

court of last resort. The Initiative and Referendum will make this court articulate. It is now only a speechless fetish whose silent and incoherent mandates are interpreted by an interested political priesthood. Let us restore to public opinion the powers of speech of which it has been deprived. Let us allow public opinion to speak for itself, to interpret its own commands. This will not abolish representative republicanism among us, it will perfect it. This will not be a government by a mob, it will be a government by an orderly democracy. This will not be a foreign innovation; it will be in the strictest sense an American evolution."

Southboro, Mass.

ADDIE L. HOWES.

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THE STRUGGLE OF THE RICH.

"I could have dropped out some time ago, but I stayed in for the satisfaction I derived."—E. H. Harriman.

That's what's the matter with men of wealth—
It isn't at all that they need
The money for which they will peril their souls;
It is simply ambition's greed.

They want to be part of the magnate push,
And to mix in a row to see
Which one of the captains shall gain control
Of the stuff that spells Victory.

It is only to win in a corporate war
That they stay in the game and play,
While a helpless and suffering world looks on,
With the blood of the bill to pay.

Theirs isn't the struggle that millions put up
To secure their daily bread,
And give of their lives that others may live:
It is power they're after instead.

For that they will hazard the best that they have,
Their health and their peace of mind;
Their consciences go with the rest as well,
For the pleasure they think they find.

It is power they're after—not power of right,
That may count for a glory crown;
It is merely the power to keep themselves up
By keeping the other man down.

If they struggled for wealth for the good they
could do
With abundance of golden might,
Their motives no man would dare to condemn
And the world would applaud their fight.

Nobody denies they are giants of strength,
And each has a right to his
As long as he hews to the line of the law,
But, God, what a shame it is!

—W. J. Lampton, in the New York World.

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Old Gent: Here, you boy, what are you doing
out here fishing? Don't you know you ought to be
at school?

Small Boy: There now! I knew I'd forgotten
something.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

BOOKS

A STUDY IN LABOR UNIONISM.

Trade Unionism and Labor Problems. Edited with an Introduction by John R. Commons. Published by Ginn & Co., Boston. 1905.

Under the editorship of Professor Commons are here collected twenty-eight essays by various authors, each dealing with a different kind of trades union or a separate aspect of the labor problem. The book "is intended to do for the study of labor unions and labor problems, what Ripley's 'Trusts, Pools and Corporations' has done for the study of capital and its organization"; that is, to provide a text-book of "concrete, definite and convenient" data for the student of economics.

All this sounds very useful—and dry. It is both. But the likes of this book it is high time for all of us to read, artisan, financier or clerk.

The workingman will see more clearly through it the trend of his great campaign, its points of weakness and strength. Our immigrants and the problems they set and solve are not so hazy after reading Professor Commons' articles on "Labor Conditions in Slaughtering and Meat Packing," "The Sweating System in the Clothing Trade," and "Slavs in Coal Mining." The disadvantages if not disasters of incorporation for trades unions are convincing in the symposium on that subject.

It would seem difficult for any business man or politician to read "The Miners' Union: Its Business Management," without a wholesome respect for the broad-minded ability and great power shown in the upbuilding of that vast organization.

Yet the volume must really be meant not for any of these, laboringman, businessman or student, but to rouse a third and neediest class of non-readers—all the tame-lived, clerkly mortals around whom the great industrial world seethes and to whom it is only a dim mass, undifferentiated, its vital impact upon them all unheeded. Fed only on their daily paper, which is carefully edited for politicians and advertisers, unused to the solid food which the unionists get in all their journals, the non-artisan, non-capitalist, the Alameda needs awakening, and this book will help. For in all its array of facts, histories and conditions, its six hundred pages tell one great truth, that the industrial world is a huge tangle, all its knots being pulled at and mostly being tightened.

ANGELINE LOESCH.

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The soil of a nation is primarily the property of the whole nation—the common inheritance of all.—Robert Giffen.