

plan had given them credit for being, and they kept open their line of retreat. Thus far the fighting has been with their rear guard; and that has been hard enough. But owing to the failure of the original plan for cutting them in two, much harder fighting must be undergone before the capital of the brave little republic falls. And even when it falls, if the Filipinos keep their line of retreat open, they will realize their plans; for their evident object is to draw the American troops into the interior, where they may be worried by hard marching, desultory fighting and disease. Meantime the American list of killed and wounded is sadly growing, and further reinforcements are demanded; while Filipino cities and villages are smoking ruins, and, if American reports be true, thousands of the people have been killed. It is a terrible lesson that imperialism has to teach. And to us it is a humiliating lesson also. Heretofore, if American warfare was sanguinary, it has with one exception been honorable in purpose, as well as courageous in execution. But in this war, the courage of our troops but emphasizes the shamefulness of the cause in which they die.

Further evidence of prosperity has been telegraphed from San Francisco. Leland Stanford's widow is richer by \$1,000,000 than she was four months ago—all on account of this era of marvelous prosperity. Four months ago her Central Pacific stock was worth only \$20 a share; but it has risen now to \$52, at which figure Mrs. Stanford has sold enough shares to give her \$1,000,000 more than she could have got for them four months ago. She certainly will not join the calamity howlers in complaining of continued hard times. With an increase in her fortune in four months equal to the earnings of 5,000 Central Pacific brakemen in that time, or as much as one brakeman would get in nearly 2,000 years, the business situation must be highly satisfactory to her. She ought to be gratefully willing to

contribute to the McKinley-Hanna campaign fund for 1900. We have yet to hear, though, of any increase in the wages of Central Pacific employes. The glorious sun of our marvelous prosperity shines only on stockholders; workers remain in shadow.

Fifteen hundred employees in the tin can factory at Maywood are testifying vigorously to their extraordinary prosperity by striking for a restoration of the higher wages that they received in the dark days of 1896.

Every now and again complaints are made of the superfluity of professional men. Not long ago a metropolitan paper, in calling attention to the subject, strenuously urged professional schools to advance their standards and expand their terms of study, so as to discourage the multiplication of doctors, lawyers and clergymen. Its idea was that this would force young men into "productive industries and scientific vocations" where they are needed." And that is a general supposition. The notion prevails that opportunities are few in the professions, but abundant in other callings. But it is a false notion. Opportunities are no better, if as good, in the so-called productive occupations than in the professions; while in the latter the prizes are more alluring and numerous. A lawyer or a doctor of ordinary abilities, has as good a chance of making a living, as a civil, mechanical or electrical engineer or even a mechanic, of ordinary abilities. If of extraordinary abilities, his chance of a prize in life is infinitely greater. There is nothing exceptional in the fact that the professions are crowded. They are crowded because all vocations are. Trade union restrictions in the mechanical trades are just as necessary for the protection of those already inside as they are in the professions.

Altgeld has made a strong fight, and the indications at this hour are that it will be successful. He has forced both opposing candidates into adopting the principle of municipal

ownership of public utilities, and he has made it clear that but for his candidacy there would be no democrat in the field for the Chicago mayoralty. The nominal democratic candidate avoids all reference to democracy either as a party or a principle. This fact alone caused such influential democrats as William P. Black and William Prentiss to come out for Altgeld as the only democratic candidate. That occurred last week. This week, the Altgeld forces are being strengthened by men who like to be on the winning side. Upon the result of this Chicago election depends in great degree the complexion of the democratic national convention; and it looks now as if that convention would again take its color from Bryan and Altgeld rather than from Flower and Croker.

In California, church property is not exempt from taxation; but some churchmen there are now agitating for exemptions. They would be offended if the essential similarity of theirs to other schemes for public plunder were frankly pointed out; yet such similarity exists. A church is not a public institution. It is private property. While it may be useful to the public, so are stores and factories. There is no better reason, then, for exempting the one than the other. And the exemption of either, unduly burdens the other. True, church buildings and books and furniture ought not to be taxed. They are produced by the congregation. The state does not provide them, nor give value to them, nor otherwise acquire moral rights in or to any part of them. But then that is also true of factory buildings and machinery and stores and store goods. It is not true, however, of church sites. Church sites, like factory and store sites, are secured to the occupants by the state, and their value is caused by the community without special effort on the part of owners. Those sites should be taxed in proportion to their value. The fact that a site is used for a church should make no difference. Exemptions on that account would unjustly discriminate not only