

# THE HARBINGER.

ORGANIZATION, EDUCATION, ELEVATION.

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## THE TOAST FOR LABOR.

Here's to the man with horny hand,  
Who tugs with the breathing bellows;  
Where anvils ring in every land,  
He's loved by all good fellows.

And here's to him who goes to field,  
And through the glebe is ploughing,  
Or with stout arm the axe doth wield,  
While ancient oaks are bowing.

Here's to the delver in the mine,  
The sailors on the ocean,  
With those of early craft and line,  
Who work with pure devotion.

Our love for her toils in gloom,  
Where cranks and wheels are clanking;  
Bereft is she of nature's bloom,  
Yet God in patience thanking.

A curse for him who sneers at toil,  
And shuns his share of labor,  
The knave but robs his native soil,  
While leaning on his neighbor.

Here may this truth be brought on earth,  
Grow more and more in favor;  
There is no wealth but owes its worth  
To handicraft and labor.

Then pledge the founders of our wealth—  
The builders of our Nation;  
We know their worth, and now their health  
Drink we with acclamation.

## THE STRENUOUS STRUGGLE OF LABOR.

Despite that small fraction of our people which always insists that things should be permitted to take their course, and that all will turn out right in the end, it is clearly the practice in all phases of human life for people to be active participants in all the affairs in which their interests are involved. The demand is becoming more popular every day for active and practical means to help in the solution of the great problem of labor.

In truth, in this age of organization and concentration of industry under the direction of a few persons, the really observing and thinking people admit that the organization of the wage-earners is essential if their wrongs are to be righted, their interests protected, and their progress made commensurate with civilization.

Resistance to encroachments of the combined power of capital is predicated upon the organization of labor. Today it is admitted by all educated and honest men that the thorough organization and federation of the entire wage-working class is a prerequisite to peace, progress and the highest attainment of industrial and commercial success and human progress.

In a recent article, the United States Commissioner of Labor, Hon. Carroll D. Wright, says:

"However men may differ, not only as to the propriety but the legality of labor organization, they recognize the great fact that labor is organizing and that trade unions and similar bodies, which virtually mean the consolidation and focusing of energy, are here as permanent institutions and are growing more numerous and more powerful as industrial development goes on."

In line with modern thought, he admits the contention of organized labor, that it is a struggle for improvement, and thus an aspiration, for struggle is always an aspiration toward something higher.

The awful industrial conditions by which the workers were surrounded when the modern trade unions came into existence were enough to appall and shock the student.

The progress made; the amelioration in industrial conditions; the increased safety of life and limb; the better sanitation in workshops and factories; the lightening of the burdens of labor; the more liberal attitude of the law toward combinations of the workers; the more enlightened public sentiment; are all tributes to the potency and efficiency of the trade union movement.

In our day it is idle for any one to entertain the belief that the workers can individually be successful in securing redress of wrongs or the attainment of rights against the combinations of capital. By the combination of the toilers men not only maintained

what had already been secured, but make continued progress in the alleviation of the wrongs to which the workers are subjected, and achieve continued improvements, in the form of higher wages, shorter hours, and improved conditions under which labor is performed.

Organization of the working people is an indispensable preliminary to any successful attempt to eliminate the evils of which the working classes so bitterly and justly complain.

A thorough federated effort, the combined action of all the unions exerted in favor of each must of necessity prove more efficient than the action of any one isolated organization, and this, too, no matter how powerful it may be.

From the inception of the American Federation of Labor, it has insisted that while unions of divers trades and callings must be left entirely free to govern themselves, yet a bond of fraternity must be established not only between the members of the same union, but also a bond between the members of different unions. It has labored to strengthen that bond by organization, so as to place the entire labor movement upon a higher, more effective and humane plane.

Beneath the surface of the labor movement, in its practical effort there is a deep conviction from which springs the declaration that the interests of all the workers are identical, regardless of their trade, calling, or any section of the country in which they are located. The strength of a chain is in its weakest link, and it is the aim of our movement to first establish the chain of unity throughout the entire domain of our country, and then to strengthen its weakest link—to be helpful wherever possible; so that the entire wage-earning class may make the most steady and rapid progress possible.

No movement for the protection or the betterment of the masses of the people in the world's history has had unrestricted progress. Ignorance, blind selfishness, the short-sightedness of those who would hazard the happiness of the future for mere momentary advantage, have interposed; but despite these, when any cause is founded upon justice and right, as is the movement of the American trade unions, under the banner of the American Federation of Labor, it is bound to triumph.

At no time in the history of the world was it more essential than today for the toiling masses of our country, irrespective of occupation or location, to unite and federate in fact and in spirit.

Our movement devotes its energies to the uplifting of the wage-earning class, and brings with it a more righteous and humane consideration for the rights and the progress of all our people.

To eliminate the prejudices of class and creed; to uproot ignorance by fostering the education of all; to increase manhood and independence; to secure more leisure by shortening the workday; to improve the home and surroundings; to increase fraternity, and lighten the burdens and ease the toil of all; to make life better worth living—are some of the purposes for which the labor movement of our time stands.

It is most gratifying to record the vast increase in numbers, strength and influence and effectiveness of the trade union movement in recent years. It is a satisfaction to find the prejudices against our movement being dispelled by those who cannot properly be classed as wage-earners, while we are earning, as we deserve, the confidence of all.

It is our fervent hope, as well as our abiding faith, that the yet unorganized wage-earners will join with their brothers in toil in organizing more thoroughly than ever, and standing abreast on the broad platform of the American Federation of Labor, with the rights of the workers, emancipation and a higher humanity as their ultimate goal.—*Federationist*.

## An Observer's Notes.

THE thoughtful trades unionist sees a greater menace to paternal unionism than the unorganized class, and a menace, too, that can only be combatted when, at a critical moment, it asserts itself, i. e., the man who uses language somewhat as the following: "I'm for No. 1. What do I care who's out of a job? If I can get it, I'm going to do it." It is but a temporary job to tide over an expected dull season—this man gets it, to the exclusion of another who has not been employed for some months, and knowing he can go back to his regular job. A man with this principle—or no principle—is a dangerous factor in case of trouble. Only physical cowardice will prevent him from forming a nucleus around which will rally men of like principle or the unorganized. All trade unions have one or more of this dangerous class.

In this day of rapid invention, few recognize the danger to labor, or the laboring man, rather—that lies hidden in the future. The trend of inventive genius seems to be in the direction of labor-saving machinery, or the improvement and increase of its product-producing power, and with this rapid improvement, and the invention of other machinery, we already see the enormous increase of production, at too, a lessened cost to the manufacturer, with no adequate increase, or no increase, of compensation to the employed. If this increase of producing power should go on (and it will), it goes without saying that the day will come when the Man will be but an inconsiderable factor in production, while the Machine, guided by the hand and brain of one man, will produce as much, or more, in a given time than 50 100 men. Are we approaching the day when machinery will so supplant the laborer, that it will be said there is, practically, no labor? If so, that will be the day of revolution, and a readjustment of economic conditions.

"THERE is much said among labor agitators about the employment of child labor in factories," said a gentleman in our hearing a few days ago; "but don't you know it is best for them under present conditions?" It may be best for them under present conditions, but the conditions are not those that the child can help. He is either the victim of the cupidity, or the laziness of parents, or the avariciousness of employers. We confess that employment in a mill is better than that the child should be turned loose on the streets, and from that aspect of the case it is the duty of the State to provide schools and make attendance compulsory. It is likewise within the province of the State to punish a trifling father for placing his children in a factory to support him in his laziness and drunkenness, on a charge of vagrancy; and to make it, in addition, a misdemeanor not to send his children to school, a school being provided; and also to punish an employer for hiring children, who, in many cases, do the work of an adult person at a child's wages. We sincerely hope our next Legislature will not be hoodwinked by mill-owners, as was the last one. Much could be said along this line, and it is to be hoped that much will be said during the next campaign, particularly by labor organizations.

## Charlie Simmons Shops.

RATTLENAIK BEND, N. C.

MR EDITOR:—My darter Elvina was married last week an' I had ter cum in town, me and Sophy ter do sum shoppin' and git mi beever made over fur the ockasion, so I minded 'hat you wanted me ter say "I saw it in THER HARBINGER" so I acted accordin'. I fust went ter see Mr. Dan Harris, ov the great Steam Dye Works, ter get him ter make mi beaver over fur me an' sorter shape it up, you no. I went in an' asked ter see Mr. Harris. Ther Wurks was shut-down, an' Mr. Harris was er playin' ther pianny ter beat the ban'. I asked him ef this was Harris' great Steam Dye Wurks I had red so much about, an' he stopped playin' and looked me squar in the face an' sed:

"It is; but we had er fire last nite an' I had to move out all ther mashinery. The big Carless enjun got damaged, and Mr. Allin and Kram now has it in soke, er tryin' to git ther drum hed in, or ter git the gunner on good turns with ther gunner ov South Caraliny an' our gunner that got twisted. I hope-I-may-die-ef-it ain't so. Sumthin' I kin do fur you?"

I onwrapped mi beever an' showed it ter him, and he sed he could fix it up in reg'lar weddin' style bi ther time I wanted ter go out. I was much pleased, cos Sophy sed as how I could n't git it fixed. I told him I "Saw it in THER HARBINGER."

"Yes er-er, Wicker—hope-I-may-die-ef-he-ain't er nice feller—does all ther wurk fur the Dye Works—you won't know yer hat fur ther saim when you call fur it \$1.50."

I next went ter see Mr. Kohn, corner Wilmington and Exchange Place. I met Mr. Kohn.

"Valk rhte in; you vos at der rhte plase.—You vos koom py those milk train, ain't it?"

"I saw it in THER HARBINGER," said I.

"Der debbel yer did! Dose vose shust where I vos put 'im. Dot feller Vickers vos the goot friendt of mine alrheady. He vos py so much from me as vot you never see him. Eh?"

I sells you some bhoots so goot as dey never last always py der town clock."

I told him ther last boots I bought in ther city kum all ter peeces.

"Eh? Who sell 'em ter yer? Did yer walk in dose bhoots?"

I told him I did.

"Ten, they vos cavalry bhoots, an' not made ter walk in. Pesides, you vos by dose bhoots from er union klerk, don't it?"

I then bought a good suit of clothes from him for \$14.78, an' went ter see ther Heartt-Warde Company to get one of them thar Self-Freezers. I kalled fur Mr. Applewhite, but he was killin' rats in ther back yard an' Kurnel Grayham Haywood waited on me. I told him "I saw it in THER HARBINGER."

"Right you are, Charlie. If you saw it in THER HARBINGER it is all O. K., cos Wicker iz er membr ov ther White Stone Society, an' what he says iz *White!* Here you are. Put your ice right here, so—an' close down ther lid so—an' the liquid air generated by ther contact with the palsum, eround which ther ice freezes—without any work—an' yer have yer kream jes lak er flicker" (and Kurnel ketched

me an affectionate lick with ther flat side of er saw just below ther waist-band on the north side.)

Kurnel Haywood alwus was humorous—even goin' to *extremis*. I got ther freezer an' went back ter see er about mi hat. 'An said all his hat shapes got burnt in ther fire, an' he had dug a hole in ther ground an' put mi beever in it an' put in a round log of wood an' packed ther dirt eround it so as to "shape it up." The wet dirt had so much ashes in it the hare all kum off, he had cutther hat down er bout 4 inches, an' he put black krape all erraund it ter hide ther white where the hare had kum off.

"By ther great Blackstone! Mister Harris, you have ruined mi hat, sed I."

"No-no-no-er-er see, it iz ther very latest Paris style. Hope-er-ma-die-ef ii ain't," sed the great Daniel.

No more from

your friend till deth,  
CHARLIE SIMMONS.

## WILL GET THE MOST BUSINESS.

After you begin advertising many a man will go home from your store with things that he might have purchased elsewhere had it not been for your ad.

People are buying goods every day. If you are not inviting them to buy of you you cannot blame them if you do not get their trade. Talk to them through their favorite newspaper—tell them the live interesting news of your store and they will come to you to buy their goods. The advertiser who keeps his business prominently before people and asks persistently and often for their trade is the one who will get the most business.—*Charlotte News*.

## WE ALL KNOW HIM.

Here is the very latest taken from one of our North Carolina exchanges which lays bare the heart of the average editor the world over: "How dear to my heart is the steady subscriber who pays in advance at the birth of each year; who lays down his money and does it quite gladly, and casts around the office a halo of cheer. He never says stop it, I can't afford it, nor I'm getting more papers now than I can read; but always says send it, the family likes it—in fact we all think it a real household need. How welcome he is when he steps in the sanctum, how he makes our heart throb, how he makes us dance! We outwardly thank him, we inwardly bless him, the steady subscriber who pays in advance."

—Three things every workingman should do: Join his union, pay his dues and educate himself economically and politically.

—The unionizing of the New York *Sun* and the National Cash Register is another evidence of the growing power of organized labor.

—A new shoe factory is to be built at Mount Holly, N. J.

—This country imported nearly 100,000 goat skins last year.

—The Chinese are wearing a few rubber shoes. This nation exported 1,634 pairs last year.

—There is a class of trade-unionists who would rather fight than eat, and they are successful in securing that which they seek, viz.: plenty of fight and little to eat.