

The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY, DEC. 1, 1892. TWELVE PAGES.

AN EXAMPLE FOR US. An example of the difference between the appreciation of internal water ways in Europe and in this country is afforded by the dispute now going on over the construction of a ship canal to connect the Danube with the Oder and the Moldau with the Elbe.

The contrast between the European and American attitude on ship canals is shown by the fact that, while it is difficult in this country to arouse public attention to the importance of such work, the dispute in this case is not without a certain show of public interest.

The estimates of the cost of the canal indicate that it is a work of somewhat the same cost as the Ohio river and Lake Erie project. But it cannot contain anything like the magnificent possibilities that follow the bringing of water transportation to this great mining and manufacturing section.

Yet while Western Pennsylvania has not yet arrived at the point of pledging the first ten thousand dollars to her project, the Austrian and German people have pledged millions and are disputing over the cost of the canal.

The order of the Mayor for the suppression of disorderly houses in the city removes what has been a topic of abstract discussion to the order of the day.

What will be the effect of the order, whether the police will be able to suppress all such establishments everywhere; or whether if they are suppressed there will be a diminution of vice, are questions that may be best answered after a year or two of the vigorous enforcement of this policy.

But one point, generally overlooked, rendered this order the only one which is possible. The law directs that such places shall be suppressed. Whether the law affords a solution of the problem is a very doubtful question; but that the police power includes a nullifying privilege over criminal legislation is a most indefensible proposition.

Yet it requires an assertion of such an authority of nullification to abstain from the enforcement of the law, because it is thought that the results will not be what the law intends.

It will certainly be wise to try the experiment of a vigorous enforcement of the law. But it does not require any gift of prophecy to foretell that no measures will be efficacious until both the law and society inflict the same penalties on male offenders against chastity as on female offenders.

FAR FROM CONCLUSIVE. A case recently occurred in Bradford, England, which is held to be a demonstration of the futility of what is loosely termed socialist efforts for the improvement of the condition of labor.

A Bradford manufacturer made a proposition, based on statements by the labor leaders, that if industry was operated under socialist principles it would be greatly to the advantage of the workers.

He proposed to furnish the trades union, one of his mills thoroughly equipped, with working capital sufficient for a year's operation. If at the end of the year it was found that the operation of the mill by the workmen yielded better returns than the way system he would let them have the mill at a reasonable valuation on easy terms for permanent use.

The trades union after careful consideration concluded that it was expedient to decline the proposition, and the conservative element referred to as a confession of impracticability on the part of proposed reformers.

Before accepting this conclusion it would be necessary to know more of the details of the matter in nearly every aspect. In the first place if the socialism whose advocacy is reported to have evoked the offer was the true Socialism, the labor unions were justified in declining the proposition. However impracticable may be the idea of the industry whose ultimate control is that of the State or entire community, the establishment of a single co-operative concern would not be a test of the system. On the other hand, if the alleged socialism was merely the advocacy of co-operation or partnership, a dozen details, either in the condition of the mill, the stock of the industry, or the equipment of the men to whom the offer was made, might make it necessary to decline such an offer.

It is generally understood that Bradford industries are at present depressed. However firmly a man may believe in any method of conducting business, ordinary wisdom will prevent him from making a test of it in an industry where everything is down to a minimum

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