

HELEN KELLER ON ECONOMICS.

Miss Helen Keller, deaf, dumb and blind, is one of the marvels of the age. Shut off from the world, except by the sense of touch and its kindred senses of taste and smell, she has gained a wonderful education, including ability to talk and sing. She has become a socialist, and without endorsing her conclusions, the following utterances by her may be quoted as one of the clearest and sanest expressions of the higher views of that party. In Washington, a few days ago, she said.

"I foresee the day when the people will take over all of man's products and distribute and transport them to the consumers. Man's affairs will be managed by all for the benefit of all.

"That is democracy. We have never before seen democracy. It has never been a free nation. From time immemorial men have bowed to the wills of masters. They have never rejoiced in the labor of their hands, because some master has always taken a large part of their toll for his profits. That is the most wonderful thing in the world to me—that men have continued all these centuries to allow other men to take the greater portions of their labors. Never until the people own and manage things will there be happiness.

"But I feel most hopeful. It is all in a day's work to hope, you know.

"But President Wilson, although his intentions are good and his ability great, cannot aid us in our fight for true democracy. President Wilson will fail because the forces against him are stronger than himself; stronger than any president has ever been. He will have to fight blindly against a system that has been carefully built up—a system of trusts that have concentrated more and more the world's wealth and world's efficiency and profit.

"His own party will be against him. In lessening big business profit, he will alienate his closest supporters. The president has said he will hang all who disturb this condition higher than Haman. The 'interests,' when they heard that, must have laughed in their sleeves. He cannot lay his hands on them. As fast as one trust is divided another springs up."

This blind girl sees much more than most people who have two good eyes. As might be expected from one excluded from the practical affairs of life, she judges things from what they should be, rather than from what they are. It would be splendid if the world were filled with wise, unselfish people. Our courts of justice, the elaborate machinery for the protection of the weak from the strong, our jails and penitentiaries, are all eloquent of the fact that the desideratum of imperfect human nature must be gravely considered in any scheme of government. That is the rock upon which all socialistic communal experiments have split.