

MISCELLANY

LABOR DAY SONG.

For The Public.

Air: American Hymn, "Speed Our Republic."

Flag of our Union, so proudly unfurled,
 Float Labor's greeting to all the wide
 world;
 From every nation the busy ones come,
 Thrilling the air with the trumpet and
 drum,
 Raising Toll's standard aloft in the sky;
 Men, brave and loyal, by thousands are
 found
 Marching in triumph on Freedom's fair
 ground,
 Leaders of Labor whom gold cannot buy.
 Hush for a moment the hum of the mill,
 Let the strong hammer be idle and still;
 Stop the great reaper, on meadow and
 plain
 While the air trembles with music's wild
 strain;
 Let every list'ner the clear call obey;
 This is the time when with one heart and
 voice
 Men of all races clasp hands and rejoice—
 Builders of nations, not dreamers are they.

World-honored craftsmen, your weapons
 of pow'r
 Never gleamed brighter than in this great
 hour;
 Never before was the burden you bear
 Freightened as now with such deep, solemn
 care!
 Weavers of life's wondrous fabric are you;
 Clearly have nations their duty discerned,
 Lessons are taught that can ne'er be un-
 learned—
 Justice comes holding a guerdon for you.

Justice eternal! thy searchlight so strong,
 Quenchless and deathless must find every
 wrong;
 Sweep from our country the crimes we ab-
 hor;
 Cleanse from our banner the black stain
 of war;
 Take slavery's fetter from childhood's
 frail hand;
 Shatter in fragments the throne of mis-
 rule;
 Send us true pilots in pulpit and school;
 Give to the toilers a free, happy land.

MARY M'NABR JOHNSTON.

WHAT IS AN AGITATOR?

Who are the "labor agitators" in Colorado? What is a labor agitator? Some members of labor unions are labor agitators. In 1894, when the panic had possession of the country, there was a political meeting at an Illinois county seat. The meeting was held out of doors. One of the speakers said, when he had concluded a short speech, that he would be glad to answer questions on the issues of the campaign. Immediately a tall, well-dressed man said he had a question, and asked this:

"You are one of these labor agitators, ain't you?"

"Possibly I am," replied the speaker; "but what is a labor agitator?"

"A labor agitator is a man who goes about making laboring people discontented," answered the well-dressed man.

"Does he have to go about? Can't he stay in one place and make them discontented?" asked the speaker.

"Of course he can; but some of them go about making all the trouble they can."

"Yes; that's true. But aren't you Mr. —, manager and part owner of the plow factory here?"

"Yes, I am. What of it?"

"Didn't you cut wages last year?"

"Yes, I did. But I had to cut wages to keep the factory going."
 "I don't deny that; but I want to ask you if the employes in your factory were pleased at the cut. Did the wage reduction make them contented?"

"No; I can't say it did."

"It made them discontented, didn't it?"

"Of course it did."

"Then if a labor agitator is a man who makes laboring people discontented, it seems to me that you are a labor agitator."—The Press, of Helena, Mont.

LET US ALONE.

Elizabeth G. Jordan, in Harper's Bazar, tells a very amusing story of poor Hannah Rissler, who was taken for a drive by an enterprising reporter, "to get a breath of fresh air and have a good time." "I want to get her out of that tenement room for the first time in 29 years, and to show her the world. I want her to see the park and the sky, and the river and the boats on it, and the elevated trains, and the tall new buildings; and I want to write a story telling what she thinks of New York after her Rip Van Winkle sleep."

Here is what the enterprising lady reporter wrote in advance, as what ought to have occurred:

"Hannah looked out over the expanse of water, and tears filled her dim old eyes; eyes which for 30 years had gazed upon nothing but the grimy walls of the opposite tenement and a tiny patch of blue sky which the great building could not quite shut off. 'When I was a girl,' she said, softly, 'my husband and I used to sit on the river bank and see the boats go by. That was long ago—but this makes it seem yesterday.' Her lips quivered a little."

But here is what actually happened:

"Where are we going?" she whimpered. "We have went so far. Are

we in another city? I don't feel well. I think I catch cold. I got some good medicine in my house wot the Salvation girls give me. It always makes me well. It cures everything wot I got. Take me back."

Here is the finale, as the enterprising lady reporter had imagined it:

"Good-by," she said. "Thank you and God bless you. You have shown me to-day a glimpse of what I hope awaits me after I take my next—and last—long drive!"

But this is what happened:

"A long gasp of delight fell on Miss Underwood's ear. It came from the lips of Hannah Rissler. Her face was transfigured. The listless, sick little old woman had become an ecstatic creature, hysterical with joy. 'Ach Gott!' she shrieked, 'Ach Gott!—there's my little home. I'm back again. I'm back again!' She closed her eyes and struggled for breath: 'Ach Gott!' she gasped, 'Gott sei dank!'"

The story illustrates the fact that people generally want not what is good for them, not what they ought to have—but simply to be let alone. That is the answer of the remonstrant to the effort of the reformer.—The Woman's Journal.

IMPERIALISM AND ITS FRUITS.

We need not so much an open door to trade as barriers to imperialism.

Venice flourished and prospered and her navy commanded the seas near about, bringing her trade that created her commercial aristocracy and converted her from a republic into an oligarchy of wealth. When lust for gain and vain ambition sent her fleets against Constantinople, the mighty power of Venice began to wane.

Rome opened the door of every adjacent land to trade and penetrated and subjugated far-off Egypt; her commercialism bred luxury and sensuousness and her imperial army that had extended her sway over sea and country, fell powerless before the savage Goth and Hun.

Carthage, once mistress of the seas, extended her markets by force of arms, and Carthage is of value only as a milestone marking the path of imperialistic wrecks.

Within our own time the fleets of Spain have swept the seas, but the armada perished, and with it the mighty power and prestige of the Spanish throne.

Great Britain, mighty mistress of the seas, on whose possessions the sun never sets, is struggling under the weight of crushing debt that makes necessary a revolution in her fiscal pol-

icy, and which, constantly sapping her energy, must leave her weak and her possessors prey to the new disciple of force rising on the horizon, which in turn will crumble into ashes.

All along the path of history are strewn the wrecks of nations which subordinated right to might.

Only powers based in righteousness can endure. The lithe limbs falter, the strong body bends, the vigorous mind weakens when man ignores moral law and is sensual. Sensuality is to the body what imperialism is to the nation. Each saps physical greatness and moral power.

Trade gained at the expense of morality will finally be paid for in the flesh and blood of citizens. It has always been so, it will always be so, because human agency cannot change universal law.

The finite mind has its limitations, a fact which explains in part differences between individuals. Thus the employer who arrogantly refused to increase the wages of his employes ten per cent. a day, gives away millions for the establishment of libraries, whereas his employes had wanted more food for their children. Typically illustrative of this perversion of mind is the case of the Russian noblewoman who, watching the tragic action on the stage of a theater, wept copiously over the grief depicted there while her coachman, seated without on the box, was freezing to death.

We in the United States would repel as horrible the suggestion that we make war on Canada for the control of her markets. Yet we tolerate a war against the Filipinos, 10,000 miles away, waged for no other purpose than to open the door of trade for us, not to the Philippines alone, but to the east. We barter flesh and blood for trade.

And whose flesh and blood? Not the sons of the men who will reap direct gain from control of the markets of the Philippines and the east. Not the sons of tobacco and sugar trust directors, but the sons of the poor whom we pay so much per month to shoot and be shot at.

An army of mercenaries is a complement of imperialism. But these mercenaries are not of the families of the well-to-do, because they do not need the money. If we must barter flesh and blood for trade, then let sordid commercialists send their sons, let them, as Mr. Bryan said, "put their boys on the auction block and sell their blood for gold."

Imperialism and related commercialism make war a business. They invariably produce calloused patriotism,

defeat justice, supplant idealism with materialism and make mockery of virtue.

Imperialism digs nations' graves. But nations see in the fresh heaped earth the material fruits of the material policy; they do not look beyond it at the other fruit, created in the same action—the narrow house.—An Editorial in the Dubuque Telegraph-Herald.

THE LAND POLICY OF GERMAN CITIES.

An editorial in the New York Evening Post of Aug. 23.

At the recent conference on housing reforms held in the model village of Bourneville, near Birmingham, the delegates, representing many towns, trades unions and housing associations, were most interested by reports of the astonishing progress made by German municipalities. It was generally agreed that in the fight for public health and welfare the German cities had far surpassed the English. As a result many of the proposals of the conference which are to be laid for immediate action before municipalities throughout Great Britain are based upon German experience and experiments.

Mr. T. C. Horsfall, one of the delegates to the conference, has just published in a monograph entitled "The Examples of Germany" some of the achievements which aroused such interest at Bourneville. Credit for them must by no means be given wholly to burgomasters and town councilors. Behind these officials there has been strong government pressure. After long study, German scientists, engineers, and sanitarians have succeeded in interesting the national legislature as well as the governing bodies of the various states in a thorough policy of municipal land purchase, street planning, site control, building laws, and taxation of vacant lands on the outskirts of towns. The general building law of the kingdom of Saxony of 1900 is, for instance, a striking example of state interest in these questions, as well as an illustration of the thoroughness with which the subject is being approached. When the Saxon ministry became convinced of the need of new legislation, it submitted its first draft to various public bodies, such as the Fire Insurance Chamber and the National Medical College, the Union of Saxon Engineers and Architects, as well as to a number of state and municipal superintendents of building and to the chief authorities of the governmental divisions of the kingdom. At the request of the Saxon parliament it was also laid before a large committee of doctors, architects, offi-

cials and agriculturists, which discussed the proposals for three days, and made many acceptable changes. After another revision by a smaller committee, the bill was laid before the parliament and unanimously passed after careful discussion in many sittings.

While this is in many respects a model measure, under which the Saxon cities should develop harmoniously and scientifically, it has some startling features when viewed from this side of the Atlantic. For instance, section 59 declares that if plots of land are too small to serve as sites for buildings, and the owners do not dispose of them voluntarily, they must be sold to the community. In other sections there are grants to the municipalities of sweeping powers to redistribute lands, even against the will of the owners, should such lands hinder the carrying out of the city's building plan by reason of their form or size or position. Such unusual powers, which are wholly aside from the public right of condemnation, are in line with the most striking feature of this whole German movement—the purchase by cities and communities of large areas of land upon which to erect dwellings for the poorer classes. No less than 1,100 communities, large and small, have now such assured incomes from rents of municipal lands and buildings as to be able to do without local taxation.

So bold and generous is the scale on which these operations are undertaken that Berlin has included land 20 miles from the center of the city in its new plans for the regulation of building operations. Many smaller towns have discounted the future and blocked the path of the conscienceless speculator by prescribing the nature and extent of streets and buildings on outside areas six times the size of the towns themselves. The city of Ulm, in Bavaria, with a population of 45,000, has not hesitated to acquire 4,054 acres near the town boundaries. Cologne owns 1,450 acres, and the corporation controls institutions which own 8,430 acres more. Posen has ten square yards per head of population; Barmen, 10.76; Dresden, 14.23; Krefeld, 14.95; Essen, 17.70. Altona, Charlottenburg, Dueseldorf, Karlsruhe, Chemnitz, Cassel, have from 23.94 to 59.80. Nine cities, Stuttgart, Halle, Duisburg, Berlin, Kiel, Leipsic, Munich, Hanover, Cologne, have from 59.80 to 119.60 square yards. Berlin has 84.91. Five cities, Frankfurt, Mannheim, Breslau, Magdeburg, Dortmund, have from 119.60 to 239.20 square yards; and four towns, Aachen, Danzig, Stettin and Strassburg, have more than 239.20 square yards. Strassburg, which