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WHAT ABOUT LABOR DAY?

Labor Day comes this year on the 5th day of September, and all over the country organized labor is preparing to observe it in a manner that will gain favor for the movement. In every other city on the Pacific Coast preparations are well along, and the various crafts in the many cities will choose the feature of celebration that best suits the disposition of its people. Portland, the second largest city on the Pacific Coast, is the only laggard of them all. Even little cities one-twentieth her size are now preparing their floats for parades, or the plans have been completed for a picnic or excursion. In all these places but Portland some provision has been made by the unions to entertain its members in some way or other. It is customary for the central body, where the city is large enough to have one, to take the initiative in this matter. In other places the unions themselves plan their own form of amusements. At least the day is observed in some way in nearly all of the towns where there is a union, and in all the cities where there is a central body.

Why the Portland Federated Trades Council has overlooked this very important matter it is hard to understand. The day was created a holiday for the special benefit of the wage workers, and if they don't care enough about it what is the use of having it? Yet if an attempt was to be made to repeal the law, what a howl of rage would rend the air.

It seems to be a failing of some people when they have a good thing to let it go by default. Like the late Butchers' Union of this city: After an agreement was secured satisfactory to both the members and the employers, and in fact the latter had secured much better wages and hours than ever before, the organization was allowed to simply dwindle away and die. Now these same men are working for all kinds of wages and hours. It is a pity that men of average intelligence cannot think farther ahead than the moment they breathe the breath of life, but it is sometimes necessary to enlighten the mind by oppressive methods. Nothing else can serve as well to prove to these men the value of an organization.

So it is with Labor Day. Much time and labor and expense has been spent in securing it a place upon the statute books, for the special advantage of the wage earners. It is to be presumed that the leading organization in a city of Portland's size would not fail to suggest some kind of celebration.

It is time to wake up. If the Federated Trades Council will not start something the individual unions should. And if they do not, every trade unionist should take his family, if he has one, and give them an outing of some kind, away from the everyday business of routine life. If he hasn't a family, he should get one, or find some one that cannot afford to spend the few cents that an outing would cost, and help them to find in life some of the brightness that the more fortunate see each day.

It is not necessary that Labor Day be celebrated with long and tiresome parades, or the great expense of spectacular affairs, but it should be devoted to pleasure and comfort, and the passing of good fellowship around.

It is not too late for the Council to take the lead in giving us an enjoyable Labor Day. But four weeks remain, but a good, active committee put to work right away will do it, and everybody will feel better for it. Inactivity and indifference usually makes people cross.

COST OF INSINCERITY.

Time is a surprising actor, and it takes but a few moments sometimes to inaugurate stupendous changes. Great joys and bitter disappointments are often the work of seconds, yet time moves on in its uncompromising way without let or hindrance. Last week we were overjoyed over the settlement of the butchers' strike with the great meat-packing enterprises of the country. Twelve hours later the scene had changed, and the industrial battle was renewed with greater energy and more pretensions. What appeared to be a happy solution of the difficulty was shortly afterwards dissipated by unfair dealing. An agreement was arranged by which the skilled workmen were to be reinstated at their old places immediately and the unskilled in 45 days; all to be employed at previous wages. The workmen appeared for reinstatement at the time agreed upon and were met by a systematic plan of discrimination. They refused the conditions offered them, in direct violation of the agreement. The result, the strike is again greater than ever. The allied trades employed about the packing houses have enlisted their sympathies with those of their fellow workers, and they, too, have left their places. This complicates the matter and intensifies the situation. The battle promises to be a long one and bitter. Negro strike breakers have been employed, which will make the difficulty more serious, as it will incur race bitterness in addition to the feeling already created against them as strike breakers. Since the packers violated their agreement and the employees have made new demands and as a result the breach is wider than ever.

How much better it would have been had the employers pursued their promises in good faith. How can the working people be expected to conduct their affairs without error when their employers are guilty of such flagrant violations of all sense of equity?

There is such a thing as being so strenuously union as to be positively nonunion, just as men become irreligiously religious and so good they are good for nothing. The secret of success in any departure is to understand human nature first and then be ever cognizant that life in its entirety is little else but a round of inconsistencies. We should have ideals—exalted ones—but we must know that at every turn we shall be called upon to reconcile to those ideals the most ridiculous inconsistencies. We are organized to promote our interests as laboring men. If there is one thing more than another we should ever remember it is that when we undertake anything that implies the stopping of work by ourselves or our fellow workers we are undertaking what should ever be a very last resort as well as a very serious step. If there is one thing a local should be protected and defended in, it is the right to work against the protests of some other union not directly concerned. It should be guaranteed the right to work in a far greater degree than it should be defended in a desire to strike. As unionists treating among ourselves we are less generous than when treating with employers, and in such jealous disagreements we do more to injure the progress of real unionism than we think.

The Portland Newsboy is the latest venture in the newspaper field in Portland, and it is certainly a credit to the band of little fellows who industriously circulate the printed news. The Portland Newsboy is a little four-column, four-page weekly, and is devoted to the interests of the class that the title describes. Otto Prag is the editor. All current questions of importance will be taken up by the Portland Newsboy. In the last issue the editor has taken up a very important matter, of how we are to remove prison labor from the competitive field of free labor. After a visit to the Oregon state prison, the editor of the Newsboy observes: "Our opinion on the question of convict labor is, that it should be used on public roads and on state buildings, but not by firms or incorporations outside of, for the state itself—for the state's benefit, and no other. It is certainly a question which is puzzling all."

One of the most common complaints with which the solicitor for a labor paper is met, is that of the failure by union men to live up to their principles in patronizing the union label. Dealers procure label goods, advertise them and expect union men to buy. When they fail to buy according to the merchant's expectations he has a reasonably good kick, and with more or less cause, questions their consistency as union men. But when a dealer goes to the trouble of securing a line of goods bearing the label, and knows his is the only line of those goods in the city, but are allowed to lie upon the shelves unbought by union men, he has a good right to say such union men need

making over, and that badly. Such is the experience of a certain dealer in this city, and union men should get wise or cease making pretensions.

On the first page of this issue is the opinion of Judge Sloss of San Francisco, in which he grants the Typographical Union of that city a permanent injunction against the Citizens' Alliance for infringing upon the copyrighted label of the Allied Printing Trades. Not only does he restrain the defendants from using the label, almost identical with that of the union, but he gives plaintiffs \$500 damages. In the evidence submitted it was clearly proven that the alliance duplicated the union's label as nearly as possible so as to deceive the public, and render the union's emblem of fair conditions as invalid as possible. While the decision of Judge Sloss does not finally dispose of the case, it acts as a precedent, rendered upon facts, that will have its weight with the courts of appeal.

R. C. Dunn, the republican nominee for governor in the State of Minnesota, was for years a printer, and at the present time carries a paid-up card. He is not only a member of the union but he is a staunch advocate of the doctrine. His opponent on the democratic ticket, Mr. Collis, is an avowed antagonist of trades unionism, and will undoubtedly receive the support of the Citizens' Alliance in that state. Mr. Dunn was hard fought by organized capital in the convention, but he was too strong a candidate, besides receiving the full strength of organized labor in the state. The trades unionists of Minnesota are going into the campaign with all of their strength, and are sanguine that they can elect their friend and defeat their enemy.

NO ENEMY OF LABOR.

Captain Richmond Hobson, the hero of the Merrimac, denies that he uttered an attack upon organized labor at the recent convention of the democratic party at St. Louis, and says that he was misquoted by the Associated Press reporters. After leaving Portland a few days ago, after delivering an address at the Chautauqua at Gladstone, he went to San Francisco, and in an interview with an Examiner reporter, said:

"I see by the papers that I am accused of having made an attack on labor. That was so far from my purpose at the time I addressed the convention that I feel I ought to set myself right.

"According to the published accounts of my speech I am quoted as having held up Cleveland to the convention as the ideal president of the United States for the reason that he stood for enforcing the law against labor unions when they broke the law. Now, that was not all that I said, and to pick that sentence out as the substance of my speech is to do me an injustice.

"The point I was making, when I uttered the words that provoked criticism, was that at this juncture we have grave problems confronting us at home and abroad. At home there are the questions of capital and labor, of trusts and of corporations, questions of grave importance. Now the fundamental rule to be observed, in my opinion, is that we all of us be careful in our actions and, above all, respect the laws. Laws must be justly framed, in the first place, and when they are so, must be fearlessly enforced.

"Well, I went on to say in my speech that President Roosevelt was not entitled to the reputation of fearlessness he had claimed for himself. He had refused to prosecute the law-breaking trusts, for instance, and it had been left to a democrat to go after the hoodlums in St. Louis. I then said, 'Who was the young democrat who stood out fearlessly for prosecuting the trust-law breakers?' I referred, of course, to Mr. Hearst, a man whom I sincerely admire. This part of my speech was not quoted in the papers shown to me. Then I went on to say, 'Who stood for enforcing the law against labor unions that broke the law?' This time I referred to ex-President Cleveland and his fearless action at the time of the labor troubles in Chicago.

"I deem that no attack on labor. I say right here that the best friend labor has is he who will restrain labor from violating the law. The policy I counsel is one of moderation on both sides, that is all. And I commend Mr. Hearst's action in prosecuting the coal trust just as much as I do Cleveland's in suppressing lawlessness at Chicago.

"I am glad to make this explanation, for I feel I have been misunderstood."

BUSY WITH STATISTICS.

O. P. Hoff, state labor commissioner, has returned from a tour of the state gathering statistics for his report that is to be submitted to the coming session of the Oregon legisla-

ture. He left Portland on Monday, June 13, and has been constantly on the go ever since, taking long stage rides, and getting but little sleep en route. He has visited the counties of Wasco, Umatilla, Union, Baker, Grant, Harney, Crook, Lake, Klamath, Jackson, Josephine, Curry, Coos, Douglas, Lane, Linn, Benton, Polk, Yamhill, Tillamook and Washington. During this trip he rode over 1050 miles on stages.

In order to secure the occupation of the wage earners he first secures the registration list at the county seats, after which he investigates their conditions.

Mr. Hoff stated that he found wages higher in the interior away from the railroads. Men in the hay fields were getting \$2.00 a day and board, and the stock men were paying their men the same that they have been receiving for years. In the lumber business there was a marked decrease in wages, but still higher than it was two years ago. He also found that the cost of living in the lumber districts is higher than it was two years ago by 10 per cent.

As to the labor laws he stated that he found them generally observed with the exception of one or two isolated instances. The greatest evil he discovered was the neglect of employers to properly protect their employees against the dangers of unprotected machinery. In most of these cases he finds that a remedy can be had by the expenditure of a few cents and a few moments of labor. It is purely neglect on the part of the management of these industries that is liable at any time to cost an employee the loss of a limb, and the company a suit for damages. At Mr. Hoff's request many of these firms have complied with the law.

Mr. Hoff expects to have his report in the hands of the state printer by the first of October.

LABEL MISSIONARY.

A. W. Jones, president of the Cigarmakers' Pacific Coast Blue Label League, who was delegated to take the field for several months by his organization to do nothing but agitate the label, has proven to be a capable and worthy servant, and is now in the State of Washington, doing missionary work for the blue label, as is attested to by the Grays Harbor Post, of the last issue, which says:

"Mr. A. W. Jones, a delegate from the Cigar Makers' International Union, came into the city Monday and stayed upon the harbor until Wednesday. He visited the Carpenters' and Sailors' Unions of Aberdeen and the Hoquiam Trades Council in the interests of the blue label. He expressed regret that he was unable to visit the other unions in the two cities but time would not allow. Mr. Jones has the State of Oregon and Washington as his territory. He visited the Willamette Valley and the City of Vancouver before reaching the Harbor towns. Mr. Jones expressed views upon the labor situation which indicated his fairness and knowledge of the various questions at issue. He believes in fair play. He is a bright-headed gentleman and a clear and convincing speaker."

MARTIAL LAW TO END.

General Bell Objects to Peabody's Program.

Before the end of the present week, it is reported, there will be no military rule in the State of Colorado. The troops in Teller, San Miguel and Las Animas counties will be withdrawn and the administration of affairs in these counties left to the civil authorities. The withdrawal of the troops will also bring about the dissolution of the military commission now in existence in the Cripple Creek district. The result referred to will be effected by orders from Governor Peabody, who has arrived at the conclusion that conditions in the three counties named have become so peaceful as to no longer require the presence of the military.

Adjutant General Sherman M. Bell dissents from the opinion of Governor Peabody that the Cripple Creek district is sufficiently pacified to justify the withdrawal of the national guard, which was done last night by the governor's order.

"The troops have been protecting union men and their friends against other citizens," said General Bell, "and I look for a clash now that military rule is ended."

"I have called off the militia," said Governor Peabody, "now let the unions do the proper thing and call off the strike. We can then submit our differences to the people at the polls, and let them decide at the next election who is right."

Replying to Governor Peabody's suggestion that the union should call off the strikes, William D. Haywood, secretary of the Federation of Miners, said today:

"The calling off of the military by Governor Peabody has not the slight-



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est logic bearing upon the proposition to call off the strike. We have not been striking against the use of the militia, although it has been hired by the mine operators for use against the unions in the strike. Our original contentions were, and still remain for the establishment of the right to organize, to prevent unjust discrimination against members of the Western Federation of Miners, and to establish the eight-hour day.

"The fight in Colorado now is for the maintenance of those principles of this republic, which guarantee to

every citizen the right to live in any place he chooses. This and all other fundamental principles guaranteed by the constitution of this country have been openly violated in Colorado.

"Never was there any occasion warranting the calling out of the militia, and now Governor Peabody calls off his dogs of war at this time solely on account of the great pressure brought to bear on him by the managers of the republican party."

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