

permanent position, or increase of salary without change of position, applicant shall, within 30 days, pay to the company a commission equal to one week's salary. If applicant is paid by the month, the commission due the company shall be one-quarter of one month's salary.

(9) That for a temporary position applicant shall pay to the company one-tenth of amount earned in such position, for a period not to exceed ten weeks.

Besides that contract, which goes on at great length in the same strain, there is this form to be filled out by the applicant:

Name? Residence?  
 Kind of position desired? Salary?  
 Have you a position now? If so, with whom?  
 What is their business? Address?  
 What is the nature of your position?  
 Why do you wish to change?  
 When did you enter their employ?  
 What is your salary?  
 When were you born? Where?  
 Nationality of your parents? Give father's business.  
 What is your height? Weight?  
 Health? Religion?  
 Are you married? What, and how many persons are dependent on you for support?  
 Do you live at home, keep house, or board?  
 In what way, and to what extent, do you use tobacco?  
 Do you smoke cigarettes?  
 To what extent do you use intoxicating liquors, etc., etc., etc.?  
 Give accurately your occupations or employments during past ten years, and previous thereto, if any.  
 Name five persons well acquainted with you, wherever you have lived in last five years. Do not name your relatives nor previous employers.

That might seem just a little impertinent to applicants who had read the speech of the late president, delivered the day before he was shot, in which he said:

My fellow citizens, trade statistics indicate that this country is in a state of unexampled prosperity. The figures are almost appalling. They show that we are utilizing our fields and forests and mines, and that we are furnishing profitable employment to the millions of workingmen throughout the United States, bringing comfort and happiness to their homes and making it possible to lay by savings for old age and disability. That all the people are participating in this great prosperity is seen in every American community

and shown by the enormous and unprecedented deposits in our savings banks.

But what we have quoted is no more contradictory of partisan assurances that prosperity is universal than the confession, on September 30, of the Cleveland Leader, Senator Hanna's home organ, that—

Tens of thousands of workingmen and workingwomen go to their daily toil fortified by a breakfast of bread and coffee, without meat and cream, which in hundreds of homes are regarded as luxuries at breakfast time.

Some of the papers are printing the pictures of a rather interesting baby whose name is John Nicholas Brown. Baby Brown is estimated to be worth \$6,000,000 in his own right. The inference is that this much wealth now existing is his. But of course that is not true. He has very little existing wealth—either in money or clothes or food or other products of past labor. What he has is a collection of papers certifying that he is entitled to levy upon the future productions of other people. If other people stopped giving him portions of their earnings—stopped exporting to him except in proportion as they imported from him—he would soon be not much richer than any other baby. But at only two per cent. his fortune of \$6,000,000 will yield him future wealth at the rate of \$120,000 a year. This is equal to the labor of some 200 men at \$2 each a day. So Baby Brown controls the equivalent of 200 \$2-a-day slaves who work all day for him and support themselves by working after hours. In consequence it is estimated that by the time he is come of age his fortune, instead of having dwindled from \$6,000,000 will have increased to \$30,000,000. Thus in 21 years or less, without working at all, this extraordinary baby will have earned some \$24,000,000. What will his contemporary babies, who find that they have to work in order to earn—what will they probably think when they understand the secret of Baby Brown's self-acting prosperity?

To optimists who are sure that

there are no classes in this country we commend a thoughtful consideration of the following really intelligent paragraph from the Chicago Tribune of October 21:

The day when a large proportion of young fellows who learn a trade may confidently hope to become themselves employers is passing—not because the youth of to-day possess a smaller stock of economic virtues than their predecessors, nor because their opportunities for saving are less, but because the amount of capital which they must control before they can set up for themselves is so much greater. Now men who believe that they have small chance of breaking into the employing class will naturally concern themselves less with attempts to gain a position of greater authority than with attempts to make the best of their lot as workingmen—that is, to get the highest wages employers can be induced to pay.

The New Age, of London, again directs attention to the murders that Lord Kitchener is committing in Cape Colony, by quoting a letter from R. K. Cherry, K. C., whom it describes as an eminent authority on constitutional law. The distinguished barrister published his letter in the London Daily News. He writes of "the trial, conviction and execution of rebels by military tribunals," of which the London public are informed from day to day, saying that these proceedings are "unknown to the law," having been instituted "without any authority whatever, either from the imperial parliament or the Cape parliament." After quoting from Dicey's "Law of the Constitution," than which there is no higher authority on the subject, he continues:

Now, if this statement of the law is correct, and there is no reason whatsoever to doubt it, not only are the various tribunals now administering so-called justice under martial law in Cape Colony as illegal and unconstitutional as the various committees which sat in Paris during the terror; but everyone who takes part in the so-called trial of a rebel, everyone who in any way assists in carrying out the sentence of death passed upon a rebel, is guilty of murder. If put on trial on their return to England, a judge would be bound to direct a jury to convict them of murder, and a jury, unless they disre-

garded their oaths, could not acquit them. The constitution has frequently been suspended in Ireland during the last century, but never without the authority of parliament, never by the mere proclamation of the executive, as in this case.

This opinion confirms that of Fred-eric Harrison, which we published recently at page 443.

In his Thanksgiving proclamation, President Roosevelt takes occasion to flatter the American people upon having "been able to work for our own uplifting in things intellectual and spiritual." It is not to be presumed that the president would play upon words in so solemn a state paper; yet what can be made of that sentence except that we have "been able" to work for spiritual uplifting but haven't done it? If ever a people were guilty of visible spiritual backsliding, this people has been since it began its career of sanguinary conquest. Tried by the president's own idea of spirituality as phrased in the same proclamation—"we can best prove our thanksgiving to the Almighty by the way in which on this earth and at this time each of us does his duty to his fellow men"—what claim can the American people honestly make to spiritual elevation? The memory of thousands of Filipinos whom we have slaughtered for defending their country against our invasion should be a perpetual rebuke, until we repent of that national crime, for any pretense that we are doing our duty to our fellow men.

Nominally for the suppression of anarchy, but really for the manufacture of anarchists, for that will be its practical effect even if it is not the actual intention, an organization has sprung up under the incorporation laws of Illinois which calls itself "The Republic." Like the "A. P. A.," of evil memory, it is a secret organization. And one at least of its methods of work is peculiarly vicious. We quote from its circular soliciting membership:

to ostracise anarchists socially and financially, thereby rendering them helpless and dependent creatures.

Could any better plan than that be conceived in the minds of a million devils, for making wild beasts of ostracized men? Here is a private organization, an irresponsible organization, a secret organization, which collects its own evidence by secret means, sits in judgment upon it in secret conclave, gives the accused no opportunity to be heard nor even to know that his opinions are being investigated, and then pursues him mysteriously and relentlessly, not only cutting him off from social relationships, but closing to him all opportunities for making a living. If he is in independent business, he finds his business sinking under him as if by some spell of black magic. If he is a workingman, his jobs melt away as fast as he gets them. In all cases the victims become, in the language of the circular, "helpless and dependent creatures." Yet they don't know where the blow comes from nor why it comes. They are victims of a secret band which assumes to decide whether they ought to live in society or not, and in its own lawless way executes its own lawless decrees. This band is itself in the wicked sense of the term, an anarchistic organization.

Whether anarchistic opinions ought to be suppressed or anarchists outlawed is not the crucial question in this connection. The question which this organization brings forward is whether what constitutes an anarchistic opinion or who shall be treated as anarchistic persons may be determined in that manner or punished in that way. What guarantee is there that law-abiding persons would escape outrages on the part of this society? Every man's rights would be subject to the vindictiveness of its malicious members and at the mercy of its secret decrees. No government can safely tolerate such a society within its jurisdiction.

In addition to the outrages upon innocent individuals of which a society like that would be guilty, consider its effect upon the public peace. It would provoke assassination and nurture assassins. When men found themselves ostracized financially, their business ruined and every avenue of employment closed, by a mysterious but palpable influence, what would they be apt to do? No matter whether they had been anarchists or not, they would have to be men of strong minds not to become homicidal lunatics, or, escaping that malady, they would have to be superlatively angelic in spirit not to become wilful assassins. Feeling that every man's hand was against them, they would raise their hands against every man. No one's life would be safe, who, though for the best of reasons, declined to employ one of these desperate outcasts. And where would the fault lie? Manifestly at the doors of the secret society which had set about condemning and ostracizing them "socially and financially, thereby rendering them helpless and dependent creatures." Such a society is a criminal conspiracy. If incorporated, as its promoters say it is, the charter should be revoked. Of course these men may be fools rather than criminals. Or their circular may be a fat-witted hoax. But criminal or foolish, serious or a joke, their circular, which bears the name of L. R. Hazen as "supreme president," and A. E. Gosso, "29 South Forty-eighth avenue, Chicago," as "supreme secretary," should receive the attention of the grand jury.

If this secret organization were the only thing of its kind, it and its notoriety-seeking promoters might be ignored. But secret agencies with similar sinister purposes are indirectly at work, more discreetly, yet no less viciously and lawlessly. Instances are reported of the discharge from employment recently of peaceable, law-abiding, estimable and competent persons for no other reason than that they hold views which inspire igno-