

wages to the full earnings of the worker, this simple land reform would make workingmen secure in civilized comfort, and guaranteeing to labor absolute independence, would abolish all that is hateful in the present relationship of employer and employed.—Louis F. Post, in *Labor Day Review*.

IN THE DAYS OF OUR GREAT-GRANDFATHERS.

Sanitation was unknown. Streets were undrained, wells digged in the reeking soil, springs were horribly defiled, root cellars were under all the houses. Every fifth person on the street was horribly disfigured with smallpox. In the open country the death rate of 1790 was higher than in the worst tenement districts of New York in 1890. In 1790 the death rate in the towns was higher than the death rate to-day in the yellow fever districts of the south. Ninety years ago the lottery was the favorite form of benevolence. Schools, colleges and churches were built thereby. In the year 1800, in Providence, an Episcopal church held a lottery, of which the grand prize was \$8,000. In 1795 the legislature of Rhode Island granted a lottery for "the advancement of religion and the building of a church." The library of Harvard college was built by the sale of lottery tickets, and good orthodox Princeton college adopted the same method of advancing its interests. Even the English government went into the lottery business. At one time the authorities of London were selling lottery tickets for 20 different objects.

Drunkenness also was well-nigh universal. Births, marriages, funerals, the dedication of public buildings and churches—all were consecrated with liquor. Every business transaction was concluded with a drink. For the hostess not to offer wine to her lady callers was an offense against good breeding. Dr. Chambers, of Philadelphia, tells us that in 1825 he went to a funeral of a prominent member of his church, and that he and the sexton were the only persons who were not in danger of falling into the grave through drunkenness. On the next Sunday he told his people that he would never again officiate at a funeral of a church member where liquor was freely distributed.—Dr. Hillis, of Chicago, as reported in *The Advance*.

The greatest good that we are to find through municipal ownership will be found in the improved quality of our citizenship. Whenever the feeling is once awakened that this is our city, this is our country, then a man

becomes in the best sense of the word a citizen who loves his country. This feeling will be wonderfully enhanced as the city goes forward in the work of municipal ownership. The people will learn that they can serve themselves better without profit than a private corporation can serve them with profit as an incentive for their effort. In the parks and public playgrounds in Glasgow I saw neat porcelain signs with this inscription: "Citizens, Protect Your Property," and when my eyes first fell upon that inscription I confess to such a feeling of delight as I never before experienced through merely looking at a dumb sign board.—Mayor Jones, of Toledo, before the League of American Municipalities.

A LETTER FROM HUNGARY.

For The Public.

Mrs. Dario Papa says in an article in *The North American Review* (see *The Public* of Aug. 20.) that the Italians are justly ashamed of being the only nation afflicted with the "pellagra" (hunger-sickness). Not only Italy, but also Hungary has this mournful distinction. The causes are the same as in Italy. Though the harvest has not been as bad as was expected, according to official confession over 10,000 workers found no employment; in other words, that number of men, in most cases with families, are absolutely without food for the coming winter, for there is no work to be had in the country in winter.

Dr. S. H. Schreiber has prepared an article on the "pellagra," in which, after describing the symptoms of the malady, he states that it was formerly unknown in Hungary, and that it is only this year that it has been conclusively proved to be the same "pellagra dyscratica" that appears every year in Italy. So widespread and so sudden was the appearance of the disease that the government was obliged to appoint a commission to investigate the causes of it. They are but too clear. The report states that there are great numbers of families where a half kgr. (about a pound) of maize bread is the daily food of each person. Another even more menacing peril of Hungary is a possible protective tariff.

As the revenue agreement with Austria seems in consequence of the obstructions in the Reichsrath (imperial parliament) very problematical, the government called a conference to dis-

cuss the best modes of collecting tariffs. There was not in this conference a single freetrader; the landowners wanted agrarian, the manufacturers industrial protection. They hope that protection will create new home industries, and will raise the price of wheat, which American competition has lowered. The statement of a prominent Hungarian politician seems to me to be typical of the position of the so-called freetraders at this juncture. "We can't be freetraders when all the world is protectionist." At this rate we are likely to shortly be burdened with a Hungarian Dingley bill.

In connection with the Tariff Conference I must mention a certain professor of political economy who was a member of the Conference and an ardent defender of protection. Only about six months ago when the tariff question was not yet before us, I spoke with him on the subject of free-trade. "Of course," said he, "I am a freetrader too." But we were then by ourselves. Since he has played his part in the Conference I am constrained to believe that Mr. George was right in all that he said about professors of political economy.

I will add that Hungary is a real Eldorado for monopolists. All "home producers" are in every way greatly aided by the government. Sugar and spirit get high premiums, and not a single paper would dare to make a campaign against it. It must seem very unprofitable to our papers to be a little sincere.

ROBERT BRAUN.

Budapest, Hungary, Sept. 6, 1898.

THE SHERBORN REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN.

Some remarkable statements were made at a meeting in the United Charities building by Mrs. Johnson, the manager of the women's prison at Sherborn, Mass. It would seem hardly credible that separate reformatories for women are a very modern innovation, were it not that it is still the almost universal practice throughout the country to confine prisoners of both sexes in the same building, and frequently with very imperfect separation. The experiment appears to have been highly successful in Massachusetts. The manager of the institution studies each case as it comes to her, as a physician studies cases of disease, and instead of an unvarying