

treat them all alike. Each and every one is a menace to our political safety.

Those are the words of an obscure man, it is true; but that obscure man gives voice to a sentiment which is fast gaining ground in plutocratic circles. And unless the suffrage be extended, we may be sure that this sentiment will soon be able further to limit it. Let there be no mistake. Here is a real menace to the working classes. What the working negroes are to the whites at the south, so the working whites at the north are to be to the rich. The disfranchisement of the one class will be followed by an attempt to disfranchise the other.

One word further about the suffrage may be useful here. The ballot is not a privilege; it is a substitute for the bullet. When any class is denied a voice in government, that class has a right to rebel against governmental authority, and in doing so to shoot and to kill. This is a natural right. Nihilism is justifiable in Russia, because in the absence of the ballot there it is only through violence that the people can express themselves. But nihilism is justifiable in no country where the people have the ballot, because they may there express their wishes through the ballot. The ballot is not a gift of power; it is a substitute of one kind of power for another—of peaceable power for violent power. To refuse it, therefore, to any class is to leave that class in the state of nature in which, like wild animals, they have the right to defend themselves with violence. To take the ballot away from any class, is to relegate that class back to the state of nature where they too have the right to defend themselves in the natural way. Such is the theory of the ballot. It rests upon no other. It is simply a more or less imperfect improvement upon and substitute for physical weapons, an improvement in the interests of domestic peace. These poor fools who talk so glibly about restricting the ballot to the intelligent, the moral and the wealthy, don't dream of the disasters

they are inviting. A disfranchised class is a dangerous class; the larger it was the more menacing it would be.

What this country needs is not the disfranchisement of the uneducated, the un-moral and the poor, but the restoration to all of their morally inalienable right to an equal share in the natural, social and industrial opportunities for development of which landlordism divests them. Plutocracy should know that it can neither cure nor escape the evils of the poverty which it creates and intensifies, by merely disfranchising the poor. In justice alone is peace to be found.

The career of Chris Magee, the republican boss of Pittsburgh, should be told to every poor boy, to prove to him that even the poorest may in this country rise not only to greatness, but to wealth. Nothing but prudence and industry is needed. Chris Magee, starting poor, and now, less than 50 years of age, is a millionaire many times told. What made him rich is a long story, but one incident in his career is significant. A wealthy widow asked him once about the advisability of her making a present to the city of a tract of 500 acres of her land, for the purposes of a park. Magee advised favorably, but suggested secrecy until he could talk the matter over with other leading citizens. This illustrated his prudence. Then he got options on all the neighboring lots that were for sale. This required indefatigable work, which indicated the industry of the man. After that Magee industriously promoted the park scheme, and as it attracted people to the neighborhood, the lots around the park increased in value and added enormously to his hard-earned hoard.

Mr. Magee has other ways of making money. Besides owning much land, which increases upon his hands with the mere growth of the city, he owns street railroads which suffer nothing from the fact that he is all-powerful in politics, and a newspaper which conserves all his inter-

ests. Everybody can do what Chris Magee has done. It's "as easy as lying."

Alongside of Chris Magee's prosperity it may be well to place the accounts of pauperism in New York—not of poverty, for that would be much greater, but only of pauperism. The number of persons who received charitable relief in the state of New York last year is officially reported to have been 2,551,455—a larger number of people than the entire population of Chicago. And this number is said to be a minimum estimate. If accurate returns could be obtained, so it is stated, the number would be increased by another million and a quarter. May it not be possible that there is some relation of effect and cause between the enormous population of the impoverished which these figures indicate, and those enormous fortunes, of the origin and magnitude of which Chris Magee's is an illustration?

A congressional committee is now in session at Chicago, charged with the investigation of the postal deficit. If one of its members is to be believed, the deficit cannot be much reduced by any curtailment of expenditures; the only remedy is to increase receipts. This member is E. T. Loud, a representative in congress of the Southern Pacific railway, and from sympathy, of all the other monopoly railway interests of the country. He comes from California. In an interview in the Chicago Record on the 21st, Mr. Loud said:

My proposition is to cut off sample copies of publications, advertising sheets and serial stories, from the privilege of second-class matter. This would relieve the department of an enormous amount of work and would reduce expenses accordingly. I do not think it would in any way interfere with the business of legitimate newspapers.

The soundness of Mr. Loud's idea of a legitimate newspaper may be questioned. The kind of newspapers that expose the iniquities of