

# BATTLE AGAINST 8 HOUR DAY IS AGE OLD FIGHT

Every Movement for Common Good Is Fought as if It Were Villainous Plot to Poison Us in Our Beds, Says Russell—Always Same Percentage of Cavemen Throw Fits.

By CHAS. EDWARD RUSSELL, WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—It is a very strange fact that every movement for the common good is fought as fiercely as if it were a low, villainous plot to poison us in our beds.



Always has been so fought, and probably always will be. Still stranger is the fact that such a movement is always fought with about the same weapons. In every generation there is always about the same percentage of cavemen that throws fits all over the place at the suggestion of anything new.

One hundred years ago practically all artisans, laborers and factory hands in the United States worked fourteen hours a day. Fourteen hours constituted the standard day's work everywhere.

That is to say, men arose and fell upon their work and toiled until they were ready to drop and fell into bed until it was time to fall upon work again, and this was all the life they knew.

Today I was pawing around in some records of those grand old times and came upon the fact that in 1806, or 110 years ago, the shipwrights and caulkers of New York became somewhat tired of this delightful program and most respectfully and humbly petitioned that they might have a day of less than fourteen hours.

Then all their kind, indulgent employers came together with much indignation and denounced this revolutionary and outrageous proceeding. They denounced it upon grounds of public interest and welfare, not on grounds of their own interest. They said it was tyrannical and threatened to destroy business and cripple industry. Also, it was needless, dangerous and revolutionary. If you doubt this because it sounds so much like things you have heard in this blessed age, I will quote you a sentence or two from the resolutions these gentlemen unanimously adopted:

"Such a combination (of workers) has a direct tendency to put their business (the employers) into other hands or to seriously injure it by reducing ship owners to repair their vessels elsewhere rather than to submit to the inconveniences, delays and vexations to which they would be exposed when they can obtain labor only at such times and on such conditions as the folly and caprice of a few journeyman mechanics may dictate."

So the men that had made this extravagant demand were discharged and blacklisted, and the good old rule of fourteen hours a day was preserved.

But observe that in 1903 the working day from ten hours to eight, and the National Association of Manufacturers put forth a manifesto against it that was framed in almost these identical words. In ninety-seven years neither the language nor the arguments of the long working day had undergone a particle of change.

Yet in the course of thirty years of agitation, strikes and appeals, following 1806, men of this order of mind were driven back from the fourteen-hour trench to the twelve, and there they stunk for another thirty years or more.

Any attempt to get them out of this was regarded as sacrilegious and unconstitutional. In 1840 President Van Buren was pilloried as a demagogue, a foe of business and a low person because he proclaimed ten hours as the normal working day in all arsenals and navy yards. The indignation his revolutionary step aroused helped to dig his political grave. The idea of the president of the United States being dictated to by labor organizations?

At the close of the civil war, twelve hours was the general rule for artisans and in factories. Wendell Phillips

# THE FIRST AND ONLY HOBO COLLEGE



First and Only hobo college in the country, photographed for the first time by Durborough, Mail Tribune's special photographer.

This college is located in Chicago and is for hoboes and unemployed men exclusively. At top, Miss Mary O'Reilly teaching class in English; below, Michael Walsh, superintendent listening to the plea of an applicant for admission to the college.



was denounced as a depraved criminal, a scoundrel and a public enemy because he attacked it. He organized a ten-hour league to make war on the twelve-hour day, and was never afterward forgiven.

But he and the rest slowly drove the industrial standardbears back from the twelve-hour trench into the eleven-hour trench and then from the eleven-hour trench into the ten-hour trench.

Fifty-one years have gone by since Wendell Phillips and the rest began to bombard the twelve-hour trenches, are struggling for an eight-hour day.

Meantime, although very few of us seem to know it, the eight-hour day is not only an established, but has become an ancient institution in other parts of the earth. For so many years it has been the law in Australia and New Zealand that when inhabitants of those countries can be made to understand that it really is an issue here, they look upon us with pity as they look upon the Patagonians and Fuegians and other backward peoples.

Meantime, also, it is not for the sake of the workers alone that progressive men advocate the eight-hour day, but for the sake of everybody.

Because, O Great and Mighty Ones, the way things are going now in this world, the safety of your fortune, of your family and of your own precious self, will probably come to depend upon the physical well-being and mental alertness of the workers of this country, who in case of an invasion, for instance, must necessarily be the bulwark of its defense.

Long working hours in modern factory conditions utterly rob the workers of physical stamina and mental capacity.

How about that?

## BRITISH REPLY TO GERMANY BY XMAS

LONDON, Dec. 21.—There is a strong probability that Great Britain's reply to the German peace proposal might be made before Christmas. This was the opinion in well-informed government circles today, where it is also believed the reply will be brief and will likely follow the lines of Mr. Lloyd-George's maiden speech as prime minister insofar as it will leave the door open for Germany to make concrete proposals.

Great Britain's official reply to Germany, as prominent officials preferred to term it, will be despatched simultaneously with that of her allies. Ever since the German note was handed to the foreign office by the American ambassador it has been the subject of discussions between Premier Lloyd-George and his cabinet council, which meets daily. The note and the nature of the reply also have been discussed with Great Britain's allies and it is stated that these conversations have progressed so rapidly that preliminary drafts have already been made.

It would, therefore not be surprising if the allies replies were ready by the end of the week. Especially, it is said would this be true of the case of Great Britain's note, which the prime minister is declared to be anxious to despatch without delay.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Declaring that the republican party lacks a leader, Charles D. Hilles, former chairman of the national committee, urged at a meeting of the republican club here last night that a conference of men prominent in the party councils to be held in Washington within a few months to plan for the next presidential campaign.

## NATIONAL FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION FORMED IN CITY

The meeting of farmers of Medford and vicinity held at the library building last Saturday was well attended. After the plan of the organization of farm loan associations and the amortization tables were explained and illustrated on the blackboard by Professor F. C. Reimer of Talent, the meeting elected E. H. French chairman and E. H. Hurd secretary.

E. H. Hurd read the articles of association to be adopted and signed by all wishing to join and explained the responsibility of members and the territory that might be included. A general discussion of the benefits and territory to be included was had.

The following committee was appointed to recommend the territory to be included: C. V. Cummings, H. E. Krentzer and C. A. Myers. It was voted to invite the farmers of Ross Lane to join the Medford association. The number of directors to be elected was fixed at nine. The name voted was the Rogue River National Farm Loan association. The total number signed at the meeting was twelve, for \$42,400. The secretary, E. H. Hurd, has the articles of association for all who wish to join at his office, and the charter list will be kept open for a time at least.

The meeting adjourned to meet on Wednesday, December 27, at 1:30 p.m. in the library building, Medford, when the question of territory to be included and election of a board of nine directors will be voted upon.

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## FORMAL NOTE SENT

(Continued From Page One.)

by Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador:

"Now I am perfectly convinced that there will be a conference." Despite the fact that President Wilson's notes state specifically and unreservedly that he "is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation," they are regarded here as of such a nature as will compel all belligerents to make more of a reply than a mere acknowledgment of receipt.

British embassy officials made no effort to conceal their surprise at the president's action. They were not alone, however, for all official Washington had been led by officials to believe that the president in transmitting the German peace proposals.

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without comment had taken all the action that was to be expected from the United States, for some time to come, unless there was some unforeseen development in world affairs. The secrecy with which the preparation of the notes and their dispatch were surrounded was complete and nothing was known about them until they were well on their way to the belligerent capitals.

## For League of Nations.

The definite proposal of the United States for a "league of nations to insure peace and justice throughout the world," is interpreted as a step which, if carried through, would mean the abandonment of the theory of "splendid isolation" which Washington bequeathed to the country. Significance is attached to the fact that the president uses the word "insure" rather than "enforce," as indicating that he has not committed himself to any one program to accomplish that end, but that he is open to whatever suggestions may seem best to the other world nations.

Repeated efforts have been made to enlist the American government in some sort of international agreement involving responsibility, but always the answer has been that the United States would stand alone.

## DOLLS INVADE WORLD

(Continued From Page One.)

Nearly \$3,000,000 worth of American dolls were made this year, according to Louis Amberg, one of the biggest American doll manufacturers, and president of the American Doll Manufacturers' association.

## Sent Over the World.

"These American dolls are going into every corner of the world," said Amberg. "Only the other day we had an order for dolls cabled all the way from Java. Into the heart of the Himalayas, into the East Indies, into Russia, Spain, Denmark, Central America, Africa, the American dolls are going."

"A year ago our South American doll trade amounted to only \$200,000. This year it has jumped to \$200,000."

"Practically every country on earth is buying American dolls this Christmas, except France and Great Britain, which prohibit the importation of dolls. Yet the American doll industry is small yet compared to its future possibilities. There are only fifty-two

concerns making dolls in this country, and I doubt if the total capital invested in the industry is over \$500,000.

"We can't hope to beat Germany out in the business for a while yet, for the Germans have centuries of experience in doll making. Moreover, they have an ample supply of bisque clay and we have none in America. Japan is developing a big bisque doll industry. But the unbreakable doll, with its lovable, lifelike features, is almost exclusively an American product."

It took one New York manufacturer three years to develop this type of realistic doll. A famous sculptor was employed to design it.

One New York concern now manufactures 10,000 distinct types of dolls.

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