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THE LABOR NEWS.

ORGAN OF THE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR. ENDORSED BY GREENSBORO TRADES COUNCIL.

MOTTO: ORGANIZATION, EDUCATION AND ELEVATION.

VOL. IV. GREENSBORO, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1909. NUMBER 32.

CONCERNING BACHELORS.

Note.—Several of the Central Western State legislatures are agitating the question of taxing all bachelors.

Stand forth, ye lambs, for slaughter,
Ye martyrs, to the cold.
Unfeeling "Noes" of women,
And shower down the gold.
A selfish, married public,
Is after, simply for,
The reason that it wants to,
Hold up a bachelor.

Not one of those unwedded,
Is so by fault of his,
Lord knows he tried his darndest,
A better half to win.
And failing should the public
Desire to rub it in?

Why load their lonely living,
With great burdens when,
They're willing, ready, waiting,
To shine as married men?
Are they the only sinners,
To hale before the bar?
Say, why not tax the women,
Who made them what they are?
—W. J. Lampton, in N. Y. World.

Correspondence.

LOS ANGELES CORRESPONDENCE

Editor Labor News:—I wonder what the lawmakers of Wisconsin, Iowa, Texas and other states expect to accomplish by their bachelor's tax? If they think they will benefit anyone by telling a man he must marry or pay a tax, I think they are badly mistaken.

In the first place, why are these bachelor? Do they exist just for the fun of the thing, because they don't want a home, because they want to be different from other people? I think not.

The main reason they don't marry is they can't afford to keep a wife. In substance, uncertain employment and inadequate incomes are the main reasons for the persistence of bachelors.

In order to properly discourage bachelorism we should not add to the already heavy burdens borne by single and married men by inaugurating the head tax of fuedal times; but do the reverse; take some of the present taxes off the backs of the men.

For the human race to advance and prosper as it should we will have to make better and easier the opportunities for men to make a living. Make employment more certain and incomes more staple. To do this, and do it properly our lawmakers had better get busy changing our laws regarding land tenure. Land being the source of all improvement and the fountain-head of all wealth, should be of easy access to mankind. Make it impossible the holding of large tracts of land idle for speculation. Make impossible the customary "See me sign" before you go to work on this land and bachelorism will no longer be a menace to our civilization.

RALPH HOYT.

Los Angeles, Cali.

PHILADELPHIA CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor of Labor News:—If all beneficiaries of private monopoly were so conscientious and honest as Andrew Carnegie the evils of monopoly would soon pass away. How strikingly the great iron master illustrates the natural growth of individual fortunes. Like all sane thinkers Mr. Carnegie has no quarrel with the rich man, as such, but recognizing a clear distinction between wealth acquired by the industry of its possessors, on the one hand, and on the other riches accrueing to the recipient through special privileges. And what is of the very highest importance, Mr. Carnegie affirms Ricardo's law of rent—the "unearned increment" which John Stuart Mill so ably developed—and justifies Henry George's plan for distributing it to the creator—the public.

Mr. Carnegie does not in plain words embrace the Henry George doctrine as such; but he expounds that doctrine, however, as one who has through original thought, lighted upon a great truth and is impelled, like all discoverers, to impart his treasure to the world.

Mr. Carnegie illustrates his idea by instancing two sons, who have inherited from their father two farms of apparently equal value. They cast lots for the division, and proceed with equal industry to build their fortunes. But it happens that a great city rises on one farm while the other remains a farm. And here is Mr. Carnegie's comment on the economic results:

"The growth of the city soon makes the children of the younger son millionaires, while those of the elder remain simple farmers in comfortable circumstances."

And here is the remedy Mr. Carnegie proposes:

"In no other field is the making of wealth so greatly dependent upon the community, so little upon the owner, who may wholly neglect it without injury. Therefore, no other form of wealth should contribute so generously to the nation."

Very truly yours,
OLIVER McKNIGHT.

Philadelphia, Pa.

He—"I am sure Cupid had nothing to do with arranging the alphabet."

She—"What gives you that impression?"

He—"If he had, he would have placed U and I much nearer each other."—Ex.

John T. Miller, President N. C. State Federation of Labor, Raleigh, N. C.

TEXAS CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor Labor News:—Eighty years ago a poor boy was born in Wurtemburg, Germany. He came to this country in a sailing ship, and drifted across the country to California and went to work as a butcher's boy. At the present time, old and gray, this butcher's boy, whose name is Henry Miller owns and controls fourteen and one-half million acres of rich and fertile land—22,500 square miles—equal in round number to the aggregate area of the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. This German butcher boy has become the absolute owner in fee of a magnificent empire twice as large as Belgium.

One hears much of the evils of landlordism in Ireland. One pities the condition of the down trodden Irish peasants. Henry Miller, a single landowner, is lord over area of lands two thirds as large as the Emerald Isle.

Listen to this incident of the daily life on one of the ranches. One day Henry Miller drove up to a ranch house. Since his last visit the rats had eaten a brood of young chickens, "Rats, heh!" snorted Miller, "Signs of decay. Where is that damned tramp of mine?"

How long will it take the American people to develop the servile and cringing spirit of the peasant, when one man can refer to any one of the people who live in his kingdom, which is three times as large as the state of New Jersey—as "that damned tramp?"

GEO. W. KNIGHT.

San Marcos, Texas.

SOCIALISM AND THE CHURCH.

III.—Workingmen and Socialism.

By the Rev. Charles Stelzle.

In demanding that the church adopt and advocate socialism, the socialists give as one of the reasons for their insistance, that workingmen are rapidly turning toward socialism and if the church does not advocate socialism workingmen will forever be alienated from the church.

If it were true that workingmen are turning towards socialism this would not necessarily make socialism right. The majority is not always right, and workingmen as well as others have sometimes been mistaken in their economic views. Furthermore, the growth of socialism in this country among workingmen has been greatly exaggerated. In the annual conventions of the American Federation of Labor, for instance, during the past half a dozen years, the growth of socialism has not been at all noticeable. The last presidential election did not indicate a very great increase in the socialistic vote. As a matter of fact, the number of votes cast in Chicago was only one-third of what it was four years ago. It is true that socialism has been developing in foreign countries, but conditions in these countries are entirely different from what they are in the United States. This has been clearly brought out by such men as Keir Hardie, who have studied the situation in both countries. The socialists in foreign countries are opportunists. They are trying to secure many things which the workingmen in our country already enjoy. They are, for the most part, constructive in their methods. They are willing to accept certain reforms for the people which would be opposed by the socialists in the United States who frankly desire that conditions should become worse in order that workingmen, as a class, may be driven to accept a complete socialistic program. While it may be true that a change in our economic system is imminent, it does not necessarily follow that socialism will be the system that will be adopted. Some socialists of prominence are quite frank in admitting this. The cock-sureness of many socialists is quite amusing. Somebody has said that the socialists are the Pharisees of the labor movement. Their profound contempt for everybody else who does not agree with their economic system is making them more enemies than they need to face. A man has a perfect right to be a socialist, but it axiomatically follows that a man has also a perfect right not to be a socialist and to heap upon him vituperation of the bitterest sort is in no sense a credit to the socialists.

STATE BODIES TAKING ACTION.

Legislatures are Fighting Tuberculosis.

Only five states in the United States, including the District of Columbia, have laws directly compelling the reporting and registration of tuberculosis, and of these, but two and the District of Columbia, make very much of an effort to enforce the law. Only eight states have laws forbidding spitting in public places, and in none of these states is the law strictly enforced. Realizing the dangers from promiscuous spitting, and inability to locate tuberculosis cases without a registration law, bills are being introduced in over a dozen different legislatures to remedy these defects.

According to a report issued by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, the reporting of tuberculosis cases is one of the first requisites in the stamping out of the disease. Until the health authorities know where those afflicted with tubereculosis reside they are powerless to remove the dangers caused by these infected persons. It is now established that tuberculosis must be classed with smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, or any other infectious disease. This being the case, the report declares it is just as necessary for the public health that it be registered.

The most decided step in the registration of tuberculosis was taken in 1904 by the state of Maryland, where a law was passed compelling the reporting of this disease, and inflicting a heavy fine for non compliance. This law requires that the State Board of Health pay $1.00 to every physician reporting a case of tuberculosis, and also that it furnish him with literature and preventive supplies for the use of his patients. This measure was influenced by the success of a movement started in New York city in 1897, to compel the reporting of tuberculosis. In 1908 laws modeled somewhat after the Maryland law were passed in New York State and the District of Columbia. The state of Vermont had passed a registration law in 1902, and in Washington it had been a law that tuberculosis be reported in the first and second class cities as early as 1899. These laws had, however, never been of much service, and few new cases were secured through them. Besides these states, which have direct and special laws compelling the reporting of tuberculosis, there are six which require reporting of tuberculosis as one of the infectious diseases. They are, California, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts and Utah. For the most part, there laws are of little value.

The following states and territories have regulations of the Health Departments requiring that tuberculosis be reported: Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Philippine Islands, Rhode Island and Tennessee. These regulations seldom secure the desired results. The other states of the Union have no laws or regulation on the subject.

Other legislation affecting tuberculosis is, in the main, that concerning spitting and with regard to state sanatoria and dispensaries. There are nine states and territories which have laws forbidding spitting. They are Delaware, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Philippine Islands, Tennessee and Virginia. Twelve states and the District of Columbia now maintain sanatoria or hospitals for indigent tuberculosis patients. They are Massachusetts, New York, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin.

Besides these, in Indiana, Ohio, New Hampshire and Virginia, sites have been purchased for similar institutions, and in Massachusetts work has been commenced on three state hospitals for advanced cases in addition to the state sanatorium at Rutland. In Alabama and Georgia, laws have been authorizing and providing for the erection of state sanatoria. In Connecticut and West Virginia, commissions are preparing to recommend the establihment of such institutions at the ensuing legislatures.

In Washington, Oregon, California, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine and West Virginia, active campaigns will be carried on this winter in the various legislatures to secure action affecting the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis.

Professor John Stuart Blackie, of Edinburgh, being suddenly called away by an important summons one day, posted this notice on his classroom door for his students:

"Professor Blackie will be unable to meet his classes today."

Some waggish student came along and rubbed out the "c" from the word classes. The Professor, reaching home that evening, saw the erasure, chuckled, and promptly erased the letter "l". His students ever afterward had great respect for their teacher.—Ex.

"Gee, but ain't his legs thin?"

"Rather—he was arrested once for having no visible means of support.—Cornell Widow.

The Best Friend—I hear her husband shows her a doglike devotion.

The Casual Gossip—Yes, they say he is always growling at her.—Ex.

LABOR BRIEFS.

The employes' relief fund of the Pennsylvania railroad system has paid out more than $25,000,000 in twenty-two years.

I intend to preserve my liberty, and one of my liberties is to refuse to buy the product of a firm that is unfair to labor.—John Mitchell.

During the past twelve years Typographical Union No. 6, New York, has expended $92,518 for the support of the Union Printers' Home in Colorado Springs.

I'll spend my money where I please, and I'll buy union products every time. I shall not buy the product of an unfair house and no agency in America of whatever nature can make me do so.—John Mitchell.

A Baltimore judge fined two union men $50 apiece for stopping men and women on the street to ask them not to work in a factory that had been declared on strike.

The building trades department of the American Federation of Labor has decided that hereafter there must be no more strikes in the building trades if honorable means, aided by arbitration, can prevent them.

The Musician's protective union has adopted an amendment to its constitution which exempts from all dues and assessments members over sixty years of age, who have been members of the union twenty-five consecutive years.

The Baton Rouge local, No. 25, of the International Typographical Union has shown its interest in civic affairs by joining the local board of trade. The typographical union was the first organization in the Louisiana capital to take this step.

WHY NOT? GET AWAKE.

For several months The Journal has been advocating the holding of open sessions by the Central Labor Union and affiliated unions, and we still believe that such action would be decidedly beneficial to the locals individually and to the whole movement.

At these open meetings, if the locals ever get awake to the ideas of advancement, the question of the strength at each local, where its weakness lies and what can best be done to improve its condition should be one of the points to receive attention.

The urging of every member of organized labor to pay his dues promptly will be urged and a demand should be made on the several unions that all members see that their cash cards are clear on time.

Despite the decree of Justice Wright, unionism will come out of its lethargy arrayed in new and stronger armor, and it is up to all members of organized labor to take an extra hitch in their belts, grab the sword of might and right and go forth to battle with the foe with renewed vigor and a determination to win in the battle which they have been enlisted to support.

We hope soon to see each local union and brotherhood adopt the plan of open meetings and invite the public. Show to those who are now opposed to us that we are but endeavoring to better the conditions for the laborer in a peaceful and lawful manner and that we are not banded together to destroy any man's business.

Our cause is a righteous one and we should not be ashamed to stand up for the principles of honest trades unionism.—Easton Journal.

JOKES FROOM HERE AND THERE.

In the march of life don't heed the order "right about" when you know you are about right.—Holmes.

"Nellie, dear, do you think that young Huggins is matrimonially inclined?"

Pretty Daughter—"Really, I don't know what to think, mamma. He has such a knack of keeping one in the dark."—Exchange.

"The typewriter people are certainly slow."

"In what respect?"

"To cling to the bell. Why don't they introduce a machine that will honk at the end of a line?"—Ex.

"That hallroom boarder moved today."

"I didn't see any trunk go out."

"There was none. He placed his effects in an envelope and mailed 'em to his new address."—Kansas City Journal.

Judge—Have you been arrested before?

Prisoner—No, sir.

Judge—Have you been in this court before?

Prisoner—No, sir.

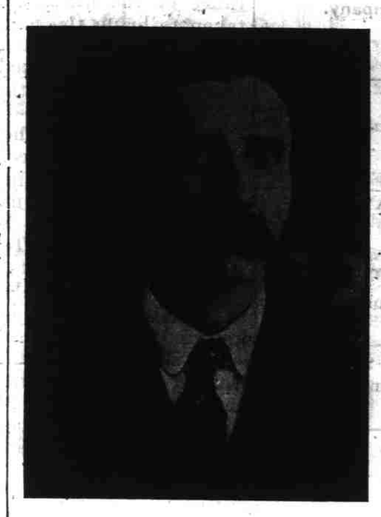
Judge—Are you certain?

Prisoner—I am, sir.

Judge—Your face looks decidedly familiar. Where have I seen it before?

Prisoner—I'm the bartender in the saloon across the way, sir.—Harper's Weekly.

General Phil. Sheridan was at one time asked at what little incident did he laugh the most. "Well," he said, "I do not know, but I always laugh when I think of the Irishman and the army mule. I was riding down the line one day when I saw an Irishman mounted on a mule that was kicking its legs rather freely. The mule finally got its hoof caught in the stirrup, when in the excitement, the Irishman remarked, "Well, begorra, if you're goin' to git on I'll git off."—Ex.



Saml. Waldrop, Secretary-Treasurer N. C. State Federation of Labor, Asheville, N. C.

DOLLS AND DOLL CARRIAGES.

We have entirely too many dolls and doll carriages. We have our regular quantity bought and through a misunderstanding of the salesman we were shipped double the quantity; while we are not the sole losers on this deal you are the gainer. These dolls and carriages must be sold and sold quick and there's but one way to move them, and that is to sell them less than any one else can afford to, which we are doing every day. We have the greatest line of dolls and toys that has ever been shown in Greensboro, and we are selling them at the same small profit in which we move all our merchandise. We don't offer you any extra premiums in order to move this merchandise and then in a cunning way tell you we are going to give you something, and then on every twenty-five cents worth you buy from us add 10 per cent. extra.

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LOCAL UNIONS.

Greensboro Trades Council—Jno. C. Benson, president; Vernon F. McRary, secretary.

Iron Moulders—R. R. Wyrick, president; C. L. Shaw, secretary. Meets second and fourth Wednesday nights in each month.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, No. 1432—J. W. Causey, president.

Typographical Union, No. 397—J. T. Perkins, president; J. S. Pender, secretary. Meets 1st Sunday in each month at 3.30 p. m., in the Bevill building.

Association of Machinists—A. J. Crawford, president; John M. Glass, secretary; R. M. Holt, recording secretary. Meets every Tuesday night in hall over Henniessee's lunch room.

Tar Heel Lodge, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen—Meets every Wednesday night in Odd Fellows Hall on Fayetteville street. W. C. Reitzel, Master; J. G. Whitehart, secretary; J. T. Lashley, financier.

UNION MEN.

Patronize the merchants who advertise in your paper. THE LABOR NEWS is appreciated by merchants who are in sympathy with the workers' cause, or who look for the business of the wage earner, and they use its advertising columns. There is hardly a firm in this city that could stand out openly and say it did not care for the workingmen's trade, but names could be mentioned of business men who have nothing but hard words to hand in return for a generous patronage. Stand by the business men who stand by you. You can purchase as cheaply and advantageously from THE LABOR NEWS' advertisers, with as good treatment thrown in, as from any or all others combined.

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