

### A PLEA FOR HUMANITY.

The present condition of affairs with laboring men is a very serious one, and calls for the exercise of discretion and wisdom, and above all, of consideration and charity on the part of the community.

The situation in Colorado is unprecedented. Nothing like it has ever been known before. It is a sad fact that thousands of men are out of work, out of money and absolutely unable to remain in that country. They are leaving because they are obliged to leave; it amounts to a flight from starvation.

These men are moving eastward in considerable bodies in search of work, which means bread. That tramps and vagabonds who never have worked and never intend to mix themselves in with these laboring men is probably true, but there is every reason to believe that a great majority of the pilgrims are what they profess to be, genuine laboring men out of a job but willing and anxious to get another.

It is submitted that it is not the proper thing to meet these unfortunate men at the city limits with policemen and clubs and to refuse them permission to enter the town, a proceeding of doubtful legality and savoring of inhumanity, since they are not accused of any offense, unless poverty be an offense. Men should not be clubbed or ordered to "move on" merely because they are poor, and it should not be said that a great, rich country like this is unwilling or unable to give a piece of bread and a "lift on the road" to the unfortunate. This is dictated, not merely by Christian charity but by policy, since the more promptly the men are helped the better their chance of securing work and helping themselves.

It should not be said that anybody goes hungry in a country where they are feeding wheat to hogs and where farmers hauling corn to market scatter the ears by the road side and no one picks them up.

The dictates of human kindness and of sound policy are to help these men, regardless of undeserved aid which may be extended to an occasional impostor. A tramp now and then will make no difference; better feed a score of tramps than let an honest working man go hungry. Meet the men with a square meal rather than a heavy club. It will all be right in the end; for what helps one honest and industrious citizen to work and wages helps the whole Republic.