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LOUIS F. POST, Editor.

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Booth-Tucker's colonization scheme is an excellent subject for economic study. It appeals most forcibly to those self-styled "capitalists" whose capital consists of deeds to vacant land. They see money in it for themselves—unearned money—and are enthusiastic accordingly. Speaking in a newspaper interview of Booth-Tucker's scheme, the "industrial commissioner" of the Santa Fe, James R. Davis, explains that land purchased for the colony in the Arkansas Valley, "has doubled in value during the first year." There is the milk in this colonization cocoanut. As Mr. Davis puts it, "there is an enormous amount of idle fertile land awaiting colonization and development;" and "there is an enormous number of idle deserving people hoping for a future, and as many more eking out a miserable existence without a future." Booth-Tucker would bring these two economic forces together. It is the old idea to which Duganne gave voice when he sang: "Millions of hands want acres, and millions of acres want hands." But under the Booth-Tucker process, most of the profit will be garnered—as Industrial Commissioner Davis shows when he tells of the rapid increase in the value of the lands where colonization has begun—not by the hands that work the acres, but by the hands that monopolize them.

In a historical article in the Forum, intended as a special plea for American colonial governments in Spain's late possessions, Prof. McMaster, the historian, refers to the fundamental truths of the declaration of inde-

pendence as "ideals to be lived up to and gradually attained," but which were happily not applied by our predecessors and cannot wisely be applied by us. But what is the use of having ideals if it is never wise to act towards them at least if not up to them? And what kind of ideals must those be upon which we are to turn our backs whenever circumstances require us to act? If the ideals of the declaration of independence are truths, as McMaster admits them to be, then it is for us to live as close to them as we know how. If we fall short through ignorance, that is our misfortune; but if we fall short with premeditation and deliberation, it is our crime. Nor shall we find any palliation in the historical fact to which Prof. McMaster appeals, that our forefathers also fell short. We cannot attain to the ideals of the declaration of independence by ignoring them at every crisis. To attain to them even gradually, we must solve every new problem not in opposition to but in harmony with them.

In celebration of the New Year, plutocratic papers were crowded with facts and figures to show that the year 1898 had been extraordinarily prosperous. They certainly did show that trusts and monopolies had prospered amazingly. But there was not a word or a figure about workingmen's wages. To have said anything upon that phase of the subject would have completely "spoiled the preach." For in the midst of all the much vaunted prosperity of 1898, wages were nowhere raised, but in many places they were cut down; while strikes against reductions were numerous.

In the same issue of at least one daily paper which ostentatiously devoted a supplement to laudations of the prosperity of 1898, there appeared

a brief news item of a cotton mill strike in Augusta, Ga., against a reduction of wages. Wages were already so low that a man could scarcely earn a living, and children were working for 60 cents a week; yet the employers had undertaken to enforce a reduction of from 10 to 25 per cent. The consequent strike had been in progress four weeks.

In the face of their cry of prosperity the newspapers tell also of a great coal strike which they expect in the spring. This is explained by Thomas E. Young, Mark Hanna's coal manager. He says:

It is the intention of the operators to reduce the mining scale of wages. The operators cannot afford to maintain the present rate. The miners want a higher rate and the operators claim a reduction must be made. You can readily see the miners and operators are far apart, and there seems to be little chance of getting together.

Prosperity! Yes; but not for workmen. Rockefeller is said to have made profits aggregating \$30,000,000—\$82,000 a day. He is a type of the men who found 1898 a prosperous year. It was not in higher wages that prosperity made itself manifest; wages are as low, or lower, than before. It was not in legitimate competitive profits; legitimate business has been done at a lower rate of profits than before. All this is conceded. Even the wool industries, those special favorites of protection, are admitted by the Wool and Cotton Reporter to have been so bad in 1898 that "they have done well to make expenses." Trade journals have laboriously explained that a peculiarity of this era of prosperity is that business is done upon reduced profits and work at reduced wages. Where the prosperity has made itself manifest is in what in the patter of the exchange are called