

be gone. While all this is what we wish, yet we predict it not because we wish it, but as a rational inference, as it seems to us, from the inherent character of American manhood and the accumulating signs of the times.

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### The Police Spirit.

In perfect keeping with the wanton dispersal by the police of the peaceable public meeting at Union Square last week, is the reply to Robert Hunter's dispassionate comment, which Police Commissioner Bingham is reported to have made:

Robert Hunter! Robert Hunter wants to behave himself, or if he doesn't he may be sorry for it. I'll stand for no inciting to riot. I'll suppress with an iron hand any game of that kind, and it might as well be understood at one time as another. Robert Hunter is one of those hot air pipes that made this trouble. Whenever I think of those wind bags who stirred up this trouble I just want them to know I'll not stand for it.

How can foreigners be expected to distinguish American from Russian police if Bingham is an American type?

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### American Ideals.

It is naively suggested that violent anarchists "should be educated in Americanism." There would be no violent anarchists to educate in Americanism if Americans themselves were more Americanistic.

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### Vacant Lot Gardening.

The "Pingree potato patch," invented by Mayor Pingree, of Detroit, a dozen years ago, is fast becoming an institution for the encouragement of industry and thrift among the disinherited of the earth. It is a simple plan. Owners of vacant lots in cities permit their use for the season for gardening purposes, and persons of charitable instincts contribute tools and seeds. Workers with more leisure than they need do the rest. Under a superintendent's advice they dig and plant and gather, and with such effect as to obtain in money value as high as \$100 or more of market produce in a summer. Whether sold or consumed by the producer, this affords no inconsiderable addition to the worker's income.

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A national Vacant Lot Gardening Association now exists, with headquarters at 56 Pine street, New York. Howard Payson Wild is president. He is supported by Bolton Hall as treasurer and the Rt. Rev. David H. Greer, Dr. Henry M. Leipziger, Dr. M. Allen Starr, Whidden Graham, Rob-

ert Baker, Lawson Purdy, Dr. L. Duncan Bulkley and Miss A. L. Fairfield as directors. Vacant lot gardening is commended by this Association "to the charitably disposed who fear to pauperize the objects of their benevolence," its influence on character and morals being "wholly good, stimulating the spirit of independence and self-help which lies dormant in even the most debased." Experience is said to show that the gardeners "take a keen interest in learning how to plant and cultivate, and are willing to do any amount of work on the soil." The indirect benefits to large families are described as very great. "In a few weeks after going to the farm," says the Association, "the pale, puny children become ruddy and robust, playing in the grass and living healthy, natural lives."

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### The Industrial Depression.

Two large reasons are urged for regarding the industrial depression as at an end. One is the reported fact that money is no longer tight, and the other that business men have adjusted their affairs to lower levels of expenditure. Instead of implying recovery from the depression, both facts indicate its persistence and intensification. The "tight money" of last Fall did indeed spell hard times. But that was because it crippled business men in meeting obligations already contracted. But "easy money" now means no more than that the demand for loans has shrunk, which means in turn that business operations are contracting. And this inference harmonizes with the inference that in adjusting their operations to lower levels of expenditure, business men are promoting hard times instead of ridding us of them. They are thereby diminishing the purchasing power of the people as a whole.

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### The Banking Alternative.

If Walter Wellman's report of an extensive inquiry among bankers may be accepted, there is about to be formed a banking federation of vast dimensions and portentous possibilities. Such a federation would rule the government, from party primary to Presidential election and from local tax assessor to secretary of the Federal treasury, with an absoluteness far transcending the present power of the banking interests. If this is to be the alternative of Bryan's plan for governmental insurance of deposits—and Mr. Wellman makes its mutual deposit insurance feature its strong point—then there is little room for choice. Under Bryan's plan the banks could not combine so completely as to swing the banking interests at