

music than the noise of rattling wagons and machinery, present the other side of the picture. In New York alone it is estimated that 150,000 men, in various ages, are constantly walking the streets in search of employment and bread. And every large city in the world shows similar features.

In Utah the conditions here referred to do not yet prevail. We have no large cities with their slums and starving population. But the best time to prevent the abnormal centralization of labor in places where its abundance necessarily lowers its value is now, before the condition has been brought about. If there is a tendency to abandon the slow but sure road to independence that labor on the soil offers, it should be counteracted. Remain on the farm; look to mother earth for life and happiness. Take Leo Tolstol's word for it that perfect peace and joy more frequently dwell in the country than in the city.

HENRY GEORGE'S DEATH.

The intelligence brought by the telegraph this, Friday, morning, of the sudden death of Henry George, was all the more startling because of the political situation in New York, on which it has a special bearing. Mr. George was the candidate of the Jeffersonian or United Democracy for mayor of Greater New York, as against the regular Tammany Democratic organization and the several other parties in the field. His supporters were the free silver Democrats and a large section of the laboring classes. Whether he would have been elected or not cannot be stated now—it may never be known, since the means of determining that question have been removed by his demise. But he had chances, and his triumph was among the possibilities. But within five days of election the hand of death has intervened, and the party he represented is without a leader that can come anywhere near filling his place at the present time. Its loss in this regard may be the gain of one or more of the other contending parties.

Henry George has been a striking character for a long time in national politics and political economy. He was even regarded as a Presidential possibility. His life is an illustration of the prominence that comes from indomitable energy and aptness in mentally seizing upon and wrestling with questions of the hour; his death is an instance of too much crowding of the human machine. Mr. George was born in Philadelphia September 2, 1839, and consequently had passed his fifty-eighth year but a few weeks. In early life he went to sea, and in 1858 he became a resident of California, where he entered the business of journalism. Twenty years later he published his book, *Progress and Poverty*, which made him world-famous. In it he advocated new methods for dealing with the industrial situation. He declared the speculative holding of land to be a cause of low wages and of industrial depression, and advocated virtual common ownership of land. His single-tax theories found very many advocates, and their number has increased of late years. He has issued many publications on the land and labor question. In politics his most notable achievement was in 1886 (he having moved east), when he surprised the politicians by receiving 68,110 votes as the United Labor candidate for mayor of New York, against 90,552 for Abram S. Hewitt, Democrat, and 60,435 for Theodore Roosevelt, Republican. He was a radical free trader,

and on this and the labor and silver issues in Greater New York would have polled a tremendous vote on Tuesday next, if the grim reaper had not claimed him.

The sudden demise of Henry George is another of the numerous warnings Americans have had of the outcome of the high-pressure methods which prevail in this country among the larger proportion of its brightest men. Mr. George was actually crowded to death. The human machine in which his ambitious spirit found an abode was crowded too fast and too long, and succumbed to the strain. It was wrecked by excitement and overwork. The magnificent combinations of mechanical ingenuity which this century produces are geared for rapid and powerful action; these great engines can be pressed beyond their average capacity for a time, but when the intense pressure is continued too long, a catastrophe results; the displacement of a little bolt or a small wheel, which might have been discovered and replaced with little damage when the machine was at its proper speed, under the increased and abnormal pressure causes collapse and ruin. So it was with Henry George; the high pressure was applied, long and persistent; that faithful little organ, the brain, was confronted with a slight weakness or derangement which, under normal conditions, might have been corrected without much difficulty, but under the great strain to which it was being subjected it could proceed no farther, and ceased its operations in death.

The career of the individual in this regard is indicative of what the course of the nation will be unless something brings a modification in the present methods of American political and social life, which are little else than a race toward the valley of death. And while these methods continue in vogue, great men in literature, science, politics, business, will collapse as Henry George did today, as George M. Pullman did a few days ago; and their fellow countrymen urge them on, never thinking of the outcome of the hurry and worry till calamity is upon them. It seems too bad that this is so through the whole nation; that hard and energetic workers like Henry George should have their lives come to a sudden ending in blighted hopes; but it is the way of the rushing, worrying, nervous American, although it is neither the way of wisdom nor in right.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

The reply of Spain to the note of the United States hinting at mediation in the Cuban question seems to be in the main a refusal on the part of the Madrid government to recognize the right of any foreign power to interfere in the matter. As outlined in the dispatches the note to Minister Woodford is to the effect that Spain is determined to settle the Cuban difficulty in her own way, either by force of arms or by political reforms looking toward ultimate autonomy.

It seems pretty clear, however, that the promises of Spain with regard to Cuba must be considered with due regard to the past. It has not been possible so far, notwithstanding all sacrifices by the nation, to bring about a condition of peace and tranquility. How this can be accomplished in the future, with less resources and less faith in the ability of the nation to hold the island, is difficult to perceive.

The great question will therefore now be whether the United States can consistently postpone further suggestions in the matter. Had Spain intimated that the good offices of the United States would have been ac-

cepted in case the Cuban problem remained unsolved until a certain time, there would have been much reason for postponing further negotiations until such time had expired; but as the matter stands it seems hardly probable that our government can recede. Intervention sooner or later seems to be looked upon as inevitable. But what form shall that intervention take?

That the controversy now on between the two governments is of a delicate nature is evident, and that it needs to be conducted with great care and skill is also clear. The honor and welfare of two nations are involved.

CURFEW LEGISLATION.

One of the saddest features of American civilization is the demoralization of children, thousands of whom, in the large and medium sized cities of this country, become hardened in vice at a tender age. Profane and obscene language, cigarette smoking, pilfering, lying, drinking, and even burglary, are common offenses among boys in their teens, and are not rare among lads who have not passed the age of a dozen years. Sexual degradation is inseparable from the other forms of wickedness named, and in this direction at least the vicious traits of boys contaminate the other sex.

Parents who retain an instinct pertaining to the parental relation are impelled to seek some means of preserving their offspring from the moral and physical destruction which is threatened by conditions that prevail in cities, and out of this disposition has sprung a demand for what is called a curfew law, that is, a local law forbidding children under a given age to be upon the streets after a certain hour in the evening.

All parents know, or ought to know, that vicious thoughts, desires and habits are extremely likely to spread among children who are allowed to be upon the streets late in the evening. They are almost certain to encounter evil associations, and the cover of darkness seems wonderfully to encourage the childish mind in wrong directions. Hence the public sentiment in many American cities that justifies legislation which will authorize and require the police to take charge of children found on the streets at unseemly hours.

A few days ago a public meeting was held in a church in Evanston, Ill., to consider and advocate the passage of a curfew ordinance. Col. Alexander Hogeland, principal of the Boys' and Girls' National Home and Employment association, addressed the meeting, and the following is a synopsis of what he said:

"The American curfew ordinance provides that children under the age of 15 years be taken home if they are found in the streets after 8 o'clock in the winter or 9 o'clock in the summer, before they be prosecuted. The ordinance is in force at present in Omaha, Lincoln, Kansas City, St. Joseph and Lawrence, Kans. Last year not a half dozen children were arrested in all these cities. Officials certify to a decrease of fifty per cent in the number of arrests. Superintendents of schools report absence of truancy. Owners and proprietors of mills and factories report better services from apprentices, and newsboys, from the rest they secure, sell more papers. The ordinance is not to vex or annoy, but to enable parents who have children defying home restraints to keep them at home.

"It is a matter of justice to police officers to have this ordinance, because many boys without the curfew grow up to be desperadoes, murderers and