

Portland Labor Press

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BETTER TO BE OPTIMISTS.

This is the heading of an excellent article that has found its way in print. But the identity of the author seems to have been lost, and it is now credited to "Exchange," which is as bad as stealing the article outright.

There is a good old saying that "it is better to laugh than to cry," and so it is better to walk on the sunny side of the street and keep in time with the warmer vibrations that make for cheerfulness, hope and enthusiasm.

What profit can any one hope to get from harboring always the fears of that good old soul who took the grindstone into the house every night for fear the calf would devour it before morning?

And akin to that is the spirit of pessimism so prevalent among men. It is a burden to the optimist to be always opposed by those who think the world is getting worse every day, and that the evil men are waxing more with every dawn, and Christianity has lost its power, and the former days were better than these latter times.

The world is all right to those who look upon it with a right spirit. Evil men are having a harder road to travel every day as the public conscience improves and penology becomes a more exact and misapprehensive science.

Then, again, what pleasure can one get out of a confirmed habit of snarling at every good thing in sight and snapping at everybody who prefers to sing rather than to growl? We have never felt the feeling, but we would be immensely interested to hear some one who has—and recovered from the affliction—tell what sort of bilious cy-clones, and gorge-raising eruptions, and jaundiced visions, and frothy mutterings accompany that type of rabies.

It must be an awful thing to be happy only when unhappy and to enjoy one's thoughts only when they are evil-born and malevolently aimed. That envy which eats into manhood like gangrene, and that jealousy which affects journalism by instances like a lurid and loathsome eczema, are equally deplorable. They make other people feel as if in the presence of that miserable fallen spirit who cried: "Myself an hell!"

PUT YOUR FAITH IN UNIONS.

At the regular services for men at the Young Men's Christian Association in San Francisco last Sunday the Rev. Dr. George C. Adams, pastor of the First Congregational Church, delivered the sermon. His text, "The profit of the earth is for all," dealt with the use and abuse of money, and indirectly with capital and labor. He said in part:

"Mankind has the disposition of wanting to get all the money there is, and not wanting to divide with his fellow-creature. The man who has not the millionaire's pocket-book often wishes that he had, for he sees the many things the rich have that he does not enjoy, and therefore he no doubt would put it to the same use. It is far better that those with selfish dispositions should remain as they are, for the less their means the less their sins. I admire the man who strikes to increase his income by honest, diligent effort, and the man who does not take hold of such opportunities receives my disrespect.

"The man who toils by the sweat of his brow, doing everything honestly, and who gets his share of the profit that is for all, ought to enjoy blessed sleep. Do not fret nor worry because you feel that you are overworked or underpaid, for I believe the unions will ultimately and gradually make conditions better and obtain all rights that are encroached upon. Too many think that all the toil of this life is for the body, and hoard their gold, not helping their fellow-man or making themselves happy. The people who live in accordance with God's law truly enjoy living."

Marconi promises ere long he will be able to transmit two hundred words a minute at a cent a word, and the general use of wireless telegraphy instead of the mails for a very large proportion of the correspondence that now passes between America and Europe will result. At present he is under contract with the Canadian Government to charge not more than 10 cents a word. The capacity of his invention at present is from 30 to 40 words a minute. The average is about 34 words a minute in practice. There is where he has the advantage of the cable companies again. They have a maximum possi-

bility of about 35 words a minute, with an average of 22. Contracts have also been completed to start a daily paper, to be supplied with news by the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy, on board a British liner running between Liverpool and New York. Publication will begin about the end of this month. The cable companies are offering considerable opposition through both English and American press, but Marconi is not in the least perturbed.

Judge Rufus S. Smith, of the Superior Court at Cincinnati, O., handed down a decision recently in which he concedes to striking workmen the right to picket a factory when they are seeking to accomplish a lawful purpose and do not in any manner intimidate or coerce non-strikers. At the same time, Judge Smith defines the rights of employers and says that when it is necessary in their business to employ workmen, this is a property right, and when interfered with unlawfully, the remedy is by injunction.

The decision was written by Judge Smith in the suit of the Eureka Foundry Company against the striking workmen, and by its terms the strikers are perpetually enjoined from picketing the Eureka foundry in large numbers. The strikers are allowed to have one picket at the factory, who may peacefully persuade workmen to leave their employment and advance arguments to workmen if they choose to hear such. If the workmen do not care to meet the picket or listen to his arguments, they are not to be molested, and any attempt to influence their minds by improper means will be a transgression on the rights of the employer and may be corrected by injunction.

A new line of steamships, which is to have as its primal purpose the colonization of Mexico with Chinese, is soon to be in operation between San Francisco and the Orient. Up to 18 months ago the Chinese government prevented the Chinese from emigrating to Mexico because there was no treaty between the two countries. A recent treaty, however, gives the Asiatics the right to land in Mexico. The ostensible purpose of the newly incorporated China Commercial Steamship Company is to colonize Mexico with Chinese. Its representatives deny that there is any intention of conducting a traffic in contract coolies to be transmitted across the American frontier, but given the presence of large numbers of Chinese in the neighboring republic, it is obvious that it will be impossible to prevent a considerable portion of them from slipping across the border to secure the advantages of greatly improved industrial conditions in this country.

The Washington State Federation of Labor had a lively discussion Tuesday on a proposition to present a bill at the Legislature creating the office of State Arbitrator, whose function shall be to settle disputes between labor and capital. The plan proposed is to effect a settlement, he is to order a reference to a board, of which he is to be secretary. Two members of the board are to be chosen by each side to the controversy, and these four shall select the fifth member. If the board cannot bring about a settlement, each side shall then print in the newspapers a sworn statement of its case. There is to be nothing compulsory about this plan of arbitration, according to those who fathered it.

"Within a few weeks," says the Telegram, "the wages of railroad employes have been increased about 10 per cent on railroads comprising over three-fourths of the railroad mileage of the country, and in most cases this increase has been voluntary on the railroads' part. This increase is equivalent to about 134 per cent of the net railroad earnings of the roads, and the total aggregate sum it will cost them is about \$43,000,000 a year. The railroads could well afford to do this act of justice—even without raising freight rates, as they did for their gross earnings last year were \$540,000,000 more than they were in 1902, and they paid \$48,000,000 more dividends."

What is expected to be one of the most eventful and important annual sessions of the California State Federation of Labor, convened at Los Angeles January 5. The convention will make a determined effort to merge all the unions of the state into one solid, cohesive federation. If this is accomplished there will be a number of reforms attempted, among them being the universal observance of the eight-hour law. Another important matter to be considered is the merging of the unions into a political party and to maintain a bureau which shall watch legislation and protect the interests of labor in the State Legislature and elsewhere.

John Mitchell, president of the United Mine-workers of America, declares that the miners are unjustly charged with ingratitude toward the American people in connection with the miners' reported refusal to work on holidays. In the letter Mr. Mitchell says: "The allegation that the anthracite mine-workers refused to work on holidays has been grossly exaggerated. The truth is that several thousand miners have been refused the privilege to work at all since the close of the strike, although they have daily implored the companies to permit them to return to the places they occupied prior to the inauguration of the strike."

The Virginia House of Delegates has passed a bill by an overwhelming majority, forbidding the employment of any child under 12 years of age in mills

and factories, and regulating the employment of children between 12 and 14 in these establishments. This break in the South has been brought about by the constant hammering of the trades union, and is but the beginning of the emancipation of the child labor curse so prevalent in the mills of the Southern States.

The automobile dog has come. A Paris oculist has just completed an order for a pair of automobile spectacles for a dog that belongs to a noted automobilist. The animal invariably accompanies his master on all his outings, and the spectacles are to guard the dog's eyes against dust. The oculist, after much experimenting, devised a pair of spectacles that fit the dog's head perfectly, and the animal wears them easily and seems proud of his distinction.

The school trustees of Keswick, Cal., gave the children only one week in which to prepare for and celebrate Christmas. The school was to have taken up on the morning of the 29th. The second bell rang, but the children would not enter the schoolhouse. They told the principal that they struck for another holiday week. He hurried off to the trustees and got them to rescind the one-week order. So the school children won their strike.

The trust question may get enough publicity during this session of Congress and the next to force it into the National campaign in 1904, but there is a question if the people's representatives at Washington will muster courage enough to deal properly with this matter until they are forced to. Senator Hoar seems to be the bravest of the bunch just now. At least he is forcing Knox to say something any way.

The San Francisco Labor Council has put itself on record against the Los Angeles Times and, at its meeting on the evening of January 1, appointed a standing committee of three, "whose duty it shall be to use all honorable means to reduce the circulation and advertising patronage of the Los Angeles Times and report weekly to this body."

W. H. Barry has arranged a secretary's book, which is about the most convenient thing of the kind that has yet appeared. Every union ought to provide its secretary with one. The price is reasonable; it insures accuracy and saves much labor.

Neither R. O. Gilliland nor William Horan is longer connected with the Portland Labor Press. The public will please take notice.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK.

This concern especially merits the support and encouragement of all citizens who have the welfare of labor and capital at heart. In all its dealings this firm has been most fair and reasonable, and has always exhibited a fraternal attitude toward the people. The officers of the bank are: J. C. Ainsworth, president; W. B. Ayer, vice-president; F. C. Miller, cashier; R. W. Schmeier, assistant cashier; A. M. Wright, assistant cashier.

We hope their business will continue to increase, and we do not hesitate to state that their record has always been in accordance with the cause of labor, and they should be patronized by all union men and societies.

MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK, PORTLAND, OREGON.

In Portland there is a large number of important concerns which add materially to its welfare, prosperity and prestige. Such a concern as the Merchants' National Bank should, receive the hearty patronage of the citizens of Portland, and the entire state.

This concern has always maintained a most favorable attitude toward labor, and is located at 241 Washington street. The officers are: J. Frank Watson, president; R. L. Durham, vice-president; R. W. Hoyt, cashier; George W. Hoyt, assistant cashier.

We congratulate this firm upon its success, and hope its business will continue to increase as long as the profits remain in the hands of the present broad-minded, public-spirited management.

FLEISCHNER, MAYER & CO.

One of the largest employers of labor in this line, and also one of the most deserving concerns of the city, is Fleischner, Mayer & Co., located at 21-31 Front street.

In all their dealings with labor this company has been most fair and reasonable, and have always exhibited a fraternal attitude toward our people. Upon careful investigation we find that this company's treatment of its employes is manifestly fair and equitable, and that the company bears a most excellent reputation among the thousands of workmen of this city and throughout the state.

We hope that its business will continue to prosper, and we have no hesitancy in stating that its record has been clean and upright during the entire course of the company's career.

J. M. ARTHUR & CO.

In the rapid and permanent strides that many of our business houses have made within the last few years there is none worthy of more particular note than the successful progress made by J. M. Arthur & Co., located at 40-42 First street.

THE BAKER.

J. M. Barrie's Great Play, "The Little Minister," all Next Week, Starting With the Usual Sunday Matinee. Next week's offering will be the recognized dramatization of J. M. Barrie's famous novel of the same name, "The Little Minister." It is one filled with an abundance of Scotch humor and character. There is a love story which is told by the author in a manner that is almost sublime. It tells of the lives of Gavin Dishart, better known as "The Little Minister," and of the winsome daughter of Lord Rintoul. The character of "Babbie" is one which is filled with a sweet tenderness of a young girl whose thoughts are only for the welfare of her fellow creatures. This part is the one in which Maude Adams created such a tremendous success.

Interwoven with the beautiful love story is the story of the labor troubles and around which the "Scotch village Thru"; it deals with the dispersing of the agitators by "The Little Minister," the warning of the people of the approach of soldiers by "Babbie," the escape from the soldiers, and the "Little Minister" to introduce her as his wife in order that she might escape from the soldiers, and the "Little Minister" who still believes her to be a gypsy, are the chief events of the first act.

The balance of the play portrays "The Little Minister's" many meetings with the gypsy, and his consequent segregation to a pitch of indignation and jeopardizes his position in the community. The discovery made by Lord Rintoul that his daughter, "Babbie," is in love with "The Little Minister," induces him to take advantage of the introduction of the gypsy as the minister's wife, which, in Scotland, constitutes a marriage, not knowing that it was his own daughter who was thus introduced. Finally, after many trials and tribulations the true state of affairs is made known and the play moves to a happy ending.

"The Little Minister" gives ample opportunity for the display of splendid emotional work on the part of the actors portraying it, as well as a generous supply of comedy of the highest order, and of the kind which emanates from Scotch characterization. In the hands of the Neill Stock Company this play, like all its predecessors, will be produced in a manner that will be correct in every detail. The scenic effects will be strictly in keeping with the time and place and the surroundings in general will be most complete.

WILLAMETTE IRON & STEEL WORKS.

One of the largest employers of labor in this line and also one of the most deserving concerns of this city is the Willamette Iron & Steel Works, located at 123 Third street. This company has advanced toward progressive lines and now holds a position of leadership in this important branch of business. Upon careful investigation we find that this company has always been fair and reasonable in its treatment toward labor, and pays as high wages to its employes as is consistent with business stability.

We are pleased to note that this organization has made a host of friends among the working men of this city, who form the larger percentage of our population.

This company is a splendid example of commendable enterprise which should receive the hearty support and encouragement of all who have the best interest of the city at heart. We take pleasure in placing the firm of the Willamette Iron & Steel Works among the leading concerns which are worthy of being classed as staunch and substantial friends of conservative organized labor.

The above remarks apply to the Willamette Boiler Works as well as the Willamette Iron & Steel Works; these companies are both under the same management and controlled by the same capital.

PORTLAND BUSINESS COLLEGE.

One of the leading educational institutions of the state is the Portland Business College. Its graduates are among our most capable business men and women, and a large measure of their success is undoubtedly due to the splendid training given them at the P. B. C. The high school has its place, as does the university; but for practical business life the business college is absolutely necessary.

It is commendable for our workmen to educate their children in music and other fine arts, if possible, but it is unquestionably their duty to prepare their sons and daughters for the battle of life by giving them a good, practical education.

The Portland Business College is located at the northeast corner of Park and Washington streets, and is under the watchful care of Professor A. P. Armstrong, who can be depended on as a friend of the conservative organized labor, and whose friends favor him with their patronage.

THE KILHAM STATIONERY CO.

In this edition we wish to call the special attention of Portland to a firm that is highly deserving of their support and encouragement, the Kilham Stationery Company, located at No. 267 Morrison street.

This concern has upon numerous occasions shown itself to be thoroughly in sympathy with the labor movement, and always co-operated cheerfully to further the cause. Union men should always remember that it is to their interest to trade with a concern which is ready to exert influence in their behalf and which is in every way reliable and honorable.

THEY HAVE RECENTLY ADDED A FULL LINE OF ARCHITECTS' AND ENGINEERS' SUPPLIES, AND ARTISANS WHO DO ANY DRAUGHTING WILL FIND IT TO THEIR INTEREST TO EXAMINE THEIR STOCK.

THE J. K. GILL CO.

The best establishment of its kind in this city, and one deserving honorable mention for the excellent quality of the goods handled, is that of the J. K. Gill Co., Booksellers and Stationers, located at 133 Third street.

This company has always shown a friendly attitude toward labor and co-operated cheerfully toward the labor movement, and is deserving of the patronage of organized labor and the general public.

Aside from the fact that their attitude toward labor has always been most favorable, it is also reliable and satisfactory in all its dealings. Labor matters have always received fair consideration at their hands and "honorable with all" is a motto strictly adhered to by the J. K. Gill Co.

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ZAN BROS.

An enterprise which especially merits the support and encouragement of all citizens who have the welfare of labor and capital at heart is that of the Zan Bros., located at 52 Front street.

The operation of this enterprise involves the investment of considerable capital, and gives employment to a large number of persons.

The fair and considerate manner in which its employes are treated is deserving of honorable mention, and it is a well-known fact among the members of our ranks that the attitude of the firm toward labor is neither antagonistic nor uncertain.

This concern has invariably treated labor in a most fair and considerate manner, and we gladly place the name of Zan Bros. foremost among the staunch friends of labor.

EVERY & CO.

One of the most notable concerns in its line of business is Avery & Co., located at 82 Third street. This house controls an extensive trade, and its name is well known throughout the entire section of the country. This company has always shown itself to be friendly to the cause of labor, and we recommend it to the co-operation of all our workmen.

It is to be hoped that the proper feeling may always prevail between this company and labor, in order that the two may work harmoniously together, as to bring about the best possible results.

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