

EFF and Labor Press



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THE VILLAINOUS STRIKE-BREAKER.

What a horrible creature the strike-breaker is! Let us consider, for a moment, the ignominy of the crime which the strike-breaker is guilty of and let us see if it be possible for humanity to produce a more despicable and abhorrent wretch than he who could stoop so low as to sell his sordid services to the common enemy of the working class that the honest toiler might be held in corporate chains throughout his struggling career. Just imagine a low, greedy cur dealing blows to the weakly party in a fight for life, adding his dastard assistance to the tyrant master who deigns to whip the bleeding slave to still more strenuous feats of labor, the unmentionable brute who lacks that smallest spark of manhood which makes men of souls reach out with loving hands of brotherly devotion to snatch the poor and the down-trodden from the grip of penury! What must we say of such an inhuman creature?

Is language sufficiently forceful to give adequate expression to our feelings of resentment against so detestable a being? No, words are wanting in power to convey an ample idea of the meanness, the villainess, the intolerable character of the soulless despoiler who would take the position of his fellow-being and thereby place victory beyond the hope of him whose cause is justice itself and whose only effective weapon is the strike.

It has been falsely argued by the union-hater that the strike-breaker has a perfect right to take the job of the striker on the grounds of American freedom and liberty to work for an honest living wherever and whenever employment may be secured. But there is a vital point in the premises ignored in this enunciation, that is, the prior right of the man who has filled the position for a long period of faithful service and who is now but awaiting the settlement of the questions in dispute between himself and the employer.

It must be remembered that in true economy where justice and right are fully recognized, the worker is an essential part of the industry, has claims upon the corporation or company in proportion to the part he plays in the turning out of the product and the accumulation of profits. The strike has been demonstrated to be the final recourse of the worker in forcing a fair consideration of his grievance, the last resort to establish his position in anything like security. The progress of the community depends largely on the success of the wage earner, and the right to strike is as just on his part as the right of the operator and the board are enabled to prey upon the public by forcing upon the parent or guardian a new set of text books at least biennially, with no improvement whatever in the character of the school work resulting from the change.

We have no fear of successful contradiction when we venture the assertion that the schools are not turning out as competent scholars today as came forth from those sanctuaries of learning 20 years ago; that a pupil of five years' schooling—other conditions being equal—20 years ago, left school with a more complete education than the pupil of today after an eight years' course. This being true, it must be admitted that the several changes in the text books during the last score

of years has not proven the wisdom of that policy.

Until the school board and the instructors can demonstrate the necessity for those intolerably frequent changes in the school books, the parents will be justified in their vigorous opposition to such a course.

No, reader, the argument set up in behalf of the strike-breaker on the grounds of American liberty is barefaced hypocrisy and has no adherents outside the low-lived scab and the unamerican autocrat.

THE SCHOOL BOOK QUESTION.

A great deal of dissatisfaction is being expressed by the working people in connection with the frequent changes in the text books of the public schools of Portland, and many complainants have declared their suspicions that "something is rotten in Denmark" relative to this matter.

The prevailing question is, "What can be the object of so frequently changing the books in use in our schools? Is the purpose a worthy or commendable one?" Some of the critics go so far as to insinuate that it is a matter of profit to certain agencies handling school supplies, and a custom practiced by the school board from which disadvantage rather than advancement invariably accrues to the pupil with unnecessary expense to the parent.

We are somewhat inclined to believe that the position of the class of critics above referred to is not altogether untenable, for we fail to perceive wherein those almost yearly changes in the text book can be found necessary or wise insofar as the interests of genuine educational advancement is concerned.

It has been the experience of the writer from a long career as an instructor in the public school, that a change of text books, especially the reader, retarded the pupil in the proper development of that beautiful art, good reading. In the changes of readers coming under our observation we have not been able to discern any improvement either in style of diction or character of literature. The information contained in the discarded book never failed to be as valuable to the student as that of the newly adopted one; and in our recent change it is quite doubtful if the general influence of the literature of the present book is as beneficial as its predecessor.

Regarding the other branches taught in the graded schools of the city, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, natural history, algebra, composition, botany, etc., our knowledge of the sciences has not sufficiently changed in its scope to warrant a change in the text books, and a little study of the books in use at different periods during the past decade will establish the correctness of our contention.

It is not our purpose to argue that at no time would certain changes be to the advantage of all concerned, but this constant swapping off of the school book has become an unbearable nuisance to both teacher and pupil and a shameful waste of money to the parent.

It would lead an observant person to conclude that the publisher has a secret grasp upon school boards, that through collusion, the publisher and the board are enabled to prey upon the public by forcing upon the parent or guardian a new set of text books at least biennially, with no improvement whatever in the character of the school work resulting from the change.

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PUBLIC SENTIMENT AND LABOR'S STAND AGAINST ORIENTALS.

Since the announcement of the action taken by the Federated Trades Council at its last meeting, we are pleased to see that the daily press has given the incident considerable prominence in its columns; and we note, too, with ample satisfaction, the strong public sentiment aroused in support of the central labor body in its unrelenting fight against the further invasion of the Oriental pest.

The plan of campaign to be inaugurated against the influx of Asiatic coolie labor as outlined by the Council is; first, a monster mass meeting to be held in the Armory hall, or some suitable meeting place, at which the question of Japanese and Korean exclusion will be thoroughly discussed by the most competent speakers in the country, this to be followed by a Pacific Labor Convention for the purpose of unifying action from Aska to Mexico.

In discussing this serious problem, Brother Thayer of the Bricklayers' union showed very clearly that a determined stand must be taken in connection with this question, and our attitude must be unequivocally stated before the candidates seeking places in congress; the gentlemen looking for our support at the coming political campaign must be made to positively realize the necessity of training their minds to think as labor thinks on this all-absorbing topic if they hope to meet with the approval of the working man in their candidacies for high public office.

This course is practicable, and if properly observed, would prove most effective, for, it must be conceded, the politician seeking election to public place is not usually a being of fixed convictions, and our unquestionable, unanimous attitude towards the yellow intruder would certainly weigh materially in aiding in the formation of his opinions on so vital an issue.

It is clear to every voter in this great nation that this question must be settled at the polls and it behooves the wage-earner to make himself felt when the opportunity arrives for his doing so.

Our millionaire trust magnates would beguile the innocent into believing that our trade relations with China and Japan must be maintained at any cost if we hope to continue our prosperity, but in the total of their argument in behalf of Oriental friendship their is not a single element of solace for the poor toiler who claims America as his home.

A few exploiters may grow rich from the profits of Asiatic trade, but what advantage is in this for the working man who must compete with the dirty, cheap labor of the coolie from across the Pacific?

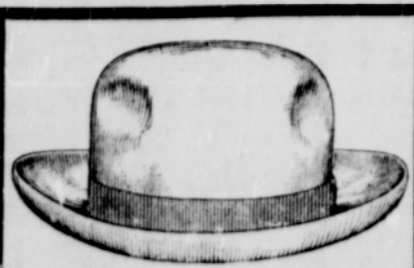
None, whatever, but starvation and degradation instead.

Freemen, let such a sentiment of antagonism against the curse of Orientalism be aroused along our western shores as will drive terror to the hearts of those miscreants who dare to oppose the exclusion agitation.

HONESTY THE HIGHEST QUALIFICATION.

The editor of the Corvallis Republican displayed very little knowledge of the requisites in good legislators when he wrote, "the very brainiest and best educated as well as those who are the most successful in business should go to our legislatures. Let us keep this fact in mind."

Well, well! then all that is necessary in the qualifications of our law makers are education and business instinct. Is that the sum total of the Corvallis editor's conception



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of the essentials in decent, equitable law making bodies? If this be so, God pity the poor folk up the valley who are directed by such a guide!

Does not the editor referred to realize that the one essential above all others indispensable in the good legislator is honesty? What guarantee are the accomplishments of learning and business tact that the member will legislate in the interest of the whole people? What security have we in the mere fact of his being book learned and possessed of the gifts of a Shylock that our representative will faithfully work for our interests in the legislative halls if he lack the grandest and noblest of all human virtues, honesty and justice?

The vilest scoundrels the world has ever seen were educated and gifted in the science of commerce; and the wisest legislators that history mentions were possessed of but scant book learning.

Just think again, Mr. Editor, you have another guess coming; possibly you'll do better next time.

UNFAIR TO LABOR.

The following strong communication is published for the benefit of all concerned:

Editor Labor Press: The Chicago Federation of Labor calls your attention to the strike of the Engineers, Firemen, Wood Workers, Metal Polishers and Metal Workers against the Theo. A. Koch Barber Supply Company, which has been in progress for the last two months with no desertions in the ranks.

Everything possible has been done by organized labor to settle this controversy, but we have been unsuccessful, consequently this firm was placed on the "unfair" list. This firm has joined the Employers' Association to exterminate organized labor in their factory.

We want no financial assistance. Moral support is worth more than ten times the amount in the treasury of any union. We have sufficient funds to continue this fight for two years or more if necessary. We intend to fight this scab-breeding firm to a finish and have an abundance of money to lick Mr. Koch to a frazzle. We will hand him the lemon proper. We expect to be injunctioned, but injunctions cut no ice with us. We will continue this fight, injunction or no injunction.

We will keep your paper posted of our progress. Yes, we will even send you the injunction as soon as issued by some injunction judge, just to show how Mr. Koch will holler when hit in a soft spot—his pocket book. We will continue this fight until Mr. Koch gets seasick and journeys to Europe for his health. The boys on strike are enthusiastic and eating the best of buns and biscuits (union made). Remember, money is no object to us. We have plenty for this contest. Your moral support is all that we request. All supply houses have been informed that the Theo. A. Koch Barber Supply Company is "unfair." Large posters for posting purposes will be mailed you later.

In conclusion we most respectfully request that you give this "unfair" firm all the publicity you can possibly afford in your valuable paper and we can assure you that it will be greatly appreciated by this central body. Respectfully,
Chicago Federation of Labor.

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