

Are Labor Organizations A Menace To Government?

Two bitter attacks upon trade-unions, from widely different sources, have recently attracted some attention. One wing of the Socialist Labor Party, in convention in New York city declares that the non-political trade-unions of to-day, organized by such men as Gompers and Powderly, are simply the allies of plutocracy; and a resolution was passed to the effect that "every member of the Social Labor Party who is an officer in a pure and simple British style trade-union shall either resign his office in the union or be expelled from the Social Labor Party."

An attack of a very different kind is made by Mr. N. F. Thompson, of Huntsville Ala., secretary of the Southern Industrial Convention, who in testifying before the Industrial Commission in Washington, maintained that "labor organizations are to-day the greatest menace to this government that exists inside or outside the pale of our national domain." He further contended that "their influence for disruption and disorganization of society is far more dangerous to the perpetuation of our government in its purity and power than would be the hostile array on our borders of the entire world combined." He said:

"That such a menace is real and not imaginary, the most casual investigation of existing tendencies among the laboring classes will show. On every hand for the slightest provocation all classes of organized labor stand ready to inaugurate a strike, with all its attendant evils, or to place a boycott for the purpose of destroying the business of some one against whom their enmity has been invoked."

Mr. Thomeson's views seem to elicit but little favorable comment as yet, tho there are some conservative papers which declare that the view is a pretty accurate one. The New York *Evening Post* says that his facts and reasons are "quite sufficient to warrant the conclusion that the real crisis of the country is not in the East Indies or the West Indies, but 'in our midst,'

and that in reaching out to seize foreign countries, and to introduce civilization and suppress evils among distant 'savages,' we are wasting time, money, and blood which might better be spent in finding a remedy for greater evils at home."

On the other hand the *Chicago Chronicle* says: "Labor organizations are beneficent, not to say necessary, where they exist for proper purposes and employ proper methods, and this they are sure to do in the end as a result of discussion, education, and, it may be, occasional collision with the bed-rock of the country as represented by government." With this view the *Detroit Evening News* agrees, asking; "Are these crude, vehement, earnest organizations much more awkward in arriving at their ends than the great powers of the earth? Let Mr. Thompson look about him for a while and ponder.—*Selected*

Germany and the United States.

There are not wanting influential German-American papers which declare that the re-election of President McKinley spells war with Germany, as in that event even the protection by Germany of her established interests in South America will, they apprehend, be regarded as an aggression, and the administration will be forced by our jingo to resent it. In the British isles and in greater Britain the possibility of such a quarrel between England's chief industrial competitors is a subject of considerable remark. *The Spectator* (London), referring to secretary Root's recent after-dinner speech, in which he remarked that "we may have to fight for the Monroe Doctrine," says:

Mr. Root is perfectly right to warn his countrymen. It is said that he has declared his speech to be a purely academic utterance and in no way directed against Germany. No doubt; but utterances are not necessarily untrue because they are academic. Captain Mahan's views on sea-power were purely academic, but, to use the words of a Persian poet, 'by that means a world was affected.'"

A British view of the relations

between America and Germany is set forth in the following excerpt from the *Toronto World*:

It happens that Emperor William is bending every energy to increase the naval strength of the empire, and this, taken in connection with the fact that the German colonization is proceeding with suspicious rapidity in the republic of Brazil, is interpreted to mean the Emperor is meditating an assault upon the national integrity of Brazil—an assault which the United States would be in duty bound to resist by force... Germany has designs on South America, which is the only continent now available for colonization by the great powers. If Germany is denied the right to acquire a sphere of influence in South America, no other country will be available for extending the empire. And Germany has the imperial-expansion fever as bad as the United States or Great Britain. The theory that Emperor William is the leading European opponent of the Monroe doctrine is very plausible, and there is little doubt that secretary Root and the McKinley Administration see in Germany a portending storm cloud. A sign of the times is Germany's recent decision to limit as far as possible the importation of United States food products."

No evidence, however, is given in the German press or by the utterances of any German officials that Germany desires any rupture with the United States, and the charge that the monarchy is to be restored in Brazil with German help is ridiculed.

At present the balance of trade between Germany and this country is largely in our favor, and the Germans will endeavor to render it more nearly equal, they say, by a new commercial treaty; but they deny as worthless the assertion that their withdrawal of subsidies to steamships that bring American agricultural produce to Germany is for the purpose of crippling American trade. They point out as a matter of fact that none of the steamship lines running to the United States are subsidized, tho those running to British colonies are.—*Digest.*