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"STRIKES AND PUBLIC RIGHTS."

The July number of the Federationist contains an editorial written by Samuel Gompers, editor, headed "Strikes and Public Rights," which applies precisely to the labor difficulties in Portland as well as those of nearly every other city. Mr. Gompers is a veteran in the service and has championed the cause of labor for more than 30 years. In company with Vice-Presidents O'Connell and Morris, A. F. of L., he will visit Portland early in August and address the wage earners and citizens of Portland. The editorial mentioned reads:

"In connection with every strike of any moment, though not, we have observed, in connection with lockouts or blacklisting, a certain portion of the press takes up the cry of 'public rights.' What, it is asked, becomes of the rights and interests of the 'third party' to a labor-capital controversy, the great, helpless public? The workmen have the right to strike for any reason whatever, good or bad, wise or foolish; and they claim the right to boycott those who have offended them. Employers have the right to discharge men at will, and thus precipitate difficulty. Have the bystanders, the consumers, no rights that the classes named are bound to respect?"

"Thus runs the argument, and it is plausible. As a rule, those who make it wind up by advocating some form of compulsory arbitration, or state regulation of wages, hours, and conditions of labor. We are not going to discuss the general question of compulsory arbitration, as our position has been made sufficiently clear in previous articles; but it may be pointed out in passing that those who advocate that remedy in the interests of the 'third party' are really proposing a radical, a revolutionary change in the law and policy of the country."

"They have a right to their opinions; but they must not confuse issues arising under existing laws with implications and deductions from principles that are peculiar to the philosophy of industrial relations, principles that have not been accepted or recognized."

"When they talk about public rights they must confine themselves to rights under the present politico-economic system, not under a conceivable system which has not been adopted."

"From this logical and proper standpoint, it is plain that the 'third party' has no standing in the forum of law, equity, and reason, in any case where neither capital nor labor oversteps its constitutional bounds. A great strike entails inconvenience and hardship; but what of it? Is the public entitled to insist that a man shall work on terms that are unsatisfactory to him, simply because it needs his product?"

"Men work or engage in business to earn a livelihood, not from motives of altruism. They may stop when they please, just as the farmer may refuse to raise crops without regard to the needs of the consumers."

"The 'public' does not provide for the wage workers; it leaves them to pursue their interests as best they may, and all they owe the public, legally speaking, is respect for the law."

"But, of course, in addition to legal responsibilities and limitations, there are the less definite moral responsibilities. Not everything that is lawful is expedient and reasonable; 'the extreme of law is the extreme of injustice,' it has well been said."

"Now, it is certainly pertinent and important to ask whether organized labor has shown itself reckless of these moral obligations to the public, whether it has insisted in any considerable number of cases, on the letter of the law, regardless of all considerations of propriety and reason in a comprehensive sense of these terms."

"We have had many strikes of late, some of them of a serious character from the public standpoint. Which side was it which defiantly and scornfully disregarded public opinion, and talked about 'managing its own business in its own way?'"

"Which side declared that it was impudent and impudent and outrageous for the 'third party' to make its influence felt for peace and adjustment?"

"Which side said that the law was all-sufficient, and that other considerations were mere foolish sentiment and harmful weakness?"

"In the strike of the anthracite miners, who said: 'No concessions, no arbitration?' The presidents of the coal-carrying railroads said it."

"Who offered to accept arbitration of the strictly impartial kind? The representatives of the 147,000 miners."

"The operators and railroads opposed the efforts of the conciliation committee of the industrial department of the Civic Federation, and even the suggestion of President Roosevelt's intervention under a supposed statute, discovered to have been repealed, was resented and characterized as dangerous and vicious."

"And all this in spite of the fact that railroads enjoy exclusive and valuable privileges from the public, and that the coal-carrying roads were notoriously parties in an illegal monopoly, as shown by the plain statements of the Industrial Commission!"

"If moral obligations are operative anywhere, they are surely operative in cases where the industry affected by a strike is a national monopoly, where franchises have removed the natural check of supply and demand."

"In Chicago there was a strike of teamsters employed by the big packing companies, which are under public accusation of unlawful monopoly. The strikers demanded recognition of their union, an increase of pay, and some other things. The packers declined to 'deal with strangers,' or to recognize the union in any way. The people of Chicago were practically all against the packers, and they had to yield; but they, not the teamsters, at first rejected arbitration and friendly mediation."

"So perverted are the notions of illiberal and short-sighted employers that when the simplest truth is stated it sounds like a paradox."

"It is forgotten that the workman, too, has his 'business' to manage, and that, to say the least, his part in production is as essential as that of capital."

"When workmen insist on certain terms, they are not seeking to control the employer's business, but to lay down the conditions of their own participation in that business."

"Too many still assume that the employer is to be thanked and regarded as a benefactor for paying wages at all, and giving his employees work."

"This miserable fallacy is back of every arrogant claim put forward by capital. But for it, everybody would see that if the workman has something to arbitrate, so has the employer."

"In fine, a candid examination of the facts will satisfy reasonable men that the interests and rights of the public are seldom disregarded by organized labor, and that the obstinacy, superciliousness and bigotry of certain types of employers are responsible for the number, duration and character of strikes and labor contests."

"Assuredly, no sane man will ask workmen to accept any terms employers choose to grant them."

"What more can labor do than to agree to accept mediation and arbitration?"

"What more does consideration for the 'third party' require?"

"Let, then, the champions and spokesmen for the public, address their protests and appeals to the backward and short-sighted employers whose name, alas! is still legion."

"Organized labor needs no conversion. It is ready to do the right thing at the right time."

Newspaper reports of Tracy are paving the way for him to become a hero. Already people are expressing admiration for the fiend, amongst which are many young girls. Tracy is undoubtedly a man of nerve, but his desperate courage is begot somewhat from an abnormal growth of recklessness, foolhardiness and necessity. He hesitates not to steal and murder, and the reason he does not harm women and little children is because they do not get in his way enough to impede his flight. He is aware of the sensation he is making, and depending upon his marksmanship and rifle he is making a campaign of spectacular terror. He is absolutely devoid of honor, and is a hardened criminal that society is best rid of. His life in prison is no good to him, and the game of chance he is playing and the advantage he has of being the man sought, together with an

unusual amount of luck, marksmanship and ready wit, makes him a hard man to catch without losing a number of valuable lives.

Mayor Williams' administration so far smacks of reform. No respectable person will object to a thorough cleansing of the North End. That part of the city is a disgrace, and ought to be purged. A respectable person cannot get into or out of the city unless he is confronted for blocks by a succession of brothels and hideously painted demi-mondes who are permitted to expose themselves in one way and another.

After Emperor Wilhelm had secured his title in the royal safe and left it guarded with a company of his royal guards His Majesty took a drive with the king of finance, J. P. Morgan, a few days ago. They exchanged many courtesies, and each one thinks the other a good fellow. Hoch der Morgan!

Pittsburg and other Eastern cities are suffering the usual number of deaths from sunstroke at this time of the year, while Oregon has hardly made the sweat come. Our extreme weather comes in the winter, but we have never had atmospheric conditions so strenuous as to drown any one.

The unions of Portland throw down the gauntlet to their employers to arbitrate. Now, you fellows, who have "nothing to arbitrate," but continue to block the wheels of industry, we dare you to pick it up. See them fall over each other trying to get to the front to do the square thing (?)

Relief for the striking coal miners will soon be asked from organized labor throughout the land, and there is no doubt that response will be speedy and liberally made. Nearly every union man in the United States is familiar to some extent with the inhuman methods of the coal barons.

What Portland needs is a few more improved streets, so the City Council can put in a few more blocks. A job lot of blocks might be secured cheaply from some up-to-date city that had abandoned the use of them years ago.

The selection of the City Park as the site for the Lewis and Clark Fair is the finest that could have been made. With the natural beauty the park affords, the grounds can be arranged differently and unusually from any other large fair.

The Illinois State Board of Arbitration has taken up the freighthandlers' grievance at Chicago, and there is a possibility of the difficulty being settled soon.

GOOD NEWS FROM SALEM.

SALEM, Or., July 5, 1922. To the Editor: The charter for the Clerks' Union arrived on Saturday, and permanent organization will have been effected ere this week's paper reaches its readers.

Further investigation here shows no working mills toward the unions, and also that they took no part in assisting the unfair mills in Portland, but, on the contrary, refused much work of opposition to exist among the lumbered them by these Portland mills.

A letter from G. Y. Harry, organizer at Portland, states that the Salem mills cannot be deemed "scab" mills until there is a union of millmen here, and then only in case they stand out and refuse to recognize the union.

Salem will try to profit by the lessons of other places where strikes have seemed to follow rather too fast upon the heels of organization, though this will not condemn striking laborers in any of these places. By careful and deliberate consideration of grievances and the solicitation of combined public sentiment upon matters constituting the same it is hoped that the spirit of fairness and justice will materially help to sway the obstinate employer as well as to put a reasonable check upon the too hasty worker.

There is a healthy union sentiment in Salem, which will be a most potent factor in securing justice to the workers if it is properly respected and duly cherished by the unions.

First we want thorough and complete organization; our machinery must be in perfect working order and composed of the entire wage-earning population. Then it is safe to say no hot-heads nor demagogues can influence any considerable number to an unjust action, and that our requests, being always just, will be readily granted.

R. A. HARRIS.

A RARE TREAT.

Organized labor of Portland is to be congratulated upon the opportunity offered them to meet with and hear the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. Some of these gentlemen have never visited the Pacific Coast, and it has been to years since President Gompers paid his last visit to this section of the country.

The committee appointed at the last meeting of the Federated Trades Council to arrange for their reception and

prepare for a mass meeting has secured Cordray's Theater for Saturday night, the 19th inst., when the first party will be here. Messrs. James Duncan, president of the Granite-Cutters' International Union, and first vice-president of the American Federation of Labor; Thomas I. Kidd, fifth vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, and president of the Amalgamated Woodworkers' International Association, with John B. Lemon, treasurer of the A. F. of L., and president of the Journeymen Tailors' International Union, compose the membership of the first party to arrive on the 19th inst., while Messrs. Samuel Gompers, president of A. F. of L., with Max Morris, fourth vice-president A. F. of L., and secretary-treasurer of the Retail Clerks' International Association, and James O'Connell, third vice-president A. F. of L., and president International Association of Machinists, will reach here on August 4. Of those arriving on the 19th inst., Mr. James Duncan has a National reputation as a speaker upon economic subjects from the standpoint of the trade unionist, while Messrs. Lennon and Kidd both rank with our most eloquent exponents of the principles of unionism.

Our union men and the public generally will enjoy this chance to hear the representative leaders of organized labor defend its principles, and we predict a packed house. The ladies are cordially invited to be present and learn in what way they are interested in labor unions. Come out, brothers, and give them a rousing reception. Remember, Cordray's Theater, 8 P. M., Saturday, July 19.

Right here it is appropriate to mention that Mr. Cordray has generously donated \$20 toward defraying the expenses of entertaining these gentlemen and holding public meetings. This courtesy will not be lost upon the workmen of Portland.

NEW FEDERAL LABOR UNION, NO. 10,659, TROUTDALE.

State President G. Y. Harry spent Tuesday night at Troutdale, perfecting the organization of the above union. Charter and supplies having arrived, the new union was initiated and permanent officers elected and installed as follows: President, F. Portillo; vice-president, G. Jolly; secretary, Harry Grosch; treasurer, Dan Mickle; guide, J. G. Wetle; guard, L. Pommer; trustees, Fred Pelton, E. Holt and Archie Richardson.

The union was organized three weeks since by Mr. Harry with 22 members, and they now have 56 names on the roll, which speaks well for the union sentiment of Troutdale, and is a further evidence that there are some good and earnest workers in their ranks.

Mr. Portillo, the president, and Mr. Grosch, the secretary, are deserving of praise for the good work they have done, as well as, are several others of their members. The boys elected a splendid set of officers, and we predict every success for their organization. Organized labor is always happy to welcome to its ranks such men and brothers as compose this union.

LABOR NOTES.

The trouble at East Helena, Mont., between employees of the American Smelting & Refining Company and the corporation has been adjusted, and the men will go back to work tomorrow. The union is not recognized, but the company agrees to give preference to old men and to discriminate against none of them. The men on their part agree to work one year from May 1, 1922, at the old scale. The strike has been formally declared off. About 600 men are affected.

At a recent meeting of Pomona Grange in Independence, Or., a committee was appointed with a view of forming a co-operative company or inaugurating some other movement whereby the farmers could buy without paying the middleman's profit, and to dispose of the products of the farm without selling through a middleman. The committee is expected to correspond with members of the order, investigate other movements of the kind in this and other states, and to make some definite propositions at their next meeting.

Arrangements have been made by the United Railways & Electric Company, of Baltimore, says a Times dispatch from that city, to insure the lives of 3000 motormen and conductors on its lines. In the case of a fatal accident while in the service of the company, the sum of \$1000 will be paid to the family of the victim. The company will pay the entire cost, and will make no reduction from the wages of the men. It will amount to 60 cents for each employee. The insurance is to be accepted as settlement for any claim against the company, and in this sense is a mutual arrangement between employer and employee.

Every building in process of construction in Santa Barbara, Cal., with the single exception of the Hotel Potter, was tied up July 1 by the striking of all of the plumbers of the city. Some weeks ago plumbers from Los Angeles assisted the Santa Barbara plumbers in forming a union here. It

was this union that struck. The men claim that while the wages of plumbers have been only \$3 for the past 20 years, outside places have been paying \$4. It is for a raise to \$4 that the strikers ask. There is every prospect of the

A conference between the officials of the Rock Island Route and the grievance committee of its firemen, who are protesting against the order requiring them to wipe engines, will be held in Chicago on July 15, when an effort to reach an agreement will be made, and the firemen will demand that the order be annulled, unless each fireman be paid 20 cents extra for every 100 miles, and that the firemen who have been discharged for refusing to obey the order be reinstated. The firemen assert that noncompliance with these demands on the part of the Rock Island management will cause them to strike, and that the engineers, brakemen and conductors will strike in sympathy.

The master plumbers have large contracts on hand, and there are hardly any plumbers in the south that are not in the union. The employers offer a compromise of \$3.50 per day, but this the strikers refuse.

Four of the seven shoe factories in Burlington, N. J., are idle because of a strike of 700 employees, which is expected to extend to the remaining three establishments. The plants affected are the Budd Baby Shoe Company, said to be the most extensive manufacturer of baby shoes in the world; R. T. Wood & Co., the Standard Shoe Company and the Bastian Shoe Company. The seven factories employ more than 1500 men and women. Shoemaking is the principal industry of Burlington. The strike is the result of a notice announcing that when the works reopen next Monday none but nonunion hands will be employed. The strikers assert that in recent years their wages have been reduced gradually until now they are receiving 50 per cent less than 10 years ago. In consequence of this reduction they formed a union for the purpose of securing better conditions. They have, however, made no demands on the manufacturers.

IT'S MORGAN'S.

I came to a mill by the river side A half mile long and nearly as wide. With a forest of stacks and an army of men Toiling at furnace and shovel and pen. "What a most magnificent plant!" I cried, And a man with a smudge on his face replied, "It's Morgan's."

I entered a train and rode all day On a regal coach and a right of way Which reached out its arms all over the land In a system too large to understand. "A splendid property, this," I cried, And a man with a plate on his hat replied, "It's Morgan's."

I sailed on a great ship, trim and true, From pennon to keel, and cabin to crew, And the ship was one of a monster fleet; A first-class navy could scarce compete. "What a beautiful craft she is," I cried, And a man with akimbo legs replied, "It's Morgan's."

I dwelt in a nation filled with pride; Her people were many, her lands were wide, Her record in war and science and art Proved greatness of muscle and mind and heart. "What a grand old country it is," I cried, And a man with his chest in the air replied, "It's Morgan's."

I went to heaven. The jasper walls Towered high and wide, and the golden halls Showed bright beyond. But a strange new mark Was over the gate, viz.: "Private Park." "Why, what is the meaning of this?" I cried, And a saint with a livery on replied, "It's Morgan's."

I went to the only place left. I'll take A chance in the boat on the brimstone lake, Or perhaps I may be allowed to sit On the griddled floor of the bottomless pit. But a Jeering lout with horns on his face, Cried out, as he forked me off the place, "It's Morgan's."

—E. V. Cook.

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