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Survey of the World

The Steel Strike Probably Ended

The workmen on strike at the steel mills and the general public were surprised on Sunday morning by the news that on Saturday President Shaffer had been in conference at New York with J. Pierpont Morgan, President Schwab (of the Steel Corporation), and Judge Gary. For this conference the door had been opened by Mr. Morgan, for whom Colonel G. B. M. Harvey had gone to Pittsburg and invited the labor leader to New York. Shaffer left Pittsburg Saturday morning very quietly, and returned that night. While no authoritative statement was published by either party, an apparently trustworthy report said that an agreement had been reached upon the following terms: The union to recede from its demand that the scale be signed for all the mills; mills that were non-union at the beginning of the strike to remain such, with the exception of those in which the men have since joined the union; the Sheet Steel Company to pay union wages in non-union mills; all mills to be open hereafter to non-union or union men; the union not to seek to compel non-union men to join; the company not to be required to employ only union men, but to permit employees to join any labor organization. By such a settlement the strikers would gain two mills and the release of non-union men from contracts restraining them from entering the union; while the company would yield nothing with respect to its main point, and would be free to use non-union labor in any mill. Preparation was made for a conference in Pittsburg on Tuesday, and it was expected that the strikers would be at work again before the end of the week. Until Saturday there had been

but little change in the situation at the factories. The union leaders were striving to organize the skilled workmen in mills of the National Tube Company and of other departments of the Corporation; employers at the same time were striving to prevent such accession to the union's forces. The question was, How many more men could Shaffer call out if he should attempt to extend the strike? In the three companies already affected, the few non-union mills continued in operation with no loss of men, except a dozen discharged from the solitary non-union tin-plate factory at Monessen, apparently for yielding to the union's solicitation. The Carnegie Company and the Steel and Wire Company were still regarded as proof against union invasion, altho there were rumors of secret organizing work in them. Further West, the men in the great factories of the Federal Steel Company were known to be organized, but the union had not called upon them. The most inviting point for attack seemed to be the National Tube Company, and in that company's mills the union made large gains at the end of the week. The tube men had been accustomed to work upon individual contracts, some of these extending for several years and guaranteeing a minimum daily wage of \$6. They were required last week to renew these contracts, which bind them to keep out of the union. Some complied; but 600 openly joined the union, and Shaffer expected to have 4,000 in a few days. This gain was made at McKeesport, and there were signs that other mills of the Tube Company had been invaded. It became known that the 12,000 employees of the Cambria Iron Works, which are not under the Corporation, had very re-

A Neglected Educational Demand

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IT often has been said that the American people are irrational in their eagerness for education. This is no doubt true, altho as good Americans we prefer to substitute some other word for irrational. Yet however we may be persuaded of the soundness of our individual zeal, we are too familiar with those whose views are so different from our own as to make us feel that they are very stupid or very nearly mad. It is pathetic to meet men whose only idea for the education of their children is that they may have that magic gift they missed, or that their children shall not waste time in mastering what they in their idle boyhood loitered over and refused to learn. One note is constantly emergent in the speech of parents, the desire that the education shall be practical. The cultivation of power is the parent's plea. Not all would limit this to ignoble bread and butter studies. Many want Greek and Latin in the foundation. But rare, very rare, is any plea for the beautiful presented. There is scarcely any department of esthetics which makes a vigorous claim for recognition in the educational field of school or college.

It is, of course, true that there has been some professed activity in the direction of instruction by means of pictures in the schools. But it is hard to reckon this a move in the field of esthetics, as the pictures are selected with little regard to the artistic merit of the originals, and the reproductions have generally commended themselves because of their cheapness rather than their beauty.

The conscious education in the beautiful being so neglected, it is natural to inquire what the unconscious education is. Nature has been lavish in many parts of our land. Especially in many portions of our Eastern States there is as fine scenery as can be found in any thickly settled region. Our people appreciate this, and are as much accustomed to seek the beauty of sea and

river, of hill and mountain, as any other race. Among the more cultivated there is, perhaps, a greater proportion of travelers who seek the grand and the lovely in nature than is to be found in any land. But there are vast sections of our great continent which are flat and monotonous and without the stimulus which the variety and richness of natural scenery affords to the esthetic faculty. And when we turn from nature to the work of man's hand the result is discouraging.

Is there anything so utterly without form and comeliness as the average American town or village? The smaller towns are too commonly marked by the extreme prominence of the country tavern with its conspicuous bar room and livery stable. The more pretentious buildings such as churches, school houses and court houses are almost invariably without a single mark of esthetic purpose, not a line has been studied with regard to any other line, not a proportion given a moment's consideration. Columns of many kinds are used without the remotest conception of the laws which govern the construction of such supports, whether mechanical or esthetic. And from house to house colors flame forth in one unvarying discord, where they do not sink down into the flat shabbiness of long settled decay. And all this is heightened by the strident notes of billboards presenting the disgusting scenes of traveling melodramas or the exaggerated delights of circuses and Wild West shows.

What are we to expect from the youth brought up in the midst of such surroundings? There is no model for the carpenter's, or the blacksmith's, apprentice to form his future on. There is no suggestion to lift the mind of any child to a recognition of beauty of form or of color.

Most of our great cities are overgrown towns. They have much that is beautiful in them, much that is accessible to those who have time and purpose to go

in search of it; but very little which is so related to the life of the people as to afford an unconscious education.

What is true in this material side of life is true also of intellectual tendencies. In speech there is little recognition of the fine phrase. No American audience waits upon the honeyed lips of the orator as the Athenians did in ancient Greece, or the Parisians do in modern France. Except in very small circles there is little appreciation of the exquisite in form or fancy, and our speakers increasingly content themselves with a blunt and rugged style, full of vitality and replete with facts, but as transient as the breath that gives it utterance.

What is true of oratory is as true of music. The standard of musical taste in the country at large is astoundingly low. The musical instruments that are in demand illustrate this on the one hand, and the terrible wave of "rag-time," which lately swept over the country gives it emphasis.

It is not necessary to speak of painting and sculpture. These great arts scarcely touch the average American. They are significant only for the more cultivated few who are not under consideration at this time.

We stand at a critical point in our history as a people. We have in a most marvelous manner mastered the elementary problems of national life. We have brought a great continent under control. We have developed a free and highly productive life. Now we must meet the problem first of making our life as wholesome as it is free, and as beautiful as it is comfortable; and, second, of making the products of our factories such as will win the approval of foreign races of more highly cultivated taste, but of inferior skill.

The great age of the Renaissance not only wrought marvels for its own men and women, but transmitted to posterity the monuments of its love for the beautiful. Every traveler in Southern Europe knows the subtle charm in the campanili and the colonnades which so often meet his eye. How noble are the proportions of yonder tower on the hill, how graceful the iron work in the gate of

the neighboring monastery! On every side appear the memorials of an age whose every art and craft became informed with a beauty which locked hands in an age-long clasp with utility. Even to-day, after centuries of decay, the carpenter fashions his columns and pilasters after models transmitted from Greek and Moorish originals through generations of Italian and Spanish artisans; and the smith toiling at a primitive forge cannot quite escape the gracious beauty of his surroundings.

Do we not need more definitely to recognize the importance to us as a people of fostering in our manual training schools the knowledge of the principles of beauty, and of establishing trade schools in which our youth can be taught to appreciate and produce beautiful fabrics? The existing schools scarcely seem to appreciate the importance of a systematic and thorough training in the fundamental principles, and they certainly are wanting in any real enthusiasm for the highest type of craftsmanship. No doubt the American spirit which makes youth eager to get to the top—not of a chosen calling, but of a series of callings—enters in as a disturbing force. The well taught carpenter's apprentice aspires to be a contractor, or an architect; the successful sign painter becomes a fourth rate portrait painter. The great lesson of successful industrial artanship, the lifting of the craft to an untouched level, goes unlearned.

This important field ought not to go unimproved in this epoch of great wealth and growing demand for American products. Its improvement or neglect may be the determining factor in American industrial development. But it has for the student of society another element of interest. Native Americans are being driven out of manual labor by their own aversion to it, and the readiness of foreign immigrants to perform it. A more remunerative type of artisanship, involving higher mental faculties, might prove attractive to our own boys and call them back to sturdier occupations from behind the counter and the desk. If so it would be a national blessing.

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