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LABOR DAY.

Next Monday will be Labor day—a day set aside by Congress as a National holiday, dedicated to the millions of toilers to use as they see fit, consistent with the law, in rest or the pursuit of festivities. There are but three National holidays that are of material significance—Christmas, because it was the birthday of a new Christian era, the Teacher of forgiveness and brotherly love; Fourth of July, because it was the beginning of our National independence, representation with taxation and the elimination of aristocratic rule, and Labor day, because it defines the rights of the common classes and describes the foundation upon which our Government is built.

Labor day should mean more to the wage-earner than simply a day in which to indulge one's appetites and passions. It should be recognized as a day of reflection, in which the producer may feel the responsibility of an important function. And there should be no hesitancy on the part of every trades unionist in the city turning out. It makes no difference where your union is in the column, or who rides horses or doesn't. It should be enough that it is your duty to get out and march, and bury your jealousies in the amount of good you accomplish in helping to swell the numbers and appearance of your organization. Put on your suit and march; if you haven't a uniform, march anyway. The union movement is a continuous march onward and upward, and set the example in a proper spirit Labor day. You can't all be marshals nor drivers of floats, nor given places of preference, but you all can be good union men and help your wife and children and yourself by living up to the doctrine of organized workmen and women.

There will be close onto 10,000 men and women in the parade. There should be 20,000. And if there were, and they all were good, honest trades unionists who lived true to the rules and regulations of their unions, Portland today would be the best city in every possible way in the world.

Labor day and its demonstration need not create apprehension to the business man or the upright employer of labor. It simply means that the day will come when the "workman will be worthy of his hire"; when there will be an equalization compatible within the meaning of the great document of our forefathers and the laws of God.

BAER SHARPLY CRITICIZED.

When asked to settle the strike of the anthracite coal regions by a Christian gentleman for Christianity's sake, President Baer, of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, said:

"The rights and interests of the laboring man will be protected and cared for, not by the labor agitators, but by the Christian men to whom God in His infinite wisdom has given the control of the property interests of the country."

From every side has come a gale of caustic and astonished comments. They are typical of the manner in which the remarkable communication of the railroad president impressed people throughout this country.

"So President Baer thinks that God gave the mines to the operators, and that the miners are simply interested in receiving their wages each week, does he?" Russell Sage exclaimed. "Well, I would not be surprised if

President Baer woke up some morning and found that God had given Mr. Morgan the mines and everything else in sight. However, I believe the mines were bestowed for the common good of the people, and the manner in which they are worked is of vital importance to the miners."

W. Bourke Cockran made the following strong comment:

"I don't believe that in creating the coal mines or other sources of commodities God had in view the bestowal of them upon the present owners. I believe that all natural products were created by God for the benefit of the whole human race. As coal, like all commodities, must be produced before it is distributed, whoever wantonly or unnecessarily causes the production to be suspended or restricted is an enemy to God and men. The laborers are, of course, interested in the proper working of the mines by those who have charge of them."

The denunciation by Charles F. Adams, of the law firm of Couderet Brothers, is an epitome of numberless opinions which were expressed to Chicago American reporters. Mr. Adams said:

"It is blasphemy. The idea that God turned over the coal mines to the coal operators! Why, it is ridiculous. The only reason why I do not care to go further into discussion of the subject is that I would no doubt use terms which might offend."

The following expression is from Bolton Hall, of East Hampton, son of Rev. Dr. John Hall:

"My opinion is that, as the Scripture says, 'The earth hath He given,' including the coal mines in it, to all the children of men, not only to some of them, and that as soon as the said children know enough to take for themselves the value of the mines and of the rest of the earth in taxes, year by year, they won't care who has charge of it."

"If the Lord gave landlords charge of the mines, he hardly instructed them to charge 100 per cent profit on the coal and to put the proceeds into their own pockets."

A WORKINGMAN'S CHURCH.

A movement has recently been inaugurated at Marion, Ind., for the establishment of a church by the organized laborers of the city, and has progressed so far that there seems to be no doubt but that it will be carried into successful execution. The 48 unions in the city have taken up the question, and there is said to be a decided preponderance of sentiment in favor of it. All of the unions have money in their treasuries, and as the proposed edifice is to be, like the projectors of the church, plain and unpretentious, its erection would not work a hardship upon those who conceived the idea.

The men who are interesting themselves in the movement are members of different denominations, and it was early settled that the new church should be undenominational and the preaching should be along the lines that would eschew doctrine entirely so far as it relates to the dogmas upon which the church is now divided. It will, therefore, be open to Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans and all other religionists, no matter what their beliefs, but it is necessary that every member must be a member of organized labor or of a family whose head is connected with some union.

James E. Myers, one of the most prominent union men in Marion, is at the head of the movement, and thus defines the objects of the proposed laboring men's church: "What the laboring men of this country need, and what we hope to have within a few months, is a church erected and supported entirely by men who earn their bread in the sweat of their faces. The time has come when we feel that we are not welcome in the big churches, no matter of what denomination, and we must work out our salvation in our own way. We realize that the big churches are supported by the rich, and consequently we feel that the minister who depends upon them for his salary cannot have our interests at heart. What we want is a man who knows something about the labor problem, a man we can go to when in trouble, and a man who knows how to sympathize with us and can help us in the hour of need."

ORGANIZED LABOR IN OREGON.

The labor movement throughout the State of Oregon is in a very gratifying condition. The strides made in organizing the workers the past year have been phenomenal. Where on Labor day last year there were only the three cities of Portland, Astoria and Baker City which celebrated the day, we learn through the State Federation of Labor that, in addition to these places, the day will be appropriately celebrated by organized labor in Salem, Albany, Oregon City, Grant's Pass, La Grande and Roseburg. This speaks volumes for the work accomplished the past 12 months. The numerical strength of the various unions has more than doubled in that time, so that a conservative estimate of the membership in the state will equal, if not exceed, 20,000. When we take into consideration that

the population of the state is slightly over 400,000, and that the total vote is about 90,000, the comparative strength of organized labor in Oregon can be better understood. With at least one in every four of the voters in the state a member of a labor union, the influence of the movement should be manifest to every one. When, however, another Labor day shall roll around we expect to be able to say that one in every three of the voters in the state has cast his lot and lighted his faith with the greatest movement ever known for the amelioration of the laborers of our country.

The Oregon Daily Journal has offered a first prize of \$50 and a second prize of a handsome roll-top desk to the unions making the most popular, progressive and enterprising appearance in the parade on Labor day. The decision will be made by the public in the form of coupons printed by and returned to the Journal. Voting will begin September 2 and will continue for one month. These prizes can only be secured by labor and a decided effort, as a number of unions are taking considerable pains in their appearance.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

"Hold fast to all I give you."—Laborer. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver."—Capital.

A workman who is ashamed to parade on Labor day, or too lazy, ought to get a commission on the municipal rockpile.

"In union there is strength." Strengthen your discretion, and quit "backcapping" your neighbors, and the union will be made invulnerable.

Since Samuel Gompers' visit to the Coast, General Organizer F. Stacy Whitney has been placed at the disposal of the Washington State Federation of Labor.

We haven't heard of any one kicking about the plan of the Labor day parade (?). Why don't some one who thinks his union has been "cut" start the ball a-rolling?

G. Y. Harry reports that during his last trip up the Valley for organization purposes he found most of the towns pretty well deserted by the working classes, who are out in the harvest fields and hopyards.

Quite a number of unions in the city are preparing floats and uniforms for the parade on Labor day, but they are doing it on the quiet. They will endeavor to capture the flag and the Journal's \$50 prize. The members in such cases are pledged to secrecy.

The millmen of Perry, Or., have organized a union with a membership of 103, and have become affiliated with the Oregon State Federation of Labor. The president is John Penny and T. J. Hillen is secretary. The union meets every Tuesday evening.

J. T. Morgan will not speak at La Grande on Labor day, as was intended, but has been secured by the Oregon City unionists to deliver the principal oration. A. A. Bailey, Representative-elect, will deliver an address on the same day to the Albany people.

The arrival of J. P. Morgan from Europe on the 20th inst. was followed by a day of trading in Wall street the volume of which reached the great total of nearly 1,000,000 shares, a number of securities making great advances. Had Mr. Morgan smiled it is hard to estimate to what extent securities and stocks would have bulled. Had he remained away 24 hours longer, there is no telling how widespread the calamity nor portentous its ruin. And then they call Wall street an aggregation of business men.

STREET FAIRS A NUISANCE.

Portland, Aug. 25, 1902. Editor Portland Labor Press:

Every friend of fraternal organizations—and they are legion—is pleased that the Supreme Lodge of Elks made a decision prohibiting for the future all street fairs, as such fairs are a nuisance and do much harm.

Fraternity is not commercialism. This should always be borne in mind. These fairs cause much ill feeling. Other societies do not like to see one society blockade our public streets, and if all societies should be granted the same privileges the streets would be closed the year round. Certain business men give money to such fairs—some for the sake of "standing in with certain people, others—and that is the main thing—for the benefit such fair will bring to their particular trade. But the closing of the streets is illegal—not even the King can obstruct public highways—and any one could file an injunction against the nuisance and have it removed at any time. The City Council has no legal right to permit the closing of any street, except in case of the street being in a dangerous condition in some way.

The whole public is opposed to street fakers of any description, and they

should be driven off our streets. It is only for the benefit of certain individuals making a living thereby, or for a society to make money, and for corrupt politicians to keep themselves before the public eye. This is plain to every one who has given the matter any thought at all. That sporting-houses, and saloons also and especially, are interested in voting for the "popular Queen" and everything relating to the "fair" is also very plain and consistent. It is really their business, but it is opposed by all orderly people. Productive labor in every way should be promoted in every respect, but artificial and questionable means to create "business" should be abolished. It is not "fairs" or "a wide-open town" that makes "business," except for grafters and others in certain "trades," and it is a hard drain on productive labor. Let us always remember this: If a man remains in a saloon until 1 o'clock in the morning, the time saloons are supposed to be closed—although they are not closed even then—how is it possible for such a man to perform on the following day a day's honest labor? Saloons should close never later than 11 o'clock in the evening, and be closed Sundays, this being a benefit both to the saloonkeeper and the whole community. This is my protest as a workman, citizen and taxpayer against street fairs and other humbugs in our midst—drawbacks to our true interests, our physical, mental, moral and financial improvements, and I ask you to publish it, hoping that you will not, like several of our papers, refuse to publish the many protests against humbugs that have been sent to these papers for publication against the street fair, both now and two years ago. Wishing you and your paper and the cause it represents all success, hoping to see your paper a big daily in the near future, we, the workingmen, can support it—we support all the papers—and wishing the Labor day parade, in which I will take part, all success—a parade which for any one with an eye for the "signs of the times" and for all with ordinary common sense is of far greater importance than all circus, Buffalo Bill or street-fair parades combined, I am,

Yours truly,

C. L. SMITH.

NEWS FROM ASTORIA.

Astoria, Or., Aug. 22, 1902. Editor Labor Press:

Dear Sir: As Astoria Typographical Union, No. 504, is now in working order, perhaps it is not out of order to let our friends know what we are doing.

We were organized on July 7 of this year, with a charter membership of 13. Since then we have received three members. The union elected George A. Lewis president, and Bessie Sabo secretary-treasurer.

Before the union existed the scale of hand composition was 15 cents per thousand, but the union raised it to 25 cents, with 30 cents for solid matter. This raise was met by every printing house in the city except the Evening News. This paper not only refused to pay the scale, but has published articles slandering certain members of our union, also one of the members of the Portland Pressmen's Union, and thus placing itself in opposition to organized labor throughout the city. The Central Labor Council has indorsed the new scale, and also the action of the union in declaring the News and unfair office. It has appointed a committee to wait on the proprietor of the News.

The refusal of this paper to pay the scale has thrown two union printers out of employment. The Daily Budget agreed to the price, but immediately secured a Simplex typesetting machine, so three compositors from that office are without work. This, however, is not regarded by the compositors as a misfortune, as none of them could be induced to set type for the sum of 15 cents again under any conditions.

The union will give its first outing on Sunday, July 31; that is, if President Lewis, who is now at home with the mumps, is able to be out. We have invited the representative of the Pressmen's Union to come with us, and everything points to a jolly good time. Fraternally yours,

BESSIE SABO, Secretary Astoria Typographical Union No. 504, 620 Jerome avenue.

A DARK PICTURE.

Rev. Father J. J. Curran, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., writes that any attempt at drawing a picture of the actual conditions and pitiable scenes of the coal miners' families in these regions would prove futile. It is a condition that is understood by only those who are acquainted with the most intimate needs of these poor people.

The smile has left their faces and the apparent buoyancy among some of them is merely put on. The miner is usually a noble-hearted man with generous impulses. Hence the piercing sword of want is all the more cutting. Gloom encircles his brow and his magnanimous spirits are well-nigh crushed. Yet the miner's depression comes not from actual conditions so much as from

the dreaded apprehension of the future. If he must return to work as he came out, his condition will be little better than that of the white slave. This is the galling and deadening thought which predominates and banishes the smile from his face. Yet, in spite of this gruesome picture of future possibilities, he has his mind set on one thing, and set irrevocably—that as long as life holds together he will not return to work at the old wage. He places his hope in the meantime in his fellowman the country over who has the cause of labor at heart. Looking back, he misses the buoyant pay days which, though not the occasions of a bouanza, yet brought cheer and gladness to the home. The mother no longer buys for the prattling children the necessities of life.

She is seen no more on the country road winding her way to town with her little boy or girl at her side. New hats, shoes and suits of clothes are now out of the question. The little ones roam the streets in their bare feet, with a gloom and depression which is reflected from their parents.

Soon schools open and parents wonder if they can send their children. The spirit of noble pride deep down in their breasts causes them to waver between duty and fear of ignoble comment. Many of these thinly clad boys and girls have sought in vain for work at the factories and mills of other cities and towns, but the answer is invariably, "Too many already employed."

Another side of the dark picture which the ordinary observer fails to notice is the condition of the retail storekeeper. He is almost in every instance a graduate of the coals. His habits of thrift and industry have enabled him to accumulate a little money, with which he opens a store. Upon him has fallen the weighty burden of maintaining the average miner's family until outside relief came along. This honest and ambitious man has in many instances been obliged to mortgage his property in order to supply his customers, and if gratitude should fail in the customer after resumption of work the storekeeper is financially ruined. However honest and grateful the poor miner may be, the magnanimous retail merchant is taking great risks.

As to the ending of the present struggle, all eyes are turned upon J. P. Morgan. The miner looks to him as the only man living whose voice can quiet the storm. He came to their assistance once before, and he holds the same power today that he did then. Even suffering mothers have his name on their lips, and make frequent inquiries as to when Mr. Morgan will settle the strike. The barefooted children, even have his name in their mouths, and speak of him as a mountain of strength in the present difficulty. He can stop hostilities by a mere whisper in the ear of the coal operators.

During this week the members of the Holy Savior congregation may be seen every hour of the day on their knees in church, praying that God may put it in the heart of that great man to stop the strike on terms agreeable and equitable to all concerned. This divine mediation may finally come to the rescue and proclaim peace and good will to all through the kindly assistance and instrumentality of J. P. Morgan.

A Comparative Picture.

SARATOGA, N. Y., Aug. 24.—Last midnight at Saratoga wound up a day that witnessed many interesting events, the breaking of all records in gambling on the race track and in the clubs, more men at play, the biggest crowd of the season and a display of fine frocks and more diamonds than are to be seen in the jewel collection of the Nizam of Hyderabad. The bookmakers at the race track handled bales of money.

Joe Ullman, "Eddie" Budke and Sol Lichtenstein handled something like \$400,000.

Ullman placed some very heavy wagers yesterday, the biggest being \$30,000 to \$10,000 against the Sanford stable in the Saratoga cup race. Mollie Brant, a 10-to-1 shot, won the race.

One of the biggest winners on this event was a beardless youth named Langtry. He began operations against the bookmakers three weeks ago with a very small capital, about \$500. He has won \$35,000. In the clubs last night the gambling broke the record. There was the largest crowd ever seen at Canfield's, and the play was high, but it did not develop any spectacular plungers.

A man who watched the play at Canfield's between 9 and 12 o'clock said he figured that about \$600,000 changed hands. Play at the Manhattan, the Chicago and the United States clubs and three or four other institutions was proportionately as high as at the Saratoga, though the class of patrons was not so select.

The American Iron & Steel Manufacturing Company, of Lebanon, Pa., has started a set of rolling mills with negro laborers, imported from Reading and other places. The three plants have been idle since May 1. One thousand men struck and fully twice that number were thrown out of work by the shutdown of the mills. The new men are lodged and fed in the mills,

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