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THE COAL STRIKE.

The manner in which the strike in the anthracite coal regions is being conducted is remarkable for its magnitude and comparative quiet, and peaceful attitude. The experience gained in difficulties of former years and the confidence reposed in their leader, President Mitchell, backed up by a position of equity, makes the miners' side of the question invincible. From the beginning the miners have stood for arbitration. They made a demand for a percentage increase that would just about even them up on the advance that they were forced to pay on commodities. They asked an increase of 20 per cent on present prices to all men performing contract work, that eight hours should constitute a day's labor for all persons employed by the hour, day or week without any reduction in their present wage rate, and that coal should be weighed and paid for by weight wherever practicable, and inasmuch as the anthracite miners and mine operators had failed to reach an agreement upon any of the questions at issue, they proposed that the industrial branch of the National Civic Federation select a committee of five persons to arbitrate and decide all or any of the questions in dispute, the award of such board of arbitration to be binding upon both parties, and effective for a period of one year.

Should the above proposition be unacceptable, they proposed that a committee composed of Archbishop Ireland, Bishop Potter and one other person whom these two may select, be authorized to make an investigation into the wages and conditions of employment existing in the anthracite field, and if they decide that the average annual wages received by anthracite miners are sufficient to enable them to live and maintain and educate their families in a manner conformable to established American standards and consistent with American citizenship, they agreed to withdraw their claims for higher wages and more equitable conditions of employment, providing that the anthracite mine operators agreed to comply with any recommendations the above committee may make effecting the earnings and conditions of labor of their employes.

To all of this the operators refused by saying that it was impossible and impracticable to comply with the demands made by their men. They say, "Anthracite mining is a business and not a religious, sentimental or academic proposition." To them it is a cold-blooded business proposition with only one side—their side. If the men be half clothed, whose families are deprived of common comforts, and children without the primary instructions of school, it is of no consequence, so long as the operators can declare their regular dividends. If these industrial slaves don't like it, they can quit, but they must go home quietly and starve themselves and families to death (since their credit has been stopped at the company's store) without causing an outcry or raising a hand, and let other men come in (where they have spent all their lives) and take their places. If a few men become desperate in defending their right and their children's right to exist and commit a few indiscretions, the militia is called for to protect the property of the one and increase the misery and usurp the rights of the other. This used to be called good government, but the time is not far distant when this system will be looked upon as the feudal system of ages past is looked upon today.

REFORMER AND WORKING GIRLS.

Some of the social reformers of the East are viewing with alarm the increased number of young women who are entering the business, and industrial

pursuits formerly intended for men. They say that this system is not only reducing the moral status of our young women and endangering the future standards of American homes, but is also cheapening the scale of wages that ought to be paid. If these reformers would look a little deeper into the question they would find that the increase of women labor in the various avenues of industrial life is due solely to the fact that the real producers do not receive their proportionate share, nor anywhere near, of the things produced. If a little of the profits was lopped off the employers' end of the transaction and put where it belongs, young men would not hesitate to establish for themselves a home, which they could then afford and own. Many of these girls could and would be removed from the necessity of taking care of themselves, because the young men would be in a position to take care of them. As it is, a young man is fearful of the uncertainty of the times, and is loth to marry and rear a family, so he remains single and for every single man there is a single woman, and it is absolutely imperative that she adopt some means of independence, and the only legitimate course left her is to work.

THE RIGHT KIND.

Mrs. Montgomery Stone, widow of the late iron king, Sebastian L. Stone, has contributed \$10,000 towards helping the anthracite miners win their strike. Mrs. Stone says:

"The miners ought to win their strike. Their work is dangerous in the extreme and it should be well paid for. I have investigated the matter, and am convinced that they have right with them. I might send them a message to the effect that I sympathized with them and hoped they would win, but this would put no bread in the mouths of their starving wives and children. I might send them flowers, but they could not appreciate their innocent beauty when their stomachs were empty. Therefore I have decided to send them a check for \$10,000, and when they have spent a portion of it in replenishing their larders they will feel more in the humor for listening to messages of sympathy."

Strange to say, this gracious lady is one of the most beautiful women in the West, and of considerable literary ability. She has recently completed a novel entitled "In the Field of Labor." The book deals with the lives of the working men and women. Here is indeed a woman whose beauty of physique is multiplied many fold by an unselfish heart and intellectual mind, and who is brave enough to do things out of the ordinary because it is right.

BE GENEROUS.

As fast as unions hold their meetings they should take up the matter of subscribing liberally to the locked-out Woodworkers of this city. A number of unions have already contributed quite generously, but some of the larger and most able have as yet not done their part. Some of the newer organizations are showing a better spirit of unionism than a number of older ones. The Boxmakers, Laundry Workers, Metal Workers, Team Drivers No. 162, Musicians, Printers, Barbers, Cigarmakers, Machinists, Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, Stablemen, I. L. A. No. 264, Beer Drivers and Bottlers, Shipwrights and Caulkers, Bakers, Tailors, Amalgamated Meat Cutters, Bartenders, Theatrical Employes, and I. L. A. No. 263 have levied assessments upon their members and donated from their funds. A friend also sent in a private contribution. There are yet nearly 40 unions to hear from, and they should not be slow in coming to the rescue of their industrial brothers. Money is useless lying in the treasury. If it is put into a proper use it will return again many times blessed. A spirit of generosity should prevail with those who have the wherewith to give, for there is no telling how soon the positions may be reversed. Then it is a case of unionism, the thing that has done so much for every wage earner in the land.

According to the late dispatches in the daily press, President Mitchell has issued a call for a special national convention of United Mineworkers of America, to be held in Indianapolis at the very earliest date for the purpose of discussing the advisability of involving all the soft-coal miners in the United States in the struggle now going on in the anthracite coal fields. There are approximately about 450,000 coal miners in the United States. Of these about 350,000, Mr. Mitchell says, are affiliated with the union, and an additional 50,000 comply with the legislation of the miners' organization. The anthracite delegates will go into the convention with 142,000 striking hard-coal miners at their back for a general strike. The West Virginia delegates will have approximately 25,000 behind them for a strike, and in Michigan, where the union has been having trouble, the delegates will also be instructed for a National suspension. Central Pennsylvania will contribute a certain number of delegates who will want a general strike, as will also Kentucky. It remains for Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana to offset this,

as it is unofficially understood that the miners in those sections are not very enthusiastic for a general stoppage of coal production.

NO CHANGE.

Since our last issue the strike situation is practically unchanged, with this possible exception, that the lines are being drawn closer on the unfair mills. Our editorial of last week in all other phases of the situation exactly fits the conditions existing at this writing. There was a meeting held last Saturday afternoon between the planing mill bosses with Mr. Johan Poulsen and a committee of 12 of the locked-out Woodworkers, and Mr. H. D. Greene, special business agent, and Mr. J. E. Lewton, secretary of the Building Trades Council, at which practically nothing was accomplished.

The utmost good feeling prevailed between the opposing forces, but beyond a general discussion of the differences at issue, no good came of the meeting. The Woodworkers, as well as the Building Trades, are standing firmer than ever, and will never yield an inch until the demands for a nine-hour day are granted, or until the planing mill owners are forced from their arbitrary position, and leave the matter to a fair board of arbitration for adjustment.

Every few days some one other than a Woodworker starts a story that the difficulties with the mill owners have been adjusted and the men will return to work at the bosses' terms; or, that the Woodworkers are deserting the union ranks and the men are returning to work. Of course these stories are started under cover for the purpose of stampeding the men into some sort of a compromise, but each deception of this character runs its course in a few hours, and the men remain firm. Only three men have deserted since the lock-out began on May 1. W. W. Redman, a deaf-mute, and Geo. C. Hogan returned to work at the Hand Manufacturing Company after being out several days. These men were never counted upon by the union as reliable, the mute being of little use to the union anyway. J. B. Leasia, a roustabout, also went back, but he is no mechanic in any sense of the word, and is not considered a competent man. If there is any change in the situation, the news will be conveyed to the men in an official manner, and until this is done there is no need to place credence in any of the idle rumors being circulated about the streets.

The densely wooded country through which Tracey and Merrill are traveling make their capture almost impossible. To distribute a posse promiscuously about in the brush and timber, on an equal footing with the convicts, would result in a similar incident to that which occurred Monday, when William Morris, a pursuer, was mistaken for one of the convicts, and shot. That the convicts will hug the brush is evident, as they would soon be taken in the open country. People are liable to jeer the unsuccessful efforts made by the posse, but if they would shoulder a gun and try a little more foot and less headwork they would change their tune. Even if a man is in the business he is not going to go up against such men with chances all against him, and he can't be blamed if he doesn't.

The Portland Labor Press is now domiciled in its new quarters, 232 1/2 Washington, corner Second street, in room 8. The location is conveniently situated and the office room is more commodious and comfortable than formerly. In the new location the management would be pleased to receive patrons and friends, and assures them a cordial reception. Corresponding secretaries are urgently requested to send in a report of their union meetings not later than Wednesday afternoon. The paper is the official journal for the unions of Portland, and the State Federation of Labor. It is here to defend the cause of unionism, and educate, if it can, those who are not familiar with the workings of organization, and who are willing to learn.

Baker City is keeping up its reputation as a solid union town. From recent advices to the State Federation we learn the Cooks and Waiters Alliance were forced to place the boycott on one of the prominent hotels, which lasted just two days, when the hotel men came to time and granted the full demands of the union. This hostelry served just six meals in twelve hours after notices and hand bills declaring the boycott were distributed, where their usual run would have been over 100 meals served in that time. This speaks well for the solidarity of the labor forces in Baker City.

Riots and disorder in the Pawtucket, R. I., street-car strike have happily given way to better judgment and sober thought. Uprisings of this character lack business sense and diplomacy, but as a rule the leaders of organized labor advise peaceful methods and oppose rabid measures. The harm comes from a mass of ignorant toilers and sympathizers who permit themselves to get into a passion without counting the cost.

Since the American Federation of Labor has opened Western headquarters at Denver, Colo., with J. D. Pierce in charge, the Western States can hope to get a little material assistance from that source. Mr. Pierce is fully familiar with the needs of the West, and is an organizer of unusual strength and ability. It is practically impossible for Eastern people, who have never crossed the Rocky Mountains, to realize the significance of the immense district bordering on the Pacific sea shore.

The reciprocal tenor of the administration with Cuba is just what it ought to be. What is the use of adopting the child unless the provisions of the adoption are carried out? Otherwise it would look too much as if we had taken up the charge for the purpose of advantage for one side only.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION.

Editor Labor Press: A short time ago, in his report on strikes throughout the United States, Hon. Carrol D. Wright, United States Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said that "Labor conflicts grow out of increasing intelligence; that the avoidance or adjustment of such conflicts must be the result of increased intelligence; that fools do not strike; it is only men who have intelligence enough to recognize their condition that make use of this last resort."

I believe all the statements contained in this conclusion are undeniably true. Labor unions are the primary cause of the "increasing intelligence" which causes working men to recognize their condition, and strikes are merely an attempt to rectify this condition.

But it is particularly to the second statement—"The avoidance or adjustment of such conflicts must be the result of increased intelligence"—that I wish to discuss. Take almost any constitution of almost any labor union, and you will find in it somewhere that the organization believes in the efficacy and justice of arbitration, and that before going on strike it is willing to submit any dispute to an impartial board for adjustment. I say you will find this in nearly all constitutions of labor organizations; but I believe I could just as truly say all. Now, this being true, what is to prevent troubles of all kinds arising from differences of opinion in regard to hours and wages, being settled in this way. If the labor unions are willing, who is at fault. It must be the employer. That is obvious.

But a great many of the most prominent labor leaders of today are bitterly opposed to compulsory arbitration—notably Samuel Gompers, of the A. F. of L., who says it is un-American and would produce industrial slavery. It seems to me, however, that this result would very largely depend on the kind of compulsory arbitration that was enforced. If the employing class could select the boards, then indeed would the contention of these men be true. But if each side to the argument had an equal representation, and together they chose a referee, for each particular case, the same as in cases of voluntary arbitration now, it seems to me this result would not be attained, but a satisfactory adjustment of all disputes would be made easy.

Take our local strike of the Woodworkers as an example. This labor dispute has caused untold damage to the City of Portland, and nearly every resident has been a sufferer in one way or another from it. The labor union is willing to arbitrate and have the vexatious thing settled; the employers are not. What is to be done? The entire community is interested, for this strike has included in its ramifications all the building operations of Portland. Now it seems to me that if we had a state law which would compel these obstinate people (whether they are members of a labor organization or whether they are employers) to get together and settle these matters as sensible people should, the public at large would be greatly the gainer.

There have been vast changes in the industrial conditions of this country. The labor union is an institution that must be reckoned with, and the sooner it is taken into consideration, the better it will be for our glorious city and state. The practical, common-sense solution, it appears to me, of this whole trouble lies in the passage of a compulsory arbitration law, on lines similar to that now obtaining in New Zealand. This law recognizes labor organizations first and private individuals second, in the consideration of grievances of this nature. This is eminently proper, as a large number of people naturally arrive at a more intelligent conclusion than one person, who can only look at a subject from one point. The decisions of these courts are binding for a year, usually, and are enforced the same as the decrees of any other court. Another advantage which should not be overlooked is that work goes right on without interruption while the dispute is being adjusted, and the change, if any, is thus brought about without the large losses to both wage earner and employer which result in strikes like the present one. The workmen have nothing to fear from a fair arbitration of all these disputes, and so should be heartily in favor of compulsory arbitration along the lines above suggested.

On the other hand, the employing class have nothing to fear, unless they are seeking to oppress their workmen. Let us, then, see to it that "the avoidance or adjustment of such conflicts are the results of increased intelligence," for intelligence is the power which has ruled the world from the first.

Our civilization is too complex, and one line of industry depends too much upon and is too closely interwoven with every other, to allow an ignorant, pig-headed, obstinate individual to block the wheels of progress for long at a time, and the day is surely not far off when patience will cease to be a virtue, and the men who have "nothing to arbitrate" will find that there are several things under the blue canopy of heaven of which they never even dreamed. A. A. BAILEY.

RIGHT KIND OF UNION MEN.

Copy of a letter received by State President G. Y. Harry from a Federal Labor Union, which has just effected temporary organization, but have not received their charter and are not yet members of organized labor. The spirit shown in this letter might be emulated by some of our older unions, much to their benefit and the betterment of labor's interest. The full text and name and location of the union is withheld for prudent reasons. The letter follows:

Dear Brother Harry: I see from the Oregonian that organized labor in Portland is suffering a great strain. We held a meeting here last week and organized a Federal Labor Union with 104 members, and I believe they are as loyal to organized labor as you will be able to scare up anywhere, and they have all said to me that they would donate \$5 per month each to the relief of the labor cause at Portland if the boys needed it to maintain their stand, and for me to write and encourage you to stay with it, and by all means do not allow defeat to be recorded against organized labor in the metropolis of Oregon. Yours fraternally.

We predict a great union from such a body of men and they will accomplish great things for themselves and organized labor once they are solidly fixed in our ranks. Men who can grasp the true spirit and meaning of unionism before organization, what will they not become after? All hail, say we, to our ranks of this glorious band of workers. If our State Federation can bring to our ranks such people as these, it will not be long until organized labor will become invincible.

THE LABORER'S PROFIT.

Comparison of the Earnings of the Employer and Employee.

The steel trust, says an exchange, is without doubt the largest employer in the United States, if not in the whole world. Its average pay roll for the year 1901 represented 160,000 persons. The selling value of its product \$450,000,000, and its net profits were \$111,000,000. It paid \$225,000,000 for material and \$114,000,000 for labor. How much of the latter sum represents the salaries of officers and managing directors is not stated, the lump sum being the entire pay roll of the corporation for the year. From these figures it is learned the average earnings of the steel trust employes, including salaried officials, was \$712 a year each, or a trifle less than \$60 a month. Deducting the pay of the salaried officials, it is probable that the actual earnings of the laborers would not be much if any more than \$45 per month.

Against this sum of \$712 paid for labor, it is found that \$694 was paid in profits to stockholders. In other words, each employe produced \$1406 in profits, of which he received \$712, while capital received \$694, or nearly one-half.

In considering the equity of such a division, it must be remembered that the payment here alluded to was what may be termed "idle capital," that is, capital in which no labor of the holder is represented. Shareholders who contributed time and attention to the active conduct of the business were paid for their services out of the portion credited to labor. The sum accredited to capital, therefore, represents interest or invested capital only.

As the business of the steel trust may be taken as fairly representative of that of all other great trust combinations of the country, the statistics show that the producer is compelled to give up to the non-producer nearly one-half of the product of his labor—a condition of industrial servitude paralleled only in the days of the feudal barons or in the present by the despotic landlordism of Ireland.

And these are the benefits and the blessings which modern "combination of capital" and "community of interests" ideas and methods bring to the producing classes of the United States!

By a compromise which gives the men for the present a part of the increase in wages demanded and the full increase after the first of next January, the strike of union painters in St. Louis, Mo., has been settled.

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The strike of the telephone linemen against the Chicago Telephone Company is ended and the 550 men on strike since October 8 of last year returned to work Tuesday. Their wages will be increased, their union will be recognized, and no work will be done on holidays.

W. R. Boyer, general secretary of the International Broom Makers' Union of America, is on his way West. He will visit the various locals in the Coast States, and boom the broom makers' blue label, which will strike a telling blow against the Chinese-made brooms of California.