

A brief history of this army of unscrupulous mercenaries will supply us with the reason for their being so cordially hated by labour. Some years before the war a Scotchman named Pinkerton established a private detective bureau for the purpose of ferreting out common, ordinary thieves. In the course of time it extended its operations. In addition to hunting down thieves it supplied watchmen for banks and business houses. In this way the "Pinkerton detective watch" was established at Chicago. This was the nucleus from which a standing army that has been estimated as high as thirty-five thousand has been evolved.

On the death of the original Pinkerton the command of this standing army passed to his two sons, who have so improved on their father's methods that they can boast of being able to furnish, in a few hours, any corporation with several thousand men, fully equipped, drilled, and ready to go anywhere or do anything they are ordered to do. The Pinkertons have regular agencies, with regular forces of men in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, St Paul, Kansas City, and Denver. From these centres of population they are ready, at a moment's notice, to send out an army that has been recruited in the slums. It is well known that many an ex-convict has worn the Pinkerton uniform.

In advertising for recruits the only qualification the Pinkertons require is courage. When a man is accepted he is told off and instructed as to the duties he will have to perform. He is, of course, drilled like a regular soldier, and is subject to a discipline somewhat similar to that prevailing in the army. As he feels no sense of responsibility except to his employer, it is not surprising that when called upon to help overawe strikers he acts in a manner that has earned him the hatred of organised labour. Here are some of the murders that are laid to the charge of this band of thugs. During the great strike on the New York Central they fired into a crowd of strikers, killing one young man and wounding five other persons, one of whom was a woman. This occurred at East Albany. During the longshoremen's strike in New Jersey, about five years ago, the Pinkertons murdered a boy under circumstances that so aroused public indignation that the New Jersey Legislature passed a law making the employment of Pinkertons unlawful. New York has placed a similar law on its statute book. A law of the same character has been in force in Massachusetts since the first of July, which forbids the employment of any non-resident of the State to assist any corporation with arms in their hands.

We have called attention to only a few of the murders committed by the Pinkertons. We could easily swell the list. So numerous have these murders been that they at last attracted the attention of Congress.

Mr Watson of Alabama introduced a resolution calling for an inquiry into the workings and the methods of the Pinkertons. In introducing his resolution he gave this description of the Pinkertons:—

"They have claimed that in one day they could turn over to a big corporation 35,000 men, provided the place where they were to be congregated was near a big city. My attention was first attracted to this great evil at the time of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad strike. During that period the Pinkertons advertised for men, and in the advertisement it was stated that only men who had courage and meat business need apply.

"Here was Mr Hoxie, then the general manager of the Missouri-Pacific system, employing a larger force of armed men than was controlled by the States. These ruffians showed that they placed no value upon human life, for during the strike many innocent people were killed and wounded. Every one in New York will remember how an innocent man was shot down in the streets of Albany by a Pinkerton detective, and I remember that during the same strike the sweetheart of a young striker, while walking along the street with him, was shot down by one of the villains.

"Those who from selfish reasons favour the continuance of this infamous system claim that if these men commit any violation of law they can be punished the same as any one else. This is undoubtedly true, but in the cases of the Pinkerton men the corporations that employ them see that they escape. They are hurried into another State before their identity can be discovered, so that it is practically impossible to bring them to justice."

With such a record as this behind them it is not surprising the Pinkertons are cordially hated by organised labour. Their employment during strikes is a direct incitement to violence. It is, therefore, high time the authority of the States be invoked to put them down. There is every probability that Pennsylvania will enact an anti-Pinkerton law. Other States should not wait for a repetition of such scenes as occurred at Homestead before placing the brand of illegality on these organised thugs.

Messrs J. and J. Arthur, 6 George street, Dunedin, have just received from Europe a large and excellent stock of gentlemen's clothing materials. The goods will be found of the best possible qualities, and the firm may be depended on to make them up to order in the newest and most approved styles, at unprecedentedly low prices.

MR GLADSTONE'S STRIKING POINT.

(From the *Irish World*.)

IN his first speech in Midlothian at the beginning of the election campaign a few days ago, Mr Gladstone presented a striking argument against the Tory allegation that the Irish Catholic people want Home Rule in order that they may oppress the Protestant minority in respect to their religious rights by giving dominance or ascendancy to the Catholic Church. Here is how Mr Gladstone dealt with that suggestion of the enemies of Home Rule:—

"You may have heard of the cruel charges—frivolous beyond all known frivolity and cruel beyond any cruelty that the mere steel can inflict in the barbarous hand—charges against the Irish nation that what they are seeking by this change is to acquire power by means of which they are to triumph, are to trample down the rights of their Protestant fellow-subjects. Oh, gentlemen, if the inventor—I won't say the inventors of these charges, for I believe that the violence of passion induces men to imagine things in the teeth of all reason, so that it is folly and not wickedness which I believe leads them astray—believe in these charges, ought they not in decency to reflect that the Irish members themselves in 1886 willingly and zealously agreed in this, that we should insert in the Home Rule Bill a provision forbidding absolutely the erection of any national Church establishment whatever? What a strange state of things it is. The Irish agreed to that security in order to disarm Protestant apprehension and suspicion, and though they have agreed to it that is not strong enough. But who are they that are called upon to prosecute these suspicions against them to the uttermost? They are the people of England and of Scotland, and the people of England and Scotland—both of them up to this date having Church establishments themselves—it is supposed are to find fault even with the Irish renunciation, and after the Irish have voluntarily excluded themselves from that privilege, or whatever else any of you may think it to be. Even after they have done that you are asked by the Belfast Convention and by all the dukes and marquises, and all the people that they can persuade to follow them—you are asked still to prosecute the Irish on this most unjust, most false, most fictitious charge of bigotry and religious tyranny, and of an intention to trample Protestant rights under foot."—No fair-minded person can read this without feeling the full force of the point which Mr Gladstone makes. It is certainly the height of impudence for English and Scotch Tories who insist upon maintaining their Protestant Church in State-endowed ascendancy for their Church, even while those Irish Catholics are willing, as Mr Gladstone says, to agree to ample securities against any such scheme.

It is rather amusing to find the Tory Unionists basing their opposition to Home Rule on the alleged danger of clerical dictation, and at the same time attempting to overawe the Liberal party through the dictation of the Orange and semi-Orange parsons. The Protestant Primate, displaying a nice sense of religious propriety, opens the Belfast Convention with a prayer for the perpetuation of misrule. To the mind of the anti-Catholic coercionist this is worthy of all praise. A number of Protestant ministers sign a manifesto in favour of the ascendancy policy; the Tory Unionist sees not a trace of clerical dictation in the document. The Protestant Archbishop of Dublin uses his pulpit to preach against the political claims of the majority of his fellow countrymen; to the ears of the Tory Unionist his preaching is the true gospel. But let the Catholic Archbishops of Dublin or Cashel utter a Home Rule sentiment from the platform, or write it in the Press, then all the pious Tory Unionists from the Premier downwards are shocked and scandalised at this misuse of ecclesiastical power, and warn the nation against "selling the Irish Protestants into slavery," delivering them up to the tender mercies of Drs Walsh and Croke, etc, etc. Truly, the weights and scales of Tory Unionists are peculiar.

On Tuesday, July 12, the National Education Convention in session at Saratoga was addressed by President Harrison on the great lawn of Congress, Spring Park. The President is always interesting and to the point in his remarks on public questions, but he never drew from his rich fund of instructive aphorisms more happily than on that occasion when pointing out the true direction and purpose of education "It is not simply," he said, "to give the power that comes from education, but to give it safe direction, that schools are established. He is not a benefactor of his race who develops or misdirects power. Then it is, we must insist, that in all our schools the morality of the Ten Commandments shall be instilled. That lesson of due subordination to authority shall be taught. In family and in school are the beginning of the fundamental element of good citizenship and obedience to the law."—This is the safe and consistent Christian spirit in which the great work of educating the rising generation should be conducted, fitting them for the duties and aspirations of the highest Christian civilisation. It recognises the necessity for a religious influence in training the budding intellectual powers on lines of justice, morality, and due respect for authority, which constitute in the State, as in the family and in the school, "the fundamental element of good citizenship." The President's judgment on the subject is in line with that of the best and broadest thinkers of the land.—*Irish World*.