

—It was reported from New York on the 30th that Eugene V. Webs is expected to be made president of a new body of trades unions to be formed in opposition to the American Federation of Labor, of which Samuel Gompers is president. Preparations are being made to launch the new movement in Chicago on June 27 under the name of the Industrial Union.

—The Czar of Russia celebrated Easter by issuing a ukase remitting the peasants' arrearages of taxes and back payments on account of lands given to them at the time of their emancipation, amounting to about \$37,500,000; granting pardon to certain classes of prisoners, including those arrested for participation in the disturbances of Jan. 22 (vol. vii. pp. 674, 677), ordering that all Christian sects may exist without penalty; providing that converts from the orthodox faith and other Christian creeds shall not be punished; making lawful, changes of faith for which hundreds of thousands of families have been expropriated and exiled to Siberia; and decreeing that Mohammedan and other non-Christian subjects of the Czar, except the Jews, shall have equal rights and shall no longer be styled pagans. Nothing is conceded to the Jews.

### PRESS OPINIONS

#### THE CHICAGO STRIKE.

Chicago Tribune (Rep.), Apr. 29.—It is an irrepressible conflict. It has to be decided. We are glad it is to be decided now. The question whether the streets of Chicago are to be owned and operated by the people of Chicago or by the teamsters' union must be determined some day. Now is a good time to determine it.

Chicago Record-Herald (Ind. Rep.), Apr. 29.—This is an American, not a Russian, community. The will of the people may be expressed in law by the ballot. We have no place in our scheme of government for the bomb. Up to this time no law has been placed on the statute books authorizing President C. P. Shea, of the Teamsters' union, to announce that John Smith may drive one of Marshall Field's teams through the streets of Chicago, and that Thomas Brown is forbidden the same right.

Chicago Examiner (Dem.), May 2.—There is no reason why an absolutely non-partisan arbitration board should not settle the present disturbing strike. There is every reason why such a board should be charged with the duty of settling the strike at once. It is the height of folly to refuse a rational meeting-ground for conflicting interests.

Whoever really desires peace, whether sympathizing with the employers or the strikers, should have no hesitation in committing the interests of both factors to such a board. . . . There cannot be any sacrifice by either of the combatants in thus accepting high-class non-partisan mediators in bringing about an honorable peace. The acceptance of such mediation, it seems to us, will do more to inspire public confidence and sympathy than any resentment or reprisals can do. And this applies alike to the employers and the strikers. They both insist they have the right on their side. Let a non-partisan board mediate and settle.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (Dem.), May 2.—The labor people have gone as far as they can go in seeking an amicable adjustment of their differences with the employ-

ers. They have offered to submit their case to arbitration and have cooperated with Mayor Dunne fully and frankly in his endeavor to avoid further conflict. But the employers have stubbornly refused every advance. They have taken the bits in their teeth and there is every evidence of a set purpose to goad the labor people to such desperation that some act will lend excuse for the calling of armed troops into the controversy. The original suspicion that this strike was precipitated by the employers for the secret purpose of embarrassing Mayor Dunne in his fight for municipal ownership is strengthened by every circumstance which has developed since the trouble began. . . . The strike is evidently working to the satisfaction of the traction thieves who are sparring for wind against the results of the recent election. It has afforded them a breathing spell which they might not otherwise have gained. Mayor Dunne for the moment finds his hands tied. He cannot force the fighting against the traction monopoly because his last resource of energy is required in dealing with the industrial upheaval which threatens the peace and order of the community. He is bound to protect life and property. And while the employers are compelling him to devote his whole time to this function the traction grafters are busy with their plans to avoid the mandate of the people at the polls and to devise means for averting the dangers which threaten their crooked and outlawed interests. Meanwhile an effort is making to draw Mr. Roosevelt into the contest. An appeal is to be made to him to take a hand in the settlement of the difficulties between the teamsters and their employers. . . . The situation is instructive. It illustrates the tendency of the times. It shows how quickly the monopolist class runs to the centralized power whenever its hold is menaced. It suggests the real purpose of the growing military resources of the government. And labor may well stop to take account of its share in the establishments which are maintained at its cost.

#### ROCKEFELLER'S MONEY.

(London) New Age (Rad.), Apr. 20.—One of the clerical objectors urged that "the effect of accepting the gift from Rockefeller would be to strengthen his moral status in the community." Of course it would be, and that is precisely why Rockefeller gives the money. These financial robbers—the most astute and least scrupulous of mankind—know quite well the value of their gifts in strengthening their moral status. More than that, they calculate the business value of the support to be got by this means. Rhodes played the same game in South Africa, and it may be doubted whether he ever laid out money to better advantage than the sums he bestowed upon the churches.

### MISCELLANY

#### THE MAN AT THE MARGIN.

##### AN ECONOMIC BALLAD.

Dedicated to Oliver R. Trowbridge, Esq.  
For The Public.

The lord, who owned the wide estate,  
Had five great fields to till,  
And to five Brothers, small and great,  
John, Tom, Richard, Sam and Bill,  
It was his lordship's generous will  
To lease—at the proper rate.

John's yearly yield was—call it *ten*;  
Tom's *seven*; Dick's *five*; Sam's *four*;  
While Bill, who held a margin fen,  
A portion lying on the shore,  
Could get a scanty *two* no more,  
Tho' working might and main.

The gracious lord, obedient to  
The fixed Ricardian rule,  
Said: "William, I will trouble you  
For *one* as rent; now please keep cool,  
If you confine yourself to gruel  
With *one* you can pull through.

"You're at the margin, don't you see;  
The poorest land you've got,  
A bare subsistence there will be  
At that—er—rather barren spot;  
I feel, of course, for your sad lot,  
But rent's not caused by me."

The Brothers, John, Tom, Dick and Sam,  
Looked on and merely smiled;  
The selfish varlets felt no quail  
To see poor Bill with anger wild,  
Raging and crying like a child,  
Refusing to grow calm.

They grinned and seemed inclined to scoff,  
But a change they underwent,  
And instantly the smile came off  
As the landlord said: "Ahem—your rent,  
Dear sirs, will be the same per cent.,"  
And he gave a gentle cough.

"I mean," said he, "each of you will  
Give me his entire yield,  
Keeping the self-same share as Bill  
Who works the poorish margin field."  
Then over all those Brothers keeled  
And in a swoon lay still.

But when they woke, those men of gulle,  
They found 'twas even so;  
They saw the landlord's frozen smile,  
'Twas, "Pay the rent I ask or go!"  
And when they'd rallied from the blow,  
They thought for quite awhile.

And they saw the truth; since time began  
Ours is our Brother's case,  
His keepers we; the only plan,  
That Right may reign in every place,  
Is to get Justice for the race,  
And raise the Margin Man!

J. W. BENGOUGH.

Toronto, Ont.

#### EFFECTS OF GUARDED REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

An extract from an article by E. T. Shelly, M. D., on "The Optional Referendum," published in the Atchison Daily Globe of March 21.

It is said that in Switzerland, Guarded Representative Government has made it quite unprofitable for special interests to invest funds in the nomination and election of legislators, or to employ lobbyists, because of the ease with which the work of the lawmakers may be annulled by the people, if the people so desire.

The fact that the people have this power, acts, therefore, as a powerful deterrent to lawmakers to pass any laws of a questionable or corrupting character; and the effect on the character of the lawmakers themselves has been no less salutary than upon their lawmaking.

As soon as it became practically impossible to fasten vicious legislation upon the people of Switzerland, it is

said that a very much better class of men became willing to serve as legislators. Violent party prejudice passed away, and government by the politicians came to an end. In fact, as soon as the people themselves could say what laws should or should not pass, it made comparatively little difference what political party was in the ascendancy; and professional politicians, who can thrive only on "graft," had so little power for evil that they went out of business.

And this condition of affairs continues to this day. Indeed, it is maintained by those who ought to know, that Swiss lawmakers are uninstructed legislative experts who practically hold the relation to the Swiss people of an executive committee, with legislative powers, subject to revision by the people. If the work of these experts is satisfactory, no potential opposition to their lawmaking is offered; but when, in any instance, it is unsatisfactory, their work is at once annulled at the polls.

A peculiar effect which this system of lawmaking is said to have had in Switzerland is that "rotation in office" has practically disappeared. Public office is no longer looked upon as a private snap, to be passed around among "the boys." The government is conducted on business principles. Honesty, efficiency and economy are demanded of all public officials, and when an office holder proves himself worthy, he is retained in office as long as he will serve. It is said that no involuntary retirement from the Federal Council (the executive department of the Swiss government) has taken place since 1874.

**THE CANNIBAL AND THE MISSIONARY.**

THE DAWN OF TRUTH IN THE SOUTH SEA. IN MANY ACTS.  
For The Public.

ACT I.

The Missionary: I absolve thee, but spend thy remaining years in ever-humble repentance that thy God may forgive thee.

Cannibal: Repentance for what?

M.: For slaying that man yesterday, out of whose body you made a feast.

C.: What, that? Man? Well, hardly. He was of the Hinchokoe tribe, and no more a man than I an angel. They have neither the appearance nor habits of men. They live in the ground, eat nothing but nuts, roots, herbs, and such things, and they don't even hunt. Of all the sports none can equal the hunting of these Hinchokoes. They whoop and yell and make a great fuss, like they were afraid. And when they are hit and fall, they mumble as though

in prayer. Only a few days ago I was after this very one, but I missed him. Yesterday I got him after the most strenuous and exciting chase I have yet had.

M.: You have been guilty of the crime of crimes.

C.: His skin is orange color, his nose flat, his eyes large and cornered, he is peak-headed and round-backed.

M.: All men are equal in the eyes of their Maker, Our Lord.

C.: He has hair all up and down his back, like any other animal.

M.: The color of his hide or the shape of his body is immaterial. We are all the children of our Father in heaven.

C.: All his children?

M.: Yes, all. His love excludes none.

C.: Regardless of shape, size and color?

M.: Yes, every living thing is a creature of our Lord, and to kill is to sin against Him.

C.: Then you are no better off than I am.

M.: Why so, Sam?

C.: Didn't you kill a bird yesterday, and make a meal of it?

M.: Yes, I did; but birds and such things were meant for the food of man.

C.: Are not birds the creatures of God?

M.: Yes, but not in the same respect as man. God gave man the power to rule the earth and all that is on it. And he evidently intended the lower animals for the food of man.

C.: Then also the Hinchokoes.

M.: No. Though you think otherwise, the Hinchokoes are nevertheless a type of man. And God commanded man, saying: Thou shalt not kill. Every man is endowed with a spark of life from God himself; and to destroy life, however humble, is a violation of law, a sin against God.

C.: If the Hinchokoes are endowed with a spark of life from God, why not the birds and other animals? Or is there any other source of life, less sacred?

M.: No, God is the creator of all things.

C.: Also the birds and beasts that we eat?

M.: — Yes.

C.: Their spirit of life, then, is from God, as well as man's?

M.: — It must be so.

C.: And to kill is to sin. Then have we not been sinning a long time?

M. (After a thoughtful silence): You are right. We have both in our ignorance and thoughtlessness sinned against our God. But our Heavenly Father is merciful and will forgive us even this, if we in the future pay that utmost reverence

to every manifestation of life that we have lacked in the past. Let us go and sin no more.

The most sacred thing on earth is life, wherever and however found, and to make it happy, true and free shall henceforth be our aim.

Though I have gone wrong, I am happier than at any previous time in my life, for I have found a truth. It is as if the very birds hail me as a brother.

ANTON S. ROSING.

**FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN.**

Extract from a sermon by Herbert S. Bigelow, delivered in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 12, 1905.

"Washburn A" boasts of being the largest flour mill in the world. It is one of the monster mills for which Minneapolis is famous. Here the Father of Waters is made to grind the grist of the nations. To follow the wheat on its journey down floor after floor, through machine after machine, until, with hardly the touch of a human hand, it yields its golden treasure; to see the Mississippi harnessed to those mighty engines, feeding at man's command, the mouths of millions—this is a sight that the Psalmist should have seen who wrote: "Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor."

One does not think of the miller as a hero, or his occupation as dangerous. It is hard to believe that flour dust is as explosive as nitro-glycerine. On the walls of Washburn A. however, the visitor may read the following inscription: "This mill was erected 1879, on the site of Washburn Mill A, which was totally destroyed on the 22d day of May, 1878, by fire and a terrific explosion occasioned by the rapid combustion of flour dust; not one stone was left upon another, and every person engaged in the mill instantly lost his life. The following are the names of the faithful and well-tried employes who fell victims of that awful calamity." After the names of the martyrs of the mill, these words are added:

Labor, wide as the earth,  
Has its summit in Heaven.

Men freeze in lumber camps, that we may have shelter; they are buried in mines that we may have fuel; on the railroads alone, nearly 75,000 are killed or injured each year, and all that we have has been purchased by the blood of the martyrs. The cooperative commonwealth is not far distant. But for the elements of monopoly that still inhere in our industrial life, we would be a vast, half-conscious brotherhood, in which each man is serving another, in serving himself. But if these ele-