

In its issue of November 3 it claimed editorially that—

if there ever was a case where the consent to terms of settlement was secured by duress, the coal strike settlement is such an occurrence. The miners' union very shrewdly selected the occasion of a presidential election involving questions seriously affecting all industrial interests to push their scheme.

The same paper, in the same article, confessed that the condition of settlement imposed by the strikers, that the increased wages should continue for six months, was also forced upon the monopolists by the political situation, and that if it had not been demanded, the increase of wages would have been reversed after election, and the strikers made fools of. Premising that the fact already stated that the settlement was forced by the political conditions is also seen from the fact that the directors of the strike required the mine owners to pledge themselves to maintain the increased pay until the 1st of April, 1901, it proceeds:

That is to say, the strikers knew the arrangement was forced and was not an acknowledgment on the part of the operators that what they had been receiving was less than their proportionate share of the market price of the product. They feared that when the force was removed and the election passed the advance would be quickly rescinded. Hence, understanding the situation fully, they appended the time limit.

That is an interesting disclosure of the frustrated intention of the coal monopolists to outwit the strikers, and it is candid.

THE NEXT CAMPAIGN.

Since the presidential election the daily press has voiced once more the sentiment of many people, often expressed before, to the effect that our national campaigns are altogether too long. It is said that they interfere with trade and disturb business. They ought, it is declared, to be cut down to 30 days or even less. Why cannot we in this regard pattern after our English cousins?

Yes, there is no doubt about it, our presidential campaigns do, to a certain extent, disturb business and interfere with trade. So do our Sun-

days. So, also, do our holidays. So does sleep. All purely educational movements, as well as all pure forms of recreation, disassociated from professionalism, interfere somewhat with business and disturb or interrupt the onward sweep of trade. Why not abolish all these things? What do we live for, if not to engage in trade? Is not life for business, and not business for life? Away, then, with all such trade disturbances and interferences with business as our Sabbaths and the few holidays we have! Down with Thanksgiving day, Christmas, Washington's birthday and the Fourth of July! What can the paramount representatives of "the strenuous life" want with holidays? Instead of any longer saying, with Sancho Panza, "God bless the man who first invented sleep," let us offer a large reward for the invention or discovery of some machine or method which will utterly abolish sleep, because sleep does seriously interfere with trade and, in most lines, not simply disturbs but, for eight hours out of every 24, actually puts a stop to business. It is much worse, even, than a presidential campaign, from a purely business standing point.

To all, however, to whom such "strenuous" reasoning does not appeal, and who are still so old-fashioned as to believe that life is more important than business and more valuable than trade, it must be evident that our national campaigns are a great educational agency. They arouse thought, they impart instruction, they develop intellectual activity in relation to national affairs. It is not true in regard to the late campaign that "all was lost save honor." Its educational value was immense. Seed was sown which will never die. Other years, and perhaps other hands than ours, will reap the good harvest; but this is the way with all reform movements. They are not sudden conversions, nor speedy grafts, but slow growths.

It is true that the democracy did not succeed in educating up to the right point, during the campaign just closed, a majority of the voters. One great reason for this, of course, was lack of resources; still another was lack of time. Our national cam-

paigns, instead of being shorter, should be longer. They should be conducted with more deliberation, through a longer period of time, and consequently with more educational power.

Yet it is true, of course, that there is always some discount upon the educational value of work done in a political campaign. Let speakers speak and writers write as fairly, as earnestly and as conscientiously as they possibly can, hearers will hear and readers will read with a certain or uncertain amount of partisan bias specially difficult to overcome. The best educational work is probably done, therefore, through non-partisan channels and outside of specific political campaigns.

Of these non-partisan channels the new democracy (which is the old Lincoln republicanism and the older Jeffersonian democracy) should learn to make more use. Independent organizations, journals, platforms and pulpits should be utilized to the full.

Using the word campaign to connote this greater movement to educate the people up to a full comprehension of their rights and duties as citizens, up to a full understanding of what true democracy is and necessitates, when should the next campaign begin?

At once.

Now is not the time for inaction, much less is it the time for discouragement or despair.

True, educational processes, strictly speaking, cannot reach all minds.

Said one citizen to another the day after election: "Now I will put my money back into the bank."

"Did you take it out?"

"Yes," and with that he pulled from his pocket a great roll of bills.

"What did you do that for?"

"Well, I was afraid Bryan would be elected, and then I could not get my money!"

What can you do to educate such a mind? Nothing. The only kind of education that man could appreciate would be a squeezing between the upper millstone of monopoly and the nether millstone of destitution, and he will probably get it in due time.

However, such a person is not a fair specimen of the average American citizen. The average American is capable of being educated through information and appeals to reason. That is a gloomy pessimism which regards education as incapable of reaching the common people and of no use. Education is of use. The common people can be educated. What they chiefly need is what the dying Goethe prayed for, what we all, living or dying, need—"more light."

Despite the result of the recent election, the intentions and motives of the American people are worthy of all confidence. The great heart of America beats true.

It is said that the heart muscle, which so uninterruptedly throbs in the human breast, if its force were directed against a granite pillar the size of the human body, would, in the course of an ordinary lifetime, wear that granite pillar to dust. The simile holds good. Whatever granite pillars of imperialism, despotism or base appeal are erected in the pathway of the American people, the great, throbbing heart of America will in time wear them away.

It is sadly true, however, that at the present time a majority of the people do not understand. They neither know what are the rights of others nor how to maintain their own. They need education. And the next campaign of education cannot begin too soon nor continue too steadily.

If the leaders of democracy are wise, they will begin educational work for 1904 right away. It can be carried on through anti-imperialist leagues, anti-trust organizations, and many other independent and non-partisan channels, as well as through the regular machinery of party action.

"We must educate. We must educate, or we must perish by our own ambition." Never was this more true than to-day; nowhere was it ever more true than in America.

The worst foe to human knowledge, human progress, human rights, in America is not, as some think, the priesthood. It is not, as others think, the saloon. It is the daily press. There are, of course, noble and not-

able exceptions; but the daily press, as a rule, is owned, body and soul, by Mammon, and by its suppressed, its colored, its distorted news it hoodwinks and deceives the people and imprisons them in what Socrates rightly regarded as the worst possible ignorance—"the seeming and conceit of knowledge without the reality."

There are not a few weekly journals, however, which are truly independent, and the reading of which during the year amounts to a liberal education. These should be wisely distributed and strongly supported. This will act, in large measure, as the needed corrective for the misinformation of the daily press.

The lecture platform should be revived, rescued from the uses of mere amusement, and restored to the pristine vigor and worth which it possessed, as the people's university, in the days of Phillips, Parker and Beecher. This can be done. It is indeed true, as the Rev. Dr. George H. Peeke has said, that "the lectures which please most" are, for the most part, "full of wind and rose leaves," but it is also true that if those who believe in and desire social and political reform will send out, to give free lectures, men and women of power whose chief ambition is not to win applause nor to amass a fortune, but to instruct the teachable and inspire the patriotic, a large hearing can be obtained and a vast amount of educational work be done among the common people.

In these and other open ways, the next campaign should be begun at once. Four years is none too long in which to educate the people how to see, to think, to vote.

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NEWS

The most important event of the week, to Americans at least, is the opening, on the 3d, of the last session of the Fifty-sixth congress. And of that event the most important feature was the reading of President McKinley's message. It is a very long document and deals with a great variety of subjects, chief among them being the situation in the Philippines and the Chinese problem.

Beginning with congratulations upon our "individual and national prosperity," and assurances that "American liberty is more firmly established than ever before" while "love for it and the determination to preserve it are more universal than at any former period of our history," Mr. McKinley dwells for a moment in his message upon the larger statistics of our national growth, and then plunges into the Chinese question. His account of the evolution of this question is a model of clear statement, leading up to a presentation of the American policy on the subject. This policy, which he says has been adhered to consistently, he describes as having consisted first in rescuing the imperiled American legation at Peking; second, in obtaining redress for wrongs already suffered; and, third, in securing all possible safety for American life and property in China and preventing a spread or recurrence of disorders. Involved in this policy is the idea of "permanent safety and peace to China" along with preservation of her "territorial and administrative entity," protection of "all rights guaranteed to friendly powers," and maintenance of the "principle of equal and impartial trade" with all parts of the empire. These views coincide with "the views and purposes of the other cooperating governments," and negotiations for settlement accordingly are in progress. "The Russian proposition looking to the restoration of the imperial power in Peking has been accepted" by us; but "we forego no jot of our undoubted right to exact exemplary and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors" of the anti-foreign outrages. For them, "full expiation becomes imperative, within the rational limits of retributive justice." This is "the initial condition" of settlement. An essential factor of durable settlement is a guarantee by China of freedom of worship, and a question of grave concern is the matter of indemnity. China may not be able to pay an adequate money indemnity, yet all the powers disclaim any purpose of dismembering the empire by demanding land grants. In this dilemma President McKinley is "disposed to think that due compensation may be made in part by increased guarantees of security for foreign rights and immunities, and most important of all by the opening of China to the equal commerce of the world." But he inclines favorably, in the event of disagreement among the co-