

Portland Labor Press



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ARRAIGNS LABOR LEADERS.

One Mr. John Bain writing in yesterday's Oregonian on the subject of Bishop Thorburn's address before the W. M. S. conference in Portland not long ago and the editorial comment of the Oregonian, bewails the ignorance of a fellow called McDonald connected in some manner with the labor organizations, also regrets the foolishness of labor leaders in the manner in which they complacently dismiss this ponderous question of Oriental greatness.

Mr. Bain advances the bit of information, gratis, that McDonald exposes "gross ignorance or is merely hiding his true thoughts" when he dismisses the subject with the remark "a silly prophecy; the vaporings of a weakening mind."

Now, what we desire to establish in connection with Mr. John Bain—intellectual prodigy that he presumes to be—is, where does the gentleman stand on this question of Asiatic coolie exclusion?

In the third paragraph of his letter, Mr. Bain expresses indignation, holy in its nature, at the American disposition towards scorning the colored tribes. A little farther on he says "the possibilities of an industrial conquest are fraught with even more serious consequences, and it seems to me that it is this to which the Bishop refers." Well, what does Mr. Bain propose to do about this dread condition. He has not offered any solution of the supposed perplexing situation, whatever.

But really, what does Mr. Bain want in this connection? Is he the hanger-on of some enormously rich corporation whose interest would best be served by flooding this country with cheap labor from a corner of the globe where slavery is rampant? Does he believe with Bishop Thorburn that this country should open wide its gates to the Oriental hordes of semi-barbarians and allow those demoralizing Asiatic influences to predominate in our industrial life that a few of "our best citizens" (?) may be supplied with the means of fighting and defeating the sacred aims and objects of organized labor; that of elevating the working class of our own country and enabling them to maintain that glorious superiority to which we have attained among the nations of the world?

If this be Mr. Bains position, why not display the courage of his convictions and declare for the open door?

As a sample of his vaporings, let us quote the closing paragraph in Mr. Bain's letter:

"The conquest of the future, whatever form it may take, will depend upon the moral fiber of the peoples engaged in it, as has ever been the case; and the great danger confronting our nation today is the overlooking of the importance of the development of this quality. The position which we now occupy, is ours by virtue of our superiority in this respect, and it will be retained by us the high ideal involved in it, and press toward it, no longer."

What are we to infer from the language of the above quotation? Does Mr. Bain wish the working people to abandon the struggle for the maintenance of "our superiority in this respect" by allowing the Orientals to displace us in the field of American industry and through their cheap competition, reduce us to the wretched status of the coolie laborer? If this be his purpose, let him say so, and organized labor will be prepared to deal with him as he

properly deserves. Or is Mr. Bain but spasmodically, essaying an endeavor to exonerate his friend, the Bishop, from the odium of having appeared as the advocate in this country of demoralizing Oriental influences?

Be more explicit, Mr. Bain, if you desire to enlighten the honey handed sons of honest toil in this regard.

The labor unions and the labor leaders, so called, are untiring in their efforts to keep the mongolian in the sphere where he belongs, and not the least of their energies, sad to say, are of necessity directed towards the correction of injurious blunders by such men as Bishop Thorburn and Mr. John Bain.

TRADES UNIONISM ABHORRS CRIME.

Last Friday night at Temple Beth Israel, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise spoke on "Socialism and Crime" and while he enlogized socialism as an ideal theory of political economy, he denounced in strongest terms those advocates of lawlessness found in the ranks of the Western Federation and the Industrial Workers of the World. He said "the Western Federation and the Industrial Workers of the World are either encouraging and stimulating most outrageous and bloodthirsty crimes or they are much misunderstood;" this was in reference to the horrible murder of ex-sheriff Harvey Brown of Baker City.

The Rabbi called upon the trades unions to declare themselves upon this matter; the local unions and the Trades Council must take a firm stand against such atrocities else they are stained and cursed with the brand of Cain; silence will impregnate the American Federation of Labor and the whole movement through this great land of ours; they must speak out against such practices as that of two known adherents to the Western Federation—Orchard and Adams.

The learned Rabbi said trades unionism is a beneficent and worthy movement, the hope of the man who toils for his daily bread, but it cannot live in popular disfavor nor can it expect to achieve any good if it does not give the public assurance of its good intentions.

This is as true as gospel, and for the benefit of those who may harbor doubts as to the determined opposition the American Federation of Labor and all its adherents offer the practice of violence in fighting the industrial battle, we are proud to be able to testify to the extreme abhorrence every decent union man has for anything of that nature.

The Trades Council of this city has been noted for its constant efforts towards peace, and in all the labor struggles it has passed through during its years of existence, it has never been known to countenance anything but conservatism.

As the organ of the Trades Council in this city, the Labor Press is anxious to assure Rabbi Wise, as well as the whole public that no branch of the American Federation of Labor would tolerate for one moment, a policy that embodies in its code, the principle of murder or any form of violence.

THE HUGHES COMPANY.

The Hughes Manufacturing Company held regular monthly meeting last Wednesday night in the Mulkey building.

The report of the board of directors showed that all the stock of the first 50 blocks had been disposed of, the monthly payments all squared up to date and 50 blocks of 30 shares each now ready to be taken by the promoters when they decide to purchase.

It was shown that the demand for stock from outsiders was so great that it was no trouble to sell at an advance of 100 per cent of the first price.

The articles of invention now before the patent office are the rake and the round knife on which the company is sure of patents in the near future.

As soon as the inventions can be patented there are ready purchasers awaiting the sale either of the patents outright or under the royalty plan.

Those of the promoters wishing to take up any of the present stock

put forward in blocks of 30 shares at double the cost of the original shares, can do so at any time by applying to President Hughes or Treasurer Griffiths.

The meetings of the company will be held on the first Wednesday of each month in Mulkey building, corner Second and Morrison.

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT.
By the Rev. Charles Steitz.

One of the fraternal delegates from the Central Labor Unions, who has been cordially welcomed by the ministers, is Charles W. Fear, editor of the Labor Herald, of Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Fear is enthusiastic regarding this plan. He recently wrote me concerning it as follows:

"With fear and doubt the writer accepted the position of fraternal delegate from the Kansas City Central Labor Organization to the Presbyterian Ministers' League. But the first session of the Ministers' League dispelled all the fear I had entertained and also removed most of the doubt. I found willing listeners and a hearty response to all requests from organized labor. The attitude of the Presbyterian Church and its business agents—ministers—is greatly appreciated. As to the results obtained; that cannot be computed or correctly stated by anyone. From my viewpoint it seems that the advantage is all on the side of organized labor. Hundreds of ministers have been given an insight into the real workings of labor organizations and organized labor has won defenders in high places. The fact that Dr. Carter, the fraternal delegate from the Ministers' League, and other representatives of the church were present often kept down angry debates and on more than one occasion the fraternal delegates from the Ministers' League 'poured oil' on the troublesome discussions, and settled many vexatious controversies. From the standpoint of the Presbyterian Church, I am not able to say how it has been benefited. But organized labor has been, and is being benefited as the result of the establishing of fraternal relations between the church and the central labor bodies. It is to be desired that the relations will become closer and stronger as the months and years go by, and that the families of the toilers will reap the benefits from the preliminary work now being performed in this field of labor."

THE GOOD UNION MAN.

Well meaning men sometimes have a very wrong idea of what constitutes a good union man. A good union man is not the one who always boasts of his undying hatred to all employers and that he has sacrificed many good positions through this hatred.

He is not the jealous individual who rails against the union, threatening to pull away and smash it to pieces and have no more to do with it because so-and-so made a better suggestion in the meeting, which was adopted instead of his.

He is not the one who goes around abusing everybody and everything and saying by his every act that there is no good in anything or anybody but himself and his own doings.

He is not the selfish man who wants to keep others out of the union lest they might get his job. Good union men hold their jobs on their merits as workmen and not by the force of the union. He who willfully mistreats his employer, expecting to be reinstated by force of the union when discharged, imposes on the usefulness of the union and is not a good union man.

He is not one who acquaints his employer with all private affairs of the union.

He is not one who tries to obtain another job by false or unfair means.

He is not one who absents himself from meetings of his local and criticizes those who do attend for what they do.

He is not one who is always behind with his dues.

He is not one who promotes disorder at the meetings of the union and who persists in showing disrespect to the presiding officer and others who address the meeting.

The good union man is he who while insisting on just wages and working conditions also has respect for the rights of his employer and does not regard him necessarily in the light of an enemy.

He who is charitably disposed toward the faults of others and tries hard to live up to the true conception of a good man.

He is not so selfish but that he can give due credit to the conscientious work and utterances of others.

He who recognizes that the union is for all workers who avail themselves of its benefits.

He who has the good sense to know that the success of the union depends upon getting others to join.



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He who does not divulge the business of the union to outsiders.

He who loves peace, preferring not to fight the employer, yet who is sensitive to unjust treatment and who is no coward.

He who is not afraid to go to his employer and in a straightforward manner point out injustice and insist upon having the same righted.

He who opposes strikes and consents to them only when all other means of righting wrongs have utterly failed.

He who when he goes out on a strike stays out till the wrong is righted.

He whose card is always clear.

He who is not a knocker, but by force of logic opposes all foolish motions and insists upon the passage of all good ones.

He who is mentally broad enough to admit that there are others besides himself.

NOT UNLAWFUL TO BOYCOTT.

By Alfred J. Jolley, Attorney, New York.

The action brought in Washington by James W. Van Cleave, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, to enjoin numerous labor leaders and officers of the American Federation of Labor from using the so-called "boycott" and "unfair list" would not have much chance of success under the laws of the State of New York. According to newspaper reports, the manufacturers are seeking to enjoin the defendants from attempting or threatening to boycott the business of the Bucks Stove and Range Company, of St. Louis; from publishing in the American Federationist the name of the company as unfair, and requesting that its goods should not be dealt in, and from endeavoring to persuade the company's customers not to do business with the Bucks company.

The law in this state upon that subject has been made very plain in numerous instances, the substance of which is that boycotting is legal unless accompanied by fraud, intimidation or threats. In regard to threats, it is well settled that a man may threaten to do that which he has a right to do. In other words, he may threaten not to patronize a certain company or individual, and not to buy the goods of a dealer or manufacturer. He has a perfect right to refrain from dealing with any one, no matter how trivial the reason may be, and he has a right to endeavor to persuade others to follow the same course. He has the right to make the same request of his relatives and friends, and an equal right to make the request of strangers by word of mouth or in writing.

A conspiracy is a combination of two or more persons to do an unlawful act, or a lawful act by unlawful means.

Requesting persons not to deal with the Bucks company is a perfectly lawful act, and the publication of the controversy existing between the federation and the company is a lawful means of informing the public of the existing situation between the parties.

NOTICE.

The executive board of the Oregon State Federation of Labor will hold regular meeting tonight, Monday, the 7th inst., in headquarters at 167 1/2 First street. All members of the board are requested to be present. T. M. LEABO, Secretary.

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