

The Public

Sixth Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1904.

Number 309.

LOUIS F. POST, Editor.

Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post Office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last page.

Some Democrats — most of them plutocrats at heart—love Grover Cleveland for some of the enemies he has made. But the masses of the party, those who are democrats at heart as well as by partisan affiliation, they distrust him for many of the friends he has made.

Having subjugated the Boers in the Transvaal in the name of civilization, the British imperialists are now proposing to Christianize Chinese laborers by bringing them to the Transvaal and holding them there as slaves—in “a delightful bondage,” as these graft-hunting word-mongers phrase it. Imperial civilization and a devilish Christianity go well together in the merry chase after unearned dollars.

In two years — December 10, 1905—the centennial anniversary of the birth of William Lloyd Garrison occurs, and Whim suggests that it be made the occasion of a hearty outburst of appreciation. Every lover of liberty will second that suggestion. William Lloyd Garrison was a splendid embodiment of the spirit of uncompromising enmity to wrong. “I will be as harsh as truth and as uncompromising as justice. I am in earnest. I will not equivocate; I will not excuse; I will not retreat a single inch; and I will be heard.” Those were Garrison’s words of faith, and that is the spirit that has accomplished everything in the moral world worth accomplishing since time began. Garrison’s memory is not alone a subject for celebration by Negroes, although the Negro who should be

indifferent would be despicably ungrateful; it calls for marked recognition by all races and classes who in this era of retrogression from high moral standards see in devotion to those standards the only hope for true and lasting progress in everything.

The school of economists who have been assiduously teaching the upside-down doctrine that the value of the finished product determines the value of the constituent materials, may now stand up and explain why flour has advanced in price in response to the advance in the price of wheat. And while they are at work upon this problem they might also subject their work to the test of prophecy. Thus: When the price of flour declines will it follow or precede, be the effect or the cause, of a decline in the price of wheat? They might also profitably consider the suggestion that perhaps they are overworking the demand side of the supply-and-demand equation. While it may be true that demand operates to affect the price of materials through the price of finished goods, it may also be true that supply operates conversely to affect the price of finished goods through the price of materials. And when this thought is followed out to the end, it may be found that supply rather than demand is the determining factor, since supply has natural limitations and demand has not.

David M. Parry’s real object in making a crusade against trade unionism has now been exposed by his own non-union employees. He has pretended that his object is to protect workmen from the slavery of unions. But the strike last week of his own non-union workmen tells a different story.

Since August last he has systematically forced down piece wages in his factory, by cut after cut, until the reduction aggregates over 25 per cent. As his men were unorganized and were not allowed to deal with him in a body—being absolutely free men, with no trade union shackles enslaving them!—they were compelled to submit to these reductions. But Parry’s last wages-cut broke these freemen’s will. They organized and struck. Whereupon Parry found other free men to take the strikers’ places—free men so helplessly in the unobstructed enjoyment of Republican prosperity, that they did this rather than starve. Mr. Parry’s notion of freedom would have delighted old Senator Toombs, of ante-bellum memory, who expected to call the roll of his slaves at Bunker Hill.

It is strange that anyone should be fooled by the drivel of men like Parry about the slavery of trades unionism. Unions are voluntarily organized. No one need join them if he doesn’t want to. Neither do they keep any workmen out who want to come in. To call that sort of thing slavery is either to display lack of intelligence or to assume that the public lacks intelligence. Yet Parry has imitators. One of them is a certain Chicago judge whose services are in extraordinary demand when employers want injunctions against strikers. His name is Holdom. This judge has within a few days imposed jail sentences upon labor union officials for acts which if committed at all were indictable crimes. Yet Holdom tries them without a jury, and upon affidavits drawn in lawyers’ offices, and, regardless of the denial to them of the ordinary safeguards for the innocent, convicts and sentences them. In this he acts in accordance with the ordinary pro-