

Chicago May 31 1894

Judge Albert H. Torque
Maurice M.

Dear Sir:

Will you say something to encourage the white working men — not particularly, but as well as the black? We still have the advantage of them in the blessed privilege of voting for one of two candidates, and are told by the newspapers who select our candidates, and who have no sympathy for us, that our present condition is the result of thirty years of republican misrule; and that it is due to the wicked legislation of the administration ~~to~~ now in power; and the remedy is plain. We are sicker this year than ever before; have had time to think and are not sure

of the remedy. It is doubtless even
the intentions of ~~the~~ ^{our} factors, the
editors, I heard a man say he
could hear the "chuckle" in a
Chicago Tribune editorial offering
sympathetic advice as to organiza-
tion. Even you, who are known to be
our friend - who have stood by
the negro all these years while he
needs you since Grant died, tell
us our methods are revolutionary
and without the law. We know that,
but what can we do? With the strike
eliminated from our organization we could
do nothing but wait quietly for men to
become unselfish. In this morning's
issue, in characters nearly an inch
long the Inter Ocean points the
fact that Judge Grosoup has fears,
and that he observes a menace to
civilization in the organization of labor.
Judge Grosoup first defines property
by saying that when this country
was discovered it was void of

3

all things but nature, The mines were here, the soil, air and forests; and they belonged to all. He doesn't emphasize all as I do, and he doesn't say to whom they now belong; but he says the ships that came brought no riches but men willing to work. Little by little these men captured the offerings of nature, and after paying the debt of nature's existence, they laid the surplus away in her stock of accumulation. This was the first property. Then came steam and other inventions to multiply the power of labor. These inventions, in Judge Crosscup's definition, are the product of genius and labor. He doesn't measure the share of labor in the benefits of these labor savers, but without going back beyond the year of '93 we can easily see that these products of labor and genius are doing his work while the laborer is resting and hungry. Those who furnished the genius

are lucky if they are not hungry too. Judge Grosscup speaks of the tendency (and it is still growing) of the holders of this accumulation to organize with the object of suppressing competition, and by this method the wealth of the United States today is \$70,000,000,000. That is, this tendency to combine, together with the inventions produced by labor and genius. But he overlooks two other causes - legislation and the lack of it - both important factors in the construction of our \$70,000,000,000 civilization now menaced by organization of labor. He says it is not surprising that labor also should have learned the art of organization and after describing his earlier methods in this art, he deplores the present and fears the prospective condition of the union laborer. He says "He is pressed into the union and his whole life is simply one long subjection to the will of others

25

He can work only when they grant leave, and at wages that shall have received their approval; and he must be ready at any notice to deliver up his family to hunger and the street, He has effectually smelt his will into the general will of his trade. This he characterizes as tyranny and in this tyranny lies the menace to civilization - the ~~organization~~ civilization accumulated by organized capitalists, associated with the object of suppressing competition, and in which organization the individual appears only as a drawer of dividends. He doesn't belong to a revolutionary organization and he is within the law. If he were not, he could easily alter the limits of the law to include his organization. The fact that our organization is revolutionary doesn't bother us much, but we do respect the law and still hope for a chance to live by it. Those few of us who despise the law, have the distinguished

example of Grover Cleveland's contempt for it, as shown by his appointments and his method of presenting them to the Senate, as well as by his treatment of the Hawaiian Government. The spectacle now being acted by our lawmakers in the Senate might furnish a poor excuse, and the very fact that those ignorant, starving, rioting creatures are present in Illinois and Pennsylvania, in our places, would indicate that the law is flexible under certain conditions. Newspapers, always professing sympathy for working men generally, never miss an opportunity, under cover of this pretended sympathy, to strike their organization and discourage them. In today's Inter Ocean the editor takes in an editorial headed Protest Chicken, and in a manner that can not deceive any intelligent workman as to his object of discouragement.

ment, how a strike in a Massachusetts town was suddenly terminated by the discovery of the fact that the walking delegate ate broiled chicken, and spent \$7 in one saloon. The Inter Ocean makes it \$7 a day. I have been a member of a labor organization for 12 years and am now working for \$35 a month. I have never yet seen a "walking delegate", but have read very much of him in such editorials, and my ^{only} conception of his function is from that source. He says, too, that Mr. Carey eats chicken while his "hoboes" eat coffee and bread. But that fools only those who don't know that Mr. Carey is entitled to chicken out of his own accumulation, acquired by methods approved by the Inter Ocean and everybody else. He says also, nearly every day, that our salvation is easy and sure, and reduces to the simple formula: Vote for the Republican Nominee. If we suggest a law maker he is at once de-

8
nounced by papers on both sides, as
a crant, or a fool; and it is not un-
reasonable to think he is both, for
subjecting himself to such abuse,
which is continued to destroy his in-
fluence if he be elected. When
I commenced this letter I had
no thought of filling more than
one sheet, but I am not accus-
tomed to writing and must use
as many words as in talking. If
you read as far as this, I thank
you, and I hope you will keep
us. This, of course, is not for
publication. It is a personal
appeal to you -

Very respectfully
J. S. Strader
5651 Armour Ave