

stand the technicalities of law, indicates their view of the circumstances. To avoid all these technicalities, when next year's assessment is made, if it be proportionately as high as this year, then all the taxpayers in the districts affected may unite in a request for a reduction with the assurance of getting it. Thus, for the next year at least, the matter is in the hands of the people themselves. There is no question as to the justice of the reduction made.

While no particular fault can be found with the assessor, it must be admitted that his reductions in the assessed valuation of real estate to the southern portion of the city, and within it for some distance, have not paralleled the decline in prices. One result of this manner of assessment, continued for several years past but modified somewhat recently, has been as one of the commissioners expressed it, to make renting cheaper than owning a home; whereas, the safe policy for this part of the country is to make it advantageous for every family to reside in its own home. The "taxing out of house and home" policy, which has been inclined to too much in the suburbs of this city, has had a ruinous effect, and the action of the county commissioners in seeking to check it will meet with hearty commendation from those who own property and actually bear the burdens of government.

The reduction, if effective, will reduce the city revenue; but that is much more preferable than grinding the faces of the workmen and small property owners who are chiefly affected by this latest action. The city may not have so much money, but yet it will have enough, and taxes are heavy at the present rate, even with the reduction now attempted which of itself is a healthy official sign. Further, and most important, the proportion of State tax which the county will pay will be more equitable than it has been for some time.

SEVERAL LABOR DISPUTES.

Labor troubles seem to be on the program at present, in this country and elsewhere. Whether this is an indication of the approach of prosperity the future alone can disclose, but there are those who so regard it, on the supposition that employees do not enter into a contest with employers except when they are comparatively well off and feel to a certain extent independent.

A peculiar sequence to the great strike of coal miners in the East is the appropriation by the railroads of large quantities of fuel entrusted to their care, and belonging to others dependent upon its prompt delivery. This they could do with no greater nonchalance, were there neither law nor courts in the country. Once in a while a poor creature in the severity of the winter may be detected in the enormous offense of appropriating a basketful of coal belonging to a railroad. It may be done in order to save a wife and some children from shivering to death by an empty and cheerless fireless, but in such cases generally the difference between mine

and thine is fully explained by the proper authorities.

Speaking of labor disputes, one just now going on in Saxony is rather curious. There the manufacturers insist that the high wages authorized some time ago by the association must be paid. It has been ascertained that some of the manufacturers have obtained men at a lower scale of wages and the remainder therefore appeal to the employes to compel workmen to insist on the higher wages agreed upon. In case of failure to accomplish this a general cut will be announced. It would seem that there should be no difficulty in inducing the men to ask for higher wages.

Denmark also has one of the most important labor disputes in the history of that country. It has taken the form of a lockout and affects the iron and steel industry and others connected with it. The laborers in two of the provincial cities struck, their request for higher wages being refused. Then the manufacturers of the country combined and shut down until such a time that the employes' union shall see fit to induce the handful of strikers to go to work at the old wages. That the country is suffering from the effects of the rather unnatural condition is apparent.

Labor disputes seem to be the order of the day, and there can be no permanent settlement until the angel of justice and the angel of peace be allowed to touch the hearts of the children of men and bring in a new influence to bear upon human affairs.

JAPAN AND HAWAII.

The danger of Japan assuming an attitude hostile to the United States is by no one regarded as great; still if the commencement of the hostilities with China, when a Japanese cruiser, without formal declaration of war, sent a Chinese vessel with her load of human beings to the bottom of the sea, be a precedent, the mikado's servants do not always give notice of what their intention is, and this fact alone warrants the United States in being on the lookout in the Pacific ocean for possible eventualities.

An English view of the Hawaiian question is represented by the subjoined paragraph quoted by the Chicago Times-Herald:

Japan has already a valid grievance against Hawaii by reason of the refusal of the filibuster government at Honolulu to permit the landing of two shiploads of Japanese emigrants, and she knows further that if the islands become United States territory the Japanese settlers and laborers will be treated as the Chinese are on the Pacific coast. Suppose, then, that Japan simply insists on the admission of these emigrants, and in case of forcible resistance lands an armed force of blue jackets from the two Japanese cruisers now in Hawaiian waters. These temporary occupations for the protection of life and property have a habit of becoming permanent, and what would the United States do in face of the fait accompli? The Japanese navy is at this moment stronger in the Pacific than that of the United States, and although America could in the long run and with or without the help of Russia drive out the Japanese and capture the islands, the victory would be dear at the price.

The sugar ring would be triumphant, but America would have abandoned the impregnable position guaranteed her by the wisdom of Washington and Monroe, and would have definitely embarked in a career of foreign conquest, involving the formation of a great navy. In the present temper of Washington politics a great navy would be as serious a menace to the peace of the world as was the great army in the hands of Napoleon a century ago, and the Pacific would become another Mediterranean, with its desperate struggle for the mastery of the sea, in which England, Germany, France, Russia and Japan, not to mention Holland and Spain, would all be interested. It is a pleasant prospect to be opened up by the peaceful government of a peaceful Republic.

There is not much wisdom displayed in the fear that the union of Hawaii with the United States would transform the Pacific into a Mediterranean, or that a United States navy would be a menace to the world's peace. On the contrary, there would be no better way of securing peace than by excluding from some parts of the world those powers whose sole ambition is conquest for selfish purposes, and to furnish strong protection to some of those smaller countries that the larger ones constantly threaten to absorb.

NOT A CHANGE, AFTER ALL.

Some days ago the press dispatched told of ex-Governor Horace Boies of Iowa abandoning the 16 to 1 silver plank of the Democratic platform on which he sought presidential nomination at Chicago a year ago. Since that time this alleged abandonment has been made a great deal of in the eastern press, to show that the silver cause is losing some of its able advocates. The force of all these newspaper utterances, however, is lost upon the silver advocates in the information that while Mr. Boies was and is an advocate of free silver, on the question of ratio at 16 to 1 he was not at all confident, and looked for a different proportion; but if that ratio could be obtained he was in favor of it, and still is, so that his alleged change is not a change at all. As the Philadelphia American aptly puts it:

Ex-Governor Boies stands today on the financial question where he stood before the Chicago convention, occupies the same position today as he did then, a position he never renounced further than by ceasing to press his views and bowing to the will of the Chicago convention. In short, during the campaign, he kept his views in abeyance and gave his adhesion to more radical ones, but he never abandoned his own. He simply subordinated his views to the views of the majority of his party.

THIS IS TOO MUCH.

There are very many people of good judgment who insist that the prevailing tendency to place men and women on the same footing in politics and in the industries will have the effect of destroying the natural and moral regard which each sex should have for the other, and consequently insure to the injury of the nation that permits it. These people now have an additional and strong argument in the