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Facts for Advertisers.

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THE COAL STRIKE.

The coal strike has become a National issue. It has merged from a battle between organized capital and organized labor into a concrete form of exclusive capital against the fundamental laws of democracy. All branches of equity and humanity have been dissipated by the attitude of the coal barons for the reservation of property rights. They have throttled the opportunities of the American citizen workmen by the importation of cheap alien labor, and now they demand the protection of their illegal chattels by military might.

The rigorous months of winter are almost here and there is a coal famine in the East, which must necessarily cause great hardship and many deaths. The operators are not content to disburse poverty amongst its employees in the past, but arbitrarily "hold up" the comforts and necessities of the public now.

The strain has become so great that President Roosevelt sought to secure relief by calling a peace conference of the operators and the mineworkers. With a view to consummate a conciliation, the President arranged a meeting at the White House, which took place last Friday. The conference was attended by George Baer, of the Reading; E. B. Thomas, of the Erie; W. B. Truesdale, of the Lackawanna; T. P. Fowler, of the Ontario-Western; David Wilcox, of the Delaware-Hudson; John Markle, independent mineworker; for the operators. President John Mitchell, Thomas Nicholls, Thomas Duffy and John Fahy represented the miners. The conference proved a failure. Mr. Mitchell and his colleagues presented the miners' side of the controversy and expressed a willingness to submit the differences to arbitration trial to be named by the President, and to enter into an agreement to abide by terms fixed by the arbitration for a period of one to five years. The employers, through the presidents of the railroad companies and a prominent mine operator, squarely refused arbitration, and denounced the miners' labor organization as a lawless and anarchistic body, with which they could and would have no dealings; demanded Federal troops to insure complete protection to workers and their families in the mining region, and court proceedings against the miners' union, and offered, if the men returned to work, to submit grievances at individual collieries to the decision of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas (which they own), for the district of Pennsylvania in which the colliery was located.

The attitude of the operators was uncompromising, defiant, autocratic and an insult to the President and the American people.

Failing to accomplish his purpose President Roosevelt subsequently appealed to President Mitchell to use his influence to induce the men to return to work, pending official investigation of the troubles and recommendation to Congress for relief. This request Mr. Mitchell denied. He has not given his reasons but it is evident that he realized that this form of procedure would not accomplish the end sought for, and the miners would not sustain such a move.

In the meantime the pressure from the operators became so great that Governor Stone, of their creation, ordered out all of the military in the

state, amounting to about 12,000 men, to suppress alleged rioting and insurrection. The plan is to strike terror into the hearts of the contending miners and dishearten them. They calculated that this move would encourage the nonunion men at work, enlist others would be impossible to materially relieve the scarcity of coal with any fractional part of 100,000 men.

If the miners can hold out another month, and President Mitchell says they can stay out all winter, unless there is redress from other sources, the Legislature of Pennsylvania will be forced into extraordinary session or President Roosevelt will be compelled to act under the Sherman anti-trust act. W. R. Hearst, publisher of the Chicago American, New York Journal, and San Francisco Examiner, has presented to the President incontrovertible proofs that the hard coal operators are organized as a trust. The facts submitted are:

"The Industrial Commissioners' report that the coal roads were illegally combined.

"The signatures of the officers of the coal companies to an agreement for the purpose of monopolizing the anthracite trade.

"The throttling of the proposed Delaware Valley and Kingston Railroad by the coal roads because it aimed to break their control of freight rates.

"Their purchase of the controlling stock of the Temple Iron Company, which had nothing to do with coal mining, and its utilization to kill the projected Delaware and Kingston Road.

"J. P. Morgan's purchase of the entire capital stock of the Pennsylvania Coal Company and transfer of it to the Erie Railroad Company.

"The Temple Iron Company's agreement to maintain a uniform price in New York for coal mined in Pennsylvania during the months of April, 1901, and April, 1902."

With these proofs substantiated, unless the coal trust can be broken with the forensic implements now in hand, Government ownership of general utilities will sweep the country in 1904 for the party that advocates it.

The time has now come when the people will have to decide upon the rights of men or dominance of corporate capital—when Government is to protect the man or the dollar.

ANSWERS FILED.

The defendants in the drydock controversy filed their answer in the Circuit Court last Wednesday, to the complaints made by W. E. Robertson and George M. Orton some time ago. Two papers were filed—one by the Port of Portland Commission, and the other by Robert Wakefield. The allegations of the complaint as to the Port of Portland and its boundaries are admitted in full, but denied upon technical grounds. They admit that the Port of Portland is a corporation existing under the act, and that the boundaries are as alleged in the complaint, and that the object, purpose and occupation of said corporation is to promote the maritime, shipping and commercial interests of the port; they admit that the Port of Portland has power, in its discretion, to erect and own and operate a drydock as specified in the act, and that the permanent location of said drydock is required to be within the boundaries of the Port of Portland, but they deny that by the terms of the provision of said act it is obligatory upon said corporation to erect said drydock within the boundaries of the Port of Portland. They also deny that they ever let a contract to Robert Wakefield for the construction of the drydock at all, nor for any sum, but admit that they contracted with him to construct a portion of it. They also admit that Wakefield selected a site near the city of Vancouver, in the State of Washington, without the limits of the port, and that they approved it, but they deny that they have selected a site for the drydock outside of the boundaries of said corporation. In all this they deny that they exceeded their authority, or that the act creating the Port of Portland contemplated or required the erection of the dock within the boundaries of the Port of Portland, and give as a reason of their approval of the site near Vancouver that the Columbia River is preferable because that location is less susceptible to the rise of water and winter floods.

Their defense is substantially based upon their power to erect, hold and own a drydock in the Port of Portland, but they hold that they are not required to do so. This position is invalid for the very reason that the drydock is authorized by them under the act, but they deny that the act governs them or requires them to erect the dock within the boundaries of the port. Another position they take, which conflicts with the above, they say that they intend that only a portion of the dock, the pontoons, etc., are to be built on the site near Vancouver, after which the dock will be removed to the permanent site selected in the port and erected there. Of course this position is the only one they could take, and is not surprising, but the law specifically defines the drydock to be built within the boundaries of the port if one is built at all.

They do not state the real reason why they approved Mr. Wakefield's selec-

tion. They cast the burden of their act, by implication, upon the deficiency of the port, but they know that Mr. Wakefield told them that he wished to remove the dock there so as to get from under the ban of organized labor, and they approved it. The answer is made up of admissions and denials, and assumes that the Port of Portland Commission is greater than the act that created it.

The allegations in the complaint of fraud are denied in toto.

Mr. Wakefield's answer is substantially the same as that of the Port of Portland.

They assume to evade the law by saying that they don't intend to violate it, yet they do. And then they will undertake to make the court believe that the intention of the law is not what it says.

THE DIFFERENCE?

What's worth having is worth paying for. If it is desirable to unionize the thousands of unorganized workers in this state, the fund should be forthcoming to pay for the work. Competent organizers cannot be expected to do the work for love of the cause, for competent organizers must come from the ranks of labor, and such men depend upon wages for their living. There's altogether too much talk of "graft" whenever a union man is paid to do union work. If a union man should go to work for a corporation below the scale of wages, he would be fired out of his union. Yet the men who would do this too often cry "graft" at the man who accepts pay to organize men into unions. This is the meanest kind of meanness. It does not represent the sentiments of the majority of unionists; it is the work of the small-minded, jealous few who glory in pulling down men from heights which their abilities do not permit them to reach. This matter should be acted upon by the next State Federation of Labor convention, and it should be dealt with on the lines of common sense, regardless of the mouthings of despicable "knockers."

The main object of the federation is to promote organization. If the unions are not in the federation as a joke, if they realize this main object, they know that to attain it they must pay for it. Let the issue be squarely met. Put it up to the unions that organization costs money, and ask them to furnish it. If they won't do so, let the federation disband. Its organizers did not mean it to be an ornamental institution; they intended it to be useful. The unionists of the state can make it useful to a degree not even dreamed of by its friends. They can do it by the sacrifice of a few cigars or beers, and the next convention should give them a chance to say whether they think more of their means of spending money than of their surest means of earning it.—Seattle Union Record.

We have gone ahead of our brothers in Washington in the matter of organization. We have organized a strong and solid State Federation. We have at the head of this organization enterprising, aggressive and industrious officers, who are giving their best thought and effort to the labor movement in our state. The Labor Press sincerely trusts the occasion may never arise for us to have to make the above criticism of any member of organized labor in Oregon.

We hope to see all work in perfect accord and harmony, and when the reports of our executive officers are made at the next state convention we predict that all of us will feel proud of the work accomplished, and congratulate ourselves that we did our part by supporting our state organization and the officers entrusted with its management.

In another column appears the advertisement for the raffle of three chess tables made by W. H. Brackett, president of Carpenters' Union. The tables are each one beautiful in design, and represent many days of labor and the very best of mechanical skill. Each table is of a different pattern. In the center of the top is a chessboard surrounded by inlaid strips and blocks of hard wood, both foreign and native. For many years Mr. Brackett employed odd moments when not otherwise engaged, in the construction of these tables, intending them for his own use. But sickness has weighed heavily upon his seventy-third year, and he parts with them reluctantly but necessarily to meet the exigencies of home expense. Rheumatism has taken such a firm hold on Mr. Brackett that he is unable to follow his usual occupation, and expects to realize enough out of the raffle to assist him in establishing a little business from which he can live his remaining years comparatively independent. The tickets are so small in cost that they should find ready purchase.

The purchasing power of the working classes lies in the demand of the label, and the working card of the person who waits upon them. If every union man and woman in the City of Portland would require the label on the goods they purchase, it would ultimately bring about a material benefit in wages, hours and conditions without the costly expedient of strikes. The merchants of the city would willingly

fill their shelves with labeled goods simply for the asking. The quality of the articles would be fully as good and the difference in price in most instances would not be greater, and if there were a slight increase, workmen in other localities would receive the benefit. Besides, the label is a guarantee that clothing, etc., are made outside the germ-infested sweatshops of the tenement houses of the big cities of the East. Union men and women should take more pains in this matter than they do. In many instances they do not because they are thoughtless; some are timid, and others don't care. The purchasing power of working people lies in the two things above mentioned.

There is no doubt that there are certain policemen on the force who are standing in with the gamblers. This is made apparent in the examination of Officer Church, at the Police Court last Friday in the Morley-De Martini gambling case. Furthermore, there is no doubt that some of the police have made arrests of alleged gamblers when there was no absolute evidence for conviction for the purpose of covering up the real offenders.

A CALL TO UNION MEN.

Acting upon the deliberations of the Portland Typographical Union last Sunday, President Howell has issued a circular letter to the presidents of every local union in the city for a conference at which a plan will be arranged to raise a fund for the relief of the Pennsylvania miners. Every one in receipt of this letter is urgently requested to be present, as it is desirable to have a full expression of the unions as to the means to be employed. The letter is as follows:

Dear Sir: I have the honor to request your presence at a conference in Auditorium Hall, Third street, above Taylor, on Sunday next at 2 P. M., to consider what may be done to aid the anthracite miners who are now in the 22d week of their great struggle for better conditions. For 22 weeks the coal operators have been trying to degrade the standard of American labor and life to that of the lowest foreign laborers who can be induced to come into the country. The great heart of the people of our land beats in sympathy with the miner. All classes of men are coming to their aid. A little help from the Union men of Portland just now, and the cause of the miners, which is the cause of humanity, will be triumphant.

This notice is sent you in compliance with a resolution passed at the regular meeting of Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58, last Sunday, at which time \$750 was pledged to our brothers in Pennsylvania. We know that you are in entire accord with the miners in their struggle for a higher wage, and that you only await a favorable opportunity to give expression to your sentiments. That time is now. Fraternally, GEORGE H. HOWELL, Pres. M. T. U. No. 58.

"THE CHRISTIAN."

"The Christian," the greatest literary and dramatic triumph of the day, will be the extraordinary attraction at the Baker Theater, beginning Sunday afternoon, October 12, and will run all week, with a matinee Saturday.

The question has been repeatedly asked, "What is the moral of the play?" To answer that question, it is only necessary to revert to Mr. Caine's own explanation. Glory McQuayle and John Storm, the two principal characters in the drama, represent types which have been brought into existence by the latter half of the 19th century, the educated girl who has to fight the battle of life in professions which are usually controlled by men, and the sincere young clergyman who makes an effort to realize in a liberal sense the precepts of the Sermon on the Mount. But the social and religious problems which surround the steps of these characters in the novel are not dwelt upon in the play, which is simply a romantic story of love. The moral of the play can perhaps be best explained by the motto chosen for it by the author, which is from the sonnet of Rossetti on his drawing of Mary Magdalene at the door of Simon the Pharisee. In the drawing Mary has left the festal procession and is seen tearing a wreath of roses from her hair and ascending by sudden impulse the steps of the house wherein she sees the face of Christ. Her lover is following her and is trying to draw her back. Though it is not intended, Mr. Caine explains, "that there should be any other parallel with the subjects of the drawing, it is to be hoped that the touching and beautiful lines of this poem express the motive of the moral of the play, the spiritual conflict in the heart of the good woman who stands between her good and bad angels, between the beauty and brightness of self-sacrifice, between the chaplet of flowers and the crown of thorns, and chooses at length the crown of thorns when the chaplet of flowers looks fairest." This, Mr. Caine thinks, is in some part the story of humanity, the human comedy, the warfare waged in the hearts of all. In the play Glory Quayle is imbued with love of the stage, she desires to become a great actress; she loves John Storm, but refuses to surrender her ambition

to her love, but in the end she learns that the love of a good and true man is far better than the honors of the world, and becomes the wife of this earnest and self-sacrificing young clergyman. Otherwise she chooses what to her is the crown of thorns when the chaplet of flowers looked fairest. Although Mr. Caine's intention in the construction of this play was to teach a moral lesson, he has not forced it on the attention of the audience; it is presented but incidentally to one of the most fascinating love stories that has ever been related on the stage.

The coal barons are suppressing the freedom of the press with the help of the courts. Two editors friendly to the miners are under bonds of \$12,000 to appear for trial on the charge of "criminal libel."

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