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EDITORIAL

## ON THE WAY TO FIND OUT.

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**O**NE of Mr. Bryan's earliest post-election utterances was that "the Labor Issue is not yet up". The utterance was significant. It is significant in that it is a recognition of the facts that the "Labor Issue" is a distinct issue, and that it is an Issue that will some day come up and become THE Issue. Although the Socialist will not agree with Mr. Bryan that the Issue is not yet up, the Socialist, ever ready to acknowledge clear-sightedness from whatever source the clear-sightedness proceeds, can not fail to give Mr. Bryan credit for his words. He is evidently not wholly blind. The question now comes, How long will it take Mr. Bryan to discover that the Labor Issue IS up? What facts will he need to see the fact?

That hard facts will come down like a hail-storm upon Mr. Bryan his own paper gives evidence of. In the *Commoner* of November 25th Mr. Bryan gives the leading place to a letter that he received from a dissatisfied Democrat. The writer of the letter declares that "the people want something radical and something that they can rely upon", and among such things the writer enumerates the tariff, the income tax and the Philippines. Mr. Bryan comments on the letter as "a sample of the letters" that he has been receiving since the election, all of which letters reveal the conviction that "the Democratic party can not hope to win the confidence of the masses unless it goes forward and takes the questions in which the people are interested." It is not unlikely that if Mr. Bryan does not in the meanwhile lose the power of his mental optical nerve, he will be able to see at least big chunks of the Labor Issue, just as soon as he proceeds to attract the "confidence of the masses" by handling the subjects which correspondents suggest. Mr. Bryan will begin to make experiences.

The first experience that Mr. Bryan will make is that present loud tariff

revisionists are capitalists first and tariff reformers next; consequently all suggestion of an “income tax” will drive them off. Next he will find that a man may be a pronounced anti-Expansionist and yet have no use for “the unreasonable demands of Labor”, he may even be an equally pronounced “open shopist”. Such experience, such in store for Mr. Bryan, may, it is hoped, go far towards correcting his opinion as to the Labor Issue not yet being up.

And once Mr. Bryan has received new light on the subject he will realize by the posture of a large number of workingmen on the tariff, protection or free trade, on income taxes and on all such things that the Labor Issue IS up and very much up. He will discover the increasing numbers of workers who know that the Labor Issue is not an issue of taxation, but an issue of the ownership of the means of production—in short Mr. Bryan will find the Labor Issue a palpitating reality.

Having found out that—what next will be the posture of Mr. Bryan?

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