

great truth to which leaders in thought directed their attention, and, breathing the air of unionism under such conditions, it is not strange the president of the A. R. U. did not comprehend the whole situation. The recent strike brought the lesson home, however, and in a manly way he makes the public confession that he was in error, and promises that he will not be found on the same side again. He has come to understand that strikes are opposed to general sentiment in this country, and declares that he will never again be connected with a strike organization, but will advise the workmen to seek redress by ballot.

The repentant expressions of the A. R. U. leader have the ring of sincerity, and whatever may be said of his judgment in inaugurating the strike, his frankness in coming out against what he has learned is an evil must be admired. It would be uncharitable, and not in keeping with his recent public record, to say that this step is taken to save himself in the legal proceedings now pending. His declaration should rather be accepted as evidence of an earnest desire to repair as far as he can the wrong done, by preventing similar occurrences in future. His course in this regard should be a telling argument with every labor organization, and especially with the members of the order of which he is the chief. When the laboring men seek redress at the ballot box, in the manner provided by the laws of the land, they have a legitimate weapon with which to engage in any contest in this country. When they wield it intelligently and with united force, there is none more effective. By the vote of honest labor directed to that end, great abuses which exist could be corrected and corruption in high places be swept away; and the earlier labor leaders learn this truth the better it will be for the members of their organizations. Mr. Debe's advice on this occasion is the choicest he ever has given to the workmen of the country: Have no more to do with strikes, but use the powers of citizenship to effect reforms; it is a choice of bullets or ballots—use the latter.

NEW YORK POLITICS.

The present three cornered war that is being waged in New York over the personnel of the next municipal ticket, is furnishing the country with some valuable lessons in politics. It above all else betrays the weakness, if not the utter incapacity, of uncompromising partisanship in efforts for reform. The Herculean task that has been undertaken in that city is the correction of an evil which has been before outlined in these columns and whose present features are thus portrayed by the *Boston Herald*:

The existence of a system under which men sworn to enforce the law take bribes to allow it to be violated cannot be said to be peculiar to New York, but it is worked there on a scale truly metropolitan. Sidewalk peddlers and millionaire dry goods jobbers, transatlantic steamship companies and huncoteers, places of good and evil repute pay the tax; wherever and whenever the police force has a chance to show by an increase or a suspension of activity that it is doing a favor, the itching palm is

extended and a fee is conveyed, with more or less of taxing by the way, to the pocket that is always bulging, but never full.

The crusade against this monstrous system began with the change of politics last season. It was a feature of the campaign and the one which turned the affairs of the state over from the Tammany gang championed by Ex-Governor D. B. Hill, into the hands of the Republicans generated by Ex-Senator Thomas C. Platt. For a short time the legions of reform were a unit and faced the thunder of the enemy with a placid countenance. The war cry "Down with Tammany" was so popular that party discipline was apparently brushed aside and Democrats, Populists, Single-Taxers and the rest swelled the ranks, until no one political boss could claim the leadership without involving a disastrous mutiny.

It has been evident for some time that everything was not agreeable with either Mr. Platt or the Democratic leaders, and now comes an incident of politics which has probably ruptured good feelings beyond all remedy. A mayor is to be elected, and the thought of a Republican's voting for a Democrat of any conceivable dimension has shocked the feelings of Mr. Platt beyond description. And for a Democrat to vote for a ticket with a Republican at the head of it is, in the opinion of ex-Mayor Grace, an impossible thing. In the meantime the Tammany chief looks pleasant as usual and asks triumphantly, "What's the bid for my vote?"

The struggle is not up, but at this point it looks very much as if Tammany holds the key to the situation as firmly as ever and in the end will be the sole beneficiary of the war designed for its extermination. With the two great parties divided against each other, it holds an absolute balance of power and can dictate the terms of settlement, as it has been doing from its beginning.

If New York were the only state afflicted by this anomalous condition we might look on with no great disturbance of spirit; but in its present attitude Tammany holds not only the grip on New York, but may to a great extent dictate the politics of the entire nation. It has more than once told the country who it should have for a president; and having elected the president it became a very natural action to tell the president what was the proper thing for the country. In other words the governing body of the country may be Congress or Tammany Hall, according as Mr. Grace and Mr. Platt may or may not agree upon who shall be mayor of New York city.

INCREASE OF PAUPERISM.

While there are hard times in our own country, and the people who will have to depend on others for at least a share of their support the coming winter exceed in number those that were in that situation a year ago, it is interesting to note that poverty is increasing among the masses in other parts of the world. In New Zealand and Australia the cases of destitution are described as being three times as

numerous as in 1893; and the fact that so many have had to depend on public charity so long has increased materially the number of permanent paupers, who have come to accept that position as a matter of choice, and show no desire to return to their former habit of earning their own living even where opportunity is offered.

A short time since we gave some figures showing the increase of charity patients in Austria and Italy. The report of the poor relief department of the British government for the first half of the year is now issued and shows that nation, notwithstanding the partial revival of business there this season, to be following in the wake of the others. The report says there was a great increase of pauperism during the half year, owing to the general business depression, many people being driven, for the first time in their lives, to ask for relief. This is of those only who have applied to the government, and does not represent the population aided by private and church charities, outside of the Episcopal church. The number of paupers in England and Wales, relieved by government, is given as 24.5 per thousand of population. This is of persons who are not "on the parish," and it is stated does not represent more than one-fourth of those actually supported by charity in the country. It is shown that the west of England and Wales have the highest average of pauperism. London is less than the general average, with nearly 115,000 paupers to its credit. Beyond this it is reported that a number of people died of actual starvation rather than apply for public charity, several of these cases being noted in the inquests held over the deceased.

The view presented is far from being attractive so far as the welfare of the people is concerned. According to the official estimate, about 10 per cent, or 100 out of a thousand of population in Britain, are paupers, three-fourths of them supported by private charity. These figures seem appalling, but coming from official sources, where the tendency would be to conceal the worst features rather than exaggerate them, they cannot be disputed. They show that however burdened we may consider ourselves in Utah because of having to support some who cannot earn their livelihood, the yoke is indeed easy as compared with what people in the old world have to do. Another and important feature is shown in these reports from various sources, i.e., the dangerous practice of doling out charity in the ordinary fashion. People who are in need are helped, as they should be; but they are not required to make recompense in such manner as they are able, and this status maintained for a length of time inclines them to become permanent objects of charity.

Here is a chance for wise heads to evolve a plan to check this tendency to an evil. "The idler shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer," is sound doctrine. Yet there are many people who are idle from necessity, and who must not be allowed to starve or go naked. By being fed and clothed, many of them are being trained to be-