

State Library

THE HARBINGER.

ORGANIZATION. EDUCATION. ELEVATION.

Vol. II.

Raleigh, North Carolina, October 31, 1903.

No. 43

HOW IT HAPPENED.

They say in Beaumont, Texas,
Where oil wells by the score
Their wealth of greasy richness
Into the big tanks pour,
That Mr. Rockefeller,
Who thought to call a halt
On independent gushers,
Just pumped 'em full of salt.

Of course it was base slander
Upon the goodly man.
He only thought to help them
By this peculiar plan.
He saw they were inclining
Towards the sins of flesh,
And thereby were becoming
Entirely too fresh.

And Mr. Rockefeller,
Who saw the dangers dread
That faced their souls was troubled,
And sadly bowed his head.
And bowing then he trembled
And neither ate nor slept,
But interceded for them
And wept, and wept, and wept.

And thus the explanation
For all the salt they found
In oil wells down in Texas
Where oil wells do abound.
'Twas not a game he played 'em—
Not in a thousand years—
'Twas but the natural sequence
Of Rockefeller's tears.

SELECTED SAYINGS.

Working people should remember that their votes elect the judges who interpret the law in favor of the men who employ them.—Union Leader.

The capitalistic tool, who is eager to pump hot air into the toiler, in the way of explaining the mutual dependence of capital and labor, will be just as anxious to pump cold lead into him, if he thinks the occasion demands it.—L. T. Fisher.

Why do workingmen persist in voting to send the employer to the Legislature, and expect their interests to be looked after? Why not elect men from their own ranks to fill the offices?—The Metal Worker.

"Remember," said the good preacher to complaining workingman, "that the good Lord never sent any little mouths to this world that he didn't send the food to feed them with." "Right you are," said the worker, "but somehow he sends the little mouths to my house and the food to yours."—Ohio Socialist.

The miners seek gold in the veins of the mountains—the capitalist gets his gold from the veins of the workingmen!—W. S. Waudby, in Typographical Journal.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT—ITS REAL MEANING.

The labor movement in its broadest term is the effort of men to live the lives of men. It is a systematic, organized struggle of the masses to obtain primarily more leisure and larger economic resources; but that is not by any means all, because the end and purpose of all is a richer existence for the toilers, and that with respect to mind, soul and body. Half conscious though it be, the labor movement is a power pushing toward the attainment of the purpose of humanity; in other words, the end of the growth of mankind—namely, the full and harmonious development in each individual of all human faculties of working, perceiving, knowing, loving; in fact, the development of whatever capabilities of good that there may be in man.—Professor R. T. Ely.

TRADE AGREEMENTS.

Upon the trade agreement is founded the hope of future peace in the industrial world. It brings to the wage-earner what all the beneficent schemes in the past have failed to give—a real co-operation between the employer and workman, a voice in the adjustment of conditions of labor. The various co-operative plans inaugurated from time to time by philanthropic employers are an acknowledgment that the toiler should have some part in the conduct of the industry, but they rarely stimulate the workmen to any marked extent, and seldom give him any vital interest in the business.

The employes of the United States Steel Corporation could not, at the present rate of subscription, gain control of the stock within three centuries even should the stock not be increased during that period. Co-operation between employer and employe, in a real sense, does not consist of the grant of small favors and privileges, or even the payment of premiums.

While individual employes have given lavishly, except in a few instances, the influence of these benefactions is small. To create a model town, to establish libraries, gymnasiums, natatoriums and assembly rooms for workingmen is certainly praiseworthy, but oftentimes these gifts involve such a dependence of the workmen upon his employer as to make it impossible for him to present reasonable demands for the correction of grievances. After all is said and done, it is not charity but justice which the American workingman desires. Whether good or evil in their purpose and in their result, these benefactions do not constitute real co-operation, which can be obtained only through the trade agreement. The trade agreement represents the highest form of co-operation in modern history, and is the clearest and most unmistakable recognition of the importance of labor to capital and of capital to labor.

The formation of a trade agreement which will be satisfactory to both sides and will meet with the approval of all parties, is by no means easy. Those who declare that workingmen have no ability for self-government should study the making of trade agreements, which, with the conference preceding them, call for no mean degree of intelligence and conservatism upon the part of the workingmen, and, added to these qualities, diplomacy and skill upon the part of the leaders. In order that they may go into the conference with a basis of reasonable demands upon which to negotiate, one section of workmen may have to make concessions in favor of another, and not infrequently the entire body must postpone the presentation of justifiable demands until a more opportune time. In order that an agreement may be lived up to, it must be fair to both sides; hence employes

must appreciate the position of the employers; and even if it were possible, it is unwise to insist upon terms that are ruinous to employers. The problems taken up and discussed are complex, and require an unusual degree of technical knowledge. The workingmen, or their representatives, must be thoroughly informed concerning every factor entering into the question of the ability of the employers to meet their demands.

They must appreciate the difference between what is desirable and what is attainable, and must exercise an unusual degree of self-restraint.

Apart from its democratic character and its recognition of the rights and obligations of both sides, the chief advantage of the trade agreement lies in the insight which it gives employer and employe into the conditions under which work is performed and the manner in which the business of the industry is carried on. Prior to the advent of the trade agreement workingmen were apt to exaggerate the profits of their employers, and, often without cause, to believe that they were being unjustly dealt with. Employers, on the other hand, many times failed to understand the effect upon the wages of workingmen of advancing prices and an augmented cost of living, and were liable to obtain from their foreman a false conception of the conditions under which their employes lived. Often, too, a feeling of superiority over workingmen and their representatives, manifested itself, but this as a result of the trades agreements, more particularly as a result of the conferences leading up to them—is being obliterated.

Joint agreements are treaties of peace determining the conditions under which the industry will be conducted for a year or more; and such agreements have been scrupulously maintained, sacrifice of considerable temporary advantage, employers as well as workmen showing a gratifying tendency to live to the spirit as well as to the letter of the agreement.

It must not be supposed that the trade agreement will entirely prevent all strikes. I think there is no doubt that it will minimize such industrial disturbances. By preventing or correcting misunderstandings, by bringing each side to appreciate the views of the other, by creating a friendlier feeling between employer and employe, and, finally, by making strikes and lockouts—when they must be resorted to—so widespread, general and expensive that they will be avoided. It will bring to the conduct of large industries, employers and workmen ready to arrange their respective affairs in a sane and business-like manner, and with each passing year the industries in which trade agreements prevail will become established on a firmer and more permanent foundation of peace.—Rochester (N. Y.) Labor Journal.

Take THE HARBINGER.

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL.

The Unions of Los Angeles to Form a Strong Central Organization.

[Special Correspondence.]

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Oct. 28.

The various unions of this city identified with the building industry soon will be formed into a strong Building Trades' Council, officers of the State Council having recently been in Los Angeles and perfected plans to this end. This determination is very timely, and as the fact has developed at a recent meeting of the Boss' Builders' Association, it was decided to adopt a "uniform scale" on and after November 1, meaning that the "bosses" would attempt to enforce a scale lower than those of the various unions. Of course, this latest move to fight the unions is backed by the notorious Los Angeles Times, whose mission is to organize every union-hater into one camp, and then use the camp in the interest of Otis. But from present indications, it appears that the Building Trades' Council will be more than a match for the scab contractors, notwithstanding the fact that they are endeavoring to flood the city with idle mechanics, to be used when the "uniform scale" goes in effect.

The Building Trades' Unions are being aided and encouraged by every union in Los Angeles, as organized labor in this city has learned that "an injury to one is the concern of all."

Union men and women everywhere can help their fellow-unionists in Southern California by rapping the infamous Times at every opportunity.

Let every reader of THE HARBINGER write one letter to each of the following advertisers in the Times:

- Carrara Paint, 811 Carrara Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio.
- "Santal Middy"—E. Faugera, 26 North William street, New York, N. Y.
- Royal Baking Powder Co., 100 William St., New York, N. Y.
- Philo-Hay Specialties Co., New York, N. Y.
- "Castoria"—The Centaur Co., 77 Murray street, New York, N. Y.
- Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.
- "Postum"—Postum Cereal Company, Battle Creek, Mich.
- Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.
- Scott's Emulsion—Scott & Brown, 409 Pearl street, New York, N. Y.
- Ghirardelli's Ground Chocolate—D. Ghirardelli, San Francisco, Cal.

CRACKER PACKERS STILL STRIKING.

The cracker packers and bakers of Chicago are still at war with the National Biscuit Company, and at a largely attended meeting refused to go back to work for the Cracker Trust until they were recognized as a union and union wages were paid.

The Boston and Main railroad has made a general increase in freight rates of one cent for every hundred pounds of freight. The shoe manufacturers of Haverhill do not take kindly to the measure, as it means a considerable item in their yearly expense.

THE TRAMP AND THE SOCKS.

The following is not a fairy tale, but is a story taken right out of life:

"In Rome, N. Y., on Christmas eve, 1878, Mrs. Jennie Yarmouth gave Geo. W. Todd, a friendless tramp, a pair of heavy knit socks. He was so grateful that he left with her his personal note for \$5,000 in payment. To please him, Mrs. Yarmouth kept the note. Last spring Todd died, leaving \$52,000 in cash and not a relative. The court appointed an administrator. Mrs. Yarmouth hunted up the old note and entered suit, recovering \$5,000 and interest on the face of the note."

Both winter and tramps are coming on apace and Charlotte housekeepers who want to try their luck with a pair of socks will doubtless have abundant opportunity. The kind that Mrs. Yarmouth bestowed upon the tramp was heavy knit and presumably all wool, but probably any old kind will do. The time for bestowing the socks, however, ought to be on Christmas eve, for that is probably where the luck comes in. The probabilities are that if Mrs. Yarmouth had given the socks on any other day, she would not have drawn the prize. Save your socks and watch out for the Christmas eve tramp. No telling but that you might strike a Santa Clause in disguise. Any day is a good time to cast bread on the water, but Christmas eve is the time to throw socks at tramps.—Charlotte Observer.

PRINTERS ENJOINED.

In the case of the Republican News Publishing Company, Publishers and Proprietors of the Hamilton (O.) Daily Republican News against Hamilton Typographical Union No. 290, the Hamilton Co-operative Trades and Labor Council, and the Non-parallel Printing Company, Judge E. A. Belden, of the common pleas court last week granted the News the injunction asked for and sustained the contention in every particular.

The petition set forth that the defendants had illegally conspired against the paper by instituting a boycott against it; had appointed committees to tell Hamilton merchants that the Republican News was unfair and that if the merchants patronized it or the company, they would be boycotted themselves, and it asked that the defendants be restrained from in any way threatening, intimidating, coercing or boycotting the publishing company, or any of its patrons.

The court held that a boycott is unlawful, the word itself implying a threat.

It also held to be unlawful for one person to induce another to break his contract. The liberty of making contracts, it held, was absolutely essential to the acquisition, possession and protection of property, and it was right of every person to employ in his business whoever he saw fit, so long as he did not violate morals or the public health or welfare.

This is another taste of Roosevelt's "open shop" medicine.

THE CIVIC CONFERENCE.

In the event that financial depression comes, President Gompers of the American Federation gave out on Saturday last a warning against the cutting down of wages, and a plea for harmony between employers and toilers by Senator Hanna was made at the closing of the National Civic conference.

Mr. Gompers had listened to the argument of the representatives of capital and labor, who had come from various parts of the country to discuss questions that would bring them closer together. In reply to one of the speakers, the editor of a New York paper, who at the meeting the day before told the employes in the event of a possible financial reaction not make any unreasonable demands upon the employers. Mr. Gompers spoke of the harm that would follow any attempt to lower wages.

Senator Hanna, as did a number of other speakers, including those for capital and labor, advised conservatism in all disputes between both sides and praised this element of labor organizations.

Labor leaders and employers believe that the conference has done much in bringing the wage-earners and capitalists together in an effort to establish more harmonious relations.

By the way, Mr. Workingman—you who tramped several miles on Labor Day, displaying yourself to an admiring crowd of spectators,—was your daughter, your wife or your sweetheart in attendance at the fashion show in New York? No? Well, that's strange. The head of the Department of Commerce and Labor was there, and naturally I supposed the women and girls who fashioned those fine dresses, and made the cloth, and spun the thread, and stood over the looms, were there. You say their clothes were not fit? Well, that's too bad. It seems, then, that this fashion show was for those who wore the fine clothes but did not make them—and it develops that those made the clothes do not wear them.

Dr. Broughton, Atlanta's sensational preacher, is doing a gospel job in Macon, and here is what he said in one of his sermons about the society women of his home town: "I can count 125 saloons in Atlanta," he said. "Now, how many have you here? How many clubs where whiskey is sold without license have you? In Atlanta they have them without number, and these clubs, why in Atlanta I have known society women to go to them and get so drunk that they had to be put in a cab to be sent home. I know one society woman who was so drunk it took four men to put her in a cab. How many men does it take to put a drunken society woman in a cab down here?" —Fla. Labor Journal. We thank God we have none of that kind of society people in Raleigh.