

duce their autocratic government to recognize their rights. But there is no excuse for the American who, refusing to make intelligent use of the liberties he possesses to right his wrongs, resorts to dynamite. If Labor is ever to remedy the evils under which we live and toil, it must do so by intelligent reasoning. It can never succeed by brute force. The little paper ballot falls as noiselessly as snowflakes on a grassy lawn, but it expresses the will of a freeman more eloquently than the roar of cannon. The intelligent use of it is Labor's only hope. In the proper use of the ballot the workers are invincible.

G. W. AVERY.



'WITHOUT ANY VERY GREAT CONSCIOUS MORAL TURPITUDE.'

Denver, Colo.

The above phrase is quoted from this apology by Mr. Roosevelt in his "Murder Is Murder" article, an apology for men engaged in Big Business:

We are not here dealing with any of the kinds of offenses incidental to the sudden and sweeping changes brought about by modern industrial conditions into which capitalists and labor men are sometimes drawn without any very great conscious moral turpitude on their part.

Observe how carefully modified is "moral turpitude."

To see the "offenses into which capitalists are drawn" without any very great "conscious" moral turpitude on their part is easy. Doubtless the tragedy of the Triangle Shirt-waist factory in New York is one of these "offenses." The bursting of a dam in Pennsylvania, the explosion of a mine in Tennessee, the numerous railroad accidents all over the country, the frequent disasters in Colorado mines where men perish by scores—were these in Mr. Roosevelt's mind when he wrote of "offenses without any very great conscious moral turpitude" on the part of the offenders?

Such offenses are capitalistic, but what offenses are "the labor men" guilty of that can be excused on the ground that they lack consciousness of moral turpitude?

Legally considered, to destroy human lives without "conscious moral turpitude" is not murder; but for Mr. Roosevelt to touch the matter so jauntily in one sentence and in the next froth at the mouth over the McNamara case is one of the signs of the times that he who runs may read. What else can we expect of one who has lauded and magnified the "Captains of Industry" so persistently and vociferously? Material progress has been glorified to the setting aside of all that makes for human brotherhood, and by none more than the writer of "Murder Is Murder." If class hatred is the result who is to blame?

CELIA BALDWIN WHITEHEAD.



CLEVELAND TRACTION.

New York City.

As a stockholder in the Cleveland Railway Company I have received a proxy to be made out in favor of "John J. Stanley, L. C. Hanna or ———." I find myself in doubt as to what to do about this, and there must be others of your readers who are

in the same predicament. I do not know whether by signing this proxy I shall be strengthening the hands of those in sympathy with Tom L. Johnson's ideas or those opposed to them. Could you not in time (the meeting takes place January 30th) give us a pointer?

FRED J. MILLER.

[The persons named above as proxies will be opposed to Tom L. Johnson's ideas if a question arises at the meeting. Proxies to Charles W. Stage (Cleveland, Ohio) would be used in support of those ideas. —Editors of The Public.]

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, January 9, 1912.

Senator La Follette's Speaking Tour.

Senator La Follette spoke at Chicago on the 3d. Here he was questioned, in the midst of his speech, about ex-President Roosevelt. He replied that in the last four years of the Roosevelt administration more trusts were formed than under all preceding administrations, a total of 10,020 plants having been merged in trusts, with a total capitalization of \$31,672,180,754; but that more legal proceedings had been instituted against trusts in the same period. Senator La Follette also criticized the Aldrich central reserve scheme. [See The Public, vol. xiv, p. 1169.]



In speaking at Joliet, Illinois, on the 4th, he directed attention to the difference in the judicial application of the Sherman anti-trust law to commercial trusts and to labor organizations, and made this a basis in part for an argument for the recall of judges. His words on this point were:

There is one class of so-called restraints of trade that was not intended, or at least not understood, to come under the prohibition of the Sherman anti-trust law. These are labor organizations. It is a curious fact about the enforcement of the law that, while the courts have carefully protected investors in trusts against loss of values, the only instance where the extreme penalty of three-fold damages has been imposed is in the case of a labor organization. A law which treats investors as innocent if they form a trust, and guilty if they form a labor union, does not command the respect, nor appeal to the sense of justice, of the American people.



Senator La Follette's speeches on the 5th were at Springfield and East St. Louis, with short ones at many intermediate points. In Springfield, demanding that "corrupt leadership" be driven out