights of others as he would have his own respected. Even in Chicago the anarchists had but a small following; and of the whole number there was not one industrious, prosperous individual, and not one who sought prosperity through any well-directed, industrial effort.

SOME people talk a deal of nonsense about men entering the ministry to make a living. A report made recently to the Tennessee conference of the Methodist church shows that the average salary of the clergy of that denomination in that part of the country is less than \$500 a year; and it should be remembered that such salaries fall into arrears more easily and are left in that way with less compunction than other obligations. In many cases not more than two-thirds of the promised stipend is paid, but the parson is nevertheless held to a rigid accountability for his part of the contract. Looking at it from a business standpoint, a year's service for \$333.33 is not much of a speculation. He would be a very poor mechanic who could not earn twice as much, and even a day laborer in the cities would not consider it big wages. What is true of the Methodist ministry is measurably true of all other clergy. The pastors of a few rich and fashionable congregations in the large cities are well paid, but for every one who is thus fortunate, there are a hundred who have hard work to make both ends meet. Considering that the clergy as a class are men of more than ordinary intelligence, it would seem that they could succeed at least as well in any other occupation. Whatever their motive in taking the vows, it is certainly not the expectation of a fat living.

This morning's dispatches bring the news of the agreement between the Northern Pacific and the Union Pacific railways in which they make a division of territory and a joint guarantee of the O. R. & N. lease. This proves beyond a doubt that Villard and his friends have the most potent voice in the management. The next thing will probably be the settlement of the claim of \$3,000,000 that the Oregon Transcontinental holds against the Northern Pacific. Competition with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe may necessitate in the near future important change in the apparent plans of the Union Pacific, even to the extent of building a line direct from Chicago to Omaha and looking out for an ocean terminus hereabouts.

NEW TO-DAY. Notice. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FISHERMEN'S F.K.Y. Co., will be held in their office at Upper Astoria, on the 25th of Oct., 1887, to elect directors for the ensuing year, and transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. By order president. ROR. JOHNSON, Secretary.

The Oregon Bakery. A. A. CLEVELAND, Prop'r. Good Bread, Cake and Pastry. None but the Best Materials Used. Satisfaction Guaranteed Customers. Bread delivered in any part of the city.

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