

and prosperity are consequently retarded.

Thomas W. Lawson's much criticised "assaults" upon the great insurance companies, as wanton libels calculated to undermine the sacred investments of "widows and orphans," have been speedily justified by the exposures of the very kind of breaches of trust in the Equitable which Mr. Lawson described. May it not be probable that other companies in the great insurance combine are as deep in the mud as the Equitable is in the mire, and that if there were a similar falling out in the management there would be similar disclosures? At any rate the Equitable exposure is a notable intimation to the open-minded to beware of warnings against Lawson's unverity. Whatever Lawson's reputation for veracity may be, confirmatory proofs of his accusations are piling up. His story of high-grade graft had better be listened to with an open mind and weighed without prejudice.

That Republican county convention of Erie, Pa., which formally declared on the 15th in favor of unlimited terms for all elective offices, including Congressmen, and of making breach of trust while in office the only reason for terminating official terms, spoke the true sentiment which now controls the Republican party. This is Hamiltonism undisguised; and the modern name for Hamiltonism is Republicanism. Life terms for judges, Hamiltonism has already given us; life terms for Presidents and Congressmen, it would like to give. Let the Republican convention of Erie county, Pa., be thanked for its indiscreet official formulation of the prevailing sentiment of its party.

In calling Joseph Medill Patterson into his cabinet as Commissioner of Public Works of Chicago, Mayor Dunne has further confirmed the confidence of his supporters in his determination to ex-

ecute the mandate of the people of Chicago regarding municipal ownership. Mr. Patterson's department already has general charge of the public water service and will doubtless have general charge of the public traction service. It is a department, therefore, which should be managed by an official in unmistakable and intelligent sympathy with the municipal ownership policy. This, together with the possession of business competency and public respect and confidence is the thing needful, and all three of these qualifications for the place are possessed by Mr. Patterson. At every step he has thus far taken Mayor Dunne has been conspicuously faithful to his campaign pledges to the people.

THE "SECRET" OF SUCCESS.

The mechanic who drops the uplifted hammer and turns from his work at the sound of the twelve o'clock whistle is not a writer of magazine articles on the "secret of success." It is the man who gets to his office at 9:00 a. m., and leaves it two or three hours before the whistle sounds at 6:00 p. m.—he it is who lays aside his golf sticks occasionally to publish to the world his indignation at the mechanic's want of careful interest in his employer's affairs.

Of course there are exceptions—on both sides, however.

No doubt it is very interesting to the young and unsophisticated starter in the race for the goal of commercial power and riches—very interesting to him, the stereotyped pipe dream of how Mr. Carnefeller rose to his commercial eminence via the rocky steeps of unremitting toil—"honest" toil, that took no note of time and that invariably subordinated all other interests to the supreme one of the employer. And of course, furthermore, the said unsophisticated, etc., is not likely to reflect that while Mr. Carnefeller was working as hard as he could, so also were some tens of millions of others; many of whom, at least, it were a base and cynical aspersion upon one's fellowmen to doubt, were quite as disinterestedly faithful and industrious; yet they

never reached the goal that is so confidently predicted for all the faithful.

Why did they not reach the goal? Because no such goal is generally attainable by honest labor.

The world of industry, familiar as we are with its practical detail, is nevertheless, in respect to the economic interaction of those details, a realm of mystery to the great majority of men. Else, how does it happen that intelligent, educated men credit the frequent statement of employers, that an advance in wages would wipe out profits, while at the same time they predict "success"—the kind of success their employers have achieved—for all who work as their employers think they ought to?

Think how greatly labor-saving machinery and other advanced economies of production have enlarged the whole industrial productivity, immeasurably beyond any possible achievement without these; and yet if the whole profits of competitive industry were added to wages, pro rata according to the different wage rates, the three-dollar man would not get more than \$3.30 per day, while the common laborer who receives a dollar and a half a day would get an increase of 15 cents, or a total of \$1.65 a day!

This is manifestly true, if the average rate of net profit in competitive industry does not exceed ten per cent. And the same persons who hold out to the laborer the promise of ample wealth—"success"—as the legitimate reward of faithful service, will assert, and prove, that profits are even less than that, in answer to the laborers' demand for an increase in wages!

No, the laborer is not a magazine writer; and so, when the space-filler pictures him in the act of dropping his uplifted hammer on the bench at the sound of the noon whistle, the poor fellow cannot answer back. The magazines are closed to him—all but the subscription books.

But here is the truth, namely: While the man who has achieved "success" is touring in his automobile, sailing in his yacht, rebuilding for his own glory some ancient European castle or squandering a hundred thousand dol-

lars on a dinner, millions who have worked as hard and as faithfully as he, are still toiling as hard as ever, ten hours a day, for wages inadequate to the needs of comfortable living. While the magazine writer is penning his studied insults to the American mechanic, he, the insulted, defenseless mechanic, continues to wield the hammer with such effect as to flood his country with riches, defying the competition of the cheap labor of Europe, and feeding gratuitously the famine-stricken peoples of the Old World.

While the monopolist—and the monopolist's press-writer flunky—are enjoying the fruits of his spoliation, the laborer toils on, and eats bread in the sweat of his face. He works the number of hours agreed upon for an agreed wage. Would you ask more than that? Then set him an example by paying him a penny more than his contract calls for! Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them—and do it first.

EDWARD HOWELL PUTNAM.

NEWS NARRATIVE

Week ending Thursday, April 20.

Celebration of Jefferson's Birthday.

Jefferson day banquets, which have come to be an occasion for burnishing up the democracy of the Democratic party, were quite generally celebrated on the 13th, the principal celebrations being in New York and Chicago.

In New York, the Manhattan Single Tax club gave its annual celebration of the day, with Benjamin Doblin as toastmaster and Charles Frederick Adams, Henry George, Jr., John S. Crosby, Lawson Purdy, Judge Seabury, Fred Cyrus Leubuscher and Chas. Sprague Smith as the speakers.

Also in New York there was a celebration by the Democratic Club, at which John Fox presided, and Mayor McClellan, Judge Parker, Senator Newlands of Nevada, and Congressman Rainey of Illinois were among the speakers. Judge Parker's address, which was very long, pointedly urged the Democratic party to avoid policies

calculated to alarm vested interests. Its spirit may be inferred from the following quotation with reference to the party:

It is not enough that it shall have a collection of fads—many of them useless and some of them dangerous and opposed to the historic party of our organization. We have already had too many of these, because it is safe to assert of a policy that if it is radical it is not Democratic; if it is Democratic it is not radical. . . . If we indorse, or accept, or even fail to oppose, any policy which shall directly or remotely suggest even the possibility of confiscation, or which, by any agitation so much as threatens the measures of values, we shall arouse the suspicions and invite the opposition of our people, whether their accumulations are invested in farms, town houses, mines, deposits in savings banks, insurance policies, or in our varied industries wherever found.

Senator Newlands' speech was set to a different key. He startled the Democratic audience by declaring that Roosevelt is the real chieftain of the Democrats; under whose courageous leadership "they will shackle greed and cunning, eradicate graft and fraud from the public service, and restore the simple ideals of the Republic." He continued:

The country demands democracy—whether under Republican or Democratic administration. Democracy is triumphant now if Roosevelt stands by democratic faith. If not, four years hence democracy will gird its loins for another struggle against plutocracy, which is strengthening in wealth and power every day and every hour. And its standard bearer will be the man who for years has been preeminent for steadfastness, for courage, for patience under defeat, for faith in the ultimate wisdom and power of the people; the man who has been undeviating, consistent, courageous; the man whose integrity nobody doubts and in whose sincerity everybody believes.

Congressman Rainey spoke in similar strain. Said he:

The election of last November demonstrates that there is no room in this country for two ultra-conservative parties. In the campaign last year the leaders of the Democratic party, local, State and national, were for the first time in many years working harmoniously together—all fighting for victory. We presented a strong candidate, most eminently fitted to fill the high office of President of the United States. But the Democrats who do the voting stayed at home or refused to vote. The Democratic party is nothing if it is not radical and progressive. The impression had gone out that the party was being made

a reflex of the Republican party. It was not a Democratic defeat—it was a Democratic default. . . . The aggressive element in the party must get together and conduct the fight in the future. There is no room now for conservatism. Nothing but aggressive, radical, concentrated action can successfully meet the problem of the future. We have enough enemies to fight in the Republican party—there ought to be no enemies to fight in our own ranks. The impression went abroad last year that we were simply fighting for the offices. We are fighting now for the right, and the air is filled with the shouting of triumphant Democracy."

Mayor McClellan's speech was cautiously platitudinous.

At the Chicago banquet (p. 9), under the auspices of the Jefferson Club, there were no discordant notes. Edgar L. Masters introduced to the guests that crowded the large banquetting room of the Sherman House, Howard S. Taylor as toastmaster, and Dr. Taylor presented in turn George Fred Williams of Massachusetts, Mayor Dunne, Mayor Johnson of Cleveland, Clarence S. Darrow, and William Jennings Bryan. From the first utterance to the last, all the speeches were pitched to the key of radical democracy. Mayor Dunne, referring to his own recent election in Chicago, said that—

the Democratic party won in the Spring election because its platform plainly, clearly, and truthfully declared for principles which were for the best interests of the people. It lost last Fall because its platform was a compromise and because the people believed it dealt in platitudes rather than principles. . . . The people have at last awakened to the fact that monopolies are unfair, iniquitous, and dangerous to the Republic. The blow struck in Chicago will be followed by blows of like character throughout the cities of the United States. It also will be followed, in my humble judgment, if the Democratic party is wise and prudent and incorporates in its next platform a ringing declaration in favor of government ownership of interstate railroads, telegraphs and express transportation, by a decisive victory in favor of the common people of this country. Aggressive democracy is in the saddle, and if it remains aggressive it will carry the country. If the Democratic platform contains one plank in favor of government ownership of interstate railroads, telegraphs, and express companies, and another in favor of the abolition of the protective tariff, I have no doubt that it will win.

One feature of this occasion was