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REMOVED.

The Portland Labor Press has removed its office to Room 4, 167 1/2 First street, Telephone for the present, Pacific 1591. Will be pleased to meet our friends and patrons at the new headquarters.

BY THEIR FRUITS YOU SHALL KNOW THEM.

The curse of the trust is its evil consequences. Where a trust exists for the elevation and the improvement of society, were such a condition possible, the universal antipathy against such combinations would naturally give way to general sympathy for the associations.

Now, the great financial combinations existing in this country have worked, in nearly every instance, a hardship upon the whole people, consequently the strenuous opposition to such associations.

Some writer in the Journal of the 23d inst., signing himself "A Native Son," who writes like some other kind of a son, says the Federated Trades Council is the trust of all trusts, and he speaks of this organization in the same strain as that employed in reference to the gigantic octopuses commonly called "trusts."

This "Native Son" seems to be lacking in information on this subject. If he had been a closer student of ethics in his early Sunday school days, he would have remembered the beautiful moral philosophy, "By their fruits you shall know them," and recollecting this forceful passage, he would have directed his study of the situation to an investigation of the fruits of these two organizations, and thus determined whether or not they are similar in character, for philosophy teaches that similar causes produce similar effects.

The purposes of the Federated Trades Council are to assist workmen in securing the just rewards of their labor and in establishing the best possible conditions under which to toil. Are these censurable motives in the existence of an association of working men and women? And has the effect of trades unionism ever been detrimental to the community in which it existed? No, my son, no, but the diametrically opposite is ever the result of labor organization. Everybody concerned is made better and happier by the grand and noble work of the unionists when banded together under the true spirit of legitimate trades unionism.

No trades council ever made it impossible for any willing man or woman to work for a fair wage and under proper conditions, but they have assisted very materially in preventing the hated trusts from sacrificing, to the enhancement of their ill-gotten gains, the innocent children of our nation in the factory and in the sweatshop; these helpless babes, as it were, whose youth should be devoted to the ennobling work of the school room and the invigorating pastime of the playgrounds have been slaughtered by the thousand to satiate the mammon greed of the trust manipulator; did our "Native Son" ever know of a labor union which endorsed such atrocities? I presume not.

On the other hand, what is the record of the trust upon the product of labor? Is it not an axiomatic truth that, wherever established, the industry controlled was closed to competitors, that all outside the trust must go to the wall, irrespective of consequences to the

community. The small interests could not associate with the trust and maintain their identity. They simply must yield up to the more powerful octopus the field of operation and accept what remuneration the combine sees fit to allow, but on no account can there be a competitor where the trust gets in its deadly work.

You may call the Trades Council a trust if you think that a distinguishing appellation, but no man of reason can associate in one and the same category the fruits of these two organizations. This is the vital point, and this is the great characteristic distinction between the Federated Trades Council and the Standard Oil Company.

If unionism among the working people be fruitful of evil, then we should all vote to suppress it; but will "Native Son" dare to display such a degree of ignorance as to affirm this proposition? Will he expose to the world his frigid hatred of the poor man's protection by declaring such a monstrous falsehood? If not, the case is closed.

APPARENT PREJUDICE.

Isn't that persistent crying out (covertly, of course) for the blood of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, by the Morning Oregonian, a most despicable characteristic of that influential publication?

Note the editorial comment of the 26th inst. on the words of Counsel Darrow: "If the fact that Mr. Jack Simpkins ran away proves he is guilty, then, by the same token, the fact that Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone did not run away proves that they are innocent."

Here is what the Oregonian says in comment: "Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone did not run away from Idaho. But they stayed away, which comes to the same thing. When they were arrested and taken to Idaho they made the welkin ring with their protests about being kidnapped. If they were innocent they did not act like it."

One would think common justice should inspire the editor of a powerful daily with sufficient fairness and human charity to refrain from such prejudicial comment when the life of a citizen is at stake.

Twelve honorable men, the peers of the accused, sit in judgment of William Haywood, hearing the evidence as adduced day after day. These jurors, it must be assumed, are competent to render a just verdict in the case, and we believe they will do so. It is not the duty of the public press to create sentiment against the accused, nor their counsel, as the morning paper of Portland seems determined to do.

There is nothing in common between the organization which this paper represents and the Western Federation of Miners, except that we all work for a living; we do not assume the task of proving the innocence of Haywood, but we have the highest regard for fair play and an unprejudiced trial in a tribunal of justice where every accused must be held innocent until proven guilty.

Does the Oregonian mean to deny the justice of the protest against the kidnapping of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone? Have not the greatest legal minds of this nation admitted the high-handed prostitution of all lawful procedure in the stealing out of Colorado of these men?

Should not innocent men protest against the barbarous abduction Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone suffered at the hands of an outlawed set of rascals? Most assuredly so, and the reasoning of the Oregonian on this point is weaker than the babbling of an infant.

Let us all try to be unprejudiced in the case and await the decision of the jury whose awful duty it is to render an honest and conscientious verdict from the evidence adduced.

The officers of the Cloakmakers' Union report that about 20,000 cloakmakers in New York and Brooklyn are preparing for strikes to enforce a new wage scale.

THE COLUMBIA DISASTER.

Just one week ago the steamship Columbia, one of the O. R. & N. passenger boats, plying between Portland and San Francisco, was run into by the steam schooner San Pedro off the coast of Northern California, and in five minutes after the collision, was at the bottom of the Pacific, taking down to awful death in the terrible wreckage some 150 souls. What a frightful catastrophe! How dreadful to contemplate! No one to blame, so far as can be learned; mere fate; an inevitable doom, apparently, for those poor souls precipitated into eternity when least expecting disaster.

Man, with all his superior gifts, with his almost supernatural powers, is as the feeblest of creation against the hand of fate.

Some of the modern school will ridicule the doctrine of fate, but who can account for the fact that the San Pedro struck the Columbia, broadside, instead of the Columbia cutting into the other ship?

If the San Pedro had been ten seconds farther ahead a moment before the collision the case would have been the reverse, and the last named ship, instead of the Columbia, would probably be at the bottom of the sea with other poor souls severed for ever more from all that is dearest in this earthly sojourn. But it was not so; the Columbia was, as we must say, the unfortunate boat, and were not her lost passengers unlucky too, seeing that some were saved from the very same yawning depths which now hold the poor victims of that lamentable wreck?

The conclusions are forced upon us that incidents occur in our lives over which we have decidedly no control, and that our boasted intelligence and wonderful skill count for very little against the omnipotent will.

We desire to extend to the sadly bereaved ones in this community our heartfelt sympathy in this, the hour of their great sorrow, and hope in the Eternal Word they may find solace and relief from the heart-rending agonies of irreparable loss.

TO KILL A "GOOD THING."

A movement is on foot in labor circles throughout this country for the open meeting system in the union. The purpose of this agitation is to expunge from human society the viper known as the spy in unionism.

It is commonly known that the Pinkerton detective finds more than three-fourth of his employment in the business of espionage in the labor union, and it is clear to everyone that if the meetings of the union were conducted with open doors, there would be destroyed the means of crawling existence for those blood-thirsty fiends. When the legitimate work of the union may be studied by anyone having a desire to do so, what use would there be for the trust magnates to employ spies to ferret out the secrets of the organization when there really are none?

The spy or Pinkerton hell-hound will have lost his vocation when meetings of organized labor are open to the world, the corporations employing them for this purpose will cease to contribute to their support and, consequently, they will be starved off the face of God's footstool.

There is no other means by which this human pest can be got rid of, for so long as the captains of industry believe there is information to be obtained through this system of espionage that will aid them in defeating the objects of unionism, just so long will they continue to employ those dogs, and just as long will the unions find it utterly impossible to protect themselves against such traitors.

Throw open wide your doors, and the Pinkerton villain will be forced to cease his diabolical conspiracies for murder and rapine which has so long been his chief occupation as the tool of organized wealth.

EXPLOITING THE CHILDREN.

Editor Portland Labor Press: May I thank you for the editorial against child labor in the edition of July 15. Our own law is being so severely arraigned these days that your words give us renewed courage. Were it not that Van Cleave's position and his words were being endorsed by those people in our own community who are posing as friends of the children, the writer would not feel impelled to express herself on the subject. Our child labor law is being made the scapegoat in several directions—it is being bitterly denounced by the lazy, shiftless father who has not done a stroke of work for three years, but whose child of 11 we took out of a factory where he had been working for 14 hours; by the mother who is at her wit's end to control the growing boy, without leaving her kitchen and who blames the child labor law because it keeps her boy out of the factory and gives him a chance to go swimming; by the Juvenile Court officer, who sees in the restrictions of the law a barrier to the easy disposition of a difficult case, who, with the mother, is giving to the factory the task of discipline each should assume for himself. A prominent educator sees in the law "too little elasticity" and prefers labor at the machine for 10 hours a day for his growing boys in preference to 10 hours of play and sunshine in vacation time, because the "boys do not seem to know how to use their spare time."

These criticisms would be enough to discourage one's very soul did we not know that in each of the foregoing cases the motive is a mistaken one. That in the case of the father it is the greed of the shiftless parent, not the criticism of the spirit of the law; in the case of the mother and the officer, a shirking of responsibility, not a criticism of the spirit of the law; in the case of the educator, a mistaken idea of the educative value of 10 hours a day at a machine for a growing child. It is safe to say that in none of the cases cited, had either of the critics ever been inside any of the factories employing children. They know absolutely nothing of the conditions under which the children work; not one mother in one hundred knows how the inside of the workroom looks where her child works for 10 hours a day. Think of it! We allow our children to work 10 hours a day, while in not one of the trades does a grown-up man work more than eight hours.

Just a few words as to "employment of children of proper age, under proper sanitary conditions." In this case the proper age appears to be 12. Nothing is said of the "proper" kind of work for children of this "proper" age. What work is open to children? Factories. Will anyone in his sane mind say that factories offer "proper" work for children of 12? The messenger service? Do I hear a second for this demoralizing work? In department stores or stores which send children into all sorts of places on all sorts of errands? What is there left into which a drunken father, irresponsible mother, protesting officer, thoughtless educator, would send a child of 12—nothing that is forbidden by our child labor law? May we not plead for a little more intelligent sympathy for the child on the part of our critics? Most respectfully,

MILLIE R. TRUMBULL.

A SIMILE.

An old darkey, having a chronic habit of prophecy, produced the following: "Supposin' that all the trees in dis yar wo'ld was all in one great big tree; supposin' all the watah in dis yar wo'ld was in one great big lake; supposin' all the men in dis yar wo'ld was in one great big man, an' supposin' all the axes in dis yar wo'ld was in one big ax, and supposin' the great big man took the great big ax an' chopped the great big tree down and it fell into de lake—what a great big splash ther'd be!"—Theory of Industrial Unionism and Socialism.

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