

THE CO-OPERATIVE BROTHERHOOD.

Portland, Or., Nov 30, 1900.

Dear Friend.—If you have not already joined the Co-operative Brotherhood, I want to advise you to study the plan and possibilities of the association carefully, and join this grand and worthy cause without delay. We have a lot of noble people that have taken hold of this work in earnest, and are devoting their time, money and energies to the upbuilding of it, which means it will be put in successful operation in every state and community within a reasonable length of time. I myself have given it a very close and careful study, and believe I understand it thoroughly. I have visited Burley, Wash., the first industrial settlement of the association, where I studied the practical application of the principles, and must say the plan is practical, scientific, and does justice to all. The first settlement was started over two years ago, without capital and just a few members, and today they have accumulated over \$30,000 worth of property, over and above their obligations, besides that portion which has been distributed to the members to consume or store up individually, as they see fit. The object of the association is to secure the lands and natural resources of all kinds, and build homes, factories, industries, etc., including transportation in each state and community, and guarantee each member a home and a position in the industries, in the line they are best adapted, and for their services they get the benefit of what labor produces, no more or no less. No one receives anything unless they work, or render valuable service, except all disabled are provided for. All wealth produced is distributed to those that produce it, except that portion or per cent which it is decided from time to time to be retained in the association for expansion or building new industries, etc. The plan of distributing the products of labor to those that produce it, in my judgment, one of the best possible that could be adopted. The plan is this: For every day's service rendered by the individual the association issues to him a day's credit check. This day's labor is the unit, and for convenience is divided into 100 parts, called minims. Some people may call this minims or day's labor check a dollar (it does not make much difference what you call it), but in reality and practice it has no relation to the dollar. It may be worth only 25 cents, or it may be worth \$10.00. It is worth just what labor produces—no more and no less. Now for an illustration: Any given article that requires a day's labor to produce, of course costs the association 100 minims, and all those that have rendered services and received a day's credit check for same can buy from the association this or any other article costing that amount of labor for each 100 minims, thus receiving all labor produces without paying a tribute to any other parties as rents, interests or profits.

Now if the association desires to retain a certain 10, 15 or 25 per cent of all labor for expansion or building up new industries, homes, etc., the association just adds the desired per cent to the actual cost of the article, thereby retaining this per cent of labor within the association, where all members receive alike all benefits accruing from the same. Now, of course, the association could retain the desired per cent on special lines of commodities which are considered luxuries and the necessities of life be distributed at cost, if considered best to do so. But this will probably never be done, as it is not in harmony with the spirit of the movement, and as no one has more credit checks than he has earned, he has the right to consume them in such articles as he desires, without having to furnish a larger per cent of his labor to the expansion fund than others do.

In selling to the outside world, through their stores or factories, the

association aims to make a profit, and when this profit is sufficient to meet the required demand for expansion and other necessities, there will be no necessity to retain any part of the labor of members, so they would then have all of their labor for personal use.

You see the plan is absolutely just, and gives no one an opportunity to get rich on the labor of others, but each one that works has the benefit of what labor produces. Now you readily see for the rapid growth of this movement we must all take hold of it at once, and either pay up the required amount in full at once and become active workers in the industries or pay the entrance fee of \$5.00 and first month's dues, \$1.00, and remain an outside member—paying your payments in \$1.00 per month dues, or as much as you like until the required amount is paid in full (\$125.00), which guarantees you thereafter a position in the industries if you wish it, while you are able, and you will be provided for when totally disabled, or in case of your death your family and children receive the same benefit.

The money you pay in becomes a good investment and brings you good results for yourself and family for all time. In fact, I know of no institution where you can invest this amount and get the benefit of real value as possible in this. I trust you will be able to grasp the full importance of the movement, and take hold of the work yourself in earnest at once. Yours for progress, W. E. JONES,
Secretary Temple No. 8

AMONG THE SWEATSHOPS.

The industrial commission in Washington, D. C., last week examined Mr. Thomas D. Rixey, labor commissioner of Missouri, and James P. Reynolds, of New York. The latter contributed desirable information concerning the sweatshops of the East Side in New York.

He said that garment-making was pursued largely in that section in private apartments and that it had degenerated in recent years. He attributed several recent failures of establishments to the sweatshop competition. He had investigated one instance of 125 workmen, four of whom were working regularly 20 hours a day, six of them 18 hours and others less time, ranging down to 10 hours per day.

In cases of long-continued daily service the wages were not increased commensurately with the time put in by the workers. In many cases the workrooms are used as sleeping apartments, and a large percentage of the quarters are in an unsanitary condition. The witness said the force of inspectors under the state law was inadequate, and that there had been complaints against the too strict enforcement of the law because of the danger of compelling the removal of the workers to other states.

Reynolds said that there was much typhus and also much tuberculosis in the sweatshops. Garments were often thrown upon the dirty floors, and when Governor Roosevelt, who investigated the question, visited the quarter, he found the goods stored in a back room occupied by a man in the last stage of tuberculosis.

The witness expressed the opinion that four-fifths of the garment work in New York is done in the sweatshops, says the Erie People. An establishment on Fifth avenue was as apt to employ these agencies as places elsewhere, and the style of the garment was no guarantee against the place of its manufacture.

Reynolds also testified as to the redemption of the slums of New York City. The University Settlement Society's building in Eldredge street, he said, was now largely surrounded by Russian and Polish Jews and Roumanians, but he thought these were gradually being crowded out by Italians, as the Germans were earlier by the Jews and the Irish by the Germans. He said that the children of the quarter manifest a disposition to become

ashamed of their parents, and not all of them were disposed to adopt the trade of their fathers.

Rixey's testimony included a detailed account of the St. Louis street-car strike, which he said never had been declared off. He advocated a compulsory arbitration law. He said the arbitration law of Missouri had proved so inadequate that he had not invoked it in the St. Louis strike. He did not believe that troops would have been sufficient to compel order during the strike.

Rixey asserted that the people were no more lawless than those of other states, and that, as a rule, it was not necessary to shoot them down in order to compel them to obey the law.

WORDS WORTH HEEDING.

The Chinese exclusion act should be not only re-enacted, but made broader—broader in the sense that it should exclude all alien labor. White, black, brown and yellow—in fact, all alien labor—should be barred. The industries of our country are protected. Why not protect the American workingman? Do not bring him to the humiliating level of competition with Japanese, Chinese and other Asiatics.

The exclusion act should be made general. The Atlantic seaboard needs as much protection from the pauper labor of Europe as does the Pacific coast from the immigrants of the far East.

Look what exclusion has done for the Pacific coast, and especially for California. There has been a gradual decrease of Chinese laborers in California since the law took effect. But failure to re-enact this or similar legislation would bring with it a reflux of the Chinese. The Japanese are already coming in by the thousands. Let loose the floodgates of Chinese immigration and the Pacific coast would in five years be swarming with coolies.

This country is a veritable Klondike, a veritable Nome, for the Chinese and Japanese. They can make as much money in a week here as they can make on their own soil in a year. They can do this and work for half what we pay the American laborer, and they are glad of the opportunity to work for half.

The fight for a re-enactment of the Chinese exclusion act should be made general. It should not be confined to the Pacific coast, but the central states, and particularly those bordering on the Atlantic should be included.—T. J. Geary, author of present Exclusion Act.

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES.

Delegates representing many thousands of members affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will propose to the officers of the federation the creation of a standing fund of \$1,000,000 to be used as a nucleus for strike funds in case of future large strikes of far-reaching effect, like the coal miners' strike, says the Labor World.

Those in favor of the fund believe that, in order to handle the labor battles involving a very large army of workingmen, it is necessary to have the proper sinews of war.

Capital must be fought with capital, argue the labor leaders who are in favor of raising the emergency fund. A fund must be at hand immediately to put every striker in a mood to stay out on strike until the various organizations the members of which feel as if they would like to assist the strikers have been warmed up sufficiently on the subject to contribute liberally for the support of the unions involved in the strike.

Within a week the market value of Standard oil holdings has risen from \$600,000,000 to \$800,000,000 and the good work goes on.

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