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CAPITAL'S SCARE.

The great money interests of the United States are becoming alarmed over what is reported to be a menace to the tremendous export trade of our country. It is said that powerful Chinese clubs in the Orient purpose boycotting the products of this country unless there is a more liberal use of the exclusion laws. Capital has become frightened; very much so; in fact, is startled at the prospect of losing a little trade from our yellow brethren across the sea. It has often been said that capital is the biggest coward on earth, but who ever heard of capital becoming alarmed at the prospect of losing the home market—the very best there is to be had? And yet an open coast to the myriads of cheap Asiatic labor would do this very thing. The people of California realized this first more than thirty years ago, and their voices thundered until the sound was heard in Washington, and the lawmakers were forced to enact remedial legislation. China would never have purchased a dollar's worth of stuff from us from the time of the exclusion law was enforced if she was not compelled to do so. Where else would she go? It may be true that the exclusion law is unnecessarily strict in its application to merchants, students, etc., but it was found that unless the most careful vigilance was exercised by the authorities great numbers of coolie laborers were smuggled in. This hurried alarm on the part of capital should not be taken too seriously. There will be other days that will frighten capital more. Some day an exclusion law will be applied to the Japanese and Koreans, and other undesirable immigration from Europe. We have now a serious race problem within our gates. The negro is here and belongs to us. With an open door the West would be as sorely afflicted with the Asiatics as the South is today with the black man. And where is our home market in this country? Is it in the South or the North? And where will our home market be if the unrestricted immigration of coolie labor is permitted? Suppose the Oriental revenues of capital is threatened and somewhat curtailed, is it's interests of more value to this country than the prosperity of our working classes? Suppose we should lose China's trade, could the loss not be reclaimed many fold by holding out some encouragement to the better classes of immigrants in the East? And if China fixes a boycott upon our products what is there to prevent us from pinning a boycott upon her goods, which 95 per cent of her people are unable to purchase at home? There is something of a "bogey man" in all of this talk. The people of California are almost a unit in advocating the exclusion of the Japanese and Koreans. Perhaps this scare has been sprung to quiet the Californians down. Be it as it may, there is one thing sure, and that is China buys our products because she needs them, and if she could get the same goods from other countries for less money we could not sell to her. It is all nonsense to assume that China will take any more of our exports because the point of our hook has been hidden by a social bait. It is purely

business that our exports find their way into China, and that China's own goods find their way here, and it is purely business that we should protect our own people against the invasions of a people that will drag us down instead of building up. If the United States gives way on one point it will be only a matter of time when the Chinese clubs will frame up another boycott for us to break-fast upon.

THE RECALL SAFE.

A report has gained currency that the "recall" cause in the city charter of Los Angeles, Cal., has been declared unconstitutional by the state supreme court. This is a mistake. The question arose over the removal of J. H. Davenport, a councilman, for corrupt practices while in office. The case involved was that of awarding the city printing, which the charter designates to the lowest responsible bidder. Through Davenport the Los Angeles Times, the bitterest non-union newspaper in the world, was awarded the contract in defiance of the charter. The supreme court of California decided that this case would stand, on account of irregularities in the signing of the petition, it being shown that names appeared on that document that were not in the registration list. The constitutionality of the recall law was not touched upon by the court. The procedure to effect the removal of an incumbent of an elective office is as follows:

"A petition signed by electors entitled to vote for a successor to the incumbent sought to be removed, equal in number to at least twenty-five per cent of the entire vote for all candidates for the office, the incumbent of which is sought to be removed, cast at the last preceding general municipal election, demanding an election of a successor of the person sought to be removed, shall be filed with the city clerk, provided that the petition sent to the council shall contain a general statement of the grounds for which the removal is sought. Within ten days from the filing of such petition the city clerk shall examine and from the great register, ascertain whether or not said petition is signed by the requisite number of qualified electors, and if necessary the council shall allow him extra help for this purpose, and he shall attach to the said petition his certificate showing the result of said examination. If the petition shall be found to be sufficient the city council shall order and fix a date for holding the said election, not less than thirty days nor more than forty days from the date of the clerk's certificate to the council that a sufficient petition is filed."

In his annual report the commissioner of labor of New York makes the following significant remarks: "The attempt to discredit the principle of trade unionism under the guise of establishing an open shop has signally failed. The public has seen that a union shop may be a truly open shop as long as the union itself is open to all competent workmen, whereas the non-union shop in which every workman is compelled to drive a bargain single-handed with the employer becomes more often than not a sweatshop. With the union's power broken the just and humane employer is powerless to keep wages and hours up to the former union standard in the face of competition of wage-cutting rivals."

Mayor-elect Lane has demonstrated that he is a capable man by keeping a silent tongue at a time when it is good policy. He is probably looking well to the ways and quietly selecting his men most competent to remove the wedges that will let slide his ship of state into the turbulent municipal waters. Besides refusing to fire the people with much stuff of what he intends doing, Dr. Lane saves himself much care and worry by keeping a quiet tongue. There are many occasions when silence is most eloquent.

The wide publicity given by the daily press some months ago to the statement that the Seattle labor unions had boycotted the Exposition, created the impression in some quarters that the Fair was on organized labor's unfair list. If the unions of Seattle acted hastily at the time the unions of this city should not be censured for their ill-advised action in the matter. On the contrary, the unions of Portland have contributed their share toward making the Exposition a success.

D. M. Parry has surrendered the watch of "industrial freedom," and taken to the timber. He has resigned the leadership of the National Association of Manufacturers, and his of-

ficial authority, has been delegated to the famous maker of breakfast foods, C. W. Post. If there is any difference between these two men, Parry has the best of it. The finish of the Manufacturers' Association (Citizens' Alliance) is close at hand.

BAKERS LOSE AT LAW, BUT WIN IN FACT.

By a vote of five to four the Supreme Court of the United States declared unconstitutional the law of the state of New York prohibiting the employment of bakers for more than 10 hours of any day. This law was the result of a campaign of agitation and education carried on for many years among the people of New York.

The dissenting justices cite previous decisions of the United States Supreme Court, when it said, "This employment, when too long pursued, the legislature has judged to be detrimental to the health of the employees, and so long as there are reasonable grounds for believing that this is so, its decision upon the subject cannot be reviewed by the federal courts." Then again, the court has, in another case, decided that, "The possession and enjoyment of all rights are subject to such reasonable conditions as may be deemed by the governing authority of the community essential to the safety, health, peace, good order, and morals of the community." In this declaration both the majority and the minority of the court agree; but the majority opinion declares that "The law must be upheld, if at all, as a law pertaining to the health of the individual engaged in the occupation of a baker," but concludes that the safety, health, etc., of the baker are not threatened by his working more than 10 hours a day. In giving this opinion the court assumes the position, not as a court of review or appeal upon the law, statutory and constitutional, but stepped from that high sphere to that of a petty jury to determine the facts.

One of the old-time sophistries, disproved by every thinker and student, and so demonstrated by every fact in industrial history, was held by the "judicial five" to hold good in our day the folly that the longer hours men work the more they earn, when he who runs may read that the wages of workmen whose hours of daily labor are ten, nine, or eight are always higher than those who work twelve, thirteen, fourteen, or more, and this, too, regardless of trade or calling, skilled or unskilled. And yet the majority of the court held that the law was an invasion of the bakers' "liberty" to work more than 10 hours a day. Here is the language: "The employee may desire to earn the extra money which would arise from his working more than the prescribed time, but this statute forbids the employer from permitting the employee to earn it."

Inasmuch as the decision of the court has been reached by so narrow a margin of a vote as five to four, is there not room enough to ask the court for a rehearing? Surely its importance warrants it, and we have reason to believe that the case as presented on behalf of the State of New York might possibly have been improved upon, and perhaps with a different result.

But, apart from all this, it is an interesting fact that though the employing bakers of New York have won their "judicial victory" it has been entirely barren of results.

The employers anticipated reaping the harvest of their victory and enforcing a longer workday.

The bakers, however, who have had their "liberty" invaded, and "prohibited" from working more than 10 hours a day, declared that they had grown fond of being prevented working more than 10 hours a day, and the upshot of it all has been, rather than to enter into a costly battle with the organized bakers of New York, an agreement was reached between the journeymen and the employing bakers limiting the hours of labor to 10 per day. And this 10-hour workday the court will not declare unconstitutional upon any plea or pretense, even should it go so far as to suspect that the bakers had some other than their health, peace, and welfare in view.

Good luck to the bakers. The ex-

istence of their union, their affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, the realization of their rights, and the determination to contest for them, has turned what seemed defeat into a victory which will be everlasting, and which will help to a still further reduction in the hours of labor, and in their material, physical, mental, social and moral uplift.—American Federationist.

Favors Trade Agreements.

The following is from a paper written by Francis L. Robbins, president of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, and read before the Civic Federation:

"There are some employers who still protest that the signing of a trade agreement regulating hours, wages and conditions of work infringes on his personal right to conduct his business as he sees fit. Such an employer forgets that he is continually making contracts, other than with labor, and entering combinations that restrain and modify his conduct of business.

"The trade agreement involves no 'surrender of allegiance as a free American citizen,' and deprives the individual exercises his constitutional right, whether an employer or a wage worker, when he enters voluntarily into association with others for the attainment of advantages which he could not secure by individual effort. When two such associations deal with each other, it is for the purpose of increasing the efficiency and productivity of an industry, which necessarily implies that their agreement is for the good of all the community.

"It is indeed the benefit of society at large that inspires and justifies sacrifice of individual liberty. I regard the trade agreement, involving as it does a voluntary adjustment of personal freedom to the common weal, to be of the highest importance to the future of the country as a method of reaching harmonious relations between capital and labor."

An international agreement has been reached by the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Alliance and the Bartenders' League of America which will guarantee the carrying out of the contract by the international union if the local fails to do so.

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