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ORGANIZATION, EDUCATION, ELEVATION.

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No. 17

"ONLY A WORKING GIRL."
 I know I am "only a working girl,"
 Yet I'm not ashamed to say
 I belong to the ranks of those who toil
 For a living day by day.
 With willing feet I press along
 In the path it is mine to tread,
 Glad that I have the strength and skill
 To earn my daily bread.
 I belong to the "lower classes,"
 That's a phrase we often meet;
 There are some who sneer at us working
 girls
 As they pass us on the street.
 We are only the "lower classes,"
 But the Sacred Records tell
 That when the Christ, our Master,
 Came down on earth to dwell,
 He was one of the "lower classes,"
 And He had to toil for bread—
 So poor that at times He had no place
 On which to lay His head.
 He dwelt not with the rich and mighty
 Under gilded palace dome,
 But with the poor and the laboring,
 He chose to make His home.
 Ah! wealth and high position
 Should seem of little worth
 To us whose fellow-laborer
 Is the King of Heaven and Earth.
 So, working girl, when you meet with
 scorn,
 Just lift your head in pride;
 The shield of honest womanhood
 Can turn such sneers aside;
 And some day 'twill be understood
 That the purest, truest pearl
 Amid the gems of womanhood
 Is the honest working girl.
 —I. H. HERDMAN.

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.
 If you have a gray haired mother
 In the old home far away,
 Sit you down and write the letter
 You put off from day to day.
 Don't wait until her weary steps
 Reach Heaven's pearly gate,
 But show her that you think of her
 Before it is too late.
 If you have a tender message
 Or a loving word to say,
 Don't wait till you forget it,
 But whisper it today.
 Who knows what bitter memories
 May haunt you if you wait?
 So make your loved one happy
 Before it is too late.
 The tender word unspoken,
 The letters never sent,
 The long-forgotten messages,
 The wealth of love unspent—
 For these some hearts are breaking,
 For these some loved ones wait.
 Show them that you care for them
 Before it is too late.
 —Geo. B. Griffith, in La Porte City Press.

UNCLE HIRMAN ON CITY LIFE.
 Yes, it's lively in the city, where they've
 got their "lectric lights."
 And the people soon have wrinkles from
 their stayin' out o' nights;
 They've got shows and things to keep
 'em from a-gittin' lonesome there,
 And they look all-fired stylish in the
 costly clo's they wear.
 But I guess they have their troubles just
 the same as me and you,
 And I reckon that they're often ruther
 worse'n ours, too.
 We've got wood piled in the woodshed
 that'll last a year or so,
 And there's more out where that come
 from and more saplin's still to grow;
 We ain't worried over coal strikes, let the
 cold winds blow away;
 We can carry in the billets and not have
 a cent to pay;
 While they're shiverin' up yonder where
 they've got so much to see
 We can heat up fer the babies that the
 Lord sent you and me.
 There is always somethin' doin' to make
 city people sad;
 If it ain't a sausage famine, why you'll
 hear the water's bad;
 When the strikers stop the street cars
 then the dickens is to pay,
 And the people have to foot it, gittin'
 clubbed along the way,
 And the fever epidemics and the small-
 pox every year
 Keep the city people stewin', and I'm
 glad to live out here.
 Oh it's quiet in the country and there's
 few uncommon sights,
 But with 'taters in the cellar and with
 wood piled in the shed,
 When there's hay stacked in the hay-
 mows for the stock that must be fed,
 They can have their noisy city, with the
 sights up there to see,
 And the kind old quiet country will be
 good enough for me.
 —S. E. KISER, in Chicago Record-
 Herald.

Labor Notes.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie was elected to fill the vacancy in the Nation Civic Federation, caused by the death of Senator Hanna.

At a conference between representatives Quarry Workers' Union and employes the present wage scale was agreed to for two more years.

The custom tailors of the Boston Tailoring Company went on strike because the company decided to run an open shop. The strike was indorsed by the local union.

The Legal Aid Society of Philadelphia is doing a good work. This society furnishes legal aid free to those too poor so hire lawyers.

The master bakers of Chicago have reduced the size of five cent loaves of bread two ounces. The smaller loaf they claim is necessary because of the increased cost of flour.

The strike of the weavers of the Dartmouth mills in New Bedford was lost by the strikers, the weavers from the Whitman mills having taken their places.

The good offices of the State Board of Arbitration averted what threatened to be a serious strike between the Cincinnati teamsters and their employers.

The cooks and waitresses of the Y. W. C. A., of New Haven, Ct., went on a strike after the management refused to pay any attention to their claim that they were being overworked. The boarders were forced to get their own suppers and wash the dishes.

An association was formed in Chicago, embracing the chairmen of the different committees of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. The object of this association is to bring about uniform conditions for engineers on all the railroad systems of the country.

At a meeting of the Lithographers' Subordinate Association No. 1, of New York, held March 19, President Wm. F. Long announced that all the Chicago firms had withdrawn from the Employers' Association and made peace with their employes.

A combination looking to consolidate all the employes in the different departments of the N. Y. N. and H. railroad system in one union is claimed to be well under way. The union will comprise over 10,000 members. The combination was hastened by the recent wholesale reduction in the number of employes.

The disposition of independent unions to affiliate with the A. F. of A. L. is growing. March 7th the Building Laborers' Union No. 15 of Boston, with 1900 members, and Plasterers' Tenders' Union with over 300 members joined the Hod Carriers and Building Laborers' Union affiliated with the A. F. of L., and almost 1,000 members of the Italian Laborers' Union applied for a charter.

TELL US WHICH.

MR. EDITOR:—I noticed a paragraph in your Editorial Notes in which you say that the proper way to get rid of trusts is to vote with the party that is against them.

I am persuaded that you are correct in this statement, but you should have gone farther and told your readers what party is against trusts, so as to enable them to vote intelligently.

I must confess that I am one of your readers that will have to plead ignorance as to which party I will have to vote with to down the trusts.

We are told by the Democrats that their party is the trust-burster, and that the Republican party is the trust-builder—and we have heard this so much until like all other things so oft repeated, we have come very near believing it. You know a man can tell a lie until he can believe it himself to be a fact.

Now, let us look a little along this line at a few facts.

The only anti-trust law we have on our statute books was framed by a Republican, Sherman, it was passed by a Republican House and Senate, and signed by a Republican President, Mr. Harrison.

Immediately following the passage of the Sherman anti-trust law, Mr. Cleveland was elected to his second term as President on the Democratic ticket as the representative of the party that claimed to be so bitterly opposed to trusts. Did his administration make an effort to enforce the Sherman act? We think not. On the other hand, Mr. Olney, the Attorney-General, said the law was unconstitutional, and, therefore, he would not try to enforce it. The Chief Executive said the same thing, and so nothing whatever was done to hold the much-dreaded trusts in check.

Mr. Cleveland was defeated and another Republican took charge.

Mr. Knox, the Attorney General under the new administration, instead of saying the law was unconstitutional, and therefore he would not try to enforce it, concluded he would leave that to the Supreme Court of the United States to decide.

Suit was brought against the Northern Securities Company, thereby getting the law before the highest court in the land. And instead of this court being of the same idea as Mr. Olney and Mr. Cleveland, it has decided that the law was constitutional.

Now, let us go a little farther, and look into the political aspect of this decision. Every judge of the Supreme Court of the United States who concurred in this opinion was a Republican, while, on the other hand, every judge that dissented was a Democrat.

Let's go a little farther yet. There will soon be nominated by both parties a candidate for President of this great country. Among the aspirants for the nomination on the Democratic ticket is a Mr. Hearst, who, according to his own statements and actions, is an avowed enemy of the trusts. There has sprung up great opposition to him, and the greatest efforts are being made to defeat him for the nomination, and as you know, and all others who read, and can read between the lines know, the foundation of the opposition to him is because it is not thought he can control enough support from the monied interests of the country to insure his election.

We acknowledge, without argument, that the Republican party is a trust-fosterer, and we are inclined to think, from the above facts, that the Democratic party is not inclined to be a trust-burster.

So will you please tell us with which party to cast our votes in order to do great damage to the trusts?

The Populist party made a brave effort to down the trusts, and placed at the head of their National ticket a Mr. Bryan, who was also at the head of the Democratic ticket; but instead of accomplishing their purpose, we are told that they have both burst, and none rejoice more at their downfall than a big element of the Democratic party.

It would appear from the above facts that, of the two old parties, the Republican has rather the best of the argument as to the trust business. A SUBSCRIBER.

Organized labor has cause to rejoice in the decision of the Oregon Supreme Court declaring the initiative and referendum constitutional, and the decision of the Kansas Supreme Court declaring the eight-hour law constitutional.

ROOM AT THE TOP.

Every man should have a trade. Every man should be a master of that trade. There are too many masters, though sometimes there seems to be too many men. There is always room for the masters.

One of the serious troubles of every enterprise, every mill, every industry, is to obtain competent men to run it. The man who is sober, industrious, competent and a master of his trade, is as sure to be at the head of some enterprise as he is of life. He is sure to obtain fair, if not high wages, as there is not any surety that industries will continue to flourish.

Trade unions are not so much needed for the masters as for the followers in a trade. If there were more of the spirit of the mastery of trade, among the men who follow it for a livelihood, there would be fewer strikes and no need for them at all. One of the great necessities for trade unions is the lack of masterful knowledge of trade, together with the inevitable helplessness and lack of initiative, which makes so many men weak and dependent.

Trades unions will always be necessary and always beneficial, but their effectiveness would be greatly enhanced and their benefits would be much better distributed if they had a higher average of competence and a lower average of competence to deal with.

That is the general reason why every man should strive to be a master of his trade. The personal and the most powerful reason is that he would not only be independent himself, but he would be more effective and benevolent in helping his less fortunate fellow-workman. He would always find room at the top for himself, and would be in a better position to assist his neighbors and to train his sons, as he ought to do, in the same trade. There will be room for them, too, at the top.—Norfolk Unionist.

MAY I SAY IT AGAIN?

William Thompson, the office boy to a large firm of publishers, was a smart lad, and when recently he was sent to one of the operative departments with a message he noticed at once that something was wrong with the machinery. He returned, gave the alarm, and thus prevented much damage. This was reported to the head of the firm, who sent for Willie.

"You have done me very great service, my lad," said the chief. "In future your wages will be increased by 50 cents weekly."

"Thank you, sir," said the bright little fellow, "I will do my best to be worth it."

The reply struck the chief almost as much as the lad's previous service had done.

"That's the right spirit, my lad," he said. "In all the years I have been in business no one has ever thanked me in that way. I will make the increase 75 cents. Now, what do you say to that?" "Well, sir," said Willie, after a moment's hesitation, "would you mind if I said it again?"

OPEN SHOP VARIATION

An edict of the Chicago bank forbidding those of its employes, receiving less than \$1,000.00 salary per year, to marry without first receiving consent of employes is only one of the variations of the "Open Shop."

It represents just what the "Open Shop" stands for and what the "Open Shop" policy is leading to.

These employers would become highly indignant if they were accused of attacking the institution of marriage. They would reply that they were taking business as they saw fit, or that it was nobody's business, they had a right to introduce such rules as pleased them in their own business.

If their was an attempt made to pass a law limiting marriage to the recipients of a yearly income of \$1,000.00 or more, it would be instantly and universally condemned. Nevertheless there is nothing to hinder every employer, who would care to, and for any cause that he may consider sufficient to himself, from forbidding any of his employes, receiving a salary less than \$800.00, or \$400.00 or \$1,500.00 a year, to marry.

Attempts on the part of employes to become marital dictators are ridiculous, as is also the contention that the decree of the Chicago bank is a protective measure.

A \$1,000.00 yearly salary is not the defining line of honesty. As a matter of fact those bank employes married and receiving over one thousand dollars a year have proved to a larger extent to be unfaithful to their trust than those married and receiving less salary than one thousand dollars a year.

Those who are not honest enough to withstand the temptation to appropriate bank funds, will not be made more straightforward by this absurd bank ruling.

A bank needs honest employes; if it cannot secure them, it needs a system that will protect against those whom temptation makes dishonest, and the bank is protected to just the extent that the opportunities for misappropriation are lessened.

The ridiculously low salaries paid to bank employes are a fruitful source of dishonesty, and not marriage on less than a thousand dollars a year.

The banking environment and the measly salaries paid to those holding subordinate position are in themselves restraining influences against marriage and far more conducive to dishonesty than anything else, unless, possibly, native thieving instincts of some individual employes.—Shoeworkers' Journal.

Cotton planting is going on all over the State. Some farmers have cotton above the ground. It takes a 12,000,000-bale crop this year, and the price will not fall lower than 10c. per pound, if that low, but may go to 15c. But make your food first and have cotton as a surplus crop. See?

A SAD CONDITION.

MR. EDITOR:—She was standing on the street, and as I was passing by I noticed tears were trickling down her faded cheeks—a more pitiful-looking human being would be hard to find. On her face was depicted sorrow, despondency and remorse. Perhaps she was thinking of the past—when she was full of the purity of womanly virtue, when life seemed full of promise, and all was sunshine and roses.

But alas! her life had been cast upon the unknown sea of human events, and had sunk to its greatest depths. She had heard the treacherous praise of the scheming flatterer, and, listening to his smooth-sounding words, had fell—where? To the lowest stage of life—to the life of a prostitute—with its brawls and revelry, with its shame and misery.

She had just been acquitted by a jury of her countrymen of retailing whiskey without license. Not, perhaps, because she was not guilty, but because the hearts of the jurymen were full of the milk of human kindness.

Her story was, indeed, a sad one. An outcast from home, her health shattered and gone, with no one to turn to for aid or advice, she was, indeed, to be pitied. She was advised to return again to the home from which she had been so long absent, and appeal and ask once more for the parental love which she had so foolishly trampled under foot.

But afraid of being denied entrance into the home circle which she had so cruelly wronged, and seeing her last faint ray of hope shattered forever, may require more courage than is left in the frail, nervous, wornout body.

If she were to apply to that home for readmission and seek a chance to purge herself of sin and Satan and were refused. What then? Christian, ask yourself—what then? Society—what then? But there is a hope, thank God—for we are told:

"While the lamp holds out to burn
 The vilest sinner may return."

A SUBSCRIBER.

19,000,000 JEWS

Prof. Haman, who recently made a rough census of the Jews of the world, concludes that there are now nearly 11,000,000 in Europe and 8,000,000 outside of Europe. The United States has 1,000,000.

In Europe, Russia has 5,500,000; Austria-Hungary, 1,860,000; Germany, 568,000; Roumania, 300,000; Great Britain, 200,000; Turkey, 120,000; Holland, 97,000; France, 77,000; Italy, 57,000; Bulgaria, 31,000; Switzerland, 12,000; Greece, 6,000; Servia, 5,000; Denmark, 4,000; Sweden, 3,500; Belgium, 3,000; Spain, 2,500. Portugal has only 300 Jewish residents.

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