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UNION LABEL

"I live for those who love me,
Whose hearts are kind and true;
For the heaven that smiles above me,
And awaits my spirit, too;
For all humanities that bind me,
For the task that God assigned me,
For the bright hopes left behind me,
And the good that I can do.

I live to hold communion
With all that is divine;
To feel there is a union
'Twixt nature's heart and mine;
To profit by affliction,
Reap truth from fields of fiction,
Grow wiser from conviction,
And fulfill each grand design."

—Father J. L. O'Neil.

A PLEA FOR THE NEEDY.

The Spokane Press prints the following scathing arraignment of business and social conditions in that city:

"Young men coming to Spokane this winter find it difficult to get work. Farm hands and country people have flocked to town. Many are their trials. It is not on account of the inability of young men to fill requirements.

"Often the sons of rich men are placed in the big houses to "learn the business." Salaries range from $35 to $40 a month. Many of these young fellows have no qualifications other than that they are rich men's sons. That these rich chaps should fill positions to the exclusion of men with families, needs correction.

"Ability, stability, clean living, energy, should be the qualifications; yet daily young men fully up to these requirements meet with disappointment because some young man to whom money is not the object is willing to work for low wages.

"Then, there is the disgraceful practice of hiring women at half price to do man's work. Can a girl live on $3 or $4 a week simply because she works for that sum? Some men try to justify this species of white slavery. No business is successful that gets profits by under paying.

"We have severe laws against Chinese cheap labor, but how about white American girls in Spokane, working for a sum that will not pay car fare and room rent? The American girl is self-reliant, bright, adaptable and intelligent. In business she is to be trusted beyond men.

"Did you ever hear of an absconding woman cashier? Did you ever hear of a woman laying off on Monday because of drunkenness Saturday night? Did you ever hear of a woman employe wasting her time playing the races, or fooling away her employer's money? If a woman does a man's work she should have a man's pay."

A REMARKABLE YEAR.

The year 1903 has taught some wholesome lessons to the people of the United States. Never before in its history has there been a year similar to that of 1903. Prominent industrial stocks depreciated from 50 to 100 per cent and still the real prosperity of the country continues.

Those concerns which were floated at greatly inflated valuation depreciated to a point somewhere near their normal value, and altogether the investing class lost heavily as a result of buying stocks, promising returns in many cases as to give rise to a suspicion that the investment was unsound; still the great industries of the country which were founded on a conservative and business-like basis, continue to prosper.

With all of the enormous shrinkage in stock values, it is noticeable that there have been comparatively few failures among large firms doing business on conservative lines. It has been the middle class that has lost heavily. It was their money that helped to boom such concerns as United States Steel and the United States Shipbuilding Company—these being two notable examples of that class of so-called securities.

The increasing influence of the afternoon paper and the corresponding decrease of the advantage so long held by its morning contemporary is one of the notable facts of current periodical history. All over the country the afternoon papers are forging ahead. The fact that they are the family papers increases their value to advertisers, and that they are read in the family circle in the evening, when all are at leisure, insures to them a more careful perusal than is accorded the morning journals. The facilities for rapid work, improved mediums for news-gathering and the fact that limited time spurs their makers to activity, insures spicier and more readable results. The afternoon papers of the Pacific Coast have an especial advantage in that they are several hours behind the Eastern part of our country. This means that the telegraph service covers the news of the world for the day, and that the morning papers are largely a "rehash."

There are already 60,000 claims for pensions filed for injuries in the war with Spain, which covered a period of three months. If the war had continued a year there is no telling how many ex-soldiers would be fighting to get their names on the cash book. This is just what leads the industrious people of a country who do the earning and the paying to want as few heroes as possible.

NOT ALL A SONG.

About six months ago Boyce's Weekly, published by a millionaire, started to lead the working people into the promised land. It started out big—eight and ten pages were issued. Vice President Duncan and Mitchell, Treasurer Lennon, President Clark, of the Railway Conductors, and others were weekly contributors to its editorial columns and told the working man what to do to be happy. But, alas! there's a limit to even a millionaire's pocketbook, and now the Weekly has been merged with Mr. Boyce's sensational Saturday Blade, and labor receives consideration on just one page. Conducting a labor paper is not one long, sweet song. It means hard work and some severe jolts.—Cleveland Citizen.