

### LEWELLING'S LATEST BREAK

Governor Lewelling of Kansas, to use the exact words of the dispatch, yesterday "arose from a sick bed" to promulgate one of the most remarkable of all the hair-raising gubernatorial eccentricities of this year of bloody bridles, State grog-shops, idiotic Thanksgiving proclamations, north and south railway projects and 17,000-word pardons.

As there is no election in the State until next year, and as the Populists can scarcely hope to keep new recruits in the party for the intervening eleven months, the exact animus of the Governor's proclamation throwing Kansas wide open to the tramps and dead-beats of countless sorts, with offer of immunity from the terrors of cop, rock-pile and municipal bull-pen, does not appear upon the surface.

It is evidently another of those brilliant schemes with which the brain of the reformer is wont to scintillate. With a depth of human sympathy that is worthy of a better cause the Governor has looked out into the cold, cold world, and his heart has bled for the homeless gentry whose most luxurious couch is an empty freight car, varied now and then by a surreptitious bed in a farmer's hay-loft.

So Mr. Lewelling has thrown down the bars to the tramps. He has invited them to make Kansas their headquarters; to feel when they set foot upon her blood-stained soil that they are at home. And, if not exactly encouraging them to share his own excellent bed and board, the Governor has at least instructed the police commissioners of the larger towns not to interfere when they choose to utilize the aforesaid property of the railroad companies or of any citizen of the State of Kansas.

### State of Kansas.

The question naturally arises, how is it going to effect Kansas to be made the paradise of tramps and vagabonds—the place of all places where there will be no peremptory orders to "get out" or "move on," but only sweet peace and sympathy for their "wrongs" at the hands of society? It must be that this was what the Governor meant, or else he would never have forsaken the sick bed to express his desires formally at one-tenth the length of the President's message.

Will this new departure add anything to the credit of Kansas abroad, or enable her citizens more easily to secure money for conducting their enterprises? Will it even tend to make Kansas more tolerant and pitying toward the tramp, or the latter less insolent and vicious? The milk of human kindness is a most desirable thing, but Governor Lewelling is treading on dangerous ground when he attempts to regulate an evil that no community has ever successfully dealt with by throwing off all restraint.

Let us hope that Kansas will not reap the harvest which her visionary Governor has sown by his unusual circular, in murders and arson and law-breaking of every description, not to mention the specimens of humanity that will be constantly welcomed and made much of, and set up almost as examples before her young men and boys. But, viewed from this standpoint, there is room for doubt and apprehension and misgiving and everything else but hope from this radical departure of the very small man who is trying to be Governor of a great State.