

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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THE HOMESTEAD POISONING.

Dispatches from Homestead yesterday reveal a condition of things existing at the time of the strike, least expected. That the strikers had so far criminated themselves as to enter upon a scheme to destroy the lives of men who were willing to work by poisoning their food, is brought out. It has no parallel in the history of crime. The next thing to this in the criminal proceeding of strikers was that outrage at Buffalo, when two strikers were caught in the act of misplacing a switch, and when the police had just enough time to set it right before a lightning passenger express went thundering by. If it had gone thundering through the misplaced switch to destruction, with its train-hands and passengers, the whole nation would have shuddered at the infamous crime.

It is in such crimes as these in connection with labor troubles that the gravest menace appears. It is a serious matter to contemplate the spectacle of a mob arrogating to themselves the right to defy laws nominally created by the sovereign people; but when the terrible act is performed by taking human life by unsuspected methods, when poison is resorted to, the violence presages an element of danger which stuns the sensibilities of law-abiding people, and calls for the most excessive punishment devised by man, and where there may have been an expression of sympathy for the misguided leaders and the common worker whose scanty wages perhaps were not affected, but who obediently submitted to strike and starve, the sentiment turns to bitter hatred and the cause, if they had one, suffers.

In this strike at Homestead history repeats itself. It is invariably the few who profit and the many who suffer. The Homestead strike has resulted in a loss to the workmen in wages alone nearly \$2,000,000; in a loss of human confidence which can now never be restored to them; in a loss of the last spark of honor remaining among them. Their gains are only dishonor, disgrace and starvation staring them in the face. Verily have they 'reaped the whirlwind' from their sowing. It has been a most unfortunate affair for the many engaged in it. There is perhaps no other trade in which the distinction between the aristocracy and the commons is so strongly marked as it is in the iron mills. In some of these labor unions the general tendency is to discourage excellence and to keep the skilled workmen down to the standard of the unskilled, and it is here that is found the shrewd schemer, living upon the wages of the industries, assuming despotic power, and the greatest suffering upon the classes least able to bear it. The outcome of the strike at Homestead should teach lessons of obedience to the laws of God and man, but will it? Let the rulers of the amalgamated association answer.

It can scarcely be expected that the answer will be favorable, so long as such bodies of men are organized with a total lack of the principles of right. They make no restriction for nationality, morality, sobriety, loyalty or efficiency. They no sooner organize than they presume to dictate a code and a rate of apprenticeship to perpetuate their leaders in the highest places for preferment of wages, and thus it is by such rules that our native born youth is prohibited from learning trades, by organizations composed largely of foreigners, many of whom are unnaturalized and but recently imported. This latest event at Homestead reveals these evil effects which will readily be understood, and which need but to be suggested to make an impression upon an intelligent public of the extent and magnitude of the criminal effect of labor unions generally.

Judge Bradshaw sentenced Ed. Hahn, who was convicted in the circuit court in Portland, for attempting to kill his best girl, Miss Quinn, to two years imprisonment in the penitentiary. Much surprise is manifest at the light sentence. It ought to have been to the limit of the law. The courts of the land show too much leniency in administrative justice. T. P. Cochran, a son of a wealthy St. Louis lawyer, is in jail in Portland, for defrauding various citizens out of thousands of dollars by fraudulent checks. On the same hypothesis of reasoning that a Pendleton man got one year for stealing an \$8 overcoat, Cochran may go clear.

Some of our contemporaries are publishing back numbers, on the Columbia river dating to John Maginnis report on Wilkes chart of 56 years ago. Come and talk of it as it is now. Aid us to open it up to free navigation. It was all right then, to be sure; but what we want now most is the modern methods of business. Push applied.

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