

dustrial labor. 4. To regulate the work of young persons and to say what limitations there ought to be in that respect. 5. To regulate the work of women, and to say how far married women can be employed in work by day and by night.

Was there ever a more ridiculous farce than a conference about what this programme promises to be? Was there ever a more grim insult offered to the laboring classes?

A great number of the working classes of Europe toil from an early hour in the morning till late at night for a pay just sufficient to prevent themselves from dying of starvation. The labor of the men has not been sufficient to keep life in women and children as well. They, poor creatures, have found themselves under the necessity of suffering their wives and children to join them in their efforts in earning a piece of bread; and now comes the conference, proposing to tell the working classes that they cannot do that. The work of women and children must be "limited!" The working men must be content to see their wives and children starve; and that is the way of solving the great social problem!

It would perhaps be one way of solving it if the women and children were working merely for the fun of it. But this is not the case. That they have been driven to leave their humble homes and spend their time in the factories means that they had to do it in order to escape starvation; and this dreadful danger is not averted by telling the people, "You must limit your work."

If the German Emperor had any desire of bettering the condition of the working classes in a rational way, why does he not propose to disarm the standing armies, that curse to the nations of Europe? Why does he not say to his millions of soldiers, "Go home, do something useful and help to procure a piece of bread for your mothers and sisters?" Why does he not propose to lower the taxes, and to throw the countries open to a competition which would enable the working classes to procure cheaper food and cheaper clothing? Such reforms would be rational, practical, effective and just. But no! No such thing is on the programme.

No doubt the conference will be a very pleasant and agreeable affair. The delegates will consume in a few days wine and cigars and the choicest dainties that Germany or an imperial hospitality can obtain, representing an amount large enough to keep a hundred working men with their families alive for a whole year. But it will do no good. It cannot be expected to do so. The labor problem has to be solved by men who have had to face want and hardships in their stern realities.

The step taken by the Emperor conveys one important lesson at least. It shows that the highest "gods" on earth begin to realize their situation. It proves that they feel their thrones totter, and that they must do something in order to prop them up. The social problem, at first no more formidable than a small cloud on the summer's sky,

has at last gained such proportions that a sudden cloudburst may be expected. The proposed Berlin conference is a confession of this apprehension of danger, although it is a very poor remedy for that danger, a mere child's umbrella against the cloudburst.

It is, perhaps, well to notice that while the attention of the powers is now being called to the difficulties of solving the internal social problem, Russia seems to be brewing some mischief again in the Orient. The plan is to form a defensive—and offensive—alliance between Servia, Montenegro and Greece. At the same time, she contracts troops along the Turkish frontier, a movement amicus enough to deserve attention. The chances are that the leading statesmen of Europe will find themselves called upon to discuss questions with which they are better familiar than they can be supposed to be with the griefs of the working classes, who move in a sphere too far below (or perhaps above) their comprehension.

J. M. S.

BERNE, March 5th, 1890.

THE HEALTH ORDINANCE.

The City Council met in special session March 21, for the purpose of discussing the proposed health ordinance.

The following communication to the Chamber of Commerce from Drs. Foster, Hamilton, Standart and Judge C. C. Goodwin was read as an introduction to the lengthy ordinance which was submitted to the consideration of the Council:

To the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce:

Gentlemen.—In presenting, at your request, an ordinance for the establishment of a Board of Health and sanitary regulation of the city, it has been found desirable to disregard all previously existing ordinances, not because they are not, some of them, excellent in themselves, but because they are fragmentary, unsystematic and entirely unsatisfactory in their administrative provisions. In framing this ordinance advantage has been taken of the experience of a half-dozen progressive western cities, in which the conditions are as much as possible like our own, and it has been our aim to produce such as will be harmonious in itself and comprehensive enough to meet every emergency with as little friction as possible. Such an ordinance is necessarily long and wearisome in its details and repetitions. In this, however, it is safe, as it leaves less to the discretion of the Board of Health and its officers, and consequently lessens the chance of criticism for what might be claimed to be arbitrary, unfair or oppressive action. The Mayor is made chairman of the board by virtue of his office. This is the universal custom, and its reasons are too obvious for comment.

That a majority of the Board should be physicians, as sanitary science is a recognized and honored branch of medicine, seems equally obvious, and will not be dwelt upon. Upon the Health Commissioner, as executive officer, devolves the chief part of the duty of giving effect to the will and purpose of the Board. His time will be very largely required in the work. Whatever of displeasure may be felt

by individuals aggrieved at any action of the Board, they will seek relief in the presence of this officer. The multiplicity of details must be organized by him, and harmonious working secured in all parts. It is a position of labor and responsibility; and whatever qualities may or may not be desirable in the one who fills it, a *sine qua non* is a clear conception of the work to be accomplished, and an earnest interest in its success. Provisions are made against epidemic, contagious and infectious diseases, such as will, it is hoped, greatly diminish the chance of their occurrence; and in case of actual presence prevent that confusion, uncertainty and ill-advised action which so often arise among the unprepared. Vaccination is made a condition of attendance at the schools, and will perhaps antagonize the prejudices of some, but if bovine virus is used, the ground of such prejudice is cut away; and it is eminently unfair that the prejudice of the law in such a matter should be allowed to jeopardize the lives and health of the many. The same reasoning will apply to compulsory vaccination during prevalence of smallpox.

One of the most important matters provided for is the securing of greater purity of air and soil by regulating cesspools and privies. This means very much—more than most of us realize—in the limitation of sickness and mortality, and in the promotion of a higher average of healthfulness. It is a fact verifiable by the evidence of everyone's senses that there is no quarter of the city in which the air is not polluted by emanations from cesspools and privies. They exhale in the summer noon-time and load the cool flow of air from the canyons at evening. This clear, soft mountain air, which should be the purest on the globe, is everywhere contaminated, and needlessly so. The same is true of the soil; but the danger here is even greater. Many regions are so saturated with filth that it oozes into cellars with overpowering stench. Nearly everywhere the ground air is laden with poisonous products, and in many places it is concentrated where we are unaware of its presence except from its fatal results.

To remedy this it is absolutely necessary that these chief sources of filth, privies cesspools, should no longer be allowed to remain unclean, or drain into the soil. They should be constructed as the ordinance provides, of brick and cement, and so made that they can be readily cleaned. There will doubtless be a prejudice on the part of many against the wide-sweeping innovation that will invade every man's premises, and put him to trouble and expense. But after all, how small a thing it is in the individual case; and how absolutely and unavoidably essential is it to any proper sanitary work. The city cannot be clean without it with a cleanliness that health requires. If we stop at the surface our city will indeed be "like unto the sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."

It is not a great burden to keep cesspools properly cleaned, when once the work is systematically undertaken. With pump and hose and covered wagon the work is quickly and easily done; cheaply to the householder and profitable to the contractor. It is earnestly hoped that the regulations regarding cesspools and privies will not be made less comprehensive and effective than they are here drawn.

It is provided that a suitable office shall be furnished for the Health De-