

the fact that the Negro has at all times when called upon, shown himself efficient and satisfactory. We have but to refer to the Homestead strike for sufficient proof of what the Negro will do when the white man does him the honor to employ him. From strike-breaking to the battlefield the Negro has labored in the interest of this country, and like Mr. Bope, we measure the future by the past to the extent of warranting the industries of the country that when they feel disposed to give the black man a chance, an equal chance, with the Irish, the Slav, the Hun or the European to show his efficiency as a laborer, he will not be found wanting. If the passing of the Irish, Slav and Hun means the creation of a necessity for Negro labor, we pray most ardently for such a consummation; believing as we do in the loyalty of the Negro to his country as well as in his natural fitness for American labor, with neither socialistic nor anarchistic tendencies.

Unless Mr. Bope means to eliminate the Negro from the development of the Middle West, there need be no fear of "insufficiency of common labor."

NEGRO LABOR IGNORED.

The David Williams Company of New York City, publishes a weekly magazine entitled The Iron Age, devoted to the iron and steel industries of the country.

Under date of November 28 appears an article written and contributed by Mr. H. P. Bope, one of the leading steel men of our time, and a Pittsburgher. The subject of his article is "Future Development of the Middle West." He begins by taking the steel industry as an example, and applying his conclusions to all others.

After showing the remarkable progress made in the steel industry and picturing a most optimistic view as to the future, Mr. Bope presents what he is pleased to call "certain" obstacles which must be overcome, and "certain dangers which are of tremendous importance." These he classifies under three separate heads as follows: Legislative, Financial and Economic, the last of which he considers "dangerous," and discusses it at length under the head, "Insufficient Supply of Common Labor."

The writer states that he has had more than thirty years of actual experience in the steel business, having worked himself up from the proverbial ground floor; hence the significance of his opinion. He states that when he first entered the steel business the Irish were the one source of common labor, and he asserts that it was "the best we ever had." He explains that Irish labor grew scarce because they, "recognizing the opportunities of this country, sent their children to the public schools," and the children, upon reaching maturity, being fitted for higher positions in life, became foremen instead of common laborers as were their fathers. And the result is that common labor among the Irish is not as available as it was, and he adds, it never will be.

The Irish, says Mr. Bope, were succeeded by the Slav and Hun, but they "were never equal to the increasing demand, nor was theirs the best labor, except under certain conditions." Europe can no longer be depended upon to supply us with common labor, and there seems to be an inherent opposition to the use of the Japanese and the Chinese, since yellow and white do not mix," even in such a capacity.

The conclusion of Mr. Bope is that the one great problem now facing the industrial world is that of common labor; and with the supply of the Irish, the Slav, the Hun, exhausted, and the inherent opposition to yellow labor so pronounced, he sees a perplexing situation ahead.

That Mr. Bope does not even consider the Negro laborer is too apparent for comment. That he has no intention of considering him in the future is obvious from the picture he paints. He sees the passing of the Irish, the Slav, the Hun, and admits the impossibility of yellow labor, but, even in the last extremity, he neglects to consider the Negro either as a possible resort in time of dire necessity, or as a future agency on which to depend when the Slav and the Hun, like their Irish predecessors, have educated their children "for higher positions of life," and have been promoted from the position of common labor to the more refined foremanship. The words of Mr. Bope have more than a common significance. His attitude as pictured in his article spells the elimination of the Negro from the industrial development of this country. That such is the policy of the industrial heads of today can not be denied in the face of the silent rebuke of Mr. Bope.

In the face of the past record of the Negro, we ask what has Mr. Bope or the industrial magnates to fear? We take pleasure in calling attention to