

change that the owners of such property would never submit tamely to it. They would organize an army of defense, and would make employes soldiers as well as laborers.

The immense fortunes accumulated by individuals in this country are causing the people to be disturbed. John D. Rockefeller, of the Standard Oil Company, is worth \$150,000,000. W. W. Astor is worth \$140,000,000. Jay Gould is worth \$200,000,000. He is the richest man in the world at present, yet he had not a cent when beginning life, nor did he inherit a cent.

The combined wealth of the Rothschilds is \$1,000,000,000, but no single member of the family is worth more than \$40,000,000. The Duke of Westminster is worth \$80,000,000. He is the richest man in Europe, but his wealth has been the accumulation of generations. It is the same with the Rothschilds. Wealth accumulated in this way is so gradual that the people as a whole do not feel it. Besides it so identified with the interests of the people, in the way of trade and industry, that it is regarded as a benefit.

In our country we have so many persons, who have acquired vast fortunes in a short life-time, that it is clear there must be something wrong, and that is what enrages the farmer and laborer so much. Cornelius Vanderbilt is worth \$90,000,000, and W. K. Vanderbilt \$80,000,000, but most of this was inherited. C. P. Huntington is worth \$45,000,000, Russell Sage \$40,000,000, Leland Stanford \$35,000,000 and Mrs. Hetty Green \$30,000,000.

There are fifty others who could be named each worth from \$5,000,000 to \$20,000,000. And the vast majority of this wealth was acquired in a lifetime. There must be something radically wrong in our commercial economy when such unequal distribution of wealth exists. Six men could, by combining, break a stock market, corner all the wheat and pork in the country, or dry up the currency of the nation, and all but suspend trade.

This is a fearful state of affairs. It is one that free silver cannot remedy. It is one that the confiscation of railroads or of oil companies cannot remedy. It is a question that requires the best thought of the country, and to be handled conservatively, judiciously, and in harmony with American institutions and with republican equality and impartiality.

The leprosy disease has now decreased to such an extent in Norway as to allow a portion of the hospital for lepers to be used for other purposes.

A LEADING AMERICAN INDUSTRY THREATENED.

RUSSIA is coming to the front as an industrial country. It has a population of 110,000,000, with an annual increase of 1,800,000. It imports about 600,000 bales of cotton yearly for its domestic manufactures. From the United States 400,000 bales are taken every year. Now comes the report that in future Russia will be an exporter, not an importer, of cotton; and that she will supply the whole people of Europe.

Russia has vast domains in Central Asia on which cotton can be cultivated by means of irrigation. If water enough can be obtained, the project seems feasible enough. Without water nothing can be raised in Central Asia, because the absence of rain is more marked even there, than in the arid belts of the American continent. China and India are both cotton producing countries. China, however, imports a large quantity of manufactured goods from the United States, and from Great Britain. This shows that she cannot produce enough for the demands of her own country. It also shows that cotton raising in that country has reached its utmost limit, because of the abundance of cheap labor obtainable, it could be produced cheaper there than in America, if other conditions were alike favorable. Egypt from time immemorial has been a cotton raising country, but irrigation had to be used. However, it takes all the available land fit for cultivation to raise the food supplies in that country.

The cotton belt of the United States extends from North Carolina to Texas. Here cotton appears to be an indigenous growth. Climate, soil, moisture and so on, are peculiarly adapted to the growth of cotton. The means of transporting the crop are now perfect. By river and rail it can be moved cheaply to seaport towns everywhere on the coast. The seed is now used for oil, and for feeding and for manure, the latter alone proving a profitable industry. A cotton-picking machine has been invented recently which will do the work of sixty persons. It will take but one man to guide it, and two mules to operate it; this in addition to the cotton gin already in use will cause a revolution in cotton raising. The American press is not apprehensive that Russia can ever become a formidable competitor of the United States in the markets of the world. The *Chicago Tribune* says:

"The consumption of cotton in the United States is rapidly increasing. Including that of Canada it is now about 2,430,000 bales per year, or 22 per cent of the quantity consumed in all parts of the

world. It is equal to the entire production of this country forty years ago. The area well adapted for cotton-growing is about all occupied. Certainly it is not likely to keep pace with the increase of consumption of cotton goods in the world, and there is thus no ground for fear by the producers of the United States that they will suffer from competition with cotton produced by irrigation in Russian Asia, India, China, or elsewhere. The population of the globe outside of Asia is about 700,000,000, or half the total of the world, and it is increasing at the rate of about 1½ per cent per annum, or over 10,000,000 a year, while the consumption of cotton goods is augmenting in a much greater ratio. Hence, there is no cause for the slightest apprehension that Russia can ever produce enough cotton to interfere with the demand for the American fiber."

But it must be remembered that in Russia engineering, both civil and military, has been made a special study under government patronage. In this department Russia is abreast of any country in Europe, and probably in America. Russian engineers know best what the resources of Central Asia are. They know what the available water supply for irrigation may be. It is no criterion to take what has been done in India or China in the way of cotton raising, because in these countries the method in use 3000 years ago still prevails. If Russia goes into the cotton raising, she will do so with all the improved appliances of modern times. She has an official, perhaps a dozen of them, now in this country studying economic questions in general, and cotton raising in particular. With that vast country entering the industrial field against England and the United States, some startling developments may be expected in the near future. Russia is already the great transatlantic wheat producing country of the world. Her wheat competes with that of the United States in the English markets. Will her cotton drive that of this country out of Europe? It looks as if the answer will soon come in the shape of a practical affirmative.

THE GREAT AFRICAN EXPLORER.

DURING the last two days Henry M. Stanley, the celebrated African explorer, has been the chief centre of attraction in this city. In consequence of the interest in his personality being as great perhaps as in his lecture, the facts embodied in which are all published, the Theatre was packed from "pit to dome."

We have read quite a number of descriptions of Mr. Stanley, some of which were the reverse of complimentary, while others were fair, but none have been particularly detailed. Doubtless he was keenly scrutinized last night, as most people have a great curiosity for seeing notable characters.