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Ring out the old, ring in the new;
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kinder hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land;
Ring in the Christ that is to be.
—Tennyson.

THE NEW YEAR.

It is customary for people to save up all their good intentions and frame them into a set of resolutions on New Year's day for future guidance. It is also the rule to consider them later on and lay them on the table indefinitely.

It is said that he who feels the need of amendment is in a fair way to vindicate himself, but he who is wrought up in his own conceit and self-inflated is a perfunctory doer and deserves the whip of criticism. In judgment, however, we can afford to be generous. Because your neighbor is guilty of a fault, chide him not until it is a fault indeed, for he may be possessed of the same as you which appears to the best advantage in him.

In the labor movement this is particularly apparent, and on New Year's day let us overlook the errors of the past and take up the burden of humanity through our organizations and work together. There is room for splendid achievements, and by pushing back the selfish Satan, enriching our capacity with good intentions and adhering strictly to our duty as labor unionists, the battle is won.

THE DRYDOCK DECISION.

On the first page of this issue is published the opinion of the court in full on the drydock case. While the document is somewhat lengthy and tedious, we have given it space for the benefit of our readers who have taken an interest in reading the evidence presented during the trial, published in previous numbers of the Labor Press.

The purpose of the plaintiffs in petitioning the court to restrain the defendants from constructing and erecting the drydock at Vancouver was to show by evidence that irregularities entered into the letting of the contract, and whether the law was operative.

That there were irregularities in the letting of the contract was clearly shown in the testimony presented, but the allegations of fraud were not established, for the reason that those guilty of the irregularities could not be made to incriminate themselves. We do not assume nor imply that the personnel of the commission are all equally informed in the transaction, neither are they all a party to the questionable action, for some of them are honorable men and highly respectable; but we do say that there are members of the board that would and are guilty of using the office for individual gain and predilection.

As to the intention of the law, the act specifically states that the drydock must be erected within the boundaries of the Port of Portland, on the Willamette River, and a number of legislators who aided in the passage of the same have said that it was the intention of the bill, as they understood it, to have the wooden portion of the drydock (which is the drydock proper) constructed within the boundaries of said port. In the opinion of Judges George and Frazer, they hold that the intention of the law was not so; that these men did not know whereof they spoke; if they did, they said one thing and did another. And upon the word "erect" depends the decision as handed down. The word "erect" is unquestionably a plastic verb, and the court could have construed it as synonymous to the word "construct" as well as "set up," had it been pleased to do so. The right of construction of the law upon the word therefore lay within the power of the court, and it pleased the honorable bench to uphold the board in its excess of jurisdiction in taking undue advantage of the intention of the act.

There is no question that the law anticipated that the taxpayers should receive as much of the money in return as possible for what they paid in the construction of the dock. The contractors could have built the dock in the port for the same amount that is required for its construction at Vancouver, but there would have been less to divide amongst the few. The mechanic would not get as much and the contractors more. Now, which of these two agencies with the advantage

would circulate the most money that would find its way directly into the hands of the taxpayer?

It is not our intention to impugn the motive of the court in its decision, but we do hold that an injunction could have been allowed under the terms of the act, and the taxpayers of the Port of Portland would have been the gainers thereby. And if the facts were all laid bare, the allegations of fraud would have been sustained.

In view of the seeming bias of the court, it appears that the plaintiffs have sufficient ground for appeal. Those who were present and watched the conduct of the case were amazed at the apparent inclination of one of the Judges toward the defendants' side.

In New York City the coal famine has reached such a stage that even the dealers who have been selling by the rail have been unable to obtain coal and have been forced to turn away East Side sufferers. Many of the poor tenement dwellers on the East Side, with fragile infants and cases of sickness in their cheerless homes, have been compelled to break up their scanty furniture for fuel. Dealers state that speculators have been and still are holding coal for a tightened market. Notwithstanding the fact that President Baer, of the Reading, says that everything possible is being done to supply the city with coal, that no coal is being held back, and that none is being sold to independent operators, the suffering among the poor is intense. Assurances that coal is on the way and promises of an adequate supply at the earliest possible moment are good enough in their way, but they cannot be burned and they give no heat. The dealers are powerless, and the statement is made that many of them have been forced to buy of speculators who have been holding their supply for a tight market. For the first time since the strike ended people have been unable to secure coal by the rail. The offices of the dealers were besieged by crowds of suffering people, and they were forced to say that their supply was exhausted.

The official canvass of the votes cast in the State of Nevada in the recent election has just been closed, which shows the election of W. G. Douglass, Republican candidate for Secretary of State. The selection of Mr. Douglass is regarded as a great victory for union labor. He is the only Republican chosen to an important state office, and therein lies the significance of his victory. His opponent, Eugene Howell, was denounced last July by Washoe Typographical Union, No. 65, of Virginia City, as a foe to union labor. The action of the Typographical Union was endorsed by several miners' unions and labor unions throughout the state, but in spite of this, through the manipulations of Governor Sadler and the Silver party machine, Howell was forced upon the fusion ticket, although a great majority of the Democratic convention was opposed to him. The fusion ticket, with one exception, was elected by majorities of between 1000 and 1500 votes, but Howell was beaten. His defeat was more significant in view of the fact that he had been twice before elected to the office, and each time led his ticket. Howell's presence on the ticket is held responsible for the defeat of Bray, who was beaten for Superintendent of Public Instruction by 11 votes.

"Capitalists have a right to do as they please with their money, so long as they do not become public charges. A man without capital may labor or refuse to labor, so long as he keeps out of the poorhouse. Capitalists have the right to combine capital in productive enterprises, and by lawful competition drive individual producers and small ones out of business. Laborers and artisans have the right to form unions and fight this combination of capitalists by lawful means."

This statement of the right of combination on the part of capital and labor was handed down by Judge C. C. Bland, of St. Louis, in the Court of Appeals, in a decision in favor of Joseph E. Walsh, who sought an injunction to prevent members of the Master Plumbers' Association from combining in the refusal to sell him supplies because he was not a member. The Appellate Court, while holding that the association should be restrained as Walsh asked, refused to dissolve the organization as he had requested in his petition. It was stated that the association was a lawful one.

It has been given out that a bill is being framed empowering the Port of Portland Commission to go into the contract business. Talk about pie! What a puddin' Banfield and a few of his chums would have! They would get the taxpayers' comin' and goin'. What is needed is a reconstruction of the personnel of the board, and laws regulating the duties of the same, relieved of ambiguous words and phrases.

Latest advices from the Seattle committee having in charge the preparations for the Washington State Labor Convention indicate that they are making great preparations for the reception of the Oregon boys. The last issue of the Union Record states the Portland delegation will receive the glad hand from their brothers on the Sound, and they are planning a grand reception for President Harry and his co-workers.

The Republic Iron & Steel Company, of Pittsburgh, contemplates offering its employees stock in the company and making them partners. The matter will be considered by the workmen at the next convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers. The officers of the Republic Iron & Steel Company have decided that if the plan is adopted the men will be given representation on the board of directors.

LABOR NOTES.

Spokane has a Federal Labor Union of 450 members.

The theatrical actors in San Francisco are organizing under charter from the A. F. of L.

German locomotive engineers receive a gold medal and \$500 for every 10 years of service without an accident.

The cowboys of Colorado are disposed to form a union, and will ask for a charter from the A. F. of L.

Through the efforts of the Label League the sale of nonunion shoes has fallen off 75 per cent in Illinois.

The labor unions of New Jersey cities are generally preparing to place tickets in the field for the Spring election.

Painters in New Bedford, Mass., gained an eight-hour day and get 32 cents an hour. Every one in the union.

Corset-workers in Aurora, Ill., gained the nine-hour day and 10 per cent increase in union. Now over 600 in union.

The unions of Winnipeg are fighting against a proposed ordinance allowing the street-cars to operate seven days in the week.

The next annual convention of the United Mineworkers of America will be held at Indianapolis, Ind., beginning January 19, 1903.

The Retail Clerks' Union, of Fresno, Cal., is asking the aid of ministers of the Gospel in a crusade against Sunday opening of stores.

Boilermakers in Knoxville, Tenn., went on strike to secure more pay, and after a few hours were called back and demands conceded.

The Typographical Temple at Washington, D. C., was paid for in 10 years by Union No. 101. It cost \$40,000, and is now worth \$60,000.

The annual report of the Mergenthaler Linotype Company shows a net profit of \$1,892,919. During the year 571 machines were sold.

The Retail Clerks' Association is talking of adopting a minimum wage schedule for male clerks of \$18 per week, to be effective March 1.

The barbers of New Jersey will appeal to the Legislature for the appointment of an inspector to visit all the shops and to enforce sanitary laws.

Governor Jelks, of Alabama, has refused to renew the contracts between the state and coal operators, who have made fortunes by working convicts.

Boxmakers at Whitman, Mass., gained nine-hour day. In Boston a general increase of 25 cents a day and recognition of union was secured.

The Building Trades Council of San Francisco is taking necessary steps to secure the resubmission to the people of the Geary-street railway bond proposition.

The Union Labor party of Oakland has decided to enter the political field again, and a full ticket will be nominated for the coming municipal campaign. All unions in the city are represented.

The plumbers and gasfitters of New York City have secured the Saturday half holiday and an increase in the daily wage rate from \$3.75 to \$4.25 for eight hours.

In 18 states and territories during 1901 the number of lives lost in coal mining was 1467, and 3643 injured. The anthracite fields of Pennsylvania furnished the largest number of killings in the Union.

The Cigarmakers' International Union is going to help the anti-trust cigar dealers in Chicago. It will plant signs on all places handling union-made cigars in their fight against the cigar and tobacco trust in Chicago.

The Canadian Pacific railroad on December 6th increased the pay of all its conductors and trainmen on its lines east of Fort Williams by an average of 12 1/2 per cent. The increase adds \$250,000 yearly to the company's pay roll.

The establishment of a nine-hour day for the iron molders of the country has been deferred for the present. The matter will be taken up at a joint conference of the international union and the National Foundrymen's association in January.

Attorney General Davis of New York, in an opinion submitted to Governor Odell in the Potter case, holds the state has no power to proceed against the Schenectady Painters' Union for expelling Potter because of his membership in the National Guard.

Increases in wages amounting to \$600,000 a year are to be granted to the 500 locomotive engineers and firemen employed by the Chicago & North-western Railroad and its branch lines. The new scale will go into effect January 1. It provides for increases of approximately 8 per cent.

The Actors' National Protective Union, No. 3, of San Francisco, has arranged for a benefit to the striking tanners, to take place January 11 in the Alhambra Theater. Two hundred performers engaged in the principal theaters of the city have volunteered their services for that occasion.

The Texas State Federation of Labor has sent to referendum vote a proposition for a 25 cents per capita tax of all affiliated organizations to pay the expense of sending a representative to the next session of the Legislature to watch measures affecting the interests of labor.

The Newspaper men of Stockton, Cal., have organized a Newspaper Writers' Union. Constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the International Typographical Union will be applied to for a charter. All newspaper writers, with the exception of managing editors and proprietors, are eligible to membership.

Employees of Wells, Fargo & Co. to the number of 6000 will have their salaries increased from 5 to 10 per cent, the increase to date from December 16. The increase is spoken of by the officers of the express company as a readjustment of the scale of wages, but virtually in the readjustment the salaries are raised.

It is announced that the Rubber Workers' International Union, recently formed at Washington, D. C., has endorsed the strike of the rubber workers at Chicago, and that unless a settlement is reached in a few days an effort will be made to tie up all plants controlled by the rubber trust throughout the country. The strike has been in operation for several weeks, and nearly 1000 men, women, boys and girls are out of work as a result.

A number of Natal (South Africa) employers are trying to swamp the local printing trade with "contract" printers. They induce men in Great Britain to sign a three years' engagement at \$15.62 per week, telling them that that is the "highest society wage" paid in Natal. When the men arrive in South Africa they discover that the minimum wage is \$18 per week. But the fooled printers have to do their three years all the same, or go to jail for breach of contract.

Through the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and the Order of Railway Conductors 100,000 men employed by the railroads of the West have presented requests for increases in pay. There is practically no danger of a strike of trainmen or conductors, but their demands are more radical than those made by the engineers and firemen. In some instances the men are asking for an increase of approximately 20 per cent. The switchmen, who are also members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, made their demands for an increase early in October and received it from the roads in the Chicago switching district.

Horace Burt, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, has notified President McNeil, of the Boilermakers' Union, that he wished an extension of time before answering the ultimatum of the machinists and boilermakers, threatening to call out the men they control throughout the Harriman lines. Mr. McNeil replied that he would not call a general strike until he had consulted with Mr. Burt. He asserted that the striking machinists of the Union Pacific would not return to work until all their demands had been granted and nonunion men now employed by the Union Pacific had been discharged. Neither Mr. Burt nor Mr. Harriman will make public what reply will be made to the ultimatum brought East by Mr. Burt.

The eight-hour labor bill, as amended by the Senate committee on education and labor, has been reported to the Senate from that committee, accompanied by a written statement of the committee's reasons for its action. It is stated that the bill is substantially the same as the House bill and that it is favored by a majority of the Senate committee. The report contains a review of former Federal legislation in favor of the eight-hour system and also a summary of state enactments on the subject. A large portion of the report is taken up with an amendment limiting the operations of the law to contracts with the Government. This is done to meet the objection that the act would apply to work other than that done for the Government in cases in which the Government contractor might have work on hand for other persons or for himself. Speaking of the general policy of the measure, the committee says: "Your committee does not doubt the right of Congress to extend the eight-hour day. The majority approve the policy of extending the eight-hour day, believing its results will be beneficial, that the products of labor will be improved and that the happiness of homes of workmen will be brighter and greater, the intelligence of the people increased, and civilization advanced by such legislation. A majority of your committee believe that this measure, which has received from the committee such serious and careful consideration, is not radical, but conservative, and therefore recommends its passage."

UNIONS IN POLITICS.

The labor unions of Astoria propose to put a ticket in the field at the December election. They will hold a convention and nominate candidates for Councilmen and City Attorney. There is no doubt but they will poll a good vote, if all the members stand together. There is no reason why they should not nominate a ticket. Experience has proven that there is little beneficial legislation to be expected from either of the two old parties. Labor organizations are growing stronger day by day, and hold the balance of power. In fact, they are strong enough when they unite to elect a city, county, state or even a national ticket. The only trouble is that like other organizations, they seldom stand together. Yet, with the combinations of capital, with the imperative necessity of labor organizing to protect itself from the grasping avarice of combines and trusts, there is no doubt but that all the labor vote will sooner or later become solidified and that they will be an important factor in politics in future. There is no reason why the labor party of Astoria should not elect at least half of its ticket at the city election to be held next month. There are many able and competent men allied with the labor organizations and there is no doubt but the laboring element will be represented to their advantage if they are successful. The ticket to be placed in the field December 16 is only the beginning of an active part to be taken in politics. At the next June election, they will organize in every precinct in the county and nominate a full ticket. It is becoming very evident that the only way to regulate the trusts is through the labor party, as both the old parties are so closely allied with the trusts, which furnish the boulder to carry elections, that there is no hope for them. Labor and trusts cannot exist together under the present conditions. The only hope of the Nation to down these aggregations of capital banded together for greed and gain to enslave the laboring classes is through the ballot box and the success of labor organizations and election of labor tickets.—Astoria Herald.

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