

CHAPTER XXV

CONCLUSION

It should be always kept in mind that if this program is carried out, the immense demand for labor and for goods which equitable conditions will create, will result in our ability to very greatly increase the annual production of wealth, as we have been able to do under the stress of war conditions, and this will permit the average workers to earn a reasonable livelihood with much shorter hours of labor, and thus afford him the leisure which every man seeks to enjoy.

The principle, therefore, which underlies the solution of these problems, is the abolition of privilege. Privilege is due to the exclusive possession by a few of advantages which are either natural or artificial. The artificial privileges grow out of the private operation of the service of the transportation of passengers, freight and intelligence, and this service should be operated by the government. The natural privileges grow out of the ownership by a few of the greater part of such natural advantages as water powers, mineral deposits, oil wells and vast timber tracts, and the tendency to accumulate city and farming lands in a few hands.

With the measures herein set forth applied no man

or concern will have any advantage over any other man or concern. The whole domain of industry, outside of the operation of transportation and public utility services, will be left open to private initiative. But with the elimination of all privilege in this domain of industry, there will be always abundant opportunity for the steady employment of labor and of capital, and competition in this field, free from privilege, will measure off with approximate exactness the just share of capital and the just share of labor in their joint production of wealth. Under this system there could be no panics, and there would always be more jobs than men, because there will always be more land (the ultimate source of all jobs) than men to use it.

This solution maintains the principle of individual initiative in the field where it is appropriate, secures to everybody the just reward of his labor, his service or his capital, guarantees permanency of employment to labor, and encourages and protects the acquisition of private property, which is the foundation of our modern civilization. This is a program which accords with the precepts of the Saviour, fits in with our American traditions and habits of mind, and which can be applied gradually without upsetting industry or bringing on a financial panic, or confiscation of ordinary property.

When this program is carried out, our added experience will then make clear the next steps in the never-ending march of human progress.

It is for us to do our part in our own day toward the bringing in of that ideal world for which the really great men of every age have striven,—the world so

beautifully portrayed in the immortal prose-poem of Colonel Ingersoll:

"I see a world where thrones have crumbled and where kings are dust; the aristocracy of idleness has perished from the earth. I see a world without a slave. Man at last is free. Nature's forces have by science been enslaved. I see a world at peace; adorned with every form of art, with music's myriad voices thrilled; while lips are rich with words of love and truth—a world in which no exile sighs, no prisoner mourns; a world on which the gibbet's shadow does not fall; a world where labor reaps its full reward; where work and worth go hand in hand. I see a race without disease of flesh or brain; shapely and fair! the married harmony of form and function; and as I look, life lengthens, joy deepens, love canopies the earth; and over all in the great dome shines the eternal star of human hope."