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THE DUTY OF THE LABORING MAN.

In an address to college men at a reception given by the Brooklyn University Club last week, President Eliot, of Harvard, discussed with much intelligence the subject of present-day combinations on the part of labor and capital. Such combinations, he said have a decided tendency to menace true liberty. Dishonest labor organizers connive with equally dishonest capitalists to exact such prices as they see fit for building, and it was stated by President Eliot in his address that there is today less real liberty in Boston than there was in 1775, when the American patriots rebelled because King George would not grant them enough freedom.

"King George never dreamed of such interference with the colonists as the free citizens of the United States and the commonwealth of Massachusetts and of every other commonwealth in the land daily endure at the hands of irresponsible combinations which have usurped the power of telling them who may build their houses and at what price, whom they may employ and at what wages," says the New York Tribune, discussing President Eliot's address. "It has become a well known fact that in many cities the workers and their employers in the building trades are in a combination to defraud and tyrannize over the citizens. When a house is to be built a corrupt circle decided who is to bid for it an exorbitant price and what bogus bids are to be put in to support it. The owner is helpless. If he rebels he can find no other contractor to do the work, or, if he does, a strike will put a stop to the endeavor."

The warning thus sounded has been previously uttered, but conditions have not been bettered. To the contrary, there has been increased coercion as a result of the combinations of combines, and in many cities thousands of men have been thrown out of employment because of strikes following refusals to submit to extortion.

Labor is confronted by a grave danger—a peril far more to be dreaded than the financial combinations which brought into existence the labor unions. This new peril does not threaten the designing capitalists, who plunder at the expense of the misguided men who make up the labor unions. Such instances as that cited by President Eliot destroy public confidence in the labor organizations, and, if the coercion continues, it will not be long until the unions bring upon themselves the lasting hatred of the people of the entire nation. Within the month the city council of a town in the middle east actually voted an appropriation to assist a large corporation in breaking a strike among the employes.

Nothing can endure but that which is right. Labor unions ought to be a blessing to the nation, and, indeed, will be if their avowed aims are carried out. They should seek to make their members proficient workmen, so that there will be no opposition to their demand for honest wages. They should strive to make themselves absolutely indispensable to the employer who desires expert assistance in the conduct of his business. Unions, instead of destroying individuality, should more fully develop it, just as a republican form of government should and does elevate the standard of all its citizenship.

It is to be expected that dishonest men will be found among the labor unions as well as elsewhere, but it is certainly not to be expected that dishonest motives will actuate entire organizations, so that, to uphold a plan to rob the middle man, the laboring strength of a great city will be forced to idleness. There is a plain duty before the laboring man, and if he be alive to his own interests and to the interests of those who are to follow him he will strive with might and main to weed from his union the element that is bringing upon it the discredit which will reduce him to servility.

WIDE-OPEN ASTORIA.

Perhaps no other "wide-open" town in America is so orderly as this very community of Astoria. Generally speaking, there is no restriction here. Gambling goes on every day and night; there is one

saloon for about every 280 persons, conservatively estimating our population at 12,000; and we have all of the side issues that go with an open town. Yet there is less crime in Astoria than in any other city of its size in the west. Occasionally some one breaks into Bock's saloon and cleans the register of \$5 or \$6, and periodically a tall, pleasant gentleman comes along with his system and takes all of the slot machine money available. Some years ago burglars entered a dry goods store and carried off \$800 worth of loot, but since then there have been no burglaries.

From the theoretical standpoint Astoria is a mis-managed community. Its revenue comes from the wrong source. We find from the annual financial exhibit of Auditor Anderson that our chief revenues are as follows:

Saloon licenses	\$17,200 00
Slot machine licenses	2,415 00
Pool licenses	40 00
Fines and forfeitures	10,843 50
Total	\$30,498 50

The amount of our city taxes on real and personal property—our legitimate revenues—was \$15,783.84—just about one half the amount of our illegitimate revenues. We derive a few thousands of dollars from other sources, spend \$40,000 in the maintenance of the municipal government, and manage to get along very nicely, despite the bonded debt of \$170,000 which hangs over us.

In other communities the liquor traffic and gambling are the great evils around which all dishonesty centers, but here in Astoria we hear nothing of them, except when the city officials make public our periodical balance sheets. Even a well-to-do stranger is safe even in the depths of the bad lands, and may preambulate the city streets at any hour of the night without fear of molestation at the hands of the thug. This is pre-eminently a thugless community, with a surprising absence of crime.

The testimony taken in the investigation of the Clallam disaster on the second day of its sitting, was very conflicting, but, like that taken on the first day, tended to show the utter demoralization that prevailed in the engine room, where the highest efficiency was necessary, says the Ledger. Two of Chief Engineer Le Launary's assistants testified positively that they closed the sea injection valve and took the cover off the mud box, and each claimed that he alone did this. All the evidence given by those on board at the time of the wreck tend to show that the port light in the engine room had been out of order for a considerable time. A board had been nailed over it, but it had been knocked off at Port Townsend. Most of the witnesses thought that this was only one source of trouble. There was another damaged light in the forward part of the vessel, but it was two feet above water. It seemed to all impossible that water could come in at both these broken ports as fast as it came in after the trouble started. The maker of the pumps and the builder of the ship, together with several experts who had examined her while building and afterwards, testified that she was as staunch a craft of her size as was ever built and that her pumps were of the best, and abundantly able to keep the hold clear of water if properly operated. They could have lifted 400 tons of water per hour, and probably 460 if worked to their full capacity. But they seem to have been of little or no service. Indeed, the testimony of some witnesses suggests a possibility that the water may have gained fasted when they were at work than when idle.

The report is cabled from Berlin that Crown Prince Wilhelm is again suffering the displeasure of his emperor-father and has been placed in close confinement, says the Post-Intelligencer. He is alleged to have blurted out a declaration of independence which contained the ultimatum that if more personal liberty were not allowed to him he would renounce his royal privileges, or rather restrictions, move to England and assume the status of a gentleman. Why not? Can there be any doubt that he would be far happier if he had his own way to make in the world with the privilege of marrying a woman for love of her rather than for reasons of state policy, and with the opportunity to make his own friends from outside the ranks of courtiers, than in his present station? He might even better come to America and grow up in the glorious west. It is said that he can ride, the art of throwing a lariat is not difficult to acquire, and he would find, if he proved himself a good fellow, that he was called "Billy" with far more genuine affection than that with which he was ever addressed as "your royal highness." He would find here American girls who would cause the memories of Berlinese beauties to fade to the dimness of ghosts and one of them conceivably might agree to make him a really happy man. He could try to raise gold, cattle or wheat, run for supervisor or councilman, learn to play poker and generally to enjoy life. The prospective William III had better try it. Uncle Sam would suspend the working of the immigration laws for his benefit, and he would certainly never regret the experiment.

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