

HOW HE GOT OUT OF THE DEBTORS' PRISON

By THOMAS BARBER JUDSON.
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It was visitors' day at Ludlow street jail, New York. Ludlow street jail is a very quiet counterpart of the debtors' prison of the olden time. Its inmates are those to contempt of the inheritance and certain other courts, federal bankrupts, execution and judgment debtors and breach of promise and alimony men.

John Decker had finished his breakfast of rolls, coffee and an egg—he could have breakfasted more heartily had he been able to order from a neighboring restaurant—and was sitting in the lounging room reading a morning paper when a card was handed him. He looked at it, frowned and said:

"I understood when I was put in here that no prisoner was obliged to see his wife. Tell the sheriff that I claim the immunity promised."

The message was delivered, and presently the sheriff himself appeared.

"Your wife says, Mr. Decker, that she has come with the olive branch, and she told me to say in case you declined to receive her that she has your son Johnny with her and wishes to know if you will see him."

The hard lines on Decker's face relaxed.

"Yes, if you will bring him in here."

The sheriff retired, and in a few minutes a boy of six came bounding into the room and, springing into his father's arms, covered his face with kisses. They were returned in kind, while a tear stood in the man's eye.

"Mamma gave me a message for you, papa. She says she was told that you were hiding money."

"Who told her that?"

"Mrs. Spiffre."

"That Jezebel! She made all the trouble."

"And mamma says I was sick and baby was sick, and she was turned out of the rooms, and nothing to buy meat or medicines, and—"

The man put his hand on the boy's mouth.

"Never mind all that, Johnny. I can't bear it."

"And mamma says she's been studying stenography and has got a place. She doesn't wish you to stay here any longer."

"What does she wish me to do?"

"First to forgive her for putting you in here."

"What next?"

"I wish you to come home."

"Johnny, dear, I wish I could do both, but I can do neither."

"Not for me, poppy? Please do—just for me, you know."

"Very well; I'll do the first for you."

"And you'll come home?"

"No; I can't do that."

"Oh, pop, please do!"

"There will be time enough to consider that in the future."

"No, there won't. Mamma says— But I wasn't to tell you."

"Tell me what?"

"That it'll be too late then."

"Oh, it will be too late! In other words, she must dictate just when a reconciliation may take place."

"What's that?"

"Make it up."

"No, that isn't it. I know why, but I won't tell. Mamma says you're so proud. That's one reason."

"I don't understand, Johnny."

"Mamma says if I tell you you'll never come home. You must come home without knowing."

The father studied the boy's face musingly for a time and at last said:

"Well, Johnny, I could never refuse you anything. I'll forgive your mother for putting me in here, and I'll come home, wherever that may be. But tell your mother that I won't permit her to do the work for the family. I know where I can get \$10 a week as porter. It's pretty hard to take such a place after having employed a hundred men myself, but I've learned that what can't be cured must be endured."

"Oh, poppy!" The boy threw his arms spasmodically around his father's neck, gave him a quick hug and kiss, jumped down and ran away to announce the success of his mission.

It was several days after this before the red tape that held John Decker in prison for not paying his wife her alimony was cut and he walked out a free man. The hour was 5 in the afternoon. Boarding an elevated train, he started for an address uptown that had been given him as the abode of his wife and children. Leaving the train, he passed down a cross street. Coming to the number that had been given him as his family abode, he concluded there had been a mistake. The place was a handsome apartment house. At the elevator he asked the uniformed boy if he knew where Mrs. Decker lived.

"Fifth floor," replied the boy.

Wonderingly the ex-prisoner entered the elevator, and when it stopped Johnny's eyes were glistening through the grating. In another moment a reunited family were clinging in one embrace.

Mrs. Decker's money had been invested in her husband's business. One of the largest debtors to the firm who had contributed principally to the failure had astonished Mrs. Decker by paying her his debt, a fortune in itself. She wisely brought about a reconciliation with her husband before he knew that she was independent, knowing that after he was aware of it his position would be very different.

There followed a happy reunion dinner.

M'KEES ROCKS STRIKE.

Outlook's Severe Arrangement of President Hoffstot.

In a recent issue the Outlook Magazine reviews the strike at McKees Rocks as follows:

From these facts and this statement we think it is clear how the Prewitt Steel Car company answers the elementary questions raised by the strike: Has the workman any rights? The employer is bound to respect? He has the right to quit work, and that is his only right in industry.

Is the public concerned in the way a company treats its men? Not at all. It is the public's business simply to protect property and enable the capitalist to get laborers. What the capitalist does with these laborers after he gets them is none of the public's business.

Is the workman on a different basis from the material on which he works? Not essentially. The only difference is that the car company has to buy its steel at the price set by the steel manufacturers, whereas it buys its labor at its own price. This is, of course, because the steel manufacturers are organized, while these laborers are not.

Is the workman to be treated otherwise than as a tool or a piece of machinery? Certainly with no more care, probably with less. If a piece of machinery breaks down the company has to stand the loss, so it is careful of its machinery. But if a workman is killed some slight damages are paid out of the workmen's fund, so the company does not have to be careful of men.

This attitude is that of industrial autocracy. It is the attitude of those who believe that the sole control of industry belongs to the owner of capital. It is an attitude that cannot be maintained in a democracy. Indeed, it is possible only to the autocrat or the Socialist. If the principle upheld by President Hoffstot is right, then socialism is inevitable, for the public must control industry, and if the owner of capital is the sole arbiter of industry then the public must own all capital, and that is socialism.

We do not believe that the owner of capital is the sole arbiter of industry. Labor has a right as well as capital to direct industrial activity and decide industrial questions. The public is more and more going to concern itself with the condition of laborers; it is going to see that laborers have at least as advantageous a position as pig iron and that a human being is counted of more value than many pieces of machinery. Mr. Hoffstot is the relic of a past epoch.

WORLD LABOR CONGRESS.

International Meeting to Discuss Industrial Problems Proposed.

An industrial congress in which all the nations of the earth interested in labor will be invited to take part is one of the propositions that will be laid before the National Civic Federation at its annual meeting Nov. 18. Ralph M. Easley, chairman of the executive council of the federation, who has been abroad, says he questioned many foreign government officials and labor leaders on the idea of the congress and found a general sentiment that great good would result from such a gathering.

"I am confident," he added, "that every foreign nation will join heartily in the idea and that it is possible to bring together the world's most expert labor and industrial statisticians. I shall report my findings to the National Civic Federation and urge the federation to get behind the project and arrange the congress."

One of the questions, it is thought, that justly could be brought before such a congress would be the suggestion of John Burns, the English labor leader, that working hours should be internationally adjusted, inasmuch as the labor of every nation is in competition with that of every other nation. From an educational viewpoint Easley believes the idea would benefit America. Among the topics that probably would be considered he mentioned advanced methods of conciliation and arbitration, trade agreements, shorter hours, employers' liability, old age pensions, employment bureaus and problems involving women and children.

Industrial Schools.

In his annual report James O'Connell, president of the International Association of Machinists, had the following to say of industrial education:

"Industrial schools are kindred establishments making claims of ability to instruct the rising generation in all the details necessary to fully equip a practical machinist so that he can hold his own and command the average pay of a journeyman in less time and with less practice than it is done in the machine shop are claiming more than can be accomplished. In theory their claims may work out most satisfactorily, but when it comes to a practical test they are of no greater value than any other dilettante's dream."

LABOR BRIEFS.

The Janitors' union of New York publishes a monthly magazine, the Janitors' Journal.

Referendum election of general officers has been abolished by the Boot and Shoe Workers' union.

Dr. Cook wore clothing bearing the label of the United Garment Workers of America on his trip to the pole.

Fifteen thousand union workmen took part in the parade of welcome to President Gompers at Washington on his return from Europe.

Herman Ross of Washington, D. C., has been elected international organizer of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America.

Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN H. SMITH

PERT PARAGRAPHS.

IT is a matter of regret with us when we can't pay our bills, but hard hearted debtors don't take the least notice of our polite concern.

An accomplished hired girl can break dishes or hearts with equal facility.

The majority of mankind could restrain their joy by a herculean effort if they were to find an increase in the pay envelope on Saturday night.

Distance lends enchantment to even a comet.

It is hard to understand how anybody can elect to be ill when he can get his picture in the paper by being cured and writing a testimonial.

Many of the objectionable features to being rich might be eliminated by removing the poor from the face of the globe.

Marriage may be a failure, but when it comes to alimony following suit it's the limit.

Rural Joys.
To loaf around the county fair
And all the wonders see
That are inclosed within the grounds
Is good enough for me,
To marvel at the pumpkin crop
That proudly does its stunt,
To put prize porkers on the head
And listen to them grunt.

See coming slowly down the way
And walking hand in hand
The country swain and his best girl
While listening to the band
They peek not of the multitude
That views them with a grin
As up and down the grounds they stroll
And calmly take things in.

The trotting race at last is called;
The judges are on hand;
Important as a load of hay,
They look down from the stand.
Hot sports are scattered all about
And having such a time,
And some are betting on the race
As much as half a dime.

And in the pens the fancy stock
Their ribbons proudly wave
And show how covens of gentle breed
On fair days should behave.
The barkers with their merry noise
Fill up the hazy air,
And there is color, life and joy
Around the county fair.

Watching the Stars.
"What is Cholley doing for amusement now?"

"Taken up amateur astronomy, I think."

"What makes you think that?"

"Well, he has an office with a plate glass window that looks right across to where the chorus ladies congregate."

Couldn't Help Himself.
"They say he is awfully in love with her."

"I don't see how he can be, she is so unattractive."

"But you forget—"

"What?"

"That she is so determined."

She Didn't Like It.
"Papa says I'm not old enough to marry."

"Did he? Well, I'll bet he wouldn't have liked it if somebody had asked him to wait about marrying until he was long past thirty."

Fooled.
"I started out this morning to look for an honest dollar."

"Are you still looking?"

"No. I found a substitute that an expert couldn't tell from the real thing if they were side by side."

Stretch of the Imagination.
"I suppose he is still building castles in Spain."

"No; he is getting a little closer to home."

"What now?"

"Rubber plantations in Mexico."

So Unreasonable.
"Jack's furious at me."

"What's the trouble?"

"Because I didn't keep what I gave him."

"How unjust! What was it?"

"My promise."

Precaution.
In going to Niagara
To put its lovely main
Don't get too near the water,
Or you may miss your train.

He Knew.
Clerk—Here, boy, that half dollar is no good.
Boy—It is too. I guess I ought to know. My own father made it.

Sympathetic.
"Your chauffeur is exceedingly careful. Was he ever in an accident?"

"Yes; some one ran over him once, and he knows how it feels."

Usually Irresistible.
Ella—The paper tells of a woman being arrested for resisting an officer.

Stella—I don't see how anybody could resist a man in uniform.

Hasn't Any.
"That picture lacks atmosphere."

"Sure. It is a painting of the moon, and the scientists tell us it has no atmosphere."

Notice of School Warrant Sale

Notice is hereby given that School District No. 54 of Coos County, Oregon will between the thirtieth day of December 1909 and the tenth day of January 1910 offer for sale \$5,000 worth of negotiable warrants of the district, bearing 6 per cent interest, warrants for said amount to be divided into four series of \$1,250 each running 3, 4, 5 and 6 years respectively, each bona fide resident of the district will have the right to subscribe once for such loan, and for the entire amount, or any portion of the same not less than \$50 at par value, warrants to be issued to small-subscribers first one warrant to each (if within one series) and in case each bona fide resident of the district has had opportunity to subscribe for such loan and the same has not all been taken and issued to such subscribers or in case subscribers do not call for same within three days after time fixed for delivery, the same will be sold to other subscribers in the same manner as above provided and in accordance with the laws governing the same.

Dated this 2d day of Dec. 1909.
PRESTON C. STEPHENSON,
Chairman of the Board.
Attest: J. W. MAST, Clerk of District
45 51

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NOTICE OF EXECUTOR'S FINAL ACCOUNT

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Coos County, Oregon, sitting for probate matters has appointed Monday, January 10th, 1910 at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. said day, at the Court house in Coquille, Oregon as the time and place for hearing the final accounting in the Estate of J. F. Hamblock, deceased. All persons concerned will take notice, that unless cause be shown at said time and place why such order should not be made, then the said Court will make an order directing that the said estate be closed, and that the Executors thereof be dismissed.

Dated at Parkersburg, Oregon, December 7th 1909.

EUGENE H. HAMBLOCK
JOHN V. HAMBLOCK
48-51 Executors.

Oregon Agricultural College Winter Courses

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Practical work, lectures and demonstrations will be given in such vital subjects as General Farming, Fruit Culture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Poultry-keeping, the Business Side of Farming, Forestry, Carpentry, Sewing, Mechanical Drawing, Cooking, Blacksmithing, Home Management, etc.

All regular courses begin January 4th and end February 11th. Farmers' Week February 14th to 18th.

A cordial invitation is extended to all interested. Good accommodations may be secured at reasonable rates. No age limit above 16 years. No entrance requirements. Prominent lecturers have been secured for special topics. The instructional force of the College numbers 100. Excellent equipment.

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For further information address Registrar, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon.

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