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WELCOME RELIEF.

Again the country has been relieved from a strike that threatened great suffering and far-reaching disaster. And again it demonstrates the power of organization and the fruits to be derived therefrom. Nearly 50,000 involved, and the unquestionable addition of nearly 20,000 more has been averted by conciliatory methods, the program of which convinces many of us that this is the logical solution of the intricate industrial problem. Here a gigantic trust of one of the most necessary articles of food, rated at many millions of dollars, find that they must treat with their employees as men and women instead of chattels. The courage and firmness and integrity of President Donnelly and his associate leaders are to be commended for their magnificent work, and the packers, too, have shown good judgment in their conclusions. It may be said by some that they were forced to it, and do not deserve credit, but had they chosen to do so they could have marshalled nearly the entire wealth of the world to their assistance. Of course a continued fight would have affected business so generally all over the country that President Roosevelt might have interfered as he did in the anthracite coal strike, but this is problematic; and cannot enter into the discussion of the events of the case. On the whole the business has been well done, and the happy termination of what seemed an industrial storm has drifted away into sunny skies and incalculable blessings. Employers of less magnitude and greater hate for organized labor can profit by the example set by their commercial peers.

Judge Ludwig, of the Milwaukee (Wis.) Circuit Court, has made a ruling that contracts made by incorporated labor unions with manufacturers, prohibiting the employment of non-union workmen, are void. The decision was given in the suit brought by the Milwaukee Custom Tailors' Union against a local concern which made an agreement with the tailors to employ none but union workmen. A temporary injunction was obtained, but this Judge Ludwig ruled was improvidently issued. After the injunction was issued the union instituted proceedings to have the company punished for contempt for the alleged failure to comply with its terms. The motion to punish was denied, and the injunction set aside. It is the first ruling had upon the question in Wisconsin, and, if sustained by the State Supreme Court, will be of far-reaching importance. It is hardly probable that the Supreme Court will sustain this ridiculous opinion, for such law would prevent a man from entering into a contract at all. Might as well say that a railroad company could not contract with cattle growers to haul their stock.

Labor Day this year comes on September 5. But six weeks remain for the unions of the city to make the necessary preparations to celebrate their own day as they should. All of the cities around us have commenced long ago to arrange a programme of amusements, and in this respect organized labor in Portland has been a laggard. It is not too late to start something, and the Federated Trades Council should take the matter in hand at the next meeting. There will hardly be enough time to arrange for a parade, but a picnic or excursion could be given at some popular resort where all interested in the movement could meet and enjoy themselves. Unless some use is made of

the day organized labor don't deserve to have it. Let committees be chosen at once to formulate a plan of celebration, and the smaller the better. What is needed is less than a half dozen energetic fellows that will take the matter in hand and work.

The cases against Ross Sanborn, Joseph Carbonetti, and Frank Napoli, charged with the dynamiting of the Sun & Moon Transformer house and plant near Idaho Springs, Colorado, a year ago, has been nolleed by District Attorney Thurman. This action finally dismisses that incident, so far as the courts are concerned, the state having failed to secure conviction of any of the numerous members of the Idaho Springs Miners' Union charged with complicity in the crime. In fact the union miners have not been convicted of a single criminal charge made against them, while detectives in the employ of the mining corporations have, but have been turned loose by the state authorities. It is to be hoped that the day will come in Colorado when the innocent people will get their reward, and the guilty their just deserts.

That some employers look upon their employees merely as beasts of burden is exemplified in a strike of the miners at the Jumper and Golden Rule mines, situated six miles southeast of Sonora. The men went on a strike on July 2, because an order was issued by the management requiring the miners to pass between the shaft and the change room nude. The object of the order was to make it possible for the watchmen to more readily detect and apprehend miners who might engage in stealing rich specimens of ore from the mine. The miners bitterly resented the new order, and rather than submit to it refused to work. The strike lasted for fifteen days, when the order was recalled, and the men then returned to work. This is but one example of indignities imposed upon those who work for wages by unscrupulous employers.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean takes a practical and logical view of the organized labor movement, which is expressed editorially in a recent issue, as follows: "The cost of labor is one of the principal items that enter into competition between business men. No one can deny this. Then is it not a decided advantage to deal with an organization of labor that guarantees to the business man that his competitor is paying the same wages that he does? And besides, there is not a union in existence which places minimum wages above what a man can afford to support a family upon comfortably. Union wages are always reasonable. Employers of labor who object to the strictly union shops do so simply because union regulations require a standard of justice to the workmen that most employers want to violate in the interests of profits."

The business men and wage workers of Olympia (Wash.) district are aroused over what seems to be the determination of the members of the Shingle Manufacturers' Association to employ Japanese and Asiatic labor in their mills. These gentlemen seem to be disgruntled at both the union and nonunion wage workers, and henceforth will eschew all white labor. In that case they ought to be compelled to take their mills to China or Japan to do their business and make their profits. Too many men, who have accumulated an enterprise that makes them somewhat independent, become arrogant and think they alone are responsible for its success, and "ask no odds of anyone." In such cases a boycott is about the only thing that will make them come to their senses.

Our friend Steinbiss, editor of the St. Louis Labor Compendium, made a gallant fight to land the presidential nomination on the democratic ticket for William Hearst, but the money power decreed otherwise, and now our worthy editor threatens his party with an expose of questionable methods. We lament with Brother Steinbiss in the defeat of Mr. Hearst as a presidential candidate, for we would then have had two friends in the field that we were sure of instead of one.

"The dangerous men are not the masses," says Rev. Dr. Rainsford, "but often men we know and dine with, the men prominent in religious and philanthropic enterprises who are all the time trying to buy something that the law does not allow to be bought, and that enlightened public opinion knows to be wrong."

Kansas City bids fair to rival Indianapolis as a headquarters for labor organizations. Six big international unions have their general offices in that city, namely, Coopers' International Union, Brotherhood of Boiler-makers, Brotherhood of Leather Workers, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, Sheet Metal Workers' Alliance, and Order of Railway Clerks.

AN OPEN MEETING.

Colorado Situation Will Be Explained by Men Who Know.

Next Sunday a mass meeting and picnic will be held at Hawthorne Park under the auspices of the labor organizations of Portland, the proceeds to be donated to the deported miners' families of Colorado.

The admission to the park will be free, but the sum of 25 cents will be charged into the baseball grounds, where all of the sports and athletic contests will be held.

The speaking will be held in the park from the band stand, and will commence in the morning at 10 o'clock. The principal speaker will be D. M. Coates, ex-lieutenant governor of Colorado, and a man who has spent nearly a life-time in that state, and is thoroughly acquainted with the situation from the inception of the quarrel between the Western Federation of Miners and the mining corporations up to the present time. Eugene Schmitz, the labor mayor of San Francisco, is also expected to be present and make an address. Harry Rogers, an impressive speaker of local distinction, will also speak.

The sports in the afternoon will consist of a baseball game between the Royal Club and the Building Trades; ladies' foot race; tug of war; fat men's race; climbing greased pole; sack race; and catching greased pig. The winner of these contests will be given a valuable prize.

Everybody is invited to the grounds to spend the day, and especially families who can take their lunches upon the grounds.

Light refreshments will be served upon the park grounds, but no liquors of any kind will be permitted.

Brown's band of 33 pieces have volunteered their services for the pleasure of the people; also the Woodmen's band.

The committee having in charge the affair has arranged to accommodate many thousands of people, as the subject to be discussed by the able speakers has startled the whole country, and has become of profound interest to almost every one.

A graphic history will be given by the speakers covering the ground from the time the people inaugurated a movement for an eight-hour day in the mines, first passed by the legislature, then declared unconstitutional by the courts; how it was then taken before the people in the shape of a constitutional amendment, and elected by over 46,000 majority; how it was then taken to the legislature for ratification and was defeated by the mining companies through open bribery; and from there on to the part played by the governor in placing a peaceful community under martial law; the infamous administration of the military, and finally the so-called Citizens' Alliance mob rule of the Cripple Creek district, and the wholesale deportation of innocent men.

Interview the President.

President Roosevelt received a committee last Tuesday appointed last Sunday by the convention of the coal miners and allied crafts of Wilkes-barre, Pa. The mission of the committee was to present personally to the President a petition reciting the conditions in which organized labor has been placed by the action of the authorities of Colorado and requesting him to institute an investigation of the labor trouble in that state with a view to remedying the conditions now existing if possible. The members of the committee, M. T. Burke, of Carbondale, Pa.; Henry Hersovitz, of Plymouth, Pa.; and Frank E. McCafferty, of Victor, Colo., are the men who went to Oyster Bay last week, but were unable to obtain a personal interview with the President.

The committee arrived Tuesday afternoon, and met the President at his Sagamore Hill home at 7:30 in the evening. They passed a half hour with Mr. Roosevelt in his library. The petition, which was the expression of 225,000 men of the union labor organi-

zation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, was laid before the President. He read it carefully, and then informed the committee he would be glad to do anything he properly and legally could to ameliorate the condition existing in the State of Colorado. He indicated that an investigation of the labor troubles in that state is now being made by agents of the Department of Commerce and Labor. Thus far the situation had not been such as would warrant interference by the Federal Government.

Following the presentation of the petition, the President talked with his callers on subjects of mutual interest. The talk developed the fact that Mr. Hersovitz had fought with President Roosevelt in Cuba. After exchanging some reminiscences of the war with him, the President gave Mr. Hersovitz an autograph card bearing the following inscription:

"To comrade Henry Hersovitz, with the good wishes of Theodore Roosevelt, July 19, 1904."

Aid of Red Cross Asked.

The ways and means committee of the Western Federation of Miners has appealed to the Red Cross Society to take charge of the distribution of funds and the general relief work for families of deported miners in the Cripple Creek district. A communication addressed to Mrs. John A. Logan, president of the society, deals in part as follows:

"After having deported from their homes the husbands and fathers, they now refuse to allow relief in the way of food and clothing to be issued to the wives and children, unless it be through the hands of the military authorities."

"We do not feel justified in trusting the matter of relief to the military, feeling satisfied that owing to the hatred they have shown to our people they would not faithfully carry out this great trust."

"Now, therefore, knowing it to be the mission of the Red Cross Society, of which you are the official head, to take charge of and as much as possible eliminate suffering caused by the cruelties of war, we earnestly appeal to you to arrange to have your noble organization take charge of the distribution of food and clothing to the families of deported citizens of Teller County. We will furnish all necessary supplies, and only ask that your organization take charge of the distribution of the same."

A Short Strike.

Over 300 union brewers, employed in 22 breweries in California went on a strike Tuesday for an advance of wages from \$20 to \$22 a week.

The secretary of the Brewers' Protective Association said that the strikers were not skilled workmen and could easily be replaced.

The strikers were notified that unless they returned to work Wednesday the breweries would be declared open shops.

A conference held last Wednesday between the brewery owners and the brewery workers resulted in a compromise of the issues involved in the strike of the men. The latter had been getting \$20 a week and worked eight hours. They demanded \$22.50 and shorter hours. The brewers agreed to pay the men \$21 a week and 60 cents an hour overtime. The agreement has been signed for two years.

Every member of the Bottlers' and Brewers' Union in Reno, Nev., was called out on a strike last Saturday. The houses affected are both agents and manufacturers, and unless the trouble is speedily settled a beer drought will be the result. The men have been receiving wages ranging from \$12 to \$15 per week. On account of increased business they now demand a flat rate of \$16 per week. The old scale was in effect one year and expired July 16. The employers refused to sign the new scale, and the walkout is a result. They threaten to have goods sent in from San Francisco unless the men recede in their demands.



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