

THE HARBINGER.

ORGANIZATION. EDUCATION. ELEVATION.

VOL. I.

RALEIGH, N. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1902.

No. 2

THE UNION WORKING CARD.

Two brothers working at one trade,
Hadn't met for quite a while.
One had a discontented look,
The other wore a smile.

One brother dressed up neat and clean,
Had money left beside;
The other had to hit the road,
Hadn't money for to ride.

'Twas on Labor Day they met,
At the Temple, up on Pike.
Tom said to Sam: "How do you ride,
While I am forced to hike?"

"How is it, Sam, you dress so neat,
And always pay your rent;
While I can't get a decent suit,
And never have a cent?"

"How can you smoke such good cigars—
You always smoke the same—
While I just have to smoke a pipe,
I tell you, it's a shame?"

"How is it you get paid so much,
Your hours are so short;
While I can't make enough to live
And have enough to eat?"

"How is it when you meet your boss
He greets you on the street,
While every boss I ever had,
Ne'er looks up when we meet?"

"I'll tell you, why these things are,
It isn't very hard;
This piece of pasteboard is the cause;
It's a Union Working Card."

—Seattle Union Record.

INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE.

The American Federationist, edited by Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, has the following to say editorially of the Conference held in New York city, December 15 and 16, 1901, in the January number, just issued:

A conference was held in New York city on December 15 and 16, which no doubt will have a very excellent influence in the whole field of industry. It was an endeavor in the direction of industrial peace, and was composed of some of the largest employers of labor, some of the most conspicuous representatives of organized labor, as well as famous men in public life. After a number of addresses were delivered, a committee, consisting of Lewis Nixon, Oscar S. Straus, Frank P. Sargent and Samuel Gompers, was appointed to draft a declaration of the purposes of the body named, "The Industrial Department of the National Civic Federation." The declaration is as follows:

The scope and province of this department shall be to do what may seem best to promote industrial peace; to be helpful in establishing rightful relations between employers and workers; by its good offices to endeavor to obviate and prevent strikes and lockouts; to aid in renewing industrial relations where a rupture has occurred.

That at all times representatives of employers and workers, organized or unorganized, should confer for the adjustment of differences or disputes before an acute stage is reached, and thus avoid or minimize the number of strikes or lockouts.

That mutual agreements as to conditions under which labor shall be performed should be encouraged, and that when agreements are made the terms thereof should be faithfully adhered to, both in letter and spirit, by both parties.

This department, either as a whole or a sub-committee by it appointed, shall, when requested, act as a forum to adjust and decide upon questions at issue between workers and their employers, provided in its opinion the subject is one of sufficient importance.

This department will not consider abstract industrial problems.

This department assumes no powers of arbitration unless such powers be conferred by both parties to a dispute.

This declaration was reported to the general conference, which adopted it without dissension.

As will be observed the aim of this movement is to be helpful in establishing rightful relations between employers and the workers, and to endeavor to prevent or reduce the number of strikes and lockouts, and where either has occurred, to bring about peace.

There can be no questions that in the hands of organized labor lies a power to inflict immense injury upon capital, and there is beyond doubt on the part of employers a manifest strong desire to avoid this. This is naturally strong enough motive for conciliation and concession to labor.

By the very order of things the workers have but little materially to concede. They get too small a share of the products of labor to be able to make many concessions. Their share in the product must of necessity be continually larger and larger; but the desire for industrial peace, that is, the avoidance of strikes and lockouts, is just as intense as it is among the employers.

Much as absolute industrial peace may be desirable, not even the most sanguine friend or participant in this new effort entertains the belief that strikes and lockouts will be entirely eliminated from our industrial life, but that it will make for the good and for the better recognition by each of the rights to which the other may be entitled, no sane or reasonable man will dispute. One of the great contentions for which organized labor has stood for years is the opportunity to bring its demands or grievances to the attention of the employers, and have conferences for such purposes. These the new movement unqualifiedly declared for and stands committed to.

The representatives of the employers, by participating in this conference and equally standing for the declaration made, have placed their seal of disapproval on the hackneyed and unwarrantable position occupied by many of their fellows—"there is nothing to arbitrate." The hope is entertained, as it certainly should be realized, that this phase of the differences, controversies, and if needs be, struggles between the workers and their employers may be relegated into the limbo of oblivion never to be resurrected.

The trade union movement seeks to reach agreements with employers as to wages, hours, and other conditions under which labor shall be performed. This the declaration proclaims, and adds what our movement has always insisted upon, the faithful adherence to their terms in both letter and spirit.

Some mistaken friends have urged that the legislatures in the States of our country should enact laws for the compulsory arbitration of disputes between workers and employers; but none have gone so far as to insist that the State should enforce compulsory arbitration unless both parties, that is, the employers and the workers, consent thereto.

This conference and the establishment of the Industrial Department of the National Civic Federation, is the effort by both parties in industry, the workers and employers, to avoid conflicts, to bring about peace when a strike or lockout has occurred, and to voluntarily arbitrate matters in dispute when both parties in interest agree thereto, without interference of the politician and the courts.

The influence of the conference, the declarations made, and the personnel of the executive committee, have al-

ready had a splendid influence upon the public mind. It is a recognition of the special services rendered to the cause by organized labor. It is a practical acceptance by employers, generally, that there is something to concede, discuss and adjust. That the workers' constant agitation and insistence that they become greater sharers in the product of their toil is justified; that the employers have no right to assume the position of absolute dictation as to terms and conditions under which labor shall be performed.

There is no attempt to confuse the situation by proclaiming that the interests of the workers and employers are identical; but there is a mutual desire for peace with the hope for industrial improvement and economic, social and human progress.

And in so far as the effort has been brought forth the declaration quoted above and the establishment of the Industrial Department of the National Civic Federation, it should be hailed by all, the workers, the employers, and the general public with cordial sympathy and supported to the end that it may make for the good of all.

We take pleasure in recording the names of the officers and executive committee:

Chairman, M. A. Hanna; first vice-chairman, Samuel Gompers; second vice-chairman, Oscar S. Straus; treasurer, Charles A. Moore; secretary, Ralph M. Easley.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

On the Part of Employers:

MARCUS A. HANNA (Coal Mines, Iron, Shipping and Street Railways), Cleveland.

CHARLES M. SCHWAB (President of the U. S. Steel Corporation), New York City.

S. R. CALIAWAY (President of the American Locomotive Works), New York City.

CHARLES A. MOORE (President The Shaw Electric Crane Company), New York City.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, Jr., New York City.

EDWARD P. RIPLEY (President Aetehison, Topeka & Sante Fe Railway System), Chicago.

J. KRUTTSCHNITT (Vice-President Southern Pacific Railroad Company), San Francisco.

H. H. VREELAND (President of the National Street Railway Association), New York City.

LEWIS NIXON (Proprietor Crescent Shipyard), New York City.

MARCUS M. MARKS (President National Association of Clothing Manufacturers), New York City.

JAMES M. CHAMBERS (President American Window Glass Company), Pittsburg.

WILLIAM F. PFAHLER (former President National Founders' Association), Philadelphia.

On the Part of Wage-earners:

SAMUEL GOMPERS (President of the American Federation of Labor), Washington.

JOHN MITCHELL (President of the United Mine Workers of America), Indianapolis.

FRANK P. SARGENT (Grand Master Brother Locomotive Firemen), Peoria, Ill.

THEODORE J. SHAFFER (President Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers), Pittsburg.

JAMES DUNCAN (General Secretary Granite Cutters' National Union), Boston.

DANIEL J. KEEFE (President International Longshoremen's Association), Detroit.

JAMES O'CONNELL (President International Association of Machinists), Washington.

MARTIN FOX (President Iron Molders' Union of North America), Cincinnati.

JAMES M. LYNCH (President International Typographical Union), Indianapolis.

EDW. E. CLARK (Grand Chief Conductor, Order Railway Conductors), Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

HENRY WAITE (General Secretary United Garment Workers of America), New York.

W. MACARTHUR (Editor Coast Seaman's Journal), San Francisco.

On the Part of the Public:

GROVER CLEVELAND (Ex-President of the United States), Princeton, N. J.

CORNELIUS N. BLISS (Ex-Secretary of the Interior), New York City.

OSCAR S. STRAUS (Ex-Minister to Turkey), New York City.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS (former President of Union Pacific Railroad), Boston.

ARCHBISHOP JOHN IRELAND (of the Roman Catholic Church), St. Paul.

BISHOP HENRY C. POTTER, (of the Protestant Episcopal Church), New York City.

CHARLES W. ELIOT (President of Harvard University), Cambridge, Mass.

FRANKLIN MACVEAGH (Merchant), Chicago.

JAMES H. ECKELS (former Comptroller of Currency of the United States), Chicago.

JOHN J. MCCOOK (Lawyer), New York City.

JOHN G. MILBURN (Lawyer), Buffalo.

CHARLES J. BONAPARTE (Lawyer) Baltimore.

RALPH M. EASLEY (Secretary of the National Civic Federation), New York City.

Campaigning in Kentucky.

Campaigning down in Kentucky used to be a strange life. Rival speakers used often to resort to the sharpest dodges in their speeches to defeat the opposition candidate.

In 1882, Gen. Frank L. Woolford, who was elected to Congress, met his opponent, Gen. Frye, at Jamestown, in a conjoint discussion. There were 3,000 people present and Gen. Frye led off in an hour's speech, ending thus:

"Gentlemen: This is the best government the sun ever shone upon, and the freest. Who ever heard of such magnanimity as was shown by this government to the Confederate soldier when the war was ended?"

Gen. Woolford arose and said: "Gen. Frye, I would like to ask you a question."

"Certainly," said Frye.

"Well, what did they do with the great and good soldier, Gen. Robert E. Lee, when he surrendered at Appomattox?" Then, without pausing for a reply, he answered his own question: "I will tell you. They tied his hands behind him, tied his feet, put a rope around his neck, and hung him on the spot. Raise up, Bill Skys, and tell what you know about it. You were there."

Bill arose and said slowly: "Yes, I was thar; it's so, gentlemen."

Woolford then proceeded, before granting Gen. Frye time to collect himself at the audacity of the witness' dishonesty, and said: "What did they do with Jeff Davis? Why, I will tell you. They took him to Fortress Monroe, put him in the hull of a gunboat, and kept him there until he died from rheumatic pains. Raise up, Bill Skys, and tell what you know about that; you were there."

Bill arose, and answered: "I was—I was thar. I was one of the pall-bearers."

Then Woolford, as a sort of climax, said: "They would have killed me, too, had they not been afraid." Turning to Frye, and pulling a six-shooter, he fairly shrieked: "What have you to say to that?"

"Nothing," answered Frye; "there is nothing between you and I."

Worth Reading.

Referring to the recent labor troubles in San Francisco, the Star of that city, in a recent article, has the following:

"In this age it is incomprehensible that men should be found guilty of the folly of believing that they can crush trade unions and the trade union spirit by 'paralyzing industry' or by proclaiming 'We have nothing to arbitrate, and will run our business in our own way, to suit our own selves.'

"But there are such men—right here in San Francisco as well as everywhere else—who, deaf to the voice of reason and justice, have undertaken the impossible task of compelling men to think as they do, and to act as they wish.

"They denounce union men as tyrannous because they refuse to work with non-union men, while at the same time they give notice to restaurants and butchers with union cards that they will not be supplied with meats and other provisions.

"They go further, and coerce small dealers by threatening them with ruin if they accede to union demands, and refusing credit to those who supply the strikers with the necessaries of life.

"If this is not tyranny, what is it?"

"Imperfect as trade unions may be, they have in the past been the only hope of labor, and, if the trust magnates of the land could but know it, have often stood between them and anarchy.

"Without them labor would be at the complete mercy of the most unprincipled of the employees, who, by their competition against fair employers, bring all labor to the same level. Without trades unions labor would be helpless; even as a large city, in the event of a great fire, would, without an organized fire department, be devoured in the flames.

"While labor should jealously guard its unions as the bulwark of its liberties—as its only weapon of defense under present unjust conditions—the mercantile community should foster them, for the better paid the laborer is, the more he will buy, and, necessarily, the more the merchant will sell. Without trade unions, wages would go down below the cost of living, and all classes would suffer.

Editing a Newspaper.

Editing a newspaper is a nice job. If we publish jokes, some people will say we are rattle-brained; if we don't we are an old fossil; if we publish original matter they say we do not give enough selections; if we give selections they say we are too lazy to write. If we do not go to church we are heathens; if we do we are hypocrites. If we remain in the office, we ought to get out and hustle for news; if we go out, we are not attending to our business. If we wear old clothes, they laugh at us; if we wear good clothes, they say we have a pull.—Ex