

ing company of Pennsylvania, large manufacturers of steam and electric plants. He visited this city on his western trip, from which he is just returning to his home, which he left in June. He was staying on establishing a branch house in San Francisco, and this week went to Butte, where he is putting in a large plant for the Anaconda Copper company.

Mr. Berry observed while here that conditions in western cities were much better in a business way than in the cities of the East. In the matter of national finances he expressed himself as a free coinage advocate, and asserted his belief that the free silver cause was gaining ground in Pennsylvania, Ohio and neighboring states. When in Spokane, Washington, on Monday, he thus gave expression through the *Spokane Review* to his ideas on the industrial situation East:

What are the conditions of the eastern laboring man? They are deplorable, and those of the business man as well. There is one general feeling of depression. I am alarmed over the mining strike in Pennsylvania. People were next to starvation when at work, and now that they are shut off they must be desperate, and I dread the possibilities. There can be but one end to that strike, however—the defeat of the miners. The machinery of the government will be turned against them, and the government's armies, if necessary, and they will ultimately have to yield. There is but one district, the Scranton, and that a small district, that is exempt from these conditions, to a large extent, owing to the section's favorable location to the New York market. Hard times have forced the operators to oppress the operatives, and nothing will help the trouble except increased consumption, and that will only occur when we have stimulated industries all over the country. Yes, the situation is dreadful, the people in the West can not comprehend it. Thousands and thousands of people in the East are out of work. They have used up their savings, their credit with the storekeeper is exhausted, and unless they get work this winter there will be untold suffering.

Mr. Berry left Pennsylvania only five weeks ago, so that his description practically is of conditions as they exist today. Even granting that he has represented matters in their darkest hue, there is no doubt that the industrial situation East is deplorable. Neither is there any doubt that there must be a great revolution in methods to effect a change. Legislation along lines that have been followed will not change it; a revision of the currency policy of the nation will not change it. The need is to go deeper into the life of the people, into their social and domestic relations, to remove corruption and extravagance from these; to check the great aggregations of wealth at the cost of oppressing the actual workers; to make it impossible for luxury and idleness with dissipation to go hand in hand. This means a more far-reaching revolution in business and social affairs than legislation will effect; and since where the affliction is worst the remedy must be more radically applied, the West has cause to be thankful that conditions are not nearly so bad here as those described as prevailing in the East. Certainly Mr. Berry as an eastern man takes a proportionately

less hopeful view of the situation in his part of the country than any western man does here, where the outlook is decidedly the reverse of the great collapse the Pennsylvanian looks for.

#### LITTLE HOPE FOR WAR.

There are some people who persist in the assertion of a probability of war between Great Britain and the United States. The latest statement of this comes from an eminent English standpoint, wherein it is said that the great gold fields of the Yukon will be the occasion of the conflict—that Uncle Sam and John Bull will fight over the Klondike region; and, from an English point of view, John Bull will not get the worst of it.

As a matter of fact, it would be a very difficult thing to draw the United States into a war with Great Britain. Of course there are provocations which would do it; and no doubt some Europeans would like to witness such a thing, more on account of enmity to Great Britain than to this country, for, with an armed conflict in progress, both powers would put forth strong efforts, according to Russia a pressing invitation to visit Constantinople, to Germany a beautiful opportunity for advancement in Africa, to France a glimpse at Egypt as a French province, and to India the chance of a century to throw off the British yoke. Such small considerations as these are themselves sufficient to deter England from giving any unnecessary provocation, even should her statesmen feel inclined to do so, or which they show no disposition to.

In any minor antagonism that might arise between this country and England, and of which a dispute over the gold fields may be named as typical, the attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Dominion premier, toward the imperial government, is suggestive. He bluntly stated that Canada considers herself perfectly free to come or go at her own pleasure; and no one in England ventured to deny the proposition. If Canada should wish to cut the slender thread that now binds her to the British empire, she could not be prevented. What is true of Canada is true of each of the Dominion provinces which go to make up the loose federation of states that compose Canada. Were the United States to become involved in a dispute with England over the gold fields, the anti-annexation sentiment which now has a great hold in this country would disappear, and the United States would find it advantageous to foment an agitation which would bring the Northwest Territory, or Manitoba, or any other Canadian state, hither, and it could be accomplished without let or hindrance. There is no need of war to settle such a question—least of all war with Great Britain.

The annexation policy of the United States is not so rigid as to shut out the possibility or even probability of including one or all of the Canadian states. It might even include a strip of land across Nicaragua for the canal which was so strongly favored by the Transmississippi congress held here. The elasticity of this policy gives am-

ple opportunity for its use as a last resort for placing England at a diplomatic disadvantage in any dispute over gold fields, if there should be an inclination to act arbitrarily. But there are no conditions now apparent which render armed hostility between England and the United States more than a remote possibility.

#### DISCOVERIES IN BABYLONIA.

According to an account in the *London Times*, the oldest city in the world has been unearthed. Mr. Haynes, in charge of the American expedition engaged in excavating the mounds of Nuffar, in northern Babylonia, is said to have discovered its foundations. It is claimed that the result of his labors is that civilization has been found to date back to an antiquity never thought of.

The mounds of Nuffar are described as situated on the east bank of Shat-el-Nil, once the main waterway between Babylon and the Persian Gulf, but now dry. One of the mounds is by the Arabs called Biat-el-Amir (the Amir's daughter), and it was the site of the great tower built by Ur-Gur about 2800 B. C. The explorations of Mr. Haynes were conducted among the vast ruins of this building. He found that the arrangement of the tower and temple bore a most striking resemblance to the early pyramids of Egypt, and for various reasons he is inclined to the view that it is no longer a question of Chaldean influence over Egyptian civilization, but the reverse. The account, as condensed for *Public Opinion*, goes on to say:

The tower rests upon a massive brick platform of crude brick. Nearly the whole of these brick were inscribed, and bore the stamps of Sargon I and Naram-Sin, his son, and its date, therefore, is just a thousand years prior to the buildings of Ur-Gur—namely, B. C. 2800. From the inscriptions of both these kings we know that they both built large portions of an older temple of Mul-Ili. Proof of the great buildings of Sargon and his son is afforded by some excavations to the northwest of the temple. Here was a line of mounds which marked a rampart, and Mr. Haynes in 1895 cleared a portion of it and unearthed one of the most extraordinary pieces of masonry ever discovered. The foundation consisted of a solid bed of clay mixed with straw and puddled down, resembling some of the constructions found by Dr. Schliemann at Hissarlik. Upon this foundation and plinth was constructed a solid brick wall, fifty-two feet in thickness and rising to an unknown height. The builder of this wall was Naram-Sin, whom so many have regarded as a mythical king.

But considerably below the upper strata of the soil were found the evidences of an older civilization than here exposed to view. Below the pavement of Naram-Sin were remains of two temples with the altar and Holy of Holies, entered, it is supposed, only by the Priesthood. There were also the vases for purification and water-vents indicating connection with some receptacle below. Over twenty-six thousand tablets, as well as numerous inscribed fragments of vases and stelae, have also been recovered from this site. All of these records relate to a series of primitive