

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 26.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1907.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## PROGRESS, AND A CHANCE FOR MORE.

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**S**OME four years ago, the *Christian Endeavor World* temporarily forsook its domain of religion to wander into that of economics with the statement that among the inhabitants of a city, those dwelling in the brown stone fronts would be found to be the Christians, while the non-Christians were to be located among the tenements and shanties.

Four years have added to the wisdom of the *Christian Endeavor World*. In its issue of July 18, it confesses that it is “almost ready to conclude that the famous Senator was not so far wrong as to facts when he intimated that the Golden Rule had no place in modern business, or something to that effect. At least, most of the great corporations seem to come in for their share of disfavor, and it is questionable whether one can be found whose business is conducted in a manner to win the unqualified approval of a sensitive conscience. Even to suggest such a probability seems to call forth a broad smile on the faces of the wise ones.”

This is progress. A publication, religious itself, which can see so clearly through the Baptist mask of the Rockefellers, the Episcopalian mask of August Belmont, and the God-given-right-to-the-coal-mines mask of George F. Baer, and what is more, dares to report its findings, deserves to be complimented. But the *Christian Endeavor World* should not stop there.

It is true that the trusts, both actual and would-be, have waded waist-deep in criminal practises, in their pursuit of commercial supremacy. They have broken laws and many of them. But that is not the deepest stain on their escutcheon.

The acknowledged crimes of the trusts and their emulators, are crimes against each other, crimes perpetrated for the purpose of securing to the perpetrators the spoils of their fratricidal war—“profits.” What are these “profits”? These “profits” are the fleeced, the stolen product of the trusts’ myriad employes, who are paid

weekly one-fifth of what they produce, while the trusts which employ them retain the four-fifths. Without this monumental wrong, this initial theft on the trusts' part, of value undeniably belonging to their workingmen, there would never be any "profits" for one trust to commit crime against another for. This, in the eyes of the awakened workingman, is the only crime of the trusts' worth considering. The other crimes affect him not; this one does. True, this monumental wrong and initial theft is untouched by any law now on the statute books; in fact, the whole code of capitalist jurisprudence is constructed with a view to proving it not a crime. Yet for all that, it is the one supreme, overshadowing crime of the capitalist trusts, the crime for which their death-knell has been rung. The wholesale ignorance, misery, and degradation of the working class caused thereby, must be ended.

Four years ago the *Christian Endeavor World* would have denied that the trusts, that all business institutions, in fact, were law-breaking concerns. To-day it is enlightened upon that point. Is it too much to be hoped that four years more of present day rapid evolution will enlighten it still further, and that then it will be found lined up with the working class for the overthrow of the capitalist system of wage-slavery? In the meantime, whatever may hap to the *Christian Endeavor World*, the world is furnished one more illustration that sectarian-religious organizations do not lead in Progress; they have to be dragged along at the heels of Progress.

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Uploaded October 2009

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