



THE CONVALESCENCE

CONFIDENCE

Now Declared to Be Out of Danger In Spite of the Fact That Bank Clearings Still Show An Alarming Shrinkage and Industry Is in a State of Semi-Collapse.

The rapidity with which "confidence" had been restored, everything is being restored to something startling. Every capitalist sheet is bringing the glad news that the scare is practically over, the erstwhile turbulent financial waters are becoming calm again and "normal conditions" are soon about to be restored. "Clearing house" certificates have been retired and the balance are to be put out of commission in the near future. Some workers who were let out a few weeks since have been put on again and everybody is happy or about to become so.

This is all very true. That it would be if its truth were assured. But capitalist sheets are so used to lying that it has become a confirmed habit with them. Like the dope fiend they have become so lost to shame that they no longer attempt to conceal the habit. They indulge in it openly without apparently being conscious of what they are doing. For instance the Seattle Times of Sunday, Dec. 29, contained a lengthy editorial setting forth in glowing language that "confidence" has partially been restored already and the job was to be completed within a few days or weeks at the most. "Prosperity" was to return in full flower and shed her pleasing perfume upon us such as a lengthy period into the future that the most of us would shuffle off before another "reaction" set in. One particularly striking thing about this delightful editorial lie was the insistence of its author upon the necessity of every one who had withdrawn money from the banks, or who had accumulated any in the ordinary course of business or other thriving, immediately placing the same in custody of the banks as a sort of guarantee. "In good faith it may readily be seen that it was done the restoration of 'confidence' would be absolute and complete.

The editorial liar also dwelt at length upon the folly of holding money out of circulation when by merely putting it "in good faith" it could be loaned out and made to earn more money. Of course the yarn about the ability of money to earn money is all right to tell to people whose mental calibre is not above the level of that of a wooden Indian or a puppy not yet enough advanced in age to get its eyes opened. It won't go down with any other sort of people though. Of course money may upon occasion be used to succeed more money out of some sucker who has, figuratively speaking, got his candle appended in a crack, but the sum total of money is the same after the performance is over as it was before. The only difference is in its location. One performer now has it instead of two as formerly.

After going carefully through this individual editorial composition on the restoration of "confidence" and the absurdity of keeping a dollar in your pocket or storing, according to some "confidence" had been declared convalescent, we were about to return to the bank several very large sums, which, in our foolish fear, we had cached in divers secluded places, when we ran across the following information taken from *Business Week*:

The bank clearings for the United States for the week ending with Thursday, Dec. 26th, were \$371,000,000 less than the previous week, and as compared with the corresponding week of 1906, they decreased \$100,000,000.

Though we had been convinced by the "Times" editorial that "confi-

dence" had been restored, everything is being restored to something startling. Every capitalist sheet is bringing the glad news that the scare is practically over, the erstwhile turbulent financial waters are becoming calm again and "normal conditions" are soon about to be restored. "Clearing house" certificates have been retired and the balance are to be put out of commission in the near future. Some workers who were let out a few weeks since have been put on again and everybody is happy or about to become so.

PANIC PHILOSOPHY.

(By Eugene V. Debs.)
The average man understands in a vague way that there is a panic, so-called, and he is more or less concerned about it according as it affects his business or his employment. But he has never studied economics and knows nothing about the laws governing social development. The panic distresses him, it is true, but he is not philosophic enough to inquire into its cause; he simply wants to get rid of the plague.

And so the average man falls easy prey to the political quack in the service of the industrial baron who glibly rings the changes on "financial stringency," "elastic currency," "lack of confidence," "tariff revision," "trust regulation" and like meaningless trappings.

It is a fact to be deplored that the average man is a mental child; reads little, and that mostly vain nonsense; thinks less, and reasons not at all.

He has to have a "leader" in politics, a "boss" in industry, and a "shepherd" in religion, and they all have a hand in fleeing him to a respectable standstill.

When this average nonentity who is potentially a man hears of a panic he thinks of it as a screw loose in a machine which a turn or two of the magical monkey-wrench of "confidence" will tighten up, when all will be well again.

A LITTLE EXCELLENT CAPITALIST ADVICE

Addressed to Working Men And Working Women In The Interest of That Harmony And Good Fellowship That Ought To Prevail Between Brothers Capital and Labor.

At this age, we millionaires and masters seem to be in great disfavor. We do not hesitate to tell you that it is not right that you should have such a bad feeling toward us.

We millionaires and masters own the things which you need and use to live upon; that is, the land, machines, the mines and factories, and we tell you that if we did not own these things so that you could work for us, and use them, you would starve; therefore you should treat us kindly and be our servants, for I remember the great book, the Holy Bible says: you should obey your master always; and be satisfied even though your lot be small, down here below, remember, that your reward in heaven will be equal to ours—beyond the pearly gates of that great celestial city, on whose pavements will patter your tiny angelic feet on its cobbles stones of solid gold and from its silvery fountains flow your ruby, lily slip sweet nectar and drink unadulterated wines. Here your enjoyment, after death, will be equal to ours.

We know our wives and families have the best of the world's goods, while yours have not a sufficiency. We live in ease and leisure while you must work.

We have all the good things in life, while you are in poverty.

But now you should not be angry over these things, for as we millionaires and masters have told you, we will not own all things so that you could work for us and use them; you would starve—therefore, you see you are better off, even though you must suffer, than you would be if we millionaires and masters did not own the world in order that you might work for us so that we could pay you wages.

That a panic, i.e., industrial congestion and social paralysis, accompanied by widespread poverty, misery and despair, is the logical effect of an antecedent cause; the poisoned trail of a corrupt and decaying system, does not occur to his leech-like mentality. This point, the simplest and yet most fundamental in the philosophy of panics, must be driven home to his simple mind.

The business "panic" follows in the wake of its corollary, "business prosperity," as inevitably as the tides rise and fall in obedience to the laws governing their motion.

In a word, the "panic" and its attendant suffering and distress are the corrupt fruit of the corrupt system of capitalism, whose foundations are laid on the broken lives of a quivering mass of wage-slaves.

Abolish the capitalist system and the "panic" will cease the people no more.—Appeal to Reason.

A policeman in Barcelona, Spain, discovered a nice, large, healthy looking bomb on the doorstep of a mansion in that city recently. He looked down upon it and was making off with it when it exploded, neatly distributing fragments of his personality over the adjacent territory. This should be a warning to policemen against stealing other people's property, especially that of the Anarchists.

Close upon the heels of the terrible coal mine explosion at Monongah, W. Va., killing several hundred miners, comes another at the Yonkers Mines of Alabama, snuffing out the lives of 15 more. The "risks of capital" are something terrible.

THE NEXT GREAT ACT ON HISTORY'S STAGE

The Proletariat to Play Its Part In The Process of Social Growth and Development By Overthrowing The Rule of Capital and Freeing The Wage-Slave From Bondage.

The rise of capitalist production came with the introduction of mechanical appliances into the field of industrial operations. When the old-time, primitive hand tool grew into a power-driven machine a transformation set in that was to completely alter the relations formerly existing between those who associated together in connection with industrial processes and operations. A new ruling class was brought forth—the capitalist class—which was to wrest the sceptre of power from the feudal lords and wield it in its own behalf. The master of the small workshop was in time to become the great "captain of industry" whose economic domination was to extend over vast armies of workmen who would be compelled to obey his bidding and to "mechanically" in order that his machine might be still further extended and his power proportionately increased.

Human society is an organism that is born, grows, develops and works out its destiny the same as any other living thing. The law of its being is as inescapable and inexorable as that which determines the existence of any other organism. However much we may deplore these things in connection with social growth and development that appear to us to be evil we should not forget the fact that we have no means of proving that they have not been a necessary and inevitable part of the great process.

Out of the loins of feudal society came the class that was to play its part upon the stage of history during the next epoch. The capitalist class that now rules the world in strict accordance with the principles laid down in cash book and ledger. The rise of capitalism while bringing its special ruling class into the limelight at the same time brought into existence a new class, strong in numbers, that was commissioned by the very logic of events to ultimately overthrow the rule of capital as the dominant class and overthrow the rule of feudalism. That new class was the proletariat, the propertyless working-class.

This class has no counterpart in history. Outside of a few personal belongings the members of this class have no property. Even these personal belongings are of such meagre value that they are scarcely mentioned in the census or other records of the times. The reason the proletarians have not been disseminated of even these meagre belongings is doubtless due to the fact that their value is too trivial to excite the avidity of thieves, even of the ruling class variety.

THE DEATH OF LABOR.

The unemployed in Toronto parade the streets carrying a black flag to further emphasize the fact that they are out of work, and this would therefore be a most opportune time for the emigration agents and for the traffickers in human lives to explain why that great death of labor we heard so much about two months ago, existed. The cry of the unemployed is now being heard from coast to coast, and we therefore deem it our bounden duty to call the attention of our silly patriots, who have so long been dunned with a burning desire to develop the "vast, unlimited resources of our grand and glorious heritage," that their opportunity has at last arrived; their prayer is heard, and all that is now necessary is for them to hurry along with the developments. We are convinced from their continual screechings that the field is here, and are also very truly and sorrowfully convinced that the laborers are here to do all the developing that is to be done.—Labor's Realm.

Three trade union officials are to answer to a charge of contempt before the Federal Court for violating an injunction commanding all persons to refrain from interfering with the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company. They will no doubt receive severe punishment and richly deserve it. Children should obey their parents and slaves their masters, or be roundly trounced for their disobedience.

Some manufacturing industries have been closed down until "money conditions improve," and public confidence is restored. If they would all shut down with the same object in view the desired result would be reached at once, as any one can readily see.

The first fruits of the Alberta convention came to hand in the shape of a new local at Frank, the Slavonic Socialist Union, with a membership of 22 to start with and prospect of almost indefinite increase. An English-speaking organization will probably appear in Frank at an early date.

Not only are they without property but they are not property themselves in any legal sense. They are neither owned outright as were chattel slaves, nor tied to the land as was the feudal serf. In fact they are absolutely free. No one owns them by virtue of any title expressed in legal terms. They are absolutely free in a legal sense. They are also free of property, except for the "personal" title belongings. The virtue of this they are "free" to sell their labor-power to the capitalists whenever those worthies are in a sufficiently amiable mood to desire their services. When they are not, they are to starve.

When they are employed by the capitalists they are crucified upon the cross of exploitation and their flesh consumed upon the altar of profit because the spirit of it smells good to the capitalists. When not employed they are privileged to sit around on

their benches and howl dimly a few howls and are then told to move on. Their freedom so to do is often emphasized with a few raps with a club.

In spite of it all the proletariat is the salt of the earth. Of course while the workers are humble, meek and servile they are a very cheap grade of salt. If it possesses any virtue it is not readily discovered. It lies latent. When aroused to a consciousness of its interests as a class; when awakened to an understanding of the task set for it by the hand of time, the proletariat will rise to its feet and sweep the capitalist class and its profit-mongering civilization into the lumber room of the past where many outgrown contraptions have gone before.

Evidence from the four quarters of the globe shows that the proletariat of all lands is awakening. There is going to be something doing in the near future that will work while. When it is done the social organism will be free of the nightmare of capitalist rule. The capitalist class and the proletariat will have vanished. Master and slave will be no more. MAN will have entered into his heritage. That heritage is Freedom.

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