

Unpatriotic Officials Rebuked.

If there is any national pride among the local free-speech-suppressing officials of Tarrytown, New York, they must feel humiliated at the deserved rebuke administered to them by so distinguished, intelligent and impartial a foreign observer as Georg Brandes. Mr. Brandes' letter is well worth considering in other places than Tarrytown. He wrote to the trustees of the village:

I have visited a land of liberty, and seen your beautiful statue in the haven of New York. I hope that in this crisis your action will be such as not to injure the reputation of your country as a "sweet land of liberty." Freedom of speech seems to me to be one of the most precious rights of humanity. I must ask your pardon that I, a stranger, dare to meddle in your affairs.

Unfortunately the denial of free speech in Tarrytown is by no means the first case in which petty officials have so acted as to injure the reputation of this country as a "sweet land of liberty." What is worse, there are courts in which these invasions of constitutional rights have been upheld. Perhaps the usurping officials, who have disregarded all protests from American citizens, may be brought to realize through the statement of a foreigner how thoroughly unpatriotic they are.

S. D.



Good Grounds for a Pardon.

The petition for pardon of Frank M. Ryan and other convicted structural iron workers is a document of 168 pages. It contains much concerning Judge Anderson's conduct in the case, which shows extreme prejudice against the prisoners. Possibly the judge can satisfactorily explain or refute these charges. There is evidence produced concerning one incident of the trial, an explanation of which would be especially interesting. The prisoners were convicted on December 26, 1912. On page 63 of the application for pardon is an alleged facsimile of a letter dated November 19, 1912, from L. L. Kensinger, an official of the Missouri Pacific Railway at St. Louis, to some of his subordinates, in which he says, "Passenger department advises that our Vandalia connection will probably have a movement of Federal prisoners and guards, 75 or more in number, from Indianapolis, destined to Fort Leavenworth." Other letters from the same official of later dates refer to the first one and give more instructions regarding the prospective need of a special train. A letter dated December 14 says, "The movement will take place January 1st, but possibly sooner." The thirty-six convicted men were on their way to the penitentiary one hour after sentence was pronounced. Clearly these pris-

oners were not presumed to be innocent before being proven guilty. The special train incident discredits the whole proceeding. Their trial could not have been a fair one. If forced to serve their sentences, there will be demonstrated the possibility of using the courts for purposes not at all consistent with justice. As it is some courts are already under well-grounded suspicion. Popular confidence in the judiciary has certainly not been strengthened by the refusal of new trials to prisoners whose conviction has been attended by such suspicious circumstances. A pardon will show that the Department of Justice is not entirely misnamed.

S. D.



Labor and Capital, Partners.

In advocating stock-purchase by employes as a means of promoting closer co-operation between Labor and Capital, the committee of the National Electric Light Association, in convention at Philadelphia, displayed a commendable spirit; but it may be doubted if the means proposed will attain the desired end. It is at least a recognition of the oft denied fact that Labor and Capital have mutual rather than antagonistic interests. There is no more conflict, under normal conditions, between employe and employer than there is between a carpenter and a blacksmith, or between a manufacturer and a merchant. All are equally producers and consumers of wealth, and in prosperity or adversity all rise and fall together. When workmen own stock in the company they have an additional interest, it is true; but unless they be in the class of the well-to-do their income in dividends will be small as compared with their income in wages. Participation in dividends will undoubtedly produce a psychological effect that is conducive to harmony; but it is necessarily confined to the few who have the saving habit.



Complete harmony between employer and employe cannot be had without perfect freedom on the part of either to withdraw from the partnership; and the consciousness of each that the other is acting on the square. If Capital be clothed with power of monopoly it may allay the discontent of its own workmen by sharing with them a part of its immoral gains; but that will not appease the victims of the monopoly. It is self-evident that not all can profit by monopoly. The Standard Oil Company is said to be one of the most generous of employers, but that does not save it from the execration of the remainder of the community.

Freedom is the only universal social solvent. Capital must be freed from the toll of monopoly by throwing open the resources of the earth, and Labor must be freed from the obsession that Capital is its enemy. When both come to realize that their interests are mutual, and that each is preyed upon by monopoly, then will they have set their feet in the way of harmonious cooperation, not alone as between an individual corporation or firm and its employes, but as between all firms and all employes. Neither the labor problem nor the capital problem can be solved by a removal of the oppression to any part. It is the problem of humanity; and its solution requires the setting up of universal freedom.



Psychology and the Farmer.

Whether or not prosperity would come if business men "only thought so," all doubts will be removed if the estimate of the June crop report is realized. Railroads may haggle over rates, manufacturers may tremble before foreign competition, and bankers may sulk in their counting rooms, but when the farmers harvest that crop of 900,000,000 bushels of wheat, 1,216,000,000 bushels of oats, and other food stuffs on the same generous scale, the wheels of industry will start up in spite of all the croakers. It is no longer a question of starting prosperity, but of devising ways and means of preventing another set of special privilege beneficiaries from strangling it when it does start.

s. c.



One Recourse Left.

When Congress, in 1909, refused to amend the law under which the oil companies were gobbling up the oil-bearing lands of the public domain, President Taft sought to save a part of the people's patrimony by withdrawing from entry 3,000,000 acres in California. This act on the part of the Executive was thought at the time to have provided an enormous supply of oil for the use of the navy, at the same time withholding enough from the clutches of the oil trust to modify its excessive charges. But Judge Maurice T. Dooling, of the United States District Court of San Francisco, has rendered a decision setting aside the President's order, and restoring to the control of the oil companies lands estimated to be worth from \$300,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000.



This may be good law, but it is very poor political economy. That our forests, minerals, and water power should in the past have been given with-

out compensation into private hands is not so strange; that was the world's policy. But that such a thing as the giving of the California oil lands to the oil trust should have occurred at this time seems incredible. It serves to show how far our statesmen are from sanity. Fortunately, however, we are not without legal redress. No court has yet had the hardihood to deny the right of the State to tax. The title to the people's oil lands may pass into the hands of the oil trust, but the people still retain the right to tax them. Nor is this right limited beyond the power of the people to change. Not only can they levy a tax of one per cent, but they can raise the limit to four, six, or eight per cent. And by means of this right of taxation it is still in the power of the people to recover what its heedless legislators have allowed to be alienated. Let a little of the spirit shown in barring alien ownership to California lands be devoted to taxing into the treasury the annual value of the oil companies' lands. It is now up to Californians to demonstrate to the country that their intense opposition to Japanese ownership of California land is due to an honest desire to conserve American institutions, rather than to a display of bigoted prejudice.

s. c.



A Tory Advocates Land Confiscation.

Readers of the Cincinnati Times-Star of June 1 must have rubbed their eyes in astonishment. In this extremely conservative organ, owned by Charles P. Taft, one of the nation's big landed proprietors, the leading editorial of the day was a vigorous shout for confiscation of land. In anticipation of objections the Times-Star recites how the Indians were robbed of land, and triumphantly asks "Did you ever hear of anybody seriously proposing an apology to the Red Man or a return to him of any stolen land?" To still further strengthen the case of the land-grabber, it tells how "Only a few years ago we grabbed considerable land from Spain. In 1848 we grabbed a large chunk from Mexico." Then it asks about the result and triumphantly answers "Can any human being in his right mind doubt that that territory has been more useful to humanity under the Stars and Stripes these past sixty years than if it had been allowed to stagnate under the conditions that have prevailed south of the international border?"



The Times-Star was only thinking about forcible annexation of Mexico when it made that argument. It did not realize that, once granted, the