

# THE TIMES

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A FEARLESS EXPONENT OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE

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Saturday, August 17, 1912

### THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

The President has signed the bill requiring that all work done by contract for the Government shall be done by eight-hour labor. Mechanics and contractors alike are penalized for giving or taking work for a longer day. Overtime is forbidden, although extra pay at higher rates is a boon to the wage-earner. The bill goes beyond primary contractors, and penalizes them for infractions of the law by subsidiary contractors, however far removed, if the materials are produced by work done in a longer day. The bill is labor's own bill, and yet it may turn out that, like other such laws, it does not work as expected. It may turn out to be constitutional, although a similar law in this State was declared unconstitutional, and it was necessary to amend the Constitution to give the State the power this law assumes.

The practical difficulty is likely to rival the legal. Every manufacturer doing Government work must abandon it or must maintain separate organizations for public and private contracts. It is not possible to work separate sets of men on separate conditions of work in the same shop. Contractors on Government work who can dispense with it will do so. Those who retain the work are likely to be the less responsible, to the disadvantage of the Government. Such firms are not those doing best or cheapest work. The men may be as much displeased as the employers. Their expectation is for eight hours' work and ten hours' pay! Eight hours' work and eight hours' pay are not attractive under the present narrow margins of wages above the cost of living. For some there is no such margin, and any reduction of pay would be as much a calamity for them as it is for the employers to forego the product of work done in the two hours lopped off at the expense of the taxpayers.

It is said that as much may be done in the shorter as in the longer day. It may be, but they are sanguine who expect it. Will the unions allow the imposition of pace-setters or the speeding up of machinery, which presumably it now operated at the best practicable speed? Is it wrong to say that the object of such legislation is to "make work," that is to say, to reduce product so that more hands will be necessary to turn out similar quantities? The interest of the public is rather in the output than in the length of the working day, and it is not too soon to ask ultimate consumers to consider how they will be affected if, as is designed, this bill shall be the entering wedge for a universal eight-hour day. If under present conditions of production there is complaint of the high cost of living, how will it be when the costs of production are increased by 20 per cent? As a general thing, it may be said that labor will lose by the eight-hour day. Nobody can get anything for nothing just because he is a unionist. Labor must pay its part of the increased cost of production. Because the eight-hour day is established by law the economics are not altered.

It will be a happy surprise if it shall prove that the law is either constitutional or practicable. If this attitude of reserve toward the law whose purpose is claimed to be benevolent is wrong, it is because labor is to blame for seeking to do by law what it cannot do otherwise. There are many shops where a man can choose the length of his day but there are no shops known where men take an eight-hour day at their own cost. It is essentially immoral for a man to take his leisure at the cost of another by command of law. It is a prostitution of the process of Government. Public-spirited citizens regard Government as something for them to support. Privilege-seekers regard Government as something which gives what cannot be had honestly otherwise. These days are not favorable to privilege either for labor or capital.—(New York Times.)

### THE OPTIMISTIC SIDE.

A Wall-street financier says: "If present calculations are realized, we shall garner a 700,000,000 bushel wheat crop, a 2,900,000,000 bushel corn crop, a 1,200,000,000 bushel oats crop. The yield of potatoes and hay is also likely to be considerably ahead of last year. The total value of these five crops is estimated at \$3,600,000,000, or about \$200,000,000 ahead of last year. In all probability the aggregate of all agricultural wealth produced this year will be about \$9,000,000,000 as against \$8,500,000,000, the figures of the Department of Agriculture last year. What this annual production of new wealth means to this country may be estimated when it is remembered that the capital stock of all the railroads in the United States is placed at \$8,470,000,000. An increase of \$500,000,000 in agricultural products in a single year cannot but be a powerful stimulus to business."

That is the optimistic side of it. It is the side that everyone likes to contemplate at all times except the man who seeks an excuse now and again for the high prices that combined big business interests resolve upon. It is only the wish of all well-meaning people that this magnificent corn crop will not disappear when the beef barons start out to tell the country that we are no longer raising provender for cattle, and that with shortening supply the demand must mean more money for what they sell. But when these men and others of their ilk get ready to enter their apologies they pay no attention to the facts of greater production; they simply make the sweeping statement that we are fast approaching the margin where we will not raise enough to live decently upon and they simply have to conserve the supply as best they can by charging the highest price the market will bear. If the Wall-street man and the statisticians of the Department of Agriculture would take some of these gentlemen in hand and teach them at least the wisdom of consistency, their simulated pessimism might appear somewhat less ridiculous.

### ANNEX MEXICO? N O, THANK YOU.

The American Banker suggests annexation to the United States as the only remedy for the chronic unrest in Mexico. That would be very agreeable to the American investor in the republic south of the Rio Grande, also beneficial to the Mexicans, if they could only realize the fact. But we should find reduction of the country to some sem-

states would clamor for admission to the Union as states, and politicians would back their demand in hopes of winning the Mexican vote.

Do we wish to swallow at one gulp a half-breed population split into warring factions of Maderistas, Orozoistas, Vasquitas and Zapatistas? Do we wish to make the attempt to assimilate them? What community of interest, thought, aspirations have we with such a people? What would become of our boasted Anglo-Saxon civilization when we mingled with it the semi-civilized of a nation half Indian, half Spaniard? We are already confronted by grave problems arising from the attempt to assimilate the million or so immigrants who come in yearly. How could we meet the immeasurably graver problem of assimilating 14,000,000 aliens of one race at one time?

Merely to ask these questions is ample reason for returning a decisive negative to any project to annex Mexico. The best we can do with that republic is to leave it to stew in its own juice, taking care not to allow any of its rebellious rabble to overflow our borders. It may become necessary to send an expedition for the rescue of those Americans who are exposed to risk of death or starvation in the land of many revolutions and for the collection of indemnity for their losses. Having done this, we should withdraw our troops from the plagued country and leave it to settle its own internal quarrels.

### BALKED THE BULL.

Presence of Mind That Saved the Life of a Little Child.

A regiment of the German army resting in a country road was appalled to see a great bull madly pursuing a little child in a field near by and yet so far away that the child could not be reached in time to save it nor yet saved by the shooting of the animal.

The bull had his horns down, and all the soldiers were horrified to see that in another moment the child must be gored to death. For an instant no one seemed to know what to do, and then the drum major shouted to the buglers of the band, who stood near with their instruments in their hands, to sound a loud blast. They looked agast.

"Sound, I say, for God's sake, to save the child!" repeated the drum major.

Then the buglers blew a blast at the top of their lungs. The drum major knew that animals of that species were so much affected by strange and high pitched musical sounds that they seemed compelled to imitate them. This bull proved to be no exception to the rule.

As soon as he heard the bugle blast he paused in his pursuit of the child, glanced toward the band, raised his head and began to bellow madly. The buglers kept up as high and discordant a tumult as they could, and meantime soldiers were running to the rescue of the child.

Before the bull had finished his attention to the bugles the child was in a place of safety.—New York Tribune.

### STOCKINGS OF SILK.

The First Pair Queen Bess Wore Made a Hit With Her Majesty.

Up until the time of Henry VIII. stockings were made out of ordinary cloth. The king's own were made out of yard wide taffeta. It was only by chance that he might obtain a pair of silk hose from Spain. His son, Edward VI., received as a present from Sir Thomas Gresham "a pair of long

silk stockings." For some years longer silk stockings continued to be a great rarity. Says Stow:

"In the second year of Queen Elizabeth her silk woman, Mistress Montague, presented her majesty with a pair of black knit stockings for a New Year's gift, which after a few days' wearing pleased her highness so well that she sent for Mistress Montague and asked her where she had had them and if she could help her to any more, who answered, saying, 'I made them very carefully, of purpose only for your majesty, and seeing these please you so well, I will presently set more in hand.

"Do so, quoth the queen, 'for indeed I like silk stockings so well, because they are pleasant, fine and delicate, that henceforth I will wear no more cloth stockings.

"And from that day up to her death the queen never wore cloth, but only silk stockings."—New York Herald.

### IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF MULTNOMAH.

In the Matter of the Estate of LOUIS N. BISSONNETT, Deceased.

NOTICE OF PRIVATE SALE.

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of an order of the above-entitled court made on the 23rd day of July, 1912, in the matter of the estate of Louis N. Bissonnett, deceased, the undersigned, the administrator of said estate, will sell at private sale, subject to confirmation by the above-entitled court, the following described real property, together with the improvements thereon, to-wit:

All that certain tract or portion of land situated in Multnomah County, State of Oregon, more particularly described as being the east half of Lot 12 and the east half of Lot 13, Block 3, Vernon Addition to the city of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

Said sale will be made on Monday, the 26th day of August, 1912, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, at room 514 Couch Building, Portland, Oregon, in said city, county and state. Terms of said sale will be cash.

Dated this 24th day of July, 1912.

V. A. BREWER, Administrator.

L. D. MAHONEY, Attorney for the Estate, 513-514-515 Couch Building.

Date of first publication, July 27. Date of last publication, August 24.

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