

stipulated amount. The payment of the wages was the satisfaction of the agreement on the part of the employers. To make claim beyond that of a proprietorship of the plant is out of the question. To enforce it would be anarchy.

Such outbreaks and bloody revolts as those which have occurred at Homestead and Cœur d'Alene suggest the necessity for an adjustment of the labor and capital question, if such a thing be possible. Hope has pointed the finger of expectation toward the principle of profit-sharing between the employers and employed. But we doubt a solution of the problem by this means. There is a primal condition that is indispensable—the willingness of the capitalist, which will not be secured. In the absence of the will to conform, it could not be legally enforced. But even if capitalists should operate on this basis, there would exist another formidable barrier—the fluctuations of trade. In times of stagnation, when establishments could only be run at a loss, the masses would never take quietly to a situation of that character. They would not be willing to share the losses as well as the profits. There doubtless would be business enterprises which could be conducted upon this plan, but these isolated instances would be only drops in the ocean of trade. Indeed the complications would probably be greater than under the present plan of regulating the relations of the two classes on the principle of supply and demand and according to natural agreement.

We have come to the conclusion that the solution of great social problems is a matter of moral status. So long as men are selfish and sordid, peace and good order will always be uncertain and exceedingly limited conditions on our planet. In these lines the race is running backward. Just so sure as this is the case, so sure is there trouble, strife and bloodshed ahead. This may be put down as a fact. Even the situation, as it is, presents the aspect of incipient civil war.

LABOR IN PURITAN DAYS.

SOME Eastern journalists have been hunting up old records in relation to labor and capital in the days of the Pilgrim fathers. It was found that at the first session of court held at Charlestown, Mass., Aug. 23, 1630, Governor Winthrop presiding, the following order was made:

"That carpenters, joiners, bricklayers, sawers and thatchers shall not take above two shillings (about 50 cents of our money) per day, nor any man shall give more under pain of ten shillings to take and give; and that sawers shall not take above 4s 6d per hundred for boards at six score to the hundred."

It appears that the new order did not work well in practice, because at the following session of the same court, held March 22, 1631, another order was made which reads as follows:

"At this session it is ordered (that whereas the wages of carpenters, joiners and other artificers and workmen were ordered of court restrained and particular sommes) shall now be left free and at liberty as men shall reasonably agree."

It is possible that after all that has been said for and against state super-

vision of labor and capital, the right of free and unrestrained contract is the best. And there is every reason to believe that the less interference with the internal economy of a country the better it is in the end. In the days of Governor Winthrop the Stuarts controlled labor, regulated prices of wares and merchandise, sold monopolies, and did other things that a too paternal government would be supposed to do. The Puritans of Mass. when they made the first order were patterning themselves on the Stuart model, when they abolished that order, and instituted the right of free contract, they were doing what they were expelled from England for interfering in religion and politics.

ORGANIZED LABOR AND POLITICS.

In the *North American Review* for July, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has an article in relation to trades' unions in the pending political campaign. He sees no reason why organized labor should differ in 1892 from its course in 1876, 1880, 1884 or 1888. It matters not what party gets into power, the condition of the wage worker will be the same. Labor men will vote this year as they have always more or less done in accordance with party predilections.

Mr. Gompers, however, believes that a large number of wage earners and working men are gradually severing themselves from party obligations, and beginning to consider directly measures pertaining to their own interests. They are conceiving the idea that labor is being neglected by legislative bodies while the corporate interests and capital are being too much nurtured and advanced. This is the main reason why labor distrusts both the old parties. It may turn to the new People's party, but it will soon find out that this too is a class organization. Being composed mainly of employing farmers, or as trades union parlance would have it, "master farmers," the new party can have little in common with labor organizations, the object of which is to advance wages and curtail hours of labor.

Mr. Gompers admits that the farming classes are victims of the greed and avarice of corporate bodies, and that all possible encouragement should be given them in the fight. But as to fusion between wageworkers and the People's party, he regards the very idea as absurd. The former can only benefit themselves by exclusive organization embracing field, farm, factory and workshop.

The American Federation of Labor, as an organization, will be entirely inactive in the coming campaign. Its object is mainly economic independence, though Mr. Gompers does not explain what his view of that is. One of the preliminaries to this independence is the gathering of the vast numbers of wealth-producers, agricultural, industrial and commercial, into a grand army of organized labor, and instilling into the minds of its members a keener appreciation of their social position, and of their economic, political and industrial rights as citizens and producers.

Mr. Gompers says:

"More than half the battle of labor has already been won. No really intelligent man today disputes the claims of labor. What is now needed is the means and the power to enforce our claim. To that end we are marshaling our forces, and we will demonstrate to the world that the demands and struggles of the toiling masses, while ostensibly and immediately concerned with their own improvement and emancipation, will develop the possibilities, grandeur, and true nobility of the human family."

This labor leader does not touch on the recent developments at Homestead or in Idaho. His paper was prepared before these troubles got underway. How is he to deal with the anarchistic element within his own ranks? Labor leaders are not making much effort to shake off this anarchistic incubus.

A POLITICAL EXCRESCENCE.

THE Utah Commissioners have been making up their list of registration officers for the August election. The majority have always been unfair in this work, for which heretofore they have been paid so exorbitantly. They have never conformed to the spirit of the law which created their office and defined its duties, but have invariably given the minority the majority of the election offices, and where they could have kept out representatives of the majority altogether. It appears they have acted in a similar manner on the present occasion.

The Democrats were largely in the majority in the Territory at the last election, but the great majority of the registration officers now appointed are said to be either Republicans or "Liberal" Republicans. The preamble and resolution introduced by Gen. McClernand, which will be found in another part of this paper, was voted down, and also an amendment he offered to the proposition of Col. Robertson. The rejection of this amendment is of greater significance than the voting down of his first resolution. Here is what all the Commissioners but the General refused to be governed by:

"Provided, That the political affiliations of any person shall not be a cause for excluding him from appointment as a registration or election officer; and provided further, that the Commission shall, in making such appointments, act fairly and equitably in respect to the different political parties in the Territory."

That refusal was equivalent to saying that certain political affiliations should be in themselves a cause for excluding a person from an appointment, also that the Commission would not bind itself to act fairly and equitably in respect to the different political parties in the Territory. However, this is nothing new, but it gives additional evidence that this un-American body is worse than useless to Utah, and ought to be utterly abolished and cast away as an excrescence upon the body politic.

PARIS, July 31.—A prominent Italian naval engineer has been arrested at Toulon and will be at once expelled from France.