

officials are used as the judge's private servants; when the judge allows assets of bankrupt estates to be wastefully dissipated, and when he has the unpleasant habit of appointing receivers without notice or just cause. Yet there are still some who oppose application of the Recall to the judiciary.

S. D.



Serving Sentence of a Prejudiced Court.

The convicted structural iron workers denied a pardon must now serve their sentences. Unfortunately denial of a pardon does not clear away any of the facts which indicate that they were denied a fair trial. They may be guilty, but if guilty persons can be convicted and punished without a fair trial, so can innocent ones. So let it be remembered that there are at least twenty unfortunate convicts in Leavenworth penitentiary today, concerning whose guilt there is reasonable doubt. For this the courts have denied relief. With this the Department of Justice has declined to interfere.

S. D.



Weakness in Strength.

How long must men continue to kick against the pricks before they realize that all forces are balanced, and the order of nature is immutable. A Napoleon strives to unite all Europe under one crown, a politician seeks to perpetuate his power by appointing only his friends to office; a captain of industry endeavors to control business by uniting all his competitors, or a labor leader undertakes to solve the industrial problem by consolidating all the unions. Just what would happen if all the forces could be united on one side will never be known, for nature will not entrust such power to a single mind. Union and concentration have their legitimate spheres in the order of things; but a well defined limit has been placed to such power, beyond which to go is to invite weakness. A few years ago the farmers thought to control prices of farm products by joining in one huge grange, but the organization never got beyond the initial stages. Now certain labor men are looking to a union of all labor as a means of bettering and controlling conditions.



The universal labor union seems plausible—as plausible as perpetual motion or a protective tariff; but it has within it the germ of dissension, by means of which nature maintains an equilibrium. Not only do jealousy, ambition and dis-

trust prevent men from joining in a single organization, but they prevent the growth of the several organizations beyond a very limited extent. The orthodox unions point to the growth of their organizations as evidence that they hold the key to the industrial situation; the Socialists cite their growing vote as a reason for joining with them; while the Industrial Workers of the World are just as certain that they will solve the problem. The very fact that these three aggressive factors persist is evidence of the fallaciousness of the idea; and all history confirms the doubt. The passing of the Knights of Labor marked the limits of one form of labor organization; the American Railroad Union marked another; and the American Federation of Labor maintains its integrity because its directing head realizes the well defined limits of union activities, and holds its forces within those limits. As soon as that directing head is removed, the jealous ambition of those beneath will wreck this organization as the others have been destroyed before it.



Not only is a single labor organization impossible, but the trades organizations are in constant danger of disruption through the dishonesty of leaders. The graft scandals that placed New York Labor under a cloud a few years ago have apparently been repeated in Chicago; and the organizations that have scarcely had time to live down the odium that came from the misdirected zeal of the MacNamaras must purge themselves of the blackmailers who have preyed upon both Capital and Labor. This is not to condemn labor unions, but to point out some of their limitations. The union as a social agent is most commendable; it quickens the spirit of fellowship; and it enables the members to do team work that otherwise would be impossible. But the best and ultimate object of civilization will be delayed, rather than hastened, unless the limitations of trade unionism are recognized. The evils that the unions would redress are not peculiar to wage earners of any particular calling, nor of all callings. They are common to humanity. Labor may strike at Capital, and do it much harm; but it cannot thus do itself good. It is not Capital that oppresses Labor, but Monopoly that oppresses both Labor and Capital; and the strike is impotent when opposed to Monopoly. The only force that can subdue Monopoly is Law. Let Labor throw its great strength in favor of free industry, and it will no longer be tormented by tyrants without, nor traitors within its ranks.

S. C.