WILLIAM CONNELL, President,

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SCRANTON, AUGUST 26, 1897.

"Resolved, That the platform adopted at the National convention of Democracy in 1896 be endorsed fully and without reserve."-Plank Second in the Platform of the Lackawanna Democracy, adopted Aug. 24, 1897.

The Problem of the Ages.

The annual address of Mr. Woolworth, president of the American Bar association, which was delivered at Cleveland yesterday, is given in part in our telegraphic dispatches. If printed in full it would occupy two pages, and much of it was devoted to a consideration of what, for lack of a more definite term, we may call the social question. There was such gravity and seriousness in the tone of this carefully prepared address by officially the foremost representative of the American bar as may not easily be shown in a hasty review. The speaker thus took measure of our social system as developed under present American Insti-

Equity before the law is a tremendous and rivairies of life. Under our system, the gates and avenues to the arena of in-dustrial enterprise and adventure are open to all who run the course—the start in the race is equal for all; there is no fa-vor for any, and the best wins. That is the end and consummation and fruition of the equality unto which Americans are born. There never were here classes favored by law; that inequality our fathers never could bear. The highest educa-tion was, perhaps, at one time within reach of the few; but that advantage long since became common. Any deserving boy may by his own hands earn the best instruction in the great universities. The ranks of our own profession, the chief places in the public service, the laboratories of triumphant science, the marts where the most stupendous transactions of commerce are conducted, are filled by those who started even with all others chances were gainst those who have won

Yet-and here is the note of seriousness, even of pathos in the addressthe people are not satisfied. Adds Mr.

Against institutions justified by the selfevident truths of the Declaration of In-dependence and a social order whose development has proceeded on them, other forces are being set in array. Those who have given energy and direction to these allen and hostile forces and seek to drive them farther and farther, think they discover in modern industrial society and inthe development and operation of its fundamental principle, evils that greatly transcend all that man has achieved. To them, the rivaries and competitions of life are virulent stimulants; they make the strong drunk with pitiless desire, and snatch from the unfortunate, however worthy, the rewards of their agony of toil. It cannot be denied that, in the end, the Ities and the rankest injustice, and that good men are sick at the sight of them. Great accumulations of wealth in the bands of some, and equal accumulations of want, ignorance, brutality, and mental and moral degradation upon the heads of others, go hand in hand. One seems to correspond with the other. In a measure they are related. Some assume that one is the cause of the other: that say that there is a law which "rivets the laborer to capital more firmly than the wedges of Vulcan did Prometheus to the rock."
Tais exaggerates the relations of one to
the other. One is certainly not the only cause of the other. But it cannot be de-nied that great accumulations of wealth in the hands of the few go along with the process by which the poor are crowded down in deeper depths of poverty; and, more and more, the multitude on the brink is precipitated into the abyss of hopeless misery, while their places are in turn filled by the industrious who beg for work and ret for bread. Many can-not suppress a profound sympathy for the poor, and, almost in despair, ery out from the depths of their hearits, against a civilization which cannot save its own

"It is perhaps natural," continues our speaker, "to stigmatize these doctrines as foreign importations, at which our people will not give more than an incredulous glance, and resent as an insult to American common sense the suggestion that these vagaries and foolish fancies will find acceptance among us. But it is easy to perceive just grounds for apprehension." Among these grounds he mentioned the rapid and widespread diffusion of socialistic literature and the remarkable and growing tendency of the poor to pull together. "What this great body of the citizenship, possessed of political power, transported by the enthusiasm of self-sacrifice, directed by a relentless discipline will be," he says, "when it becomes thoroughly saturated with these doctrines, it is not hard to divine. In that day, if it ever comes, the federations of labor, their batallions enthusiastic, compact, disciplined, organized and moving with one impulse at the word of command, when launched upon institutions under which they suppose themselves trodden down, will sweep from the face of the earth not corporations, syndicates, trusts and aggregated capital only, but all the whole order of industrial society as now organized."

Such is a leading American lawyer's definition of the social problem as it confronts Americans today. The extent of the remedy which he deems practicable is outlined in that portion of his address reproduced on our first page, and includes, we may here say, jury reform, reform of the petty courts and, in brief, a more perceptible equalization of the legal rights of Americans. The remedy is good but incomplete. There must in addition be an entire overhauling of American ideas and social tendencies, to the end that the stress upon the dollar as the great measure of happiness and worth shall be reduced to a degree consistent with sanity and the broadest welfare,

Indications multiply that Tommie Atkins will soon have both hands full in

Live and Let Live.

It is an opinion in localities yet prevalent that the railways of the United States are owned in the main by very rich men, and that therefore any advantage which the public can exact or extort from the carrier corporations by means of discriminatory legislation or otherwise will throw its burden principally on those who can well afford to | ment of the United States has at last |

be mulcted. This opinion is especially rife in the Populistic western states, but even in the east there are an abundance of men who seem to regard lic benefit, but as fair subjects for poliation.

These reflections are inspired by cetain remarks made by Robert P. Perter in the letter to which we yesterday called brief attention. "The number of our railway investors is too often ignored," says Mr. Porter. "According to Commissioner George R. Blanchard, the eastern trunk lines report that their shareholders number 99,826. One east ern line reports that fifty per cent., and the Pennsylvania Railroad company that forty per cent, of its share holders are women. At the same ratio of shareholders to mileage, the total number of stockholders in the railways of the union would be over 950,000, not including bondholders. Calling the total 1,250,000 of bond and share holders at home and abroad, they, with 785,-000 employes, make over two million persons dependent upon or interested in our railways, exclusive of those inerested in the manufacture or produc-

tion of rallroad materials." This being true, and in view also of the incalculable obligation which the American people are under to the managers of our railroads for the part which they have played in developing the resources and diffusing the wealth of the country, it would seem to be well-nigh time for the adoption by our Populistic fellow-citizens of a new attitude on this subject. Where would their dollar wheat be if it was not for truth. But there is another equality; it is the railways that enable them to get it the equality of all men in the competitions to market and to get goods of necessity and luxury in return?

> A decision of the Supreme court says that every person who crosses a rail road at grade "must stop, look and listen," and that "if the track is enveloped in smoke must wait until it clears

away."-Wilkes-Barre Record. The Supreme court is doubtless to be thanked for not requiring plain citizens to go around the railway track.

Our Foreign Commerce.

The complete government report on our foreign trade for the year ended June 30 has not yet been issued, but from preliminary reports interesting facts may be gleaned. The total trade, imports plus exports, amounted to \$1,816,360,996, which has been equalled only once in our history-in 1892, when it reached \$1,859,680,610. When we remember that many articles of export brought higher prices in 1892 than in 1897 it can readily be realized that in volume-that is to say in the quantity of the commodities handled-the foreign trade of 1897 establishes a new record in the annals of our commercial intercourse with the world,

Growth in exports was the charac teristic feature of the year. During the ten years preceding 1897 our exports averaged \$835,600,000 per annum and our imports \$765,500,000, a preponderance of exports over imports amounting to four per cent. of the average annual total, But the preponderance of exports over equalities of rights and opportunity work imports during the fiscal year called out in some instances the widest inequalimports during the fiscal year called point made clear in the following table:

	8.	Exports.	Imports
1888	***********	*** \$ 695,954,507	8720,907,114
889	***********	742,401,375	745, 131, 652
1890	***********		789,310,409
891	************	884,480,810	841,916,136
15025	************	1,039,278,148	827, 402, 102
30位	************	847,065,194	806,400,000
394	***********	892,149,572	654,994,622
895	**********	897,538,165	731,909,665
890	************	882,606,938	779,724,074
897	***********		764,373,965

sons with three other years: Products.

		-	
\$ 4,400,944	4,171,974	4,135,763	3,802,985
Miscellan		228,571,178	276,357,861
Manufact \$182,728,868		000 992 490	
\$ 4,261,926	5,238,807	6,850,392	6,134,014
\$ 20,449,526 Fisheries	28,576,235	33,718,204	49,489,321
8 29,449,508 Forestry-		20,045,654	21,338,129
\$628,363,038 Mining-		\$569,879,297	\$683,878,1610
Agricultu	PP		

\$860,204,937 \$793,392,599 \$863,290,487\$1,632,901,300 These figures show that the items of gain are in lumber (forestry) and manufactures almost exclusively, the gain in the last-mentioned item being indeed remarkable, Comparison with 1892, our other banner export year, emphasizes this point. In 1892 exports of agricultural produce amounted to \$799,328,232, or 78.69 per cent. of the total exportations; while exports of manufactured goods amounted to \$158,510,937, or 15.61 per cent, of the entire export trade. In 1897, on the other hand, agricultural exports were valued at \$683,878,990, or 66.27 per cent. of the total; while manufactures were represented by \$276,357,861, or 26.78 per cent. of the whole volume of exports.

The distribution of our foreign commerce is worth noting. The largest trade was done with Great Britain, the imports aggregating \$167,947,820 and the exports \$478,488,592. The next in volume was with Germany, the imports being \$110,210,614 and the exports \$123,784,453. France is the third in the list, with imports amounting to \$67,530,231 and exports \$56,287,631. The trade with other European countries is stated to have been as follows: Belgium-Imports, \$14,082,414; exports, \$32,600,024. The Netherlands-Imports, \$12,824,126; exports, \$50,362,116. Italy-Imports, \$19,-067,352; exports, \$21,377,761. Spain-Imports, \$3,631,973; exports, \$10,889,611. Switzerland-Imports, \$13,849,782; exports, \$70,328. Austria Hungary-Imports, \$8,158,328; exports, \$3,759,700. Denmark-Imports, \$356,355; exports, \$10,-189,453. The imports from the dominion of Canada during the year amounted to \$40,309,387, and the exports \$58,465,048, The imports from Mexico amounted to \$18,511,572, and the exports aggregated \$22,726,596. The imports from Japan amounted to \$24,009,756, and the exports \$13,233,970. The imports from China reached a total of \$20,403,862, and the exports aggregated \$11,916,588. The percentage of the trade of the United States with foreign countries during the last year is given in part as fol-

	The plain lesson of the figures is that the industria	
ı	China	1.18
ı	Brazil 9.03	1.18
ı	British North America. 5.33	5.48 6.28
ı	Germany 14.54	
ı	Great Britain 21.96	45.97
4	10W8;	

reached a stage where it must bid for new markets and enter into active competition with the older and slower producers of Europe. That this will be the railroads, not as agencies of pub- done successfully is assured, and not it. many years of the Twentieth century will have passed ere the supremacy of the United States in the world's industry and finance will be made plain to the students of current events.

The "antis" at Harrisburg today are small in numerical strength but evidently large in expectations,

It would be interesting to know upon what ground the Pope "disapproves of the Cuban insurrection."

There Are Tricks in Every Trade

From the Philadelphia Record. There are, indeed, tricks in all trades; and it is sometimes surprising in reading technical journals to observe how openly directions for performing these tricks are explained and treated of in a matter-of-course way, as though they were quite legitimate practices. For ex-ample, in the latest issue of a prominent magazine devoted to textile industries we note rules for obtaining a knowledge f the processes involved in the "loading f silk," whereby the manufacturer is nabled to increase the weight "from 50 to 60 per cent, without deteriorating any of its qualities, with the single exception hat after a considerable lapse of time loses its cohesive power, and becomes riable." It is not stated how long a ime after the goods leave the manufacurer's hands this undesirable quality will develop; but it is explained that exposure to the sun's rays of silk which has been loaded with certain salts of tin "destroys the cohesive power altogether."

The Pennsylvania Railroad company has employed a chief chemist and staff for over twenty years for the detection of trade tricks. So-called "Babbit metal," for example, which when genuine is just-ly celebrated for reducing friction in the earings of car journals and in rapidly evolving shafts, was closely imitated. on investigation, however, this imitation was found to contain none of the more costly metals, and to possess none of their good qualities. Ingenious machines ave been devised for testing the lubri-ating value of samples of oil before purhasing, and standards have been fixed for nearly all important supplies now purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad ompany, and unless the goods conform o the standard they are rejected. It is stimated that very many thousands of lollars are saved annually by this sys-em of scientific scrutiny. One of the incidental advantages of such a system is that the quality of goods offere; gradually

In the purchase of many articles, such is gold jewelry, silver plate, etc., the purchaser must depend entirely upon the honesty of the jeweler; he, in turn, is often reliant upon the manufacturer. The consequence is that fraud is practiced by inscrupulous manufacturers to an extent which is unknown and unsuspected by he public. In England a different condi-tion exists. Every article of jewelry or of silver plate which is sold as "18 carat" old or "sterling" silver is stamped with he "Hall" or "Tower" mark, after having been tested by the government ex-perts. There are very severe penalties for any attmpt at deception, and the purchaser of English jewelry or silver plate having the official mark is reasonably sure of getting just what he thinks he is purchasing. When old American jew-elry finds its way to the melting pot at the mint a spectes of transmutation sometimes occurs which is just the reverse of that which the alchemists claimed to practice. The articles go into the pot looking like gold, and the resultant metal if often a very base alley, It is an easy matter for a dishonest maker to put a fine appearance upon the surface of very low grade articles of this character.

all know that there are many scientific departments of the government supporting large staffs of skilled persons devote their time to investigations that are sometimes of comparatively lit-tle immediate interest, and we are led to selieve and to suggest that it might be practicable and useful to extend the ser-vice by engrafting thereon a department of tests of commercial articles, such as jewelry, plate; food products, textiles, etc. Such a department could probably be made self-sustaining. On payment of a small fee a report could be furnished of the quality of various articles submitted for examination. This department would be supplemental to or, perhaps, distinct from those now existing in which original investigations are made in the in-terests of public welfare, the results be-ing generally found in voluminous governmental reports published sometimes several years after the investigations have been made. Prompt commercial reports would prove of great value not only in protecting purchasers from frauds that are now perpetrated with im-punity, but in protecting honest manu-facturers from the killing competition of sch cheats and in raising the standards

THE BROADER VIEW.

From the Illustrated American Though American and English journal-sts may scold at one another across the severing ocean, the Indiana goes to Hall-fax for repairs. The situation supplies suggestive commentary on the vaporing journalism of which too much is heard on both sides of the water.

Because an American secretary is gruff over the seal question, London newspa-pers say this country needs a little blood letting; and because a British colony enforced its customs and mining regutions upon American immigrants, New York newspapers talk of seizing the col-ony and "doing up" Great Britain. Meanwhile, the two peoples are bound to-gether as no other two nations of the world have ever been. One in language, ood, religion; inextricably mingled in business matters; interwoven by mar-riage and by friendship; confronted by many like problems and living under kindred institutions, their dinerences are family differences, and by no means signify the same as do such disputes be-tween strangers. The Englishman be-comes an American, the American becomes an Englishman, by a process of transition so swift and easy as to be all but imperceptible. When brothers call each other bad names it does not neces-sarily mean that they will come to blows. They understand each other, at bottom. But between strangers something would be apt to happen. There would have to be retraction or a fight.

According to our newspapers our new navy is especially designed as a weapon of defense or offense against Great Brit-ain. In the same view the great dock and impregnable fortifications at Halifax and Bermuda are a sword held to our throat by England. In spite of this, when our warships want repairing and find our own docks inadequate, they ap-ply with frank confidence to Great Britain, In the same spirit Great Britain not only puts her appliances at our disposal, but makes extensive alterations in her Halifax dock to enable it to meet the peculiar needs of the Indiana, and of our other battleships which are to follow her. In a similar spirit a captain follow her. In a similar spirit a captain of the United States navy writes a book teaching this nation why and how she must become a great naval power; and England heaps every honor upon him for the admirable way in which he does his work. Captain Mahan is more distinguished in Great Britain than in his own country. In a like spirit the American and the British naval officers and men-of-warsmen fraternize in every part men-of-warsmen fraternize in every part of the world, cheering one another's flags nd standing together against those they hold to be aliens.

When comes the great war of races,

which must come some day unless all history lies, our sailors and those of England will be found fighung side by side. It is manifest destiny, and petty squabbles are insignificant in the face of it. Washington and Wesminster understand this, dimiy; and the spectacle of the Indiana in the Halifax dry dock its providester. is an evidence.

STRIKES AND INJUNCTIONS.

From the Chicago Record. So long as society accepts and toler-ates the strike as a method of settling industrial disputes society should insist on fair and equal treatment for both parties to the contest. One combatant should not be allowed to take unfair advantage of the other, nor should the power of the government be exercised to the benefit of one party and the detriment of the other. It is the duty of the government to see that law is preserved and ment to see that law is preserved and that rights are not infringed. But its attitude toward the contending parties should be one of strict neutrality.

Time was when the workingman who did not like the terms of employment stipulated by one employer could leave and seek employment with any number of other persons engaged in a similar line of business, and thus better his lot. But conditions are different today. The employer in most cases represents a vast aggregation of capital, with which the individual workman cannot cope successfully. Whether he likes it or not, the fact remains that under present condi-tions the laborer has little hope of bettering himself, so far as wages and hours are concerned, except through combine tion with his fellow-workmen. One in dividual by withholding his labor from the market-that is, refusing to work-could accomplish nothing. A union of workingmen, by withholding their col-lective labor from the market, may force the employer to grant the concessions asked for. Of course the success of these efforts depends on the ability to control to a considerable degree all the labor in a particular line that is put on the market. The only way this labor can be controlled is by its being organized into a union. If the laborers conducting a strike for higher wages, say, can, by peaceable means, induce other laborers in the same line to associate with the classic laboration. with them, clearly they should have the right to do so. The government in no way should hinder them in so doing, so long as they try only peaceable means of persuasion, else it seriously handicaps one of the parties to the strike.

The employer of course has the right to hire men where he can. It is not fair that these men, when hired, should be driven away by violence on the part of the strikers or anybody else. The gov-ernment should punish the perpetrators of such violence as it would punish persons committing any other like offense against the law. It is entirely within the right of the employer, too, for him to forbid entrance upon his premises by strikers who would persuade his workingmen to quit. But it also ought to be recognized as entirely competent for recognized as entirely competent for strikers to attempt to induce the laborers at work to cease work and associate with the union. If the strikers can accomplish this object by peaceable persuasion and this object by peaceable persuasion and appeals to reason they should be allowed to do so without any interference whatever from the government. In England, where labor organizations have passed beyond the stage of violence, this right is recognized by the government, and "picketing," as it is called, is sanctioned. This is, the union, when fighting an employer, is allowed to station "pickets" just outside his premtion "pickets" just outside his prem-ises, and try to induce the workmen as they go to and from work to join the

The attempt of employers to harass the strikers with Injunctions from the courts in carrying on such a campaign is an attempt to use the government in the interest of one side as against the other. The injunction ought not to be brought into the matter at all. Its tendency is to take the administration of law from the executive branch of government, where it belongs, and lodge it with the judiciary. If a striker has committed an of-fense he should be arrested and punished. If there is danger that an offense will be committed it is the duty of the ad-ministrators of the law to be on hand to stop the perpetrator and arrest him on the spot. But to enjoin a striker who has committed no offense from commit-ting offense is to put the brand of criminality upon him without warrant, and thus place him at a disadvantage with should remain entirely neutral.

MEAT VS VEGETABLES.

From the Illustrated American. Perhaps the most superior persons in the world are the vegetarians; and in the warm weather their superiority becomes peculiarly aggressive, because at that time they feel that the unconverted are leaning toward their views. When a man has learned to live on a purely vegetable diet he believes himself to occupy a lof-tier plane than his flesh-cating fellows; and the assumption is act. and the assumption is apt to become so irritating that the partial measure of wisdom underlying his doctrines falls to win recognition. Most vegetarians, whether men or women, are people engaged in occupations which do not make a severe and protracted drain upon their nervous energy. Statistics abundantly prove the superior force and vitality of the meateating classes. Physiology, moreover, shows that our bodies are built to consume a mixture of animal and vegetable

The experience of hosts of gentle souls to whom the shambles are an unspeak-able horror, and who would give much to liminate all flesh food from their diet, has proved that the average human con-stitution cannot do its most effective work on the vegetarian bill of fare. Sheiey and Tennyson both tried it earnestly, and with lamentable results as far as their work was concerned. It may be stated without fear of contradiction that none of the highest achievement, intel-lectual or material, that humanity has to show, has been gained on a diet of which meat did not form a part.

Nevertheless it is probable that we in America eat more meat than is good for us. A little is necessary, but much is in-jurious, clogging the system, over-stimulating the nerves and blunting the spirit-ual perceptions. At all times, and in hot weather especially, we should do well to emember the dietary rules of our probbly arboreal ancestors, and make fruit, rather than either bread or meat, the main prop of our physical existence. Most people, if they test the matter carefully, will find that an excess of starchy food is more damaging to their nerve and their digestion than an over-free indulgence in meat.

But, of course, if one believes that his grandmother may be reincarnate in the beast which furnishes the juley steak or the seasonable marrowbone, then his position as a vegetarian becomes impregna

SIGNS OF PALL TIME.

Gittin' clost to fall time-know it by the The wind comes crost the mountains at the breakin' o' the day; the twitchin' in by j'ints is a most unfailin' sign That they're tunin' up the fiddle fer the boys ter fall in line!

Gittin' clost ter fall time-know it by the way The smoke is curlin' up'ards in the morn-You kin hear a whip a-crackin' 'crost a clover field or two. An' you think o' rides by moonlight with a sweetheart clost to you!

Gittin' clost ter fall time-let it come along! Spring is rich an' rosy, an' summer's sweet with song;

Every season's good enough-but give me frost an' fall, An' balance ter yer pardners, an' kiss yer sweethearts all! -Atlanta Constitution.



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\$2.50 Nottingham Curtains at \$1.98

\$3.00 Chenille Curtains at \$1.08.

\$3.49 Chenille Curtains at \$2.19.

\$3.98 Chenille Curtains at \$2.29

\$4.23 Chenille Curtains at \$2.40. \$4.49 Chenille Curtains at \$3.19.

\$4.98 Chenille Curtains at \$3.69

\$3.98 Derby Curtains at \$2.49. \$4.98 Derby Curtains at \$3.49 \$5.49 Derby Curtains at \$4.29. \$6.49 Derby Curtains at \$4.98

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