

**LETTERS TOUCHING  
UNREST, CAUSE  
AND REMEDY**

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Letters Touching Unrest, Cause and Remedy by William M. Babbott

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**WILLIAM M. BABBOTT**

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★ DR. JOHN S. BILLINGS.

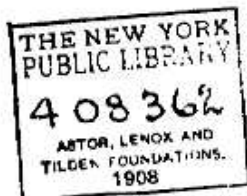
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# Letters Touching Unrest Cause and Remedy

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*WESTERN CIVILIZATION.*

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"Time," says Bacon, "is the greatest innovator; and if time of course alter all things to the worse, and wisdom and counsel shall not alter them to the better, what shall be the end?"

1. The first step in the process of identifying a problem is to recognize that a problem exists. This is often done by comparing current performance to a desired state or goal. For example, a manager might notice that sales are declining or that customer satisfaction is low. Once a problem is identified, the next step is to define the problem more precisely. This involves determining the scope of the problem, the time frame, and the specific areas affected. For instance, a manager might determine that the problem is related to a specific product line or a particular geographic region. The third step is to analyze the causes of the problem. This is often done by conducting a root cause analysis, which involves identifying the underlying factors that are contributing to the problem. For example, a manager might discover that a decline in sales is due to a change in customer preferences or a lack of marketing support. The fourth step is to develop a plan of action to address the problem. This involves identifying the specific steps that need to be taken to resolve the issue. For example, a manager might decide to launch a new marketing campaign or to improve the quality of a product. The final step is to implement the plan and monitor the results. This involves tracking the progress of the plan and making adjustments as needed. For example, a manager might track sales figures and customer satisfaction levels over time to see if the plan is having the desired effect.



## I.

**D**URING these history-making days, to one keeping in touch with the world's current affairs, it becomes evident that they are so revolutionary and alarming that at times it would seem as if no one desired to get down to facts. For instance, during my travels in 1901, the enthusiastic admiration of the press in England and on the Continent for American business and educational methods was extremely confusing to me. After reading Lord Rosebery's astounding statements that "some of the Captains of Industry conduct governmental affairs," and that "Britons are impotent," I did not think the time opportune for publishing the little matter I had then prepared to the contrary. But now that some of the falseness of modern methods is coming to light men may possibly cease to praise and instead give to current affairs a little rational attention.

Every one realizes how interminable have been the discussions of the social question and how fruitless have been the efforts of the many meetings and congresses convened with the object of discovering a panacea for the universal unrest. Without possessing a sufficient knowledge of the facts relating to the cause and remedy all that has been said and written upon this subject has been harmful rather than beneficial. Realizing this, I would not presume to advance any views upon this question were I not convinced that there is a simple and

practicable remedy. I would ask that the reader bear this in mind as it will make me the better understood.

Notwithstanding that steam, electricity and modern education have been such important factors in creating unrest, the absence of intelligence displayed in relation to the conception and conduct of life, and in all that has been done and said in favor of centralized industrialism, and the reverse of good results from writing and preaching, lead one to believe there is to be found neither diagnosis nor remedy. However, as an unschooled, plain business man, I will, in a homely way, say a few things which my experience teaches me relate to the world's most vital questions. In doing so, I am aware that nothing brings such vituperation as the statement of a fact does when it bears on advancement. I speak of the world at large, because in this connection countries can no longer be successfully dealt with singly.

When it results from occupation in localities where there are proper food and environment for physical and moral development, all making for preventive medicine, preventive alcoholism, preventive crime, preventive war, and, not least of all, preventive charity, man's everlasting need is a reasonable unit of income.

For the grand and indisputable test of any government is contained in the question, What did it do for the people? Did it properly feed, clothe and house them, or did it not?

My purpose is to discover whether Christendom has or has not complied with these demands.

The few following paragraphs deal with the ratio

of people in employment. They relate to and strike at the fundamentals of society. Provided the falseness of the conditions cannot be righted, nothing to uplift mankind can be done. Why deny the fact that, as a rule, men do not read nor even listen as intelligently as they should. I, therefore, beg that you give me your earnest attention. Because of the conditions they represent, I shall speak of men and things rather plainly, but by no means as plainly as I could and would like to, or as plainly as the situation demands.

To obtain a sound conception of modern industrialism, and current affairs, it is imperative that one should know something about the number of wage-earners and the number the world's purchasing power can employ in centralized manufactures, also a few facts relating to the affairs of the men in control, and something about what is going on in agriculture.

According to the United States census report for the year 1900, excluding establishments with an output below \$500, 5,319,598 men, women and children in this country turned out \$13,019,251,014 worth of manufactured products. Whether these data are or are not overdrawn, there is sufficient leeway for the present waning purchasing power.

Now one year with another, in centralized and thoroughly equipped and economically conducted establishments, the world's purchasing power cannot absorb the centralized manufactured products of 10,000,000 men, women and children. That is, under present false methods three-quarters of one per cent. (I should say one-half of one per cent.) of the people can with modern