

hell,' as Sherman said, and he is giving the people of Cebu a taste of the brimstone. Only a few nights ago an American officer boasted that he is known as the Weyer of the district where he is in command. He also said—though it may seem incredible—that he was proud of being so called.

"The people of the United States have no conception of the conditions prevailing down here. If they had a howl would go up from one end of the country to the other. Army officers tell of these things in confidence, but nothing is said with the idea that it shall get to the outside world. I have no doubt that when this appears in the Constitution there will be a chorus of denials, and yet I am writing only that which I get from the very best authority.

"General orders have been issued that whosoever shall in any way give aid and comfort to the enemy shall be visited with dire punishment; that his house shall be burned over his head and that he himself shall be dealt with as severely as is possible.

"The officer commanding the battalion over on Bohol has been given instructions to kill off everybody suspected of connection with the insurgents. He has been told that these orders give him the widest latitude; that he is not to be very particular whether the suspect is bearing arms or has been; if he is a suspect he is to be treated as an outlaw and shot down. The people are to be brought in from the country and cooped up in the towns. Those who refuse to come are to be hunted down."

Mr. Obl proceeds to give accounts of many villages burned and innocent lives taken and refers in scathing language to wholesale attacks upon native women by American soldiers. He then quotes Col. Crane, adjutant general to Gen. Hughes, as saying:

"The best thing to do with them (the Philippine islands) would be to kill off the people and then put a bomb under each island and blow it from the face of the earth. I would never leave here, however, so long as there was one of these fellows left to stick his fingers to his nose at us when we were passing."

Mr. Obl declares that many other officers feel similarly, although those well informed recognize in the Filipinos a race of promising ability and prospects.

A paternal government never becomes so thoroughly fatherly that its children don't have to pay all its bills.
—Puck.

FOOLING LABOR SOME MORE.

The conference in New York under the benign influence of the Civic federation between the warring elements of "capital" and labor eventuated in a beautiful love feast that has set all the society saviors and other fools into a state of ecstatic confidence in the future. The spectacle was presented by Senator Mark Hanna and President Samuel Gompers meeting on a common platform in the support of trusts. Archbishop Ireland and Bishop Potter spread unction over the lovely platitudes and fond deceits which characterized the occasion. It was a splendid illustration of the spider and the fly.

The assumption of these people that there is or ever has been or ever could be a war between capital and labor—between the plow and the man who holds it; between the locomotive and the man at the throttle; between the wheelbarrow and the man who pushes it; between the sewing machine and the woman who runs it—is its own commentary on the honesty and intelligence behind it. No such war exists or could exist. The notion that a man can be at war with the things he uses in producing wealth might be worthy of savages or Standard Oil professors of "economics," but certainly it is out of place in the minds of men who have escaped the breech-clout stage without falling under the blight of Standard Oil "education."

The New York conference was a farce. Its result is the best possible proof of the utter incompetency of the so-called labor leadership. There was not a single man in the conference who posed as a labor leader possessing economic sense enough to lead a flock of geese. The geese themselves would have sense enough to seek water, but no labor leader would ever think of leading his flock to its native element. There was no sign of any comprehension of the real problem involved on the part of Gompers or Shaffer or any of the rest. They were absolutely unconscious of the grotesquery of their assumption of a war with capital. The suggestion of this idea came from the smooth and oily and self-satisfied gentlemen on the other side. The latter carefully concealed the real enemy and they made a charming pretense of fraternity, moving Gompers and his fellow dupes to tears by their eloquent pleadings for brotherhood.

One of these days perhaps the futility of such conferences as the one just held will be realized. Mark Hanna

and Mr. Schwab and their fellow monopolists know perfectly well what is going on. They know that there is no war between the tools of labor and the labor which uses the tools. But they know also that there is a bitter and relentless war—an irrepressible conflict—between privilege and its victims, between the monopolist and those who yield him tribute, between the forestaller and those who must pay him a price for opportunity. One right word fitly spoken thrown into that conference would have caused greater consternation than an anarchist bomb. But there was no man there to speak it. The Civic federation had taken excellent care on that point. It was really a conference between socialists who want to establish a universal militarism in production and those who are enjoying the benefits of a jug-handled paternalism. Mr. Gompers made it very plain that he was a socialist and that he welcomed the trusts as a stepping-stone toward his ideal. And Bishop Potter and Archbishop Ireland helped on the play. They want "capital" to do everything for labor except to get off its back.

Had some one been in that conference to point out the real conflict and to say how it could be resolved, felicitations among the organs of monopoly would not have been so vociferous as they are. We are now told that the problem is in the way of solution; that the lion and the lamb are going to lie down together; that the big fish are going to be good and cease to swallow the little ones. Mr. Gompers and Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Schwab, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Morgan are going to get together and work in beautiful harmony for the uplifting of labor. Labor is going to quit being naughty and boisterous and "capital" is going to exercise pink tea morality in dealing with the toilers. But meanwhile nothing is to be said about the legislative advantages enjoyed by Mr. Morgan and Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Schwab and Mr. Carnegie. These advantages are mere instruments in their hands for the uplifting of the horny-handed masses. Out of the millions which come to them as tribute they are to build great universities and endow libraries and cultivate the fine arts, allowing labor to luxuriate in their manifestations of munificence. Labor on its side is to dream dreams of the time when the trusts will metamorphose the country into a military industrial camp. And possibly labor fancies that a Gompers or a Shaffer or a Mitchell will then

be the great captain in command.—Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat of December 18.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

WALKS MUST BE KEPT CLEAN.

A new ordinance relating to clean sidewalks was approved by the board of control Monday. It provides that the walks before all property, vacant or otherwise, must be cleaned of snow and ice by nine o'clock each morning. If the walk is of flag stone it must be cleaned from property line to curb, and if of brick or other material, other than flag or cement, a path five feet in width must be cleaned. Where it is impossible to scrape off all the ice the owners, occupants or agents of the property must cover it with ashes, sand or other substance so that people will not slip. If any person fails to obey this ordinance the director of public works has power to send out men to do the work and the cost will be charged to the person owning or occupying the property. If they don't pay the amount will be certified by the city auditor to the county auditor, who will place it against the property as a lien, the same as taxes.

While the board was considering the measure Attorney General Foster entered the room and asked that it be amended to provide that dead trees and dead limbs be removed by the owners, or by the city at the owner's expense. The amendment was made. It was further provided that no grass or weeds should be allowed to grow between the curb and walk, more than six inches in height. If the owner or occupant of the premises, the agent, if the lot should be vacant, and the owner out of town, fails to keep the grass or weeds trimmed the city will do the work and charge the cost against the premises.—Cleveland Plain Dealer of December 17.

NO UNREA-ONABLE PRICES.

The Gamewell Fire Alarm company may not be among the bidders when the sixth set of proposals for a fire alarm signal service are opened by the board of control. The agent of the company, who, by reason of storms, failed to reach this city in time to submit a proposal, Monday, called on Mayor Johnson yesterday with another agent who was here in time, but did not have the company's bid in his possession.

"We want to know, Mr. Johnson,"

began one of the agents, "whether it is worth while for us to come back here again and bid?"

"Not unless you follow the pace set by other companies and cut your price down from what it has been in the past," was the reply. "Let me see, if you come in on the next set of bids that will be six times, won't it?"

"That's what it will, Mr. Johnson, and we have spent a great deal of money running back and forth and paying hotel bills."

"Knowing considerable about machinery, as I do," said the mayor, "I am perfectly willing to admit that I think you have the best fire alarm system in the country, but it is because I do know something about machinery that I tell you that you are asking too much money for what you have. You have a good thing, but you are playing the hog on price."

"As we have the best system, it ought to be worth more money than any other."

"Exactly, but not as much as you ask. We'll keep on rejecting bids until we get the right thing at the right price; in fact, we may never buy a system. I tell you frankly, gentlemen, that before I would consent to the city paying you the price you ask for your system I would invent one myself."

"That's what we are trying to get at. We—"

"You want to know if we will give you the contract if you bid about the same price you did last time—is that what you want to know?"

"Yes."

"Well, we won't give you the contract. Unless you are prepared to come in with a bid that is reasonable you may as well stay at home and save your postage stamps. Does that answer your question?"

"Not the way we wanted it answered, but you are certainly frank enough to suit us," laughed the agents as they bowed themselves out.—Plain Dealer of December 18.

MORE ABOUT THE THREE-CENT FARE ORDINANCE.

Councilman Howe proposed an amendment to the three-cent fare ordinance yesterday, and insisted on it against the strong opposition of Mayor Johnson. The amendment was not inserted in the ordinance, but it may be yet, as Howe will have another chance at four p. m. Monday to urge it, and again after the measure gets back to the council.

The important amendment proposed at the meeting, which came from Howe, was that there should be a clause in the ordinance giving the city the right, after five or ten years, to rearrange the schedule of fares charged by the new company.

"If a three-cent fare road is an attractive proposition at this time," he said, "it will be twice as attractive ten years from now. If there is money in it now, what will there be then? Unless the city has the right to reduce fares still further, if, on examination, it is shown that the company can well afford to do it, we will then be in the same position toward the new company that we are now toward the old ones. Perhaps they could not afford to give us a three-cent fare 20 years ago, but they can now."

"I grant you," said the mayor, "that if money can be made now on the basis of a three-cent fare more can be made ten years from now, but nothing like as much as you think. Fifty-five per cent. of the cost of operating a street railroad is in the labor. You do not think there will be much chance for economy in that direction, do you? The natural tendency is for labor to increase in cost. That is certainly the history in street railroad matters. Wages have gone forward but never backward."

"Possibly, you think there may be room for economy in the matter of motive power. The cost of the electricity to operate a street car line does not amount to quite one-twelfth of the total cost. It is the smallest item in the list of expenses, so there won't be much chance for reducing the cost of that."

"Another point which we have to consider is that we must not burden this measure down so that bidders will not be able to finance their road. While they probably will make more money out of the line the second ten years than they will the first, why should they not be allowed to do it? Won't the city be getting the benefit of the reduced fare? You must also remember that after ten years the item of betterments and repairs will also be very large."

"As a practical street railway man, I say that the suggestion you make is a vital point in this ordinance. If you put it in, two bidders that I have in mind will not come in, I believe. If at any time the city believes that the company is making too much money out of the road it can buy it and run it itself."

Howe suggested that there were obstacles in the way of municipal owner-