

Pittsburg Dispatch

July 23 1874

## A GREAT SOCIAL PROBLEM

Confronts the Lawmakers of Our  
Land and They Must Act.

ALL CLASS RULE MUST CEASE.

Congressman Phillips Discusses His Remark-  
able Measure.

OTHER STATESMEN ARE INTERESTED

(FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, July 22.—The remarkable bill introduced by Representative Thomas W. Phillips, of the Twenty-fifth Pennsylvania district, two or three days ago, looking to a disposition of the labor problem has excited more attention than would usually be given to proposed legislation of that character which is so often recognized as being either cranky or demagogic.

Mr. Phillips has been known for a long time as one who is earnestly doing what he can to find a way out from the maze of opinions on the question of the reorganization of society, and it is possibly not the worst compliment that can be paid to the gentlemen who now represent the population of America in Congress to say that they listen with profound attention to any intelligent expression which looks in the direction of Mr. Phillips' bill.

The Representative from the Twenty-fifth district has been much sought after for a fuller explanation of his purpose than could be incorporated in a legal measure, and thus gives to the press a freer expression of his views than was possible in that paper coming from one of the best known of the old oil operators and business men of Western Pennsylvania.

### Objects of the Bill.

One of the most intimate personal friends of the late President Garfield, an employer of men in large numbers all his life, his words have more weight than those of men who have been together much in public life, and who assume much more than he. In answer to inquiries this evening, Mr. Phillips said:

"This bill is designed to give an impartial hearing to those who complain of discriminating laws and unequal burdens. It will bring into conference representative men of labor, agriculture and business, thus bringing the aggrieved and those against whom the grievance is made, together, whose duty will be to recommend laws looking toward a more just distribution of the burdens and benefits of our free Government. It is designed to be impartial, seeking exact facts and conditions, taking the matter out of partisan politics. This is important along all lines of its duties, especially in regard to the immigration question. It seeks to conform legislation to the foundation principles of this Government, to place all men on an equal footing before the law.

"The great question involved is that of equality. This is the greatest question of this nation and the world. It must now be apparent that this nation has been as false to its declared principle of equality as it was to its declared principle of freedom.

### The Change Must Come.

"No great event in all history has been more clearly pointed out in advance than that of a coming social or industrial revolution; this will come in blood if not by law. This bill seeks to accomplish this change by law.

"The two great classes now organized and making the strongest protest against discriminating laws and unjust burdens are the laborers and the farmers. These are the most important classes of society. Without labor none can accumulate, and all development would cease. Labor is the basis of all wealth, and has been from the time when God said 'in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return unto the ground.' Again, from the products of the soil we receive all sustenance. Without the farmer the world would be wilderness.

"The massing of capital and labor, which has been caused by the discovery and use of steam and electric power and invention of modern machinery, has brought us to face a new industrial problem of great magnitude. History furnishes us with no precedent or example for its solution. But it is found in the divine law, the golden rule, and future legislation must proceed along this line.

### Behind the Times.

"It is my judgment that our laws have in no sense kept pace with the new discoveries, inventions and developments of the age. The world has made more progress in physical development and scientific discovery in the last 100 years than it did in the preceding 6,000. While the founders of this republic declared new principles, yet the laws they adopted were largely taken from a monarchy and belonged to a darker age, when labor was oppressed, had no voice in the government, and had not even the right of organization. We thus put our new wine in old bottles, and they are bursting with new fermentation. We say government exists for the people, yet we took our laws from those who say that the people exist for the government.

"The barbarous ages are passed. Feudalism is gone. Serfdom has been destroyed and slavery has perished from the earth; the final and greatest political and social problem of the world, the question of equality, has come to the front and is pressing for solution with irresistible force.

"While this bill seeks to meet the just demands of all classes, it must, however, be borne in mind that this is not a class government, not a government of laborers, farmers, manufacturers, transporters or business men, but it is a Government of the people.

"No one class established this government in eight years of war. No one class saved it in four years of rebellion, and no one class can ever govern it unless it be by despotic rule."

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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY