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THE DANGER OF ORGANIZED WEALTH.

Probably the most dangerous menace today to the perpetuity of our republican form of government and to our liberties as a people is organized wealth. The progress that has been made in the last five years in organizing the great money power of the country is little less than startling. The coal oil trust, the tobacco trust, the coal trust, the meat trust, the sugar trust, the steel trust, the school-book trust and almost innumerable others are combining their forces to control the elections in this country, and in controlling the elections, controlling everything else. They have to a great extent secured control of the government officials from the President down; they have the daily press in the hollow of their hand, and the army and navy through the influence of the executive is at their beck and call; for the executive is the commander-in-chief of both these powerful arms of the government. Any influence that shows itself to be antagonistic to the money power is crushed without delay or mercy. The latest example is the forced resignation of Professor Ross, of Stanford University, simply because he opposed the wholesale importation of pauper labor from Asiatic countries. His ability as an instructor, his personal rights, his splendid educational equipment, his standing as a man and a scholar all went down before this juggernaut of wealth, and now lies crushed and bleeding in its track, strewn with the mangled remains of so many industries. This fearful power is now reaching out to get control of the labor organizations of the country. The attack on this stronghold of the people is to be made by Mark Hanna and his satellites on the American Federation of Labor at its coming convention in Louisville. It is hoped and expected that the heretofore irresistible will meet its Waterloo when it lines itself up against the millions of organized workingmen of the country.

Organized labor is, indeed, the forlorn hope, so to speak, against the tyranny of corporate greed. If it falls, then all our hopes go down with it. But it will not fall. The bone and sinew of this land of workingmen will be represented at Louisville, with Samuel Gompers at their head, and if Mr. Hanna is wise he will save his ammunition and use it on some less impregnable opponent than organized

labor. The American Federation of Labor has a work before it at the convention that can and will cover it with glory, and that will bring down on its head the gratitude and heartfelt thanks of the nation. There are two things it must do—defeat Hanna's plan and have the Chinese exclusion law re-enacted.

ORIENTAL LABOR.

The following brief telegram tells its own story:

"All Japanese laborers have been taken from the construction work of the Great Northern yard at Everett, and now 65 white laborers are earning \$2 per day. The only Japs now employed in that vicinity are the regular section crew."

So the people of Washington are beginning to get their eyes open, are they? But they haven't gone far enough. The "regular section crew" should go, too. Just as long as they retain the semblance of a footing, there is danger of their regaining what they have lost. We are well satisfied that plenty of white men can be obtained to do this work. It is possible, even probable, that the Great Northern corporation would have to pay them more than they pay the Japs. That is doubtless the secret of their retention. The 65 white laborers that get \$2 per day could probably be replaced with Japs for less; but the Great Northern reads the signs of the times, and they realize that the necessity was imperative that something be done to pacify the people, to lull them to quiet for the time being.

This Oriental labor question is the most serious one that confronts the working people of this country today. The gravity of the situation cannot be overestimated. The terrible results of the flood of heathen paupers if the bars are let down cannot be realized by the working people of this country until they are brought face to face with it. They may listen to the most eloquent of orators; they may read newspaper prophecies of and comments upon what will happen; but they will never know the heartburning anguish of the reality until they see their wives and little ones compelled to exist and starve to death by degrees on what these hibernators in the dark, that never had a square meal, can get fat on. And when once here, they cling to our land with leech-like tenacity, until they fill their depraved bodies with our substance, but, unlike the leech, they do not let go, but disgorge and send what they have sucked out of our country back to China or Japan and then proceed to fill up again, and repeat the process ad infinitum.

Workingmen, if you love your country, if you love your wives and little ones, keep out these countless battalions of half-human army worms that threaten destruction to all you hold dear.

BENEFIT OF AGITATION.

The clerks of Seattle have done much good for their cause by agitating it in the meetings of the various unions. They have called the attention of the working people to the union card until no member of organized labor in Seattle will purchase goods of a clerk who can't show an up-to-date union card. If this rule were applied in Portland and extended not only to clerks, but to butcher, teamster, waiter, baker, printer, there would soon be such a rush to form and join unions that an assistant organizer would be required.

You who have unions here, don't lose any more time, but join at once, and you who have none, get together and organize without delay.

The Bridgeport Evening Post, of Bridgeport, Conn., and the Lonaconing Star, of Lonaconing, Md., have erroneously been published as part of the labor and reform press. Both publications are hostile to organized labor, and should be treated accordingly.

ONE OF PORTLAND'S NEEDS.

It seems a great pity that a city like Portland, with its wealth and noted generosity, cannot afford a free hospital, where the temporary unfortunate can go and be treated, regardless of whether they have money or not. In frontier towns, where society is in a state of chaos, so to speak, such a state of affairs is to be expected; but in a comparatively old city, a city that boasts of being the wealthiest of its size in the United States, a condition like this is, to say the least, not complimentary. It is true there is a county poorhouse with a hospital attached, but no self-respecting man or woman who may happen to be temporarily unfortunate wants to be sent thither. The poorhouse, as we understand it, is for chronic paupers, and not for those who may for the time being be in adverse circumstances. There are two hospitals in the city, but they are rather too expensive to be of much benefit to the poor. Besides, they are of a sort of quasi private character, which makes the sufferer, unless he has a bank account, feel as if he is an intruder that has no business there. Portland ought to have a free hospital.

SHUT THEM OUT.

The Union Guide has the following: "The labor unions of Tacoma, Everett and Seattle are up in arms against the employment of about 5,000 Japanese as section hands on the Northwestern railroads. Nearly 300 unemployed American citizens at Everett are anxious to be given the work at living wages. The state labor commissioner says that the Japs are being imported in violation of the contract labor law. The business men have taken up the matter, and a petition signed by prominent business men has been sent to the president of the railroad company requesting him to remove the Japs."

Talk about the army worm, the chinch bug, the grasshopper, the potato bug and all the other pests! If they all came at once and remained indefinitely, they would not be a circumstance compared with the unrestricted tide of heathen pauper immigration.

The strike of the telegraph operators west of Albuquerque on the Santa Fe system was the briefest on record. The demand was an increase of pay and shorter hours, and it was granted in five minutes, though the work of notifying the men over the nearly 1,000 miles of line was not completed for an hour and a half. President Dolphin, of the Order of National Telegraphers, engineered the strike and was completely successful.

No union man who deserves the name will patronize a Chinese laundry or a Jap restaurant. The surest and the most practical way of stopping the influx of the heathen to Portland is to sit down on them so hard that they won't want to stay here. That will do as a simple local remedy, and then have congress give them their final conge, by telling them to stay at home.

The four labor candidates recently elected to the Georgia legislature are making their presence known by having some wholesome laws introduced. Among them is a number of bills regulating child labor and the hours which women and boys can be employed in the mills. The Oregon legislature may take a hint from Georgia's course and profit by it.

The convict labor question is attracting a good deal of attention at present, especially among the working people. And it ought to attract attention until honest labor is not compelled to come in competition with the work of criminals. This is one of the things the legislature should not neglect.

DEMAND OF ORGANIZED LABOR.

[To the Editor.]—It is an old and well-established fact that all things fit to survive flourish and live; therefore, by its past record, its ever-increasing power and growth, unionism has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it is a permanent institution. Our labor unions are composed chiefly of men of the middle class—the most enlightened class—the class which has in ages past furnished to the world at large its most useful material. This class has certainly reigned supreme in this glorious, liberal-minded America of ours. And if all this be true of the past, what will the future have in store for us, with our homes protected, as they are, by our labor unions? We all know, of course, that protection to our homes—the homes of the workingmen—the homes where stand today the cradles of those who will guide the "Ship of State" when we have laid by our tools forever—is the underlying principle of unionism. In order that our beloved "Ship of State" may be well governed by our posterity we, the middle class—the working people of the United States—have permanently manned it with a sound and able-bodied pilot in the form of the public school. Considering that more than three-fourths of the apprentices entrusted to the pilot's care are union-made, coming from union homes, we deem it our divine and inalienable right and duty to have a voice in the selection of the tools to be used. We desire that union children be properly equipped when they come to take charge of the sacred trust bequeathed to them.

Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that unionism be represented on the text-book commission to be appointed in January by the chief executive of the state. Taking into consideration the number of union homes deeply interested in the choice of school books, it is only a proper recognition of organized labor to have at least one union delegate on the board of commissioners. Our candidate is Mr. W. H. Barry, of Portland. Besides being a perfect union man, he is eminently fitted both by education and business association for this position. All of us are too well acquainted with his good services in union circles for me to dilate further upon them here. Suffice it to say that he was for two terms president of Multnomah Typographical Union, besides serving on numerous committees. At present he is representing his union in the Federated Trades Assembly, which body immediately availed itself of his services by placing him on its legislative committee. Mr. Barry is certainly the strongest man we could nominate, and we want him to succeed. He is our candidate—the union's candidate—and he must be appointed. By listening to and heeding the voice of the people, many a high personage has made a name for himself in history. Mr. Barry's appointment will be an apt recognition of unionism. Let us push him to the front.

A UNION MAN.

We have often heard it said that if the government owned the railroads and such, corruption of public officials would become general; but in turn would ask if that is so. Why is there so little corruption in the postoffice? Has anyone ever heard of legislatures being bribed or corrupted by the postoffice? We think not. On the contrary, all the bribery and corrupting of legislatures is done by trusts and private companies. To get rid of that dangerous menace to our freedom, the best way is to secure government ownership of all public necessities.—Jacksonville, Fla., Labor Advocate.

THANKSGIVING.

The Labor Press is issued one day earlier than usual this week on account of tomorrow being Thanksgiving day. We wish all our readers a happy Thanksgiving and each one of them a big, fat turkey.