

more people and perhaps influences more people than the word of any other living man. The sum total of his character, the idea of him formed in the popular mind, is by the very force of suggestion impressing itself upon American thought. If one asks what is the predominant note of this influence, it will be found that his word "strenuous" comes to mind, but not in the purest sense of this word—rather with the tone of restlessness and combativeness. The popular pictures represent him as a fighter and shooter.

The influence of these two heroes upon adults does not so much matter. It is when we think of the Boys of the land that we find the chief reason to dread and lament their effect upon American character. The young American thinks of them as fighting men, as men that stand for big armies and navies, and for the things that make for war and hostility in the world, rather than for brotherhood and peace among nations. They may not mean it to be so. President Roosevelt has indeed shown that he wishes international peace. Captain Hobson may think of his great navy as a preventive of war; but when he goes, as he is now engaged in doing, from Chautauqua to Chautauqua, preaching to the teachers of the land the necessity for more battleships, there is little doubt whither his influence tends. So with President Roosevelt, it is as a fighter, a rough-rider, that he has seized upon the youthful imagination.

Contrast the thought of a third public speaker, who is listened to whenever he speaks. The newspapers may still write of him as "Colonel," and they may continue to call him so till death, and yet no one will ever associate Bryan with the idea of killing things, whether bears or men, or with wanting to foster the means and instruments of warfare.

Which stands for the higher ideal and the better day?

J. H. DILLARD.

The Neutral—"You seem to take great delight in calling Bryan a foolish stickler."

The Reorganizer—"I do, but I would take a thousand times greater delight if he would only give me the right to call him a wise shifter."

G. T. E.

"PROSPERITY."

About five thousand years ago "prosperity" prevailed in Egypt in a more marked degree than it does in the United States to-day. Here, some of the proletariat are idle; there, every hand found something to do.

So strenuous, indeed, was the industrial activity of the Egyptian people that the laborers employed on a certain job had to be changed every three months. The job referred to was the building of the causeway from the quarries to the shore of the Nile to facilitate the transportation of the huge blocks of stone that were employed in the construction of the Great Pyramid. It took 100,000 men ten years to build this causeway.

When we reflect that the site of Cheops was 45 miles from the shore of the Nile, and that the work of quarrying, cutting and transporting the blocks, and of building the pyramid—this gigantic receptacle for the mummy of a single man!—when we reflect, also, that all their enormous labors constituted but a portion of those public services that were entirely useless, and had nothing to do with the necessary public service, but were in addition to it, designed merely to perpetuate the memory of one man, and that the principal business of the people was, of course, the supplying of the necessaries of common life and the extravagant luxuries of the court, we get some faint notion of the splendid "prosperity" that must have been enjoyed by that ancient people!

The foregoing is history. It is not overdrawn. On the contrary, it is underdrawn. I have not mentioned the task-masters, who urged, with whips, the toiling multitudes, while thousands were dying of the unbearable strain! All I wish to do is merely to establish the fact that, if full employment for all constitutes prosperity, then the ancient Egyptians had a much larger and more lasting prosperity than the modern world affords any example of; or that, on the contrary, if the ancient Egyptians were not more prosperous than we, then full employment for all is not prosperity.

Not only this, but we perceive that a people may be all employed, to the

limit of their endurance and beyond, and yet exist under conditions of universal adversity and extreme poverty.

Furthermore, realizing that the Egyptian people, though fully employed, were not prosperous, on the one hand, and that Khufu, the king, and his officials, on the other hand, were prosperous, we perceive that the prosperity of some and the adversity of others may accompany a condition of universal full employment.

Unless we are ready to affirm that human slavery is a blessed thing, we must deny that universal full employment even indicates a condition of general prosperity; it only indicates that there may be general prosperity. The question as to whether such condition really exists or not depends upon whether Khufu and his courtiers appropriate the bulk of the industrial product, or that product be equitably distributed among the people.

This is, obviously, not only true of Egypt five thousand years ago; it is true of all place and all time.

And it makes no difference whether Cheops and Chephren exploit the people by means of autocratic power, supported by the loyalty of court favorites, who are permitted to share in the plunder, or whether Rockefeller and Morgan exploit the people by any means whatsoever, supported by more or less people who are permitted to share in the plunder.

Cheops and Chephren will permit prosperity to whom they will, and to as few in number as may seem to them necessary in order to further their selfish interest; Rockefeller and Morgan may do the same, if they have the power.

This being true, it behooves us to inquire very seriously as to whether or not Rockefeller and Morgan, and their like, have the power to circumscribe the flow of prosperity, and if so, to what extent.

It may throw light (possibly a flood of light) upon the question if we first ascertain what is the source of the extraordinary powers that Rockefeller and Morgan certainly do possess.

Most men are agreed that Rockefeller has the monopoly of one of the staples of general use, namely, oil,

which gives him the power to name the price of it. Mr. Morgan is at the head of combinations that, among them, possess virtual monopolies of the iron, coal and copper mines, which exempts them from the influence of competition as a modifier of price. But the great majority of manufacturers, merchants, and business men generally, have no shelter in monopoly. Their prices are regulated by the degree of the stress of competition among themselves for whatever amount of business there may be.

Having these obvious facts clearly in mind, let us suppose a case: Suppose a demand for an advance in wages on the part of the workmen in the employ of the monopolists—the advance may be granted, and the cost recovered from the consumer, if the traffic will bear it. Suppose that now a manufacturer, buying his raw materials from the monopoly, and necessarily paying whatever price is demanded, and selling his finished product in competition with all the world, be confronted with a demand for an advance in the wages of his workmen—can he grant the demand and recover from the consumer? No! Can he recover from the monopoly in a lessened price for raw materials? No! Is not, then, the private manufacturer between the upper millstone, the monopolist of nature—raw materials,—and the nether millstone, the cost of labor?

My dear Mr. Private Manufacturer, you are most certainly in a very close corner! But you do not know it yet. The monopolist is not yet ready to show you just where you stand. It is to the interest of monopoly that you, "good, easy man," should continue for some time longer to imagine yourself a permanent beneficiary of the new regime. All the mineral lands are not yet monopolized. When they shall become so there will remain no longer any necessity for restraint on the part of the monopolist of nature. All access to nature (raw materials) being secured, how can the private manufacturer avoid becoming the mere agent of the monopolist?

If I own all the mines I will name the price that you must pay for materials—and I will charge "all that the traffic will bear." I will not

charge so much but that the ablest manufacturers will be able to buy, and continue in business, because that would be against my interest. But I will charge so much that the less able will be compelled to retire from the field, their business passing into the hands of the brighter, more capable and energetic; and I will compel these to exert their most strenuous abilities in my service—weeding out the weaker ones by stress of competition—a competition that never touches, but ever serves, me, because, thus, they that buy the raw materials of me are they that can pay the highest price for it—and live!

And now what? Why, the inventive and administrative genius of the world is at my service. Not a wheel of industry shall turn till it shall have paid my price for the privilege! Of what use is invention except it be impressed on material? And since the mines are mine, I can and will play one inventor against another till they yield up to me the greater part of the value of their genius.

By the power vested in me as owner of the iron, coal and copper mines, I will build up in the modern world a condition of universal "prosperity"—full employment for all; men, women and children,—that shall equal the "prosperity" of ancient Egypt—and be a good deal like it!—for, my power as the monopolist of access to nature's deposits of raw materials is as much greater than was that of Khufu as the intelligence of the business man of to-day is higher than that of the ancient Egyptian slave!

There is but one thing that I fear, and that is, that, some day, the people will conclude that it would not be dishonorable to tax my precious mineral lands as heavily as they tax their own values! But the common people are very jealous of their honor. Besides, they have, thus far, deferred to such men as I, and my class, as to what is honorable. And we have always been, and shall always be, glad to serve them in an advisory capacity! What the world demands, and what we insist upon, is "honest" money and "honest" taxation. So long as these remain, Egyptian "prosperity" will continue.

EDWARD HOWELL PUTNAM.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, June 18.

Details of the Servian revolution, which we were barely able to mention last week (p. 152), have been reported abundantly since, though without much agreement. Late in the afternoon of the 10th the Servian troops at Belgrade appear to have been got in readiness for the revolt. Detachments were ordered to surround the houses of the king's ministers; and the 6th regiment of the line, under Col. Maschin (whose brother was the queen's first husband), was ordered to surround the palace. Other troops were placed under orders to suppress any outbreak that might be made in behalf of the king. It is explained that the intention of the organizers of this movement was to secure the person of King Alexander, force him to send away Queen Draga, his wife, together with her two brothers (the elder of whom was understood to be her choice as successor to Alexander upon the throne), and in case of his refusal, to demand his abdication. Should the king prove obdurate throughout, he was to have been placed under arrest in the palace. This explanation is not regarded, however, as harmonizing altogether with the facts.

About 2 o'clock in the morning of the 11th Col. Maschin appeared with a small party at the palace gates. He and his party were challenged by the palace guards, who refused to obey the orders of Col. Naumovitch, one of the revolutionists though the king's adjutant, to admit them. Thereupon Col. Maschin brought up a company of his regiment, which killed the captain of the guard, overcame his men and entered the palace. The palace servants were made prisoners as fast as they appeared, and at every door soldiers were stationed with orders to shoot down anyone offering resistance. In consequence of this order several guards were bayoneted, and the Queen's youngest brother was shot.

The King having barricaded himself within his apartments, Col. Maschin burst open the barred and bolted doors with dynamite, whereupon Col. Naumovitch and another military officer entered. King Alexander faced them in the middle of the room, holding a revolver in his hand.