

any balanced inquiry into the nature of things.

Reflect a moment upon it.

Exchange of work is the law of social existence. This is a proposition which no one will dispute.

As exchange becomes unbalanced, so that some get more than they earn, while others earn more than they get, society falls into disorder. Neither is that proposition open to controversy.

The social problem, therefore, is how to secure an approximate equilibrium of exchange at which the work that each does for others shall be approximately equal in usefulness to the work that others do for him.

Obviously, that equilibrium cannot be approached by means of slavery. Slavery takes forcibly from workers for the benefit of idlers. Neither can it be approached by creating monopoly, which is essentially a form of slavery—a subtle form, but slavery none the less.

Can it, then, be approached by some voluntary mode of working regularly and mutually for one another without exacting regular and fair exchanges? Possibly. Whoever denies it assumes a power of foreknowledge which no human mind possesses. A world is conceivable where each will work faithfully to help fill up a common storehouse, drawing from the storehouse only what he needs. In that case, though some would get more than they earned and others would earn more than they got, each would act voluntarily and none could complain. But if it is an unwarranted assumption of foreknowledge to deny such a possibility, it is still more unwarranted to assert it. So far as human experience throws any light upon the question, a fair adjustment of work under such communistic conditions is possible only in societies where each is bound to all by religious inspiration and obligations. A single black sheep in the flock makes havoc with the adjustment.

It is consequently reasonable to infer that the communistic method of distribution will not secure an approximately equitable adjustment of work exchange in society at large unless each member of society comes under the influence of the religious im-

pulse—of the impulse, that is, which obliges him to love his neighbor equally with himself. There is a possibility, of course, that this condition, too, may result from communism. But at the present stage of development, he who denies it has the better of the issue, upon the circumstantial evidence.

Now, when we consider the effectiveness in maintaining a just equilibrium of distribution, which the exacting of pay for work produces to the extent that its operation is undisturbed by legalized monopoly, we may fairly ask an explanation, a more rational one than has yet been put forth, of the necessity, in the interest of equity and brotherhood, of trying to adopt a method which cannot operate justly unless all whose interests it involves become just. To work without exacting pay is to refer the question of equity in distribution to the least just. What equitable necessity is there for that, when exacting pay for work refers the question of equity to the mutual agreement of the two persons who are necessary to every exchange and who are the only persons capable of judging its equities?

To the fair operation of that method of exchange only one thing is necessary. It is the abolition of monopoly, of every privilege created by law which directly or indirectly gives to one person in a trade an advantage over the other.

The urging of communistic ideals regarding obligations to work without exacting pay, instead of urging the abolition of monopoly, is therefore very like dreaming away the hours when active and sane agitation is imperatively needed, as if they were the listless hours of that drowsy place where it is always afternoon. Whatever ideal of social reform may be ultimately realized, the first rational movement must be the clearing away of obstructions to the exchange of work upon the basis of exacting pay. Though the time may come when each will put into a common storehouse according to his abilities and withdraw from it according to his needs, he being himself the judge of each, the time that has now come de-

mands that each shall put into the storehouse the equivalent of what he takes out.

NEWS

Reference to the map of South Africa is necessary to a clear comprehension of the week's military movements in that region, which have been important. Turn first to the Transvaal district lying east of the railroad from Johannesburg to Pretoria, and bounded on the north by the railroad from Pretoria to Lourenzo Marquez and on the south by that from Johannesburg to Durban. As stated in our report of last week (page 696), Lord Kitchener began early in the month a great offensive movement in this district, which was designed to sweep the Boers out of the eastern Transvaal. Seven British columns, moving eastward in wide, fan-shaped order, and keeping in constant communication with one another, were to drive everybody before them and to denude the country of everything that might serve to support Boer troops. On the 6th these columns occupied Ermelo, a point about midway between the railroads. Though the resistance is described by Lord Kitchener to have been slight, he reports very heavy Boer casualties, and a British loss of 24 killed and 53 wounded. Gen. Botha, he says in his dispatch of the 9th, is retiring eastward, before the seven British columns, with a force of 7,000 men, and the movement has "thoroughly upset all the" Boer "calculations and created a regular panic in the district."

Turn now to the Orange Free State. This is the region of De Wet's operations. At the time of our last report, Kitchener's advances placed De Wet to the north of Thabanchu, which lies almost due east from Bloemfontein. But in his dispatch of the 9th he indicated his belief that De Wet was going westward, across the north and south railway line to the south of Jagersfontein road, which is 75 miles or more below Bloemfontein. A hard fight had taken place on the 31st, in which the British were distinctly worsted by De Wet, who thereby made good his southerly movement into Cape Colony. The British had set a trap for him. Seven columns, one of which was commanded by Maj. Crewe, another by Col. Pilcher and a third by Gen. Knox, had started out from

Bloemfontein with the design of forcing him upon a British corps concentrated at a convenient point on the Orange river, east of the railroad. On the morning of the 31st Maj. Crewe, who had swung northward and eastward and was now moving southwest, came in sight of Tabaksberg, a mountain 40 miles east of the railway between Small Deel and Bloemfontein, and hearing heavy firing on the farther side, where Col. Pilcher was supposed to be, hurried across to Pilcher's assistance. He met a force of Boers streaming down the mountain side, apparently retreating before Pilcher, and began to attack them. But they welcomed him so warmly that he was soon forced to retreat, his enemy following him closely and driving him into an ambush from which he escaped only with great difficulty. On the following morning Maj. Crewe continued his retreat in the direction of Gen. Knox's column, which he eventually reached, though compelled for miles to fight a harassing rear guard action. Upon returning to Bloemfontein, Maj. Crewe was highly commended by Lord Kitchener for his achievement in getting back.

After this brilliant victory over Maj. Crewe—in fact, over Kitchener, for he escaped the trap—De Wet crossed the railroad westward between Jagersfontein road and Springfontein, capturing a train of cars in his progress. On the 10th, according to unofficial reports of the 13th, he crossed the Orange river a few miles north of Norval's point, and, accompanied by President Steyn, was then making for the Cape Colony town of Philippstown with a force estimated at 3,000.

Official reports of British casualties in the South African war down to January 31 show the following totals:

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| Killed in action..... | 4,356 |
| Died of battle wounds..... | 1,191 |
| Died as prisoners of war..... | 106 |
| Died of disease..... | 7,793 |
| Accidental deaths..... | 205 |
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| Total deaths..... | 13,651 |
| Missing..... | 905 |
| Sent home as invalids..... | 38,624 |
| Killed and wounded since compilation of above figures..... | 1,000 |
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| | 54,180 |

The above table does not include

colonial troops invalided home (4,000), nor invalids under treatment in hospitals of Africa (17,000), nor casualties among pro-British civilians (2,000).

The Philippine subjugation proceeds more successfully than that of the Boers, according to the Manila dispatches. Some fighting in the archipelago is reported, but the dispatches are devoted chiefly to accounts of surrenders of Filipino detachments, to enthusiastic welcomes of American sovereignty, to arrests of insurgents and their friends, to the organization of provincial governments, and so on. On the 12th, President McKinley's commissioners—Taft, Worcester and Moses—along with Gen. Grant and three members of the native federal party, Arellano, Tavera and Flores, went to Bacolor to organize a provincial government for the province of Pampanga. The town was profusely decorated for their reception, with flags and pictures of Washington and McKinley. The work of provincial organization began on the 13th, when the officers of the province and their salaries were announced, as follows: Sekrina Joven, governor, \$1,600; Mariano Cuanan, secretary, \$1,000; Lieut. William A. Goodale, treasurer, \$2,400; Lieut. Lawrence Butler, supervisor, \$1,800; Juan Garcia, fiscal, \$1,350. Gen. MacArthur cables prediction of entire suspension of hostilities throughout Luzon at an "early date." Some discord between the civil and the military representatives of American sovereignty in the Philippines is legible between the lines of the Manila reports.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of the current official reports given out in detail at Washington to February 13, 1901, are as follows:

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| Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91)..... | 1,847 |
| Killed reported from May 16, 1900, to the date of the presidential election, November 6, 1900..... | 100 |
| Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period..... | 468 |
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| Total deaths to presidential election..... | 2,415 |
| Killed reported since presidential election..... | 36 |

Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period..... 159

Total deaths.....2,610
Wounded since July 1, 1898.....2,410

Total casualties since July, '98.....5,020
Total casualties to last week.....5,006
Total deaths to last week.....2,596

Cuba practically completed her constitution on the 11th. The question of the nativity of the president, referred to last week (page 696), was then decided so as to make Gomez eligible. The vote stood 15 to 14, two delegates, both classed in the affirmative, being absent. The various committees have been instructed to designate one member each for a central committee to draft a plan regarding the relations that are to exist between Cuba and the United States. One of the clauses of the constitution relates to the public debt. It provides that debts contracted prior to the promulgation of the constitution, except those contracted on behalf of the Cuban revolution after February 24, 1895, shall be void.

In American politics the most notable formal event of the week was the election of president and vice president of the United States. The two houses of congress assembled in representatives' hall on the 13th, where the returns from the electoral college were then read and computed and the president of the senate, Mr. Frye, announced that 292 votes had been cast for McKinley and Roosevelt and 155 for Bryan and Stevenson, and that the former were therefore elected for the term of four years from March 4, 1901. The proceedings were finished within an hour.

The most important political event, however, was the celebration on the 12th at Columbus, O., of Lincoln's birthday by the Jefferson-Jackson-Lincoln league, of which Congressman John J. Lentz is president. This league is local in its initial organization, but it contemplates a national movement in support of democratic democracy. Its motto is: "Truth loses battles, but wins wars: Truth lost a battle at Bunker Hill, but won a war at Yorktown." The first part of this motto is credited by the league to The Public, in a pleasant letter which explains that—in searching for a brief expression and summary of our determination