

THE TIMES

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"A FEARLESS EXPONENT OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE"

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Saturday, June 1, 1912

THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

THE shorter work-day will always be a popular subject with the workingman. It is particularly pertinent for discussion just now due to the Eight-Hour Bill which has been introduced in our National Congress, providing that all direct contractors and all their sub-contractors as well shall employ no man on Government work more than eight hours per day. This brings everything supplied to the Government, directly or indirectly, under its provisions. Furthermore, if adopted, it means in the language of the union leaders, an extension of the Eight-Hour Day to every line of industry. Every man, woman and child in the country, therefore, is vitally interested.

We will at first confine our remarks to the present Bill only. Whom does it benefit? Who will pay for it? What are its advantages?

Government work is so intermingled with other work that no one who has not studied the matter can understand all its ramifications. We were surprised, when we came to investigate, at the number of plants which were doing the work and the number that wished to be in a position to do it; in other words, had submitted bids from time to time and lived in the hope of eventually getting a contract. Every workman therefore in machine shops, foundries, cotton mills, woolen mills, flour mills and limitless other occupations is interested. It makes no difference whether or not he is doing Government work today; he may be doing it tomorrow. What then are these supposed friends attempting to do for this advantage?

We are most interested ourselves in foundries and machine shops, and therefore in this article will refer mostly to these industries. The average machine shop throughout the country works either nine or ten hours. It is doing work perhaps for several customers, but Government work is its filler. Without it there is not enough to keep everybody employed; it represents the percentage of profit.

Briefly, there are two arguments why the firm devoting only part of its plant to Government work could not continue its practice under the proposed legislation. The first is that the general competitive work, or its own line of business, requires a nine or ten hour day to produce at the right price. Obviously, a plant could not run one department, or part of a department, on eight hours and the others on ten or nine. Even if it were practicable, wages would be based accordingly and there would be continued strife. What is worse, it would be impossible to maintain discipline, the greatest essential of the well-organized shop. The second argument is that in most cases it would be impossible to segregate the work. Each mechanic would require constant superintendence to be sure he was working only eight hours on a Government piece and the regular time on other work. It cannot be done.

The result would be that a firm would have to do all Government work or none. The private establishment cannot do Government work exclusively. It is mostly given to the lowest bidder; there is no certainty as to whether the contract will be obtained or not. One stroke, and all a firm's business may be lost; another business would have to be built up. No one would take such a risk.

Therefore, the present Bill if passed means that the Government will have to do all its own work. Well, you say, the result would be the same; the same number of workmen would be employed. But would the result be the same? The Government, to do all its own work, would enlarge its present plants and perhaps build new ones, but in any instance the work would be centralized. The workmen would have to follow the work. What does this mean to the man whose home and whose friends are not movable? He has the alternative—less work or perhaps no work. William Cramp & Sons recently refused to bid on a battleship under the eight-hour law. How many are out of work as a result?

Who then gets the benefits? The Government employee. Without belittling the work of the Government employee, is it not a fact that he is already pampered for political purposes beyond all limits? Is not the very expression "Government job" a synonym for a "soft snap"? Has not the Government employee already all the favors he can reasonably expect? And who will pay for his new one?

The increase in the cost of the battleship "New York" built by the Government of \$1,710,000 over her sister ship the "Texas" built outside suggests the answer. Our Government expenditures are large enough now; indirect taxes are easy to collect, but there will come a time when these same indirect taxes will be too heavy a burden and the workmen will be the principal sufferers.

Obviously, the present Bill is of no benefit to the ordinary workman, and so we will get right down to the proposition that most interests him.

ANARCHISM.

NOW comes the announcement that Emma Goldman will deliver a series of lectures in Portland. It is a pity that such an anarchist should be allowed to disturb the peace at a timewhen everyone is preparing to entertain the large number of visitors expected to attend the Rose Carnival. It is hoped that the time is not far off when the person who term themselves anarchists will not be allowed to preach their ruinous doctrine. There is a certain dissatisfied element who are clamoring for something—they know not what—and whenever an advocate of a new doctrine comes along, they imagine it is just what they have been dreaming of and are persuaded to follow and believe in it.

Brief News of the Week

Rioting convulsed the city of Budapest, Hungary, as a result of the government's defeat of universal suffrage.

In the presence of 200 persons, Dan Davis, a negro aged 21 years, was burned at the stake at Tyler, Texas, after confessing to an attack upon Carrie Johnson, a white girl.

With thousands of tons of perishable freight and foodstuffs rotting on the docks and wharves, the port of London is completely tied up as a result of the transport workers' federation strike.

The Hamburg-American line's new mammoth trans-Atlantic liner, Imperator, the biggest vessel in the world, was successfully launched at Hamburg, Germany, Emperor William acting as sponsor.

A verdict of not guilty was returned in the federal court at Chicago for the eight wall paper manufacturers and jobbers who were tried for alleged violation of the Sherman law in conspiring in restraint of trade.

Chinese of southern California, through their chamber of commerce in Los Angeles, have issued an appeal to the people of the coast asking them to join in a protest against the Dillingham exclusion bill, which has already passed the United States senate.

JUDGE ARCHBALD



Judge Robert W. Archbald, of the United States commerce court, who is being investigated by the house judiciary committee.

People in the News

A jury trial of Harry K. Thaw, slayer of Stanford White, in his appeal for release from the Matteawan insane asylum, was denied.

Announcement is made that Edson Joseph Chamberlain, vice-president of the Grand Trunk Railway, has been appointed to succeed Charles M. Hays, who lost his life in the Titanic disaster.

Because a rumor gained credence in the general conference that Dr. Benjamin Young of Portland, Or., used tobacco, the Methodist conference at Minneapolis failed to elect him to a bishopric. Dr. Young's friends discovered the condition when it was too late to overcome.

Judge Lawler has dismissed from the calendar the 27 indictments standing against former Mayor Eugene E. Schmitts of San Francisco. These are the last of the hundreds of indictments arising from the graft cases against dozens of former San Francisco officials and corporation magnates.

Political News Bits

Ormsby McHarg will conduct all contests on behalf of Colonel Roosevelt in the republican national convention.

Representative Lindbergh, of Minnesota, has announced his candidacy for the United States senate to succeed Senator Nelson.

Announcement that he would be a candidate to succeed United States Senator W. Murray Crane of Massachusetts was made by Thomas W. Lawson, the Boston financier.

Declaring his firm belief that he will be nominated for president at Baltimore, Speaker Clark nevertheless has announced that he will also file application for reelection to congress.

William A. Prendergast, comptroller of the city of New York, has been picked by Colonel Roosevelt to make the speech placing him in nomination for the presidency before the Chicago convention, and Hiram W. Johnson of California will make the first speech seconding the nomination.

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DR. BEN REITMAN



Dr. Ben Reitman, manager for Emma Goldman, who was tarred and feathered at San Diego by a committee of vigilantes.

LORIMER WILL NOT RESIGN

Will Investigate Conditions Personally Before Revealing his Intentions.

Chicago.—United States Senator Lorimer will not resign his seat without a struggle, regardless of any pressure that may be brought to bear by his friends in the senate, his friends now say.

Whatever was the occasion of Vice-President Sherman's mysterious visit to Chicago, Senator Lorimer made plain the fact that he will investigate conditions at Washington personally before revealing his intentions. He announced that he will go to Washington within three days if his physical condition is no worse. Whether his trip has been hurried by a message he may have received from Vice-President Sherman the senator would not say.

Rebels Collect Forces at Chihuahua.

El Paso, Texas.—The war scene in Mexico has shifted in the city of Chihuahua, where General Orozco is concentrating all the rebel forces in northern Mexico for a final stand against General Victoriano Huerta's federal forces. All the country south of Chihuahua is being abandoned. To prevent the federals from making progress in their pursuit, the rebels are burning their bridges as they cross them.

Cobb Reinstated by Ban Johnson.

Chicago.—Ban Johnson, president of the American league said that Ty Cobb, of the Detroit team, would be reinstated in time to play the Tigers-Sox game here, and that he would be fined \$50.

Eight-hour Law Valid.

San Francisco.—The state supreme court returned a decision here upholding the constitutionality of the eight-hour law for women, passed at the last regular session of the California legislature.

OFFICIALS OF CUBA DENY INTERVENTION

Havana.—That American intervention will not be needed to end the uprising of negroes of the island was the emphatic assertion of the officials at the palace.

The exchange of cablegrams between President Gomez and President Taft has led to a more definite understanding regarding the attitude of the United States toward Cuba. President Gomez' message against American intervention drew a response from President Taft, in which assurances were given that the action of the American government was merely a measure of precaution and entirely dissociated from any question of intervention.

The impression is general that the removal of the fear of intervention will greatly strengthen popular support of the government.

Airship Inventor and Wife Slain.

San Diego, Cal.—C. H. Tolliver, airship inventor and president of the Tolliver Airship company, and his wife were found dead in their home here and Bert G. Lewis, formerly secretary of the airship company, was arrested on the charge of murder.

THE MARKETS.

Portland.
Wheat—Track prices: Club, 96c; bluestem, \$1; red Russian, 96c.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$40 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$17; alfalfa, \$12.
Butter—Creamery, 27c.
Eggs—Ranch, 20c.
Hops—1911 crop, 38c; contracts, 25c.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, 18c; Willamette valley, 19c.
Mohair—32c.

Seattle.
Wheat—Bluestem, 99c; Club, 95c; red Russian, 94c.
Oats—\$25 per ton.
Butter—Creamery, 27c.
Eggs—21c.
Hay—Timothy, \$17 per ton.

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