

an equal among the weeklies of the country in its wide scope and its painstaking accuracy. It must cost the editor an immense amount of labor, for it is really a condensed history of the world for the week covered. Not one of the long-established New York weekly papers gives so complete a review of the world's news as The Public gives in its "News" columns.

But there is one serious lapse to which I beg to call the editor's attention. I do not think I have missed the reading of a single number; and yet I have seen no record of the facts pertaining to the greatest activity of our institutions of higher learning. It would be no exaggeration to say that there have been at least 10,000 columns devoted to this activity by the daily press during the past month. It must be from the daily press that the editor selects and gathers his valuable record; and yet he has neglected entirely those 10,000 columns. How can he claim completeness for his otherwise valuable work so long as he overlooks this inspiring news from our colleges and universities, to which the daily press devotes so much space? What will his chronicle be worth to future historians if it tells nothing of the prowess of the Princeton Tigers, or of the Carlisle Indians, or of "Old Eli's eleven"?

We respectfully submit that the editor should not permit any possible disagreement with the economics taught in the universities to prevent his chronicling the important achievements of these great institutions. He should, we think, even go farther in his liberality, and occasionally make editorial comment. He could, for example, point out how the modern universities are coming into touch with real life, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars to change hands in business centers when two great university activities come together.

We say nothing of the inner history of these great moments, for of this inside knowledge even the daily papers preserve a commendable disregard. What we complain of in the editor is that he disregards in his summary of news the readily attainable facts of higher education.

MEDIUS.

A FARMER'S VIEW OF THE COAL LANDS PROBLEM.

A paper read by J. F. Cowern, of Contoocook, N. H., before the Contoocook Grange.

When our assistant lecturer asked me to write a short article on some

serious question, the strike in the anthracite coal regions was the all absorbing topic of conversation. Go anywhere you might it was being discussed by men, women and children with equal interest. It was, in fact, a burning question in more senses than one. Numerous methods for settling the difficulty were advanced and eagerly debated.

Although not in sympathy with the idea, it seems to me that the general opinion has been that in the interest of the whole people the government should seize and operate the coal mines. As a temporary measure to provide immediate relief I should favor the taking over of the mines by the government, but as a permanent undertaking I should oppose it. If you are going to have the government seize and operate the coal mines, why not seize and operate all other mines, gold, silver, copper, etc.?

And, if the theory on which you would proceed is sound, the government should also seize and operate the shoe shops, iron foundrys and all branches of industry, not even omitting our worthy chaplain's potato patch. It seems to me that this would be overstepping the true functions of government, which, as I understand it, is to secure to all men equal rights, equal liberties. The simpler the government with which this can be done the better.

The plan of our socialistic friends, in my opinion, would practically destroy individual initiative, the force that makes for progress in all branches of industry.

Under normal conditions there is nothing about the business of mining coal that does not admit of competition.

It is the present abnormal condition brought about by joint private ownership of the highways and coal lands that seems to have put anthracite mining outside of competition influences.

If the government were to take over the highways, thus insuring to all equal rates, it would place the independent operator on an equal footing with the present ring.

If, in addition, a heavy tax was laid on coal lands, those held out of use as well as those in use, in proportion to their value, exempting improvements, or that part of the value due to labor, the competition principle would have full sway. Such a tax would make it decidedly unprop-

itable to hold valuable coal lands out of use, and, in proportion to amount of tax, would lower their selling price, thus enabling a small capitalist to go into the mining business.

As it wouldn't pay to hold them out of use, present mines would be run at full capacity, creating a demand for labor and raising wages, while lowering the price of coal to the consumer. This it seems to me is the right, and, therefore, the only permanent solution of the problem.

I admit that before this method can be adopted a great deal of educational work has got to be done. But we can take a step in that direction now, and if the Grange would use its influence it could be taken at once.

You all know that the farmer is taxed on anywhere from 60 to 100 per cent. of the value of his property. Now there are hundreds of acres of coal lands in Pennsylvania held out of use, and worth from \$3 to \$30,000 an acre, the taxes upon which are merely nominal—in some cases as low as three dollars an acre. Isn't it a short-sighted policy that encourages the dog in the manger spirit at the expense of the industrious?

Why should those who monopolize a great natural supply of fuel, which, as Edward Everett Hale recently said, "the good God has given for mankind," be taxed a merely nominal sum, while the farmer is taxed to the limit? The Grange should take this up, and insist that the property of the coal barons should be taxed as high as the property of the farmers.

There is, in my opinion, no possible reason for government ownership of a business in which the competitive principle is possible; such businesses should be, and are best, left in private hands. But any business in its very nature monopolistic, and they are few, such as the railroads, post offices, etc., should be in the hands of the government.

THE REPUBLICAN ATTACKS FURNISH ENDORSEMENTS OF MR. JOHNSON.

The explanations about the election don't explain. The attacks upon Tom Johnson by Republican papers are in the nature of an endorsement.

If the object of a political organization is merely to secure control of the offices defeat would end the purposes of its existence. A great many of the people do not seem to care who hold office, but all the people are equally interested in the manner in which