

What Workingmen Have Done for Our Country

BY A WORKINGMAN

(Continued from last week.)

The sons of poor, hard-working men and men who themselves toiled at manual labor in early life, have, in a number of instances, risen by degrees to the chief magistracy of our great republic—the most exalted, and, perhaps, the most desirable office in all the world. Let us notice some of the examples. As first on the list take Andrew Jackson, "Old Hickory," as he is sometimes called, whose famous "By the Eternal" could suppress an insurrection or quell a riot. He was born of poor, hard-working parents in a frontier settlement. He got but little education; entered the revolutionary war at the age of 14 years, spent several years of his life in military service, became noted as a daring, skillful commander and made a record on the "Sanguinary field" unsurpassed for success and brilliancy. He was also a civilian of note. He was apprenticed to a saddle-maker in early life; later studied law, was admitted to the bar, entered upon its practice, was for a while public prosecutor, a judge of the supreme court of Tennessee, governor of Florida, a member of congress, a United States senator, and finally President for two terms, beginning in 1828.

Martin Van Buren was the son of a farmer in well-to-do circumstances. He got a good common-school education, became a lawyer by profession, continuing in its practice several years; was a member of the upper branch of the New York legislature, comptroller of that state, a United States senator, Vice-President and President.

Millard Fillmore was the son of a poor farmer, worked on a farm himself in early life, became a woolcomber by trade and followed it for a few years. He later studied law, was admitted to the bar, and made an eminent practitioner. He then went into politics, and became a member of the state legislature, a member of congress, Vice-President, and while holding the last-named office rose to the Presidency on the death of Zachary Taylor.

Abraham Lincoln was the son of poor parents, who lived the life of pioneers. He got but little education, and in his early manhood years worked at various kinds of hard manual labor. In course of time he took up the study of law, was admitted to the bar and continued in the practice of that profession for a number of years. He took a deep interest in public questions, was fond of discussing them, was a good stumper and became famous as a result of his joint debates with Stephen A. Douglas in 1858. He was a member of the Illinois legislature, a member of congress and twice elected to the Presidency.

Andrew Johnson was the son of poor parents and a tailor by trade. He had no education, save what was self-acquired, and was unable to read or write till taught, by his wife, after marriage. He had a strong inclination for politics, and soon got started in public life. He was an alderman, a mayor, a member of the Tennessee legislature, a congressman, a member of the United States senate, Vice-President and upon Lincoln's assassination became President in 1865.

James A. Garfield was the son of poor parents and worked at manual labor in early life. He got a good education, was graduated from college and was for a while a school teacher. He later studied law, was admitted to the bar and did some practice. For a number of years he was a member of congress, then a United States senator and was finally elected President in 1880.

Every one of these several Presidents just named as coming up from among the sons of toil was a man of brain, intelligence, industry, perseverance and honorable ambition. Every one of

them was a man who sought to so serve his country as to promote the general welfare and happiness of its people. Every one of them was a man of moral worth—of what we call good character. The last-named quality, considered as one of the elements of true greatness, is, I am inclined to believe, quite frequently underestimated, for in the thing we call good character, when possessed by a man of talent, in high influential position, enabling him to be of much service to his fellow-men, there is something grand and sublime. It is difficult to describe it. It is, perhaps, impossible to give it an exact definition. We realize its existence. We are conscious of its power. We yield to its influence. We are moved by its inspiration. It is that with which a strong man may rise to the loftiest heights and without which he sinks to the lowest depths. It is the mainspring of all our good thoughts, good words and good deeds. It is the keystone in the arch that upholds the superstructure of true nobility. It is the balance wheel that regulates the movements of our moral and intellectual machinery. It is the Divinity of human nature. It is the crowning glory of man's highest earthly attainments.

J. T. MORGAN.

(To be continued.)

THE WAGES OF WORKING MEN.

So much has been said during this campaign and we have been asked so many questions regarding the earnings of workingmen that we feel we ought to reply when we have the official data from a non-partisan source. The Indiana State Board of Statistics reports that responses received embracing 24,421 workingmen show an average of 78 days employment at an average wage of \$1.86 a day and \$145.08 for the year, says the Union Guide. The highest number of days worked was 162, at an average of \$1.47 per day, or \$238.14 per year. The man who received \$148.08 during the year, if he had a wife and 3 children to support and paid \$8 a month rent, had just one cent and three and one-eighth mills a day to supply all the wants of each member of his family. If he received \$238.14, they would each have to live on 8 cents a day, including food, clothing, school books and all other necessities.

Now, it is evident from the figures given, and it is so stated, that most of these men belong to the class of skilled mechanics, for everybody knows the wages of common laborers does not produce such a high daily average. If this is true, what must be the average of the unskilled workmen? And if 24,400 of these men respond to a call for public statistics, how many must there be in the state who receive an equally low average? If such is the condition in Indiana, an average state, how many are there in the whole nation who see the necessity for a better condition of the toilers?

The Stove Mounters and Drillers' Union No. 3, of Quincy, Ill., an organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, is out with a circular drawing attention to the fact that the Excelsior Stove Manufacturing Company, after agreeing to employ union men put in scabs and boys, and refused to give former employees work. Union workingmen throughout the country are not forced to buy the products of this concern.

At a recent convention of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, held at Scranton, a resolution denouncing the New York lockout bosses and reindorsing the union blue label were passed. Messrs. Kotzwinkle and Gother of Union 295, Scranton, addressed the convention on the merits and use of the label.

LABOR SUPERIOR TO CAPITAL.

In those documents we find the abridgement of the existing right of suffrage, and the denial to the people of all right to participate in the selection of public officers, except the legislative, boldly advocated with labored arguments to prove that large control of the people in the government is the source of all political evil. Monarchy itself is sometimes hinted at as a possible refuge from the power of the people. In my present position, I could scarcely be justified were I to omit raising a warning voice against this approach of returning despotism. It is not needed or fitting here that a general argument should be made in favor of the popular institutions, but there is one point, with its connections, not so hackneyed as the other, to which I ask brief attention. It is the effort to place capital on an equal footing, if not above, labor in the structure of the government. It is assumed that labor is only available in connection with capital; that nobody labors unless somebody else owning capital somehow by the use of it induces him to labor. This assumed, it is next considered whether it is best that capital shall hire laborers, and thus induce them to work without their consent, or buy them and drive them to it without their consent. Having proceeded so far, it is naturally concluded that all laborers are either hired laborers or what we call slaves. And further, it is assumed that whoever is once a hired laborer is fixed in that condition for life. Now, there is no such relation between capital and labor as that assumed, nor is there any such a thing as a free man being fixed for life in the condition of a hired laborer. Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the highest consideration. No men living are more to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty; none less inclined to touch or take aught which they have not honestly earned. Let them beware of surrendering a political power which they already possess, and which, when surrendered, will surely be used to close the doors of advancement against such as they, and to fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all their liberty shall be lost.—Lincoln's Second Message.

A SUBSTANTIAL CITIZEN.

One of Portland's most substantial citizens is Henry Weinhard, proprietor of Weinhard's brewery, and manufacturer of Weinhard's celebrated lager beer. Mr. Weinhard has been in Portland many years and has seen the town grow from comparatively a country village to its present metropolitan proportions. He has not only seen it grow up, but he has helped it to grow up. He believes in union labor and union principles, and while he is a strict disciplinarian in matters of business, he is noted for his square dealing, not only with the public, but with those in his employ as well. His beer stands at the top—but, then, it is not necessary to say anything about that; everybody knows Weinhard's beer.

HE SHOULD EAT AT A HOTEL.

It turns one pale with rage to notice how interested politicians are for two months every four years in the workingman's dinner pail; the truth is, no workingman should have to carry a dinner pail. The best hotel nearest to his work should be the place for him to get what he requires. Labor built the hotel, produces the food, cooks and serves it, and it should only be served to those who perform some useful work in return. Those who now live in the greatest luxury never produced sufficient to fill one small dinner pail, and consequently do not deserve a dinner. A "sovereign" must be crazy to eat his dinner from a pail; leave such dining utensils for mules.—Montgomery County Reporter.

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