

There is now an almost hopeless condition of debt existing throughout the world, on which there is an annual toll sufficient to impoverish a people. The debts of the world, public and private, have grown so great that the annual interest exceeds the total money volume in the world; and to keep money, a medium of exchange, in circulation, upon which civilization is dependent, we are now paying an enormous penalty; a penalty that is dragging us down, as a people, and increasing distress.

The strife for existence and to meet financial obligations may be seen on every hand; and the downfall of one pulls others down with him. Covetousness of wealth has no limit placed upon it and is protected by law. A man may own a whole state or own all, and the law is shaped to protect him. It sees no error in it. Public sentiment seems to be fixed that there should be an open field for each to get all he can, unmindful of its effect on the human race and on civilization.

Politics is made a trade off, and men trying to secure office, as a rule, are seeking their own vain and selfish promotion. Few who are elected to office, appreciate the true value of promoting the common good; and only a small number of those elected to Congress and the Legislatures are studying

civilization, other than from a local and selfish point of view; and few of them appreciate the opportunity that is theirs for constructive legislation in the making of a better civilization. High ideals are being forgotten and statesmanship is declining.

Commercialism and the strife for existence are overshadowing civic and domestic virtues, till a broad and practical conception of the object of life and the destiny of mankind is being lost sight of. Insensate pleasure, false pride and vanity, that bring in the end discontent and unhappiness, prevail among the people; and a diminishing number of the people are practicing industry, frugality, homemaking, simple life, and a love of the common good, the only road that leads to true contentment and happiness.

This ill organized condition of government and society is resulting in a disturbed condition of civilization, creating crimes, suicides, insanity, tenantry and divorces, and separations of husbands and wives where divorces are not sought—all destructive of the basis of government and society.

Out of these conditions and mothered by them, are the internecine war in Mexico and the deadly and murderous struggle, wholesale crime, in which eleven other nations are now engaged, involving, it is