

Yet he could not be sentenced for a shorter term. It was a Gordian knot, and the judge cut it. Turning to the mortality tables of the life insurance companies, where he ascertained that upon the law of probabilities the prisoner might be expected to live 38 years, he sentenced him to imprisonment for half that period, or 19 years. The case has been appealed and the sentence will very likely be reversed. But what else could the judge have done?

THE FULL DINNER-PAIL.

The indirect insult conveyed in the argument of the full dinner-pail ought to arouse the indignation of every citizen who takes the trouble to think seriously of it.

The full dinner-pail, said Mr. Hanna at Youngstown, is the issue.

What does Mr. Hanna know of the dinner-pail? Does he convey his diamond-back terrapin and extra-dry champagne on his banquet-table in a dinner-pail? Did he ever know what it was to carry a dinner-pail? Would he know whether to use a cork-screw or a can-opener to get at the fullness of the dinner-pail?

These questions may be thought frivolous. Yet if they are examined aright, they are not irrelevant.

The orators and editors who are prating of the dinner-pail, but who have never carried one, are sadly out of touch with the spirit of the American "workingman." Reduced to its final terms, what does the full dinner-pail argument mean? It means "We give you enough to eat. In return, let us do in all other things as we please."

"The full dinner-pail!"

Could any absolute tyrant offer a more inadequate, more degrading argument? It is the argument the slaveholder could have offered to his bondmen in the worst days of slavery this country ever saw. Many a negro of the south will tell you to-day that he has poorer fare and fewer clothes than in the days when he was a chattel. Does that make slavery any the less revolting?

"The full dinner-pail!"

Why there are many years when

even the tsar of Russia can triumphantly point to the fact that his subjects are not starving. Does that argue for the divine right of kings?

"The full dinner-pail!"

Let us blush that any American citizen should consider such an argument fit to submit to fellow Americans. Are we then fallen so low that the only appeal is to the stomach, none to the heart and the head?

O, Hannas, Forakers and Depews! Ye who run no risk of half-full dinner pails, no matter what governmental policy, what failure of crops, what shut-down of factories, what cataclysm overtakes us; verily, ye have your reward! But little can your capon-lined sensibilities know of the metal of men who are acquainted with both the full dinner-pail and the empty. Your pigmy souls cannot comprehend that they would be willing to risk (if risk it were) a scantiness of rations with all the heroism of the men of Valley Forge rather than representative government should perish from the face of the earth, rather than oppression instead of freedom should become the thing which the flag symbols.

"The full dinner-pail!"

Look at the condescending, oligarchical spirit of it. "The masters grant us rations! Support the masters!"

The masters are looking out for us! Are they? Give us a fair field and no favors and we can look out for ourselves.

"Hanna and God have given us prosperity! Vote for Hanna's man, resting assured that he is God's man!" It is impious, of course, to question that Mr. Hanna, his man and the republican party are responsible for the full dinner-pail. It is worse than impious to suppose that, by any possibility, the dinner-pail could be full under another's administration. But even allowing these at least questionable premises, what sort of argument is it which makes its highest appeal to the American workingman merely as a beast of burden who is to be rewarded with a full measure of meal (if he can get it), but who is so devoid of conscience, love of liberty and justice for the oppressed that any men-

tion of them is considered sheer waste of breath?

Should we then have a new flag?

Forty-five dinner-pails in a field of brass as an emblem of our revered rulers and their most salient quality?

Thirteen stripes (well-laid on) to indicate what we deserve if we dare to disagree with the argument of the full dinner-pail?

EDMUND VANCE COOKE.
Cleveland.

NEWS

The anthracite coal strike in Pennsylvania is on in full earnest. Last week we reported the causes and development of this gigantic labor conflict, and told of the official call issued on the 12th and fixing Monday the 17th as the date upon which the strike should begin. Between these dates doubts were expressed as to the probabilities of a general observance of the call. The operators predicted that less than 20 per cent. of the men would go out. But when the day for striking arrived these predictions came to nothing and all doubts vanished. Out of 142,000 miners employed in the anthracite region fully 100,000 responded promptly to the call. President Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America, has reported that the number who had responded at the date of this writing (September 20) amounts to 126,000.

There are four great territorial divisions in the anthracite coal region, known as the Lackawanna, the Wyoming, the Lehigh and the Schuylkill. In the Lackawanna and the Wyoming region, where 90,000 men were employed, the tie-up is so complete that only one mine, and that a small one, is in operation. In the Lehigh region about 8,000, being half the men employed, have struck. Only in the Schuylkill region, where the employes number some 35,000, did the strike call meet with an unsatisfactory response. But that was only on the first day. Since then several thousand have joined the strikers.

The operators continue to ignore the overtures of the men for friendly arbitration, relying, as some of them unblushingly write to the newspapers, upon the superior power of their wealth. The president of the Dela-