

# THE HARBINGER.

ORGANIZATION, EDUCATION, ELEVATION.

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## THE LITTLE OLD STORE.

Oh, the little old store with the bell on the door,  
That rang as you went out and in,  
With a ting-a-ling ting, as it swung on the spring  
And deafened your ears with its din!  
Oh, the little old store gave measure and more,  
And everything smelled sweet of spice;  
Though 'twas dark, to say, and nothing was  
new  
Yet every thing sold there was nice.

For a quaint little maid, in muslin arrayed,  
Would answer each from the door,  
And smiles sweet and simple played tag with  
the dimple  
In the cheeks of the maid of the store  
I used often to step in the little old shop,  
And sometimes for nothing at all,  
But to just shake the spring and to hear the bell  
ring  
For Nelly to answer its call.

Ah! those times are all o'er, the little old store  
Has vanished with old-fashioned ways;  
Till sometimes it seems as but one of the dreams  
That we have of our boyhood days.  
Though a faint, vague regret comes over me yet  
As I think of those days now no more,  
In my heart I would fain be a glad lad again  
And with Nell in the little old store.

—Roy L. McCardell.

## UNIONS AFTER DIRECT LEGISLATION.

BY HENRY STERLING,  
(Of Boston, in the Typographical Journal.)

For years the platform of the American Federation of Labor has contained a plank demanding direct legislation. Most Central Labor Unions and State Federations declare it to be necessary. Numerous national and international bodies have resolved in favor of it, and our own International Typographical Union has twice set forth its desirability, and urged its members and locals to work for it.

Some trades unions have awakened to the fact that this reform is absolutely essential to the further progress of the labor movement. In Oregon, where a constitutional amendment granting to the people the initiative and referendum has just been approved by the people, the unions were an essential factor in the struggle to wring this concession from the politicians. In Missouri organized labor is lending valuable help in the effort to bring the matter forcibly before the next Legislature. Rhode Island trades unionists assisted in the abortive attempt to secure the referendum from the rulers of that petty principality of plutocracy.

But it is in Massachusetts that the trades unions have been most earnest, active and insistent in their demand for the initiative and referendum. Its power, value and necessity have been more fully recognized by leaders of labor there than elsewhere. In every city of the Commonwealth, and in many of the smaller towns, the unions have discussed and agitated for direct legislation—for the power of the people to make laws for themselves.

A word as to the power of the initiative: There is not a monopoly in existence but what derives its misused power from special privileges made possible by law. Every trust that enslaves labor and robs the public owes its life to iniquitous legislation. The law-makers who met this year, last year, and who will meet next year, are for the barefaced extortions and oppressions which are throttling the aspirations of the poor; for the dumb wail of the Southern factory child; for womanhood blighted by competition for work with those who should be protectors; for the poverty which dwarfs the body, starves the mind and smothers spirituality.

The wrongs which humanity suffers

are legalized. Then why not change the laws?

Last year the Massachusetts Legislature rejected, almost without consideration, over thirty labor bills, clearly righteous, all in the interest of the people; it enacted, almost without opposition, over sixty laws granting various fresh privileges to corporations. Its record this year will be as bad. And it has the reputation of being the most liberal Legislature to labor in the United States. Not by Legislatures will salutary changes be made. The people must act for themselves.

There is little recognition of human rights in any legislative body. Why should there be? A Legislature is itself a close corporation, holding an absolute monopoly of the most precious right of the community—the right to make laws. We stand in the absurd light of creating a monopoly to control the fundamental function of government, and expecting freedom and justice to spring from it. We are foolish enough to grant special privileges to a few in order that all may enjoy equality.

The mother of all monopolies is the monopoly granted to the legislators of the law-making business. Overthrow that, and no more monopolies will be created. Those now sapping the vitals of labor and making liberty a byword and mockery would soon be destroyed by denying their privileges. The initiative and referendum afford equal opportunity for each citizen to take part in making the laws. The attainment of direct legislation means the death-knell of monopoly.

Every year shows a more lively apprehension of these facts by the trade-unionist of the Old Bay State, and each year the demand for the initiative becomes more urgent. Four bills on the subject were presented to this legislature, and when the committee to hear petitioners in favor of the bills met, more than 2,000 advocates flocked to the state house to present their case. Nine-tenths of these were trade-unionists. The bill specifically supported by them provided that constitutional amendments should be submitted to a vote of the people when petitioned for by 50,000 voters. The committee gave to the legislature a unanimous favorable report. After two months of anxious waiting, a final vote showed 129 in favor to 82 against (including pairs), a majority of 37, but still 17 votes short of the two-thirds required for a constitutional amendment.

The unions are indebted to some honest, earnest legislators, who did all they could to carry the measure this year. These will be remembered. Some members show their affiliations in their opposition. These, too, will not be forgotten. Boston Central Labor Union has already ordered that the roll-call on the bill shall be printed and circulated as thickly as possible in every district in the state. The result will be to make the unions more determined than ever to attain the initiative and referendum.

By order of the city council, the label appears on all municipal printing at Salem, Ohio. Good for No. 441.

Minneapolis unionists have ideas upon the exclusion of the Chinese, and they are putting them into effect by boycotting restaurants and all other branches of business in which the wily Mongolians are interested.

## "WOULD CHRIST BELONG TO A LABOR UNION?"

Rev. Cortland Myers, D. D., has endeavored to answer this question in a book he has written which bears the above title. The book is in romance form, having as characters David Dowling a minister of the gospel, whom the author makes the vehicle of his opinions on this question, through conversations and sermons; Henry Fielding, a union working man, and his sister, Elsie; Grace Chalmers, a young woman of wealth, consecrated to philanthropy, and Richard Harding, a fellow member and fellow workman of Fielding's.

Passing by the romance and love-making features of the book, and considering the vital question, it is interesting to know that the author has answered it emphatically in the affirmative—Christ would belong to a labor union! Not, as some one has facetiously said, because, in certain localities he would be obliged to, if he wanted to work at his trade, but because the fundamental principles of trades-unionism are correct and their soundness no more vitiated by the existence of malcontents than those of the Christian religion because of the presence of hypocrites.

There was naturally some curiosity to know what the author would say on this subject, and his handling of it is an agreeable surprise. To be sure, he condemns violence while upholding the working man's right to organize.

It is unfortunate that his solution of the labor and capital question appears so impracticable. For to achieve entire success it will be necessary for every working man and every employer to look at the great industrial question as Rev. Mr. Myers looks at it, which involves thorough consecration to the Supreme Being and the utter rout of selfishness from the human soul. And that would be the millennium!

So, too, if this same selfishness were eliminated there would be no further need of jails, courts, police, asylums, poor-houses—indeed, we would need no government of any kind! IF! But while that long word of two letters—really the longest word in the language—exists the irrepressible conflict will go on, and all we can hope to do is to have the law, which was set in motion to curb selfishness, to intervene in labor disputes as it does in other disagreements, and settle them rationally and justly, without resort to open warfare.

I never knew but one other minister of the gospel who talked and wrote like Rev. Mr. Myers, and he was Rev. Harry Cassell, an Episcopalian and a union printer. Would there were more!

Far be it from me to discourage the efforts of this author to settle the great question of labor and capital, but the remedy proposed, while I would hail its universal acceptance with joy, in the light of past experience seems such a far cry that it leaves little to be hoped for. Were labor as a whole to drop all other efforts at equitable adjustment and wait for the thorough evangelization of the world—what more could capital ask?—J. J. DIRKS, of Boston, in Typographical Journal.

## DOOLEY ON THE LABEL.

"Did ye say 'Wot's the union label?' Hogan? Listen to me fer a short space and ye'll know.

"The' union label, Hogan, is a sign that th' trusts don't make everything. T' use th' words of what's-his-name, is th' world th' bright an' shinin' stor that shows t' th' world th' strength uv th' workin' man an' also a club. t' knock th' divuls out in th' scab fac'trys. When ye see th' label on th' shoes ye can make up yer mind that th' man that made them had pie fer dinner last Sunday. When ye see th' same on yer clothes ye know that ye won't ketch th' smallpox from wearin' them. Whin, Hogan, ye see th' label on th' paper ye read, ye know that no matter whither its Raypublican or Dimmycrat or middle of th' Road Prohibitionists, th' gang set it up had a few pennies in their pockets Saturday night. I tell ye, Hogan, 'tis a great thing. Whin ye go t' buy yourself a hat, Hogan, don't let th' man tell ye that 'ye look nice in that wun, sir,' until ye's looked for th' hat makers' label. 'Wot good will all this do ye,' d'ye say, Hogan? "Hogan, ye're an ass. Don't ye see that whin th' gang gets paid \$10 a week they can pay fer more groceries than they cu'd on \$6? Hogan, ye're a dead head."

## ORGANIZATION PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS.

The old, old question is still being asked: "Does it pay to organize?" The writer has made a number of investigations of late as to results obtained by organization. Take for illustration our own industry. It is shown that Brockton, which is the best organized shoe town in the world, pays nearly 10 per cent. higher wages than its nearest competitor.

Perhaps the notable example of the big dividends which organization pays is in the mining industry.

In the anthracite coal district in Alabama the miners were almost wholly unorganized prior to 1897. Their wages at that time were 37½ cents a ton for mining coal and the 10-hour day prevailed. Ten thousand miners have been organized in that state since 1867, and they have reduced the hours of labor to nine per day, and increased the wages 17½ cents a ton. A miner can mine 100 tons a month, this would indicate an increase in wages of \$17.50 a month.

Take the Seaman's Union. The secretary at New York has informed the writer recently that a thorough organization of the seamen on the Atlantic coast has resulted in an increase of wages from \$7 to \$15 a month. Not only have their wages been increased but other reforms have been won by uniting.

How often do we read in the daily press of union brickmasons, carpenters, plumbers, hod-carriers, and other well organized crafts demanding the 8-hour day and from 35 cents to 50 cents per hour for wages.

These illustrations might be continued at such length as to fill the Journal.

The biggest dividend-paying institution that the wage workers can invest in is the trade union movement.—Boston Shoe Workers' Journal.

## A CURIOSITY OF COINAGE.

A writer describing a visit to the United States Mint in Philadelphia, says in part:

"A peculiar thing about the coinage system of the United States is that the government loses money in coining gold, but makes a big profit in coining pennies. For instance, in a \$10 gold piece there is exactly \$10 worth of gold and 10 per cent. of copper—put in to harden the precious metal—besides the cost of mining. A silver piece of money is about half profit, but the penny pays Uncle Sam best of all, as the blanks are purchased at the rate of \$7,300 per million. That is, the United States government obtains for 73-10 cent the copper blanks, which, by the process of stamping, are transformed into one dollar's worth of pennies.

"The Philadelphia mint is the oldest in the United States, and turns out every year millions upon millions of dollars' worth of gold, silver and copper coins. Each day, from 9 till 12 in the morning, visitors pass up the broad marble steps which lead to the entrance of the building. Guides are stationed at the door to receive and conduct visitors from room to room, and explain the process of coining. In one vault of the mint millions of silver dollars are tied up in bags and stacked against the wall like so much corn. In another vault are piles of gold bricks laid in regular order. In another room the gold and silver bricks are cast into long strips just the width of the coins, and from these strips the coins are cut by machines with heavy punches. In other rooms girls sit in front of large machines, and feed the blank coins into a tube, which drops them one by one between two dies. The dies come together with enormous pressure, and stamp the beautiful impression seen on all our coins. Pennies drop from the stamping machine at the rate of 100 per minute; silver dollars and \$5 gold pieces at the rate of 80 per minute. The bright new coins are gathered up—the pennies look more like gold than copper—and counted by a girl who uses a device known as a counting board, which reckons 500 at a time."

## A JUST DECISION.

That a union has a legal right to deny admission to an applicant was established by the decision of the Supreme Court of New York in the case of James Lynch against the Compact Labor Club of Marble Cutters' Helpers. Lynch applied for membership on March 22, 1901, and claimed he paid \$100 as an initiation fee and thereafter received notice of the union's meetings. On April 7, 1901, the treasurer returned him the \$100, saying that the union had rejected his application. He then instituted suit to compel it to admit him. When the case came to trial the counsel for the union admitted that the \$100 was paid the union, and that it gave Lynch a probation card which entitled him to all the rights of membership until his name was voted upon and the union finally rejected him, but contended that the union had a perfect right to do so, and no man could force himself into the union through any court. Justice Greenbaum, before whom the case was tried, sustained this view and denied plaintiff's motion for mandamus.