

DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

BY HOFER BROS.

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WE HAVE
A PLENTYNew York Post Talks Anent
the Labor and Indus-
trial Conditions

The venality of the Chicago labor leaders, says the New York Evening Post, surprises nobody. Of late we have heard so full of tales of graft, from the highest finance to the lowest, that news of another walking delegate gone wrong strikes but languid interest. The case of John C. Driscoll, "strike-settling expert," parallels in many features the cases of Parks and Weinberger of New York. Driscoll admits that the last five years he has settled some four hundred strikes, large and small, and that he has paid out about \$50,000 of employers' money in doing so. These payments, of course, have been made to chieftains in the various unions. Apparently, the presidency of a labor union is in its way a good thing.

The methods of Driscoll were exquisitely simple. According to his own confession, the strike of the clothing makers was a cheap affair, costing only about \$500. W. T. Brownridge, president of the National Wholesale Tailors' association, handed the money to Driscoll, with instructions to "go ahead and fix the labor people." Driscoll accordingly "squared the trouble all right." During the strike of the bakers against the National Biscuit company, Driscoll was offered various sums of money by the employers if he would keep the teamsters out of the controversy. He turned over some money—he doesn't remember how much—to the officials of the local unions. The result was that the teamsters may no grant moral principle involved; they let the bakers go it alone, and the strike was broken. In the strike of cooks and waiters in 1903 the strikers wanted the teamsters to refuse to carry coal and other supplies to the hotels and restaurants; but the Hotel and Restaurant Keepers' association raised \$500 for Driscoll. As Driscoll himself phrases it, "If it had not been for my influence, there would have been plenty of trouble." Frank Bea, business agent of the Commission Wagon Drivers' Union, said Driscoll "got \$5,000 out of the stockyards strike last summer." Naturally, Driscoll had considerable respect for Bea's ability; certainly other leaders he contemptuously designated as "a cheap bunch."

Another man who did not belong to the "cheap bunch" was Albert Young, of the Coal Teamsters' Union. In the affair involving Young, J. C. Roth, manager of the Great Northern hotel, proved to be an "easy mark." He paid \$1,000 because the coal teamsters, during the engineers' strike, threatened to shut off the coal. Driscoll handled the money, and the officials of the union pocketed it. There was, as Driscoll learned afterwards, never any danger of a strike, although Albert Young and his associates frightened Mr. Roth into believing that there was.

A further detail of Driscoll's operations is worthy of note. One of his important duties as a strike-settling expert was to employ a good healthy "wrecking crew." This crew would, when policy demanded, attack non-union workmen. But with equal non-

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and impartiality it would, under orders, maim or kill a union man himself, one of the Lord's anointed. If a labor leader had received money to settle a strike, but was unable to persuade his followers to give up, he had recourse to the wrecking crew. "There was," asserts Driscoll, "many a strike picket who suffered when a labor official, without being able to call off a strike, had given his tacit consent to the 'clearing of the alleys.'" To continue in Driscoll's own words:

"After the union leaders had been 'fixed' we started at it. 'Clearing the alleys' means putting out of business the pickets who may have had orders to prevent teamsters from driving loads to struck houses. We didn't pay any attention to those orders, because we had the wink from the union officials. I had men to see that the alleys were cleared, and if the pickets didn't obey the instructions of my 'wrecking crew,' they had their blocks (heads) knocked off."

This is, we believe, as low a depth of treachery as any labor leader has yet plumbed—not only to sell out your followers, but to deliver them over to the violence of your own hired thugs.

Even Driscoll had his code of honor. He indignantly denied that he had ever "given money to start strikes or to manipulate them in certain ways." In the New York building trades, he it remembered, the ethical code was not so exacting. If a construction company was having difficulty in completing a contract on time, the simple remedy was to pay a labor leader a suitable fee, have a strike called on the work, and then offer the strike as excuse for the failure. A convenient way, also, to clear your rivals out of the alleys here in New York was to knock their blocks off by persuading their men to strike. In fine, the field for the activities of a strike expert in any large city are practically boundless. To quote again the precious words of Mr. Driscoll, "the game of labor commissioner, one to which few men are adapted," is "perfectly legitimate in view of the rotten condition of the labor market."

Nothing is easier than to denounce the baseness of men like Parks, Weinberger, and Driscoll. They are the real enemies to labor unions; compared with them, the various associations of employers, formed in every part of the country to fight unionism, are positively friendly. For the Parkers and the Driscolls cast discredit upon the whole movement with which they are identified; they throw suspicion upon every strike, as experience has proved again and again, can succeed unless it wins public sympathy. In Chicago, however, these confessions and recriminations will for a long time make it impossible for any union to command popular support unless it is protesting against some extraordinary and palpable injustice. The cause of downtrodden labor, as the eloquent agitators term it, has received a smashing blow.

But Driscoll and the "cheap bunch" which he "squared" from time to time are not the only actors in this sordid tragedy. From Driscoll and his rabble one cannot expect high intelligence and a delicate sense of propriety. They were out for ill-gotten gain as frankly as any vulgar stock-jobber. Back of them stand eminent business men, who cannot plead as excuse either poverty, ignorance, or criminal training. For every blackmailer there is a man who will pay blackmail; for every bribe-taker, a bribe-giver. It takes two to make a corrupt bargain as well as an honest one. Driscoll could, according to his own admission, have accomplished nothing had it not been for the kindly co-operation of W. T. Brownridge, once president of the National Wholesale Tailors' association, certain officers of the National Biscuit company, J. C. Roth, of the Great Northern hotel, and others of equal standing. These gentlemen, models of commercial integrity, joined hands with an avowed corruptionist in a conspiracy against both labor and capital.

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OREGON
SCHOOLS

The annual school report, which was given out from the office of Superintendent Ackerman Wednesday shows that there were 4210 more children of school age in the state, and 24 less teachers this year than last. The decrease in the number of teachers is due principally to two causes. One of these is the fact that owing to a scarcity of teachers, some of the districts in the isolated and remote parts of the state were unable to secure teachers. Another is the plan of uniting districts for the purpose of securing better schools. The total number of school districts in the state this year is only 2161 as against 2169 last year. The total number of persons of school age is 152,930, while the number of registered pupils is 108,036.

A total of 4022 teachers are employed in the state, of which number 817 are males and 3205 are females.

The number of applicants for teachers' certificates examined during the year was 1830, as against 1290 last year. As only 343 of these applicants failed it does not look as though there would be a shortage of teachers the coming year.

The number of persons of school age in the state who are not attending any school is 37,247, while 6005 are attending private schools. The average daily attendance in the public schools is 216,142.

The number of legal voters for school purposes in the state at the time of making this report is 110,863.

There are now 2225 school houses in the state, of which number 109 were built this year.

The average number of months of school throughout the state was 6.05.

The amount of cash on hand at the time of making the last report was \$418,025.68. The total amount of receipts during the year, including this balance, was \$2,627,985.66. The disbursements amounted to \$1,244,444.44, thus leaving a balance on hand of \$383,581.22. The estimated value of school houses and grounds is \$4,128,540. The average monthly salary of male teachers is \$53.89, while that of females is \$43.50.

Protection Against Lightning.

It is an interesting fact that one of the earliest practical applications of electrical research, the lightning rod of Franklin, should have had first a great vogue, followed by a certain amount of discredit, only to be revived under renewed conditions of scientific study and interest. The history of methods of protection against damage by lightning, together with a review of present approved appliances, forms the subject of an interesting address delivered before the Society of Arts by Killigworth Hedges and published in the journal of the society.

After referring to numerous records of damage by lightning from very early times, M. Hedges describes the modern theory of lightning discharges and the methods of rendering them harmless.

"It has been pointed out by Sir Oliver Lodge that lightning discharges are of two distinct characters, which he has named the A and B flashes respectively. The A flash is of the simple type which arises when an electrically charged cloud approaches the surface of the earth without an intermediate cloud intervening, and under these conditions the ordinary type of lightning conductor acts in two ways; first, by silent discharge; and secondly, by absorbing the energy of a disruptive discharge. In the second type, B, where another cloud intervenes between the cloud carrying the primary charge and the earth, the two clouds practically form a condenser; and when a discharge takes place from the first into the second the free charge on the earth side of the lower cloud is suddenly relieved, and the disruptive discharge from the latter to the earth takes such an exalted course that no series of lightning conductors of the hitherto recognized type suffice to protect the building."

Experiments show that the material of which a conductor is composed has an important influence upon the action. The disruptive discharge to copper is far louder and more intense than that to iron, while that to wet string is still quieter. It is interesting to recall in this connection the fact that in the famous experiment of Franklin the wet kite string formed the conductor. The experiments show that iron is a very useful material for lightning rods, as the effective energy of a flash of lightning is rapidly dissipated in iron.

"Absolute protection of the whole of a building could only be assured by enclosing the whole structure in a system of wirework—a contrivance, in fact, of the nature of a bird cage. This should be well connected at various points to the earth."

Grave Trouble Foreseen.

It needs but little foresight to tell, that when your stomach and liver are badly affected, grave trouble is ahead, unless you take the proper medicine for your disease, as Mrs. John A. Young, of Clay, N. Y., did. She says: "I had neuralgia of the liver and stomach, my heart was weakened, and I could not eat. I was very bad for a long time, but in Electric Bitters I found just what I needed, for they quickly relieved and cured me." Best medicine for weak women. Sold under guarantee by J. C. Perry, Druggist, m, Or., at 50c a bottle.

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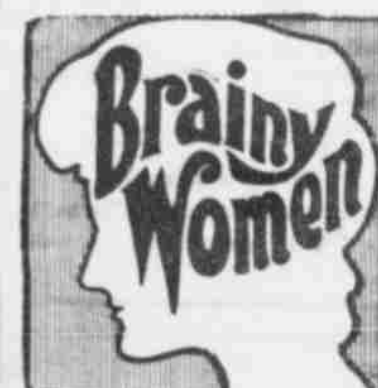
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