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CO-OPERATION.

The tendency in all ages, where one class has attained absolute power, has been to oppress and disregard the rights of the weaker element. This has been the history of both religion and society. Our forefathers came across the water to escape from a tyranny existing in their native land. The majority in England, though doubtless conscientious in their religious belief, by means of the civil government took the whip in their hands and imposed indescribable misery upon the minority. This minority fled to an unknown and undeveloped country in order to establish their natural rights. This minority in England became the majority here, and it is not long until we find them imposing similar religious abuses upon the minority in this country; the same unjust abuses which had been unbearable to them in former days. And thus it has ever been the inclination of the strong to devour the weak.

Society today is represented by two great forces, capital and labor, both of which are essential to our welfare.

Each has its rights and must be recognized in order to exist. The interests of both are identical, and the one grand mission of the two should be to bring happiness to all our people. It is a deplorable fact, however, that the one force, capital, having acquired a high degree of power, has shown a tendency in many instances to oppress and almost totally disregard the rights of labor.

Capital and labor struggled along as man and wife for many years. Their Uncle Sam provided them a house in which to live. They did well together, until one day Mr. Capital became greedy and arrogant, and kicked his partner outdoors without a division of property or alimony, and she has had to take in washing ever since at a miserable pittance in order to provide for her starving children. Labor, burning from the effects of the injustice shown her, immediately began to draw her forces together and organize, and today our country is covered with a complete network of unions.

It should not be overlooked on the other hand that in many cases where labor has had strength there has been an inclination to impose upon the rights of capital. Strikes have become of frequent occurrence, and often property and lives have been destroyed. Labor, in some instances, has made unjust demands because she has felt strong enough to accomplish her aims. She has forgotten that capital has rights as well as herself; that while she has done much for capital, capital has also done much for her.

And so it is. These two great forces, absolutely essential, each a necessary factor in the sustenance and upbuilding of our country, taking opposite sides and trying to fight each other.

The situation is critical. No house divided against itself can stand. What is to be done? The solution of the problem is co-operation. Labor and capital cannot afford to have a divorce. One is dependent upon the other. The rights of both have been trampled upon and each has a grievance. Our toilers will find that there rests in the bosom of the moneyed men much kindly feeling and respect for their rights, and our men of affairs will find that the laborers are not all rabid and unreasonable. Join hands and go along together to the one common end. This should be and is the broad underlying principle of our organization.

THE CROAKER.

There is a certain class of people who are unfortunately born with a kick. They arrive at an age of responsibility, and in so doing have kicked themselves away from everybody, and when they discover they are alone in the world they charge their isolation to society, the Government and God himself. Some of these are persons of ideas, but they attempt to build up something by razing everything. A man who has accumulated wealth they accuse of dishonesty; a man who has acquired spirituality they accuse of hypocrisy; a woman who is virtuous they accuse of lack of opportunity, and so on—never satisfied with what was, is or will be; unless they think things could be arranged according to their idea.

We have persons of this character in the labor movement. They believe in organization, but would have unions regulated differently; they believe there should be newspapers published for the good of the masses, but they would not support them unless they attacked the individual record of everyone who had an opinion and business of their own. If they did, perhaps they would take a three months' subscription for 25 cents, and then swear they would stop their paper if the next issue happened to contain an item that failed to suit their fancy. But these people are in the very small minority, the saints be praised, and the labor movement is based upon a very much broader plane—the principle of brotherhood and equity. It lives on deeds and pins its faith in the blessed hope that right will yet prevail.

While the croaker croaks the irresistible force of unity marches onward and upward amongst the toiling masses. There may never come a day of perfection on this material sphere, but the evils will be remedied one by one and the conditions of the people bettered by themselves. The croaker, too, will ever be with us, but he will kick himself farther into the wilderness of individual distress until he becomes a harmless derelict upon the great expanse of evolutionary progress.

TOO MUCH HORAN.

There are some individuals in the labor movement who ought to be in jail. One of these is William Horan, a delegate from the Painters' Union to the Federated Trades Council, and at present employed as solicitor on the Liberator, a recently established Socialist paper on the East Side.

For a time Horan was holding a similar position, a short time ago, on this paper—the Portland Labor Press. He secured the position by reciting a hard-luck story; that he was a union man; that the painting season was closed and he could get no work; his wife and children were in need of food and clothes and his house rent was unpaid, and he was liable to he turned out on the street.

The hard-luck story worked; he was given a receipt book.

It is the same old story: He simply got drunk, appropriated over $60 of our money to his own use, defrauded us and the public and then we let him go, after compelling him to turn in the names of the people who had subscribed to the Press and had paid him their money. It was not our intention that those who had subscribed should lose their money, and if there are others who have been defrauded and not received the paper we wish them to call at this office, show us a receipt from Horan, and the paper will be sent at once.

Instead of sending Horan to jail, as we should have done, his wife and family were taken into consideration and no charges were preferred. Now this man Horan is "knocking" the Portland Labor Press in favor of the chance he now has of robbing someone else.

It is the old story once again of the dog biting the hand that gives it food. Even now we are loth to publish this man but we do it for the good of those whom he has not met, and for the protection of our business. He is the most desperate case of ingratitude and dishonesty that we have ever met in the ranks of organized labor. At this very time he is using his office as delegate to the Federated Trades Council to assist him in getting subscriptions for a paper not accepted by organized labor, and which has only been running for three weeks. This fact and all that we have said of Horan we can prove to anyone who cares to take the pains to come to this office.

Labor union measures are attracting considerable attention in a number of states whose Legislatures are in session, especially Oregon, Washington and California. Among the measures presented at Sacramento is a constitutional amendment affecting the poll-tax. The amendment exempts from liability from the tax men who participate in general elections. Some objection is being made to it because it saddles Chinese and Japanese adult males with the tax, although they cannot vote; but it is urged in reply that about the only way of obliging the mass of Chinese and Japanese to contribute anything toward maintenance of the Government of which they are beneficiaries is to make them pay poll-tax. Indications are that the amendment will go through both houses and be submitted to the electors of the state. A bill has also been introduced making it a misdemeanor for any one to prevent or attempt to prevent his employes from joining a labor union, or by coercion to lead them to surrender membership in a labor union. Another bill has been introduced designed to put an end to employers sending elsewhere for men, during a strike, and bringing them in under misrepresentation. A similar bill has also been introduced at Salem. A number of Eastern and Middle States have had the latter law in operation for a number of years. A few of the Southern states are being awakened to the necessity of labor legislation, but the campaign at present is directed in the main against child labor, with good results.

Chief of Police Hunt says that he proposes to cleanse the city of negro and white cohabitants. Tuesday morning the police raided North End lodging houses and arrested eight negroes and eight white women who have been in the habit of living together. There are others who will undoubtedly emigrate. While this purging should have been begun long ago, it is at least reassuring to see that it is not too late. The cry of closed town may inconvenience a few non-producers, but the industrial and commercial interests will not miss the absence of a few criminals. The newspapers will merely be deprived of a few "hold-up" stories.

Facts brought out before the Assembly committee on labor and capital of the California Legislature in the consideration of a child labor bill, showed that in the City of San Francisco alone there are 2100 children under 16 years of age working for wages during school hours. One-third of the boys are engaged in occupations which are in nowise educational, and most of the little girls are sapping their physical and moral health in factories. Some of the laundry girls work 15 hours a day, despite the local ordinance regulating their hours of toil. In the San Francisco glass works are boys under the age of 12, some of whom work all night. Their toil is carried on in an inferno of heat and the atmosphere is laden with fine particles of glass, which enter the lungs of the workers and promote pulmonary disease. In the California cotton mills at Oakland many minor children are employed. Small workers seem to mean large dividends. In the State of California today are more than 3000 minor wageworkers, aside from those employed in domestic service.

Every union man in the country who gets hold of this issue of the Labor Press should read Mrs. Whinney's letter on the first page, and then take it home and show it to the women of his household. If every union man's wife, sister or daughter would follow this lady's advice there would be no cry of inequalities other than Nature had superintended herself. If the label was demanded on all goods by purchasers that's all there would be to it. The label would be there and the laborer who manufactured the goods would be working under favorable conditions and there would still be an annuity for the man who lived by his brains.

Mayor Williams submitted his first annual message to the City Council convening Tuesday afternoon for the first time under the new charter. The message was replete with figures showing the financial condition of our city. The message was also eloquent in the lack of words and sentences. In reading what Mayor Williams did not write, we conclude that he wasted no time in telling what ought to be done, but has outlined a plan that must be done as rapidly as possible. However, some may disagree with this honorable gentleman they will never accuse him of shirking a responsibility that comes to his notice.

New York, North Dakota, Connecticut, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, New Hampshire, Utah, South Dakota and Colorado have already elected Senators. Washington and Oregon still hang in the balance with indications that our sister state will precede us in working out the puzzle. While this battle of political buncombe is going on the people of the state are waiting patiently for remedial legislation that they have taxed themselves to secure. While the fight has not held up legislation entirely it retards it, as the Senatorial interests are given preference over local interests.

The Labor Press is perhaps more responsible than some of those who criticise us. We pay our debts, keep our promise, do business on the square, all of which is approved by the board of directors, representing the various unions that own the paper. The policy of the paper is optimistic, and prefers to make friends, but will not shirk a responsibility, even though it be disagreeable. We also believe in being generous to the faults of others as there is no fault unless there is a home for it. We may be it, and yet it may be you. Who knows?

Over 200 garment-workers at Los Angeles, Cal., returned to work last week, with a gain of all the points raised by the union in the controversy. Miss Tessie Fitzgerald, president of the union, conducted the fight. For her skill and ability in bringing about such good results for her own organization, the Los Angeles County Council of Labor honored her by unanimously selecting her second vice-president of that body at its election of officers held January 21.

Ten days of Chinese New Year is granting the Celestials more consideration than the citizen. The rattle of firecrackers and smell of burnt powder may be music and perfume to them, but it is an awful nuisance to those who do not take part in the festivities. It may be their religion, but they have no business to impress it so forcibly upon those who do not believe as they do. Some injunction crank ought to improve such a golden opportunity.

James O'Meara, one of the best-known old-time newspaper men on this Coast, died at Santa Rosa, Cal., January 23, at the age of 78. He was for some time an editor on the Examiner when it was an evening newspaper, and also established a newspaper in Portland, Or. He was connected in an editorial capacity with some of the most prominent newspapers on the Coast, but retired from journalistic work several years ago.

The Senatorial ping pong game at Salem is proof sufficient that the selection should revert into the hands of the people. Let the Legislature pass a joint resolution pledging the successful candidate to work for the constitutional amendment when he goes to Washington. The farce-comedy would then pass into history as a statute of political nonsense.

The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has authorized President Gompers to proceed to Porto Rico to investigate the labor conditions in the island and aid the wageworkers in organizing. He was also authorized to aid in preventing the enactment of the affirmative injunction law in Alabama.

Senator Brownell, of Clackamas, introduced a bill in the Senate Wednesday making eight hours a day's work in all recognized lines of occupation or trades, except farming and kindred pursuits.

ST. PETER AND THE SCAB.

By G. C. S. Charger.

St. Peter stood guard at the golden gate
With solemn mien and an air sedate,
When up at the top of the golden stair
A shrouded figure ascended there,
Applied for admission. He came and stobd
Before St. Peter, so great and good,
In hope the City of Peace to win,
And asked St. Peter to let him in.

"O thou who guardest the gate," said he,
"I have come hither, beseeching thee
To let me enter the Heavenly Land
And play a harp in the angel band.
Of me, St. Peter, there is no doubt,
There's nothing from Heaven to bar me out,
I've been to meeting three times a week,
And almost always I'd rise and speak.

"I've told the sinners about the day
When they'd repent of their evil way.
I've told my neighbors—I've told them all—
Of Adam and Eve and the primal fall.
I've talked to them loud, I've talked to them long,
For my lungs are good and my voice is strong,
I've marked their path of duty clear,
And laid out the plan of their whole career.

"So, good St. Peter, you'll clearly see
That the gate of Heaven is open to me.
Here's the company's letter of recommend,
Which I hope you'll read before you send
For the angel guide to the throne of grace—
It might gain for me a higher place.
You'll find I was always content to live
On whatever the company chose to give.

"And I ought to get a large reward
For never owning a union card.
I've never grumbled, I've never struck,
I've never mixed with union truck.
But I must be going, my way to win,
So open, St. Peter, and let me in."
St. Peter sat and stroked his staff.
Despite his high office he had to laugh.

Said he, with a fiery gleam in his eye,
"Who is tending this gate, sir, you or I?
I've heard of you and your gift of gab;
You are what is known on earth as a scab."
Thereupon he rose in his stature tall,
And pressed a button upon the wall,
And said to the imp who answered the bell,
"Escort this fellow around to Hell.

"Tell Satan to give him a seat alone
On a red-hot griddle up near the throne.
But stay, e'en the Devil can't stand the smell
Of a cooking scab on a griddle in Hell.
It would cause a revolt, a strike, I know,
If I sent you down to the imps below.
Go back to your masters on earth and tell
That they don't even want a scab in Hell."

H. VARWIG & SON.

The above well-known firm has always been favorable to the cause of labor, and it does us great pleasure to bring them to the notice of our readers.

H. Varwig & Son, wholesale dealers in liquors and cigars, located at 231 Front, are stanch supporters of the rights of the union and the workingman. 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 good cause of labor.

We should remember that it is for our benefit as well as duty to trade with a concern that is ready to exert influence in their behalf.

We are pleased to place the name of H. Varwig & Son on the honorary list of prominent concerns which are friends of labor.

A. B. STEINBACH.

Prominent among retail establishments in the City of Portland which are a credit to the city and deserving of the hearty support and patronage of our thousands of members stands the firm of A. B. Steinbach, dealer in men's clothing, etc., etc., located on Fourth and Morrison streets.

The above concern is worthy of being classed among the friends of labor, as it has ever shown a disposition to be fair and reasonable in their attitude toward the union.

The fair and considerate manner in which it treats its employes is deserving of honorable mention. Our union men throughout the city should give this deserving firm their patronage.

THE SUNSET CREAMERY COMPANY.

A thoroughly reliable concern such as the Sunset Creamery Company, whose attitude toward organized labor has never been antagonistic or uncertain, is entitled to the hearty support and encouragement of the thousands of union men in this city. This firm has always co-operated cheerfully to further the labor movement, and has never failed to set the seal of its approval upon the broad underlying principles of unionism. Owing to its broad-minded and public-spirited manner of dealing, this company has built up an enormous and substantial patronage, and it is exceedingly popular among all classes of people. The quality of goods handled is the very best for the prices charged, and customers are certain to receive every courtesy and attention.

We predict for this firm a career of uninterrupted prosperity so long as its affairs are in charge of the present able and efficient management. This concern is located at 281 First street.

KNIGHT PACKING COMPANY.

This co-operative edition would be incomplete if reference were not made to the Knight Packing Company.

We are pleased to note this company has always shown a friendly attitude toward the labor movement and upon investigation we find that their force of employes are given fair treatment and receive good compensation for their labors.

Our union men throughout the city should give this deserving firm their united support and co-operation so long as it is conducted in its present able manner.

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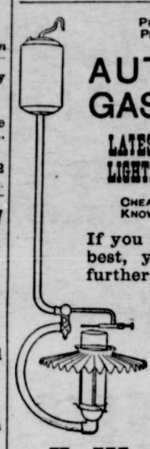
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