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THE MINERS MAGAZINE

INDEPENDENCE
EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

Published Weekly by the

WESTERN FEDERATION OF MINERS

DENVER, COLO

January 6th
1910.

Volume XI.
Number 341



WEALTH
BELONGS TO THE
PRODUCER THEREOF



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EDUCATION INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

MINERS MAGAZINE



Denver, Colorado,
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UNIONS ARE REQUESTED to write some communication each month for publication. Write plainly, on one side of paper only; where ruled paper is used write only on every second line. Communications not in conformity with this notice will not be published. Subscribers not receiving their Magazine will please notify this office by postal card, stating the numbers not received. Write plainly, as these communications will be forwarded to the postal authorities.

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John M. O'Neill, Editor.

Address all communications to Miners Magazine,
Room 605 Railroad Building, Denver, Colo.

Card of the Homestake Mining Co.

Lead, S. D.,.....19....

I am not a member of any Labor Union and in consideration of my being employed by the HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY agree that I will not become such while in its service.

Department

Occupation

NOTICE TO SECRETARIES.

Telluride, Colorado, Dec. 24, 1909.

At the last regular meeting of Telluride Miners' Union I was instructed to send the following notice to Miners Magazine for publication:

Any person leaving Telluride without a paid-up card in Telluride Miners' Union No. 63 is declared unfair to organized labor by this local and secretaries are warned not to take them in locals until they communicate with the Secretary of Telluride Miners' Union No. 63.

(Seal)

R. A. GREGG, Secretary.

THE STEEL TRUST plant at Gary, Indiana, is known as the "Slave pen."

SINCE COOK has been branded as a fakir, Zelaya banished from his graft and Leopold became a memory of degeneracy, the press may be able to give its readers a change of literary diet.

THE SUPREME COURT of the State of California has upheld the validity of the eight-hour law. The court in handing down its decision ruled, however, that miners must go and return from work on their own time.

THE CHICAGO FEDERATION of Labor has sent out a large poster notifying the members of organized labor that a technical publication known as "Popular Mechanics" is printed in a non-union shop and is therefore unfair to organized labor. This publication is now supported in a great measure by trade unionists, and it is the desire of the Chicago Federation of Labor that union men shall not give their patronage to a publication that scorns to recognize the labor movement.

THE CASE of Preston and Smith will come before the pardoning board of Nevada in a few days, and every effort will be made for the liberation of these men who were convicted through prejudice instead of evidence.

THERE ARE 200,000 men and women in the city of New York who are willing to work, but are unable to obtain employment. The glorious orb of prosperity is certainly shedding some rays of splendor on the Empire City.

THE COURT of Appeals of the State of Texas has knocked out the eight-hour law for telegraphers. The decision is based on the grounds that the law is in conflict with the federal statutes. The courts can be relied on to protect the interests of the exploiters.

THE NEBRASKA state Federation of Labor, which is to meet in a few days will be confronted by the saloon and anti-saloon elements.

The question of "dry" or "wet" will never solve the labor problem.

DAN HOLLAND, the Secretary of Butte Miners' Union No. 1, of Butte, Montana, has forwarded the sum of \$100 to headquarters to be sent to Cherry, Illinois, in aid of the widows and orphans. This donation has been contributed through the manager of the Butte Brewing Company, of Butte, Montana.

A CONVENTION of the "unemployed" is to be held in Chicago January 24th, and it is said that President Taft and other distinguished gentlemen have been invited to address the gathering. If Taft accepts the invitation and he becomes as sagacious as he was before the beggars for bread at the Bowery mission in New York his name will go down in history as the national comforter, who endeavored to appease the pangs of poverty through empty words.

AN EASTERN RAILWAY company has discharged a number of employes on the grounds that their avoirdupois failed to reach 150 pounds. For years the employers of labor have been discriminating against the man whose hair showed the symptoms of age, but it seems that old age is not only to be blacklisted, but that human beings who are so unfortunate as to belong to the welter-weight and light-weight divisions are to be denied the privilege of working for a railroad company. Such discrimination will aid in bringing about a revolution in our industrial system that will destroy the last hated vestige of wage slavery and usher in the glorious dawn of economic liberty.

IT HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY REPORTED in the press that fully \$100,000 had been raised for the benefit of the widows and orphans of Cherry, Illinois, and that this vast sum of money had been placed in the custody of the Red Cross society for distribution. It is now claimed that the Red Cross society, instead of distributing this money among the suffering, resorted to the infamous tactics of questioning the moral standard of the poverty-stricken whom the greed of a corporation left without bread-winners. In other words, it appears that the Red Cross society attempts to justify its failure in distributing relief on the grounds that the morals of the bereaved do not reach the standard demanded by the professionals of a national charity organization.

THE UNITED MINE WORKERS are devising ways and means to raise a fund of \$100,000 for the victims of the Cherry mine disaster. It is somewhat strange that an organization whose members are sometimes branded as law-breakers and anarchists can show such generosity towards the distressed and unfortunate.

THE SECRETARY in reading his report to the American Mining Congress held recently at Washington, D. C., furnished statistics to show that during the last thirty years more than 30,000 had been killed in the coal mines, while 100,000 had been injured. The Secretary, however, did not state that the parties responsible for such a loss of life had ever been brought into the courts and convicted of murder. It has become legitimate to jeopardize human life in the accumulation of profits, but should a hungry man nerved to desperation take human life to secure the necessaries of life to save his own life he would be arraigned for murder and probably hanged.

Industrial murder has become legalized.

THE CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL is considering a law limiting the loads to be drawn by horses. All the papers favor it, including this one. Even President Tyrrell of the Chicago Team Owners' Association heartily approves it, although he says: "The overloading now so common is merely one form of competition, and it will take something more than sermons on cruelty to bring about a reform."

It is good that this bill was passed. It is good to have the fact recognized that it is competition that leads men to overwork horses and that sermons on cruelty will not reform such abuses. It is good that the law is striking a little further back than were the sentimental nuisances who have been prosecuting teamsters for doing what they could not avoid, and who by being cruel to horses were saving their families from suffering.

Yes, all this is good. It is good that the city of Chicago has at last reached the stage of civilization where it believes in a maximum load—**FOR HORSES.**

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY has proven itself about the most gigantic grafters on earth. Its record in the San Francisco disaster was that not more than twenty per cent of the relief furnished with such lavish hand by the whole world ever reached the sufferers. At Cherry, Ill., only two thousand dollars out of a hundred thousand dollars thus found contributed has found its way to the needy widows and orphans. The whole capitalist system is so rotten that even the charity extended to the needy in such terrible disasters as that at Cherry is stolen and the widows and orphans are left to starve. Bicknell, the contemptible cur who is president of the Red Cross association, is out in a published statement trying to excuse the theft of the contributed funds on the grounds that the widows of the murdered miners are immoral. It would not be strange if some of these women, like millions of their sisters, are compelled to sell their bodies for bread, but if so the damnation of Bicknell and his co-thieves is all the greater for the awful fact.—Deadwood Lantern.

IN THE STRIKE of the waist makers of New York a number of society women became interested and volunteered their services in behalf of the strikers. A number of the society women became so interested that they even performed picket duty. While one of the society women was acting as a picket she was arrested and brought to the police station and was about to be thrown into jail when she disclosed her identity. When the guardians of the law became aware of the fact that a member of the upper strata of society had been arrested for performing picket duty for strikers, ample apologies were made and the lady was even chided by the superior officer of the police force for concealing her identity until brought to a police station. The society lady in New York can perform picket duty and when arrested receive apologies for the affront to her dignity, but the striking girls—the victims of poverty—who perform picket duty are arrested, brutally insulted, fined and sent to the workhouse. "We are all equal before the law" has a hollow sound and is but a mockery in a land where greed is king."

AT THE SPECIAL state convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, at Harrisburg, last week, a proposition was submitted to form an independent labor party, but it was defeated and efforts will be made in the next campaign to elect "friends" on the old party tickets. This game has been played a good many years in the rotten old state so successfully that the Cossack government of Russia compares favorably with the Pennsylvania brand. There was a lot of heap big talk about the oppression of the United States Steel Corporation, the Cossack coal and iron police, the double-dealing of the old-party politicians, but that is all it amounted to—simply hot air. Of course, there was also some resoluting, demanding this and that and something else from the Legislature, all of which will be given "the most earnest consideration" by the politicians and then be forgotten. The truth of the matter is that the labor politicians of Philadelphia, Pittsburg and other places who play in with rings don't want any genuine independent political action on the part of labor, for the reason that such a move would destroy their market in which they sell labor votes, or pretend to.—Cleveland Citizen.

THE LABOR PRESS still continues to howl more or less concerning the appointment of "Private Car Lurton" to a seat in the Supreme court of the United States. The appointment of Lurton is in line with the appointment of all other officials by President Taft. "Injunction Bill" is pledged to guard the sacred rights of property, and there is not a single act in the whole official life of the "father of injunctions" that would lead any sane man to believe that Taft could be influenced to recognize the rights of labor. Under the present industrial system, labor has no rights and the manner in which the ballots of the laboring people are divided between the Democrats and Republican parties is conclusive proof that even this vast majority of the working class are indifferent to the so-called "rights of labor."

Taft is loyal to the constituency that made him chief magistrate of the nation and he is to be admired for his loyalty to the class of privilege who placed their trust and confidence in him. Taft, in this appointment of Lurton, has committed no treason to the class who furnished the sinews of war to insure his election. The trusts and corporations wanted Lurton on the Supreme bench, and their will was law to "God Knows."

THE NOMINATION of Horace H. Lurton as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States has been confirmed by the Senate without any fight worth speaking of. Henceforth this approved friend of the great corporations will be one of the five—a majority of nine—men who are the final arbiters of the destinies of this nation.

Neither the "radical" Republicans nor the "radical" Democrats—if there be any—in the Senate made a determined effort to block or even to delay his appointment. The leaders of both parties are working hand in hand on every important question. And in a political sense there is no question more important to the people of these United States than the appointment of a United States Supreme Court Justice.

The Supreme Court of the United States has become the bulwark of property and privilege. All parties and all factions of the capitalist class have agreed to call it holy. The sacredness attaching to the "August tribunal" has been transferred to its members, and even to those who have been proposed to its membership. A quarrel over a nomination to the Supreme Court is regarded as "unseemly," and no senator of either of the great capitalist parties dares to violate this unwritten but none the less potent law.—New York Call.

WITH AN ASSESSMENT of 20 cents per member the A. F. of W. L. hopes to raise a million dollars to wage a battle against the Steel Trust. While every member will willingly pay the assessment the method of procedure is not going to bring about the results most desired. The Steel Trust is a billion dollar corporation and its directorate is allied with all the big combinations of industry in control of every avenue of exploitation. Should the efforts of the Federation bring about a strike the steel industry will not only remain idle, but the many dependencies will also close down for lack of material while the railroads and kindred organizations of capital will lay off thousands of men, bringing about a condition that will cause chaos and turmoil. To recompense itself for losses sustained in such a struggle the capitalists will advance every necessity of life, thereby impoverishing thousands of others. Industry is conducted on the basis of profit and so long as the means of production and distribution are controlled by private interests instead of socially owned the exploiters will tax labor to the last farthing. The one thing that the Steel Trust fears should a strike at all its plants be called is the agitation that would be started by the workers to enter into a political campaign to capture the machinery of government with the object of making such industries as the Steel Trust social property. It will require such a struggle to impress upon the toiling millions the farce of fighting capital on the industrial field and placing political control of government in the hands of its enemies.—Toilers' Defense.

SOME PEOPLE in the state are in favor of a maximum load for human beings. The unions of Chicago have been working for a maximum load for men for several years. They have succeeded in establishing it for many trades. A mason, a carpenter, a bricklayer, a structural iron worker, a blacksmith, a machinist, a hod carrier, if he is a member of a union, is not compelled to work more than eight hours a day. When the men who drive the teams tried to secure a maximum load for teamsters this same Team Owners' association hired thugs and spies and enlisted the support of the police and the courts in order to prevent the fixing of a maximum load **FOR MEN.**

Horses cost money. When they are sick they must be cared for by the owner. When they die there is a property loss. Men and families suffer when sick and the team owner saves on wages, and when the teamster dies another man is ready to take his place with no additional investment by the team owner.

Some of the more civilized portions of the community, having secured a maximum load for **HORSES**, and for **SOME MEN**, thought that perhaps we had reached the point where it should be possible to secure a maximum load for **WOMEN.** So the ten-hour law was enacted. But working women, like working men, and unlike working horses, have no property value. So the Illinois Manufacturers' association, to which many of the Chicago Team Owners' association belong, secured an injunction. These men do not believe in the maximum load for women. That is only for horses.—Daily Forum.

THE FOLLOWING was heralded in the press dispatches from New York last week:

New York, Dec. 28. As Samuel Lieberman was going over his accounts at the desk in his lunchroom yesterday he glanced up to see a forlorn and tattered old man with white beard and hair looking at him appealingly. He asked what was wanted. The visitor, who looked as if he might be 80, asked if he could have some coffee and bread, as he had not eaten in several days and felt that he could not hold out much longer.

"Lieberman motioned him to a chair at the first table and told a waiter to bring some hot chicken soup and coffee. The old man uttered his thanks and, as the waiter put the soup before him, uttered a cry, threw up his arms and fell backward on the floor. A physician was summoned and said the man was dead of starvation."

In the great city of New York with its brokers and bankers, its millionaires and multimillionaires, an old man staggering on the

threshold of four score years, is permitted to die from the horrible pangs of hunger.

New York with its churches and charity organizations, with its dazzling damsels in silk and satin, with its humanitarians and Bowery missions, witnessed the skeleton fingers of death snatch an aged man to the potter's field, because he lacked the means to purchase bread.

This old man's life ended in a tragedy which no feeble words can delineate. His spirit went out into the Great Unknown because a heartless civilization in its greed for dollars was blind to human suffering.

The wan and haggard face of this octogenarian attracted no attention until the hand of death summoned him to an invisible world.

His faltering step and anguished face aroused no pity, and only as he was gasping for life did he behold the hand of a human being stretched towards him to save him from death.

But the tragic end of the old man in New York is only one of the many tragedies that are enacted under the profit system, that has placed dividends above human life.

The Public.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS in an editorial of last week under the heading "Those Who Pay for Strikes," shows considerable alarm over the strike of the switchmen which may ultimately paralyze the traffic of this country. The editorial of the News is as follows:

"A switchmen's strike is impending on the railroads which center in the upper Mississippi valleys. If it comes, it will tie up traffic over a vast region, and obstruct traffic all over the United States. It will throw out of gear the whole complex machinery which modern wit has built for the supplying of modern needs. It will be nothing short of a national calamity. Yet there seems no way for the nation, nor for the states of the nation, to avert this calamity. The interests of the switchmen are represented by the officers of their union. The interests of the railroad companies are represented by their managers. But the great third party in interest, the people of the United States, have no representative in the conference, no voice in the discussion, no vote in the decision.

"Surely this is a queer state of things. The loss which the railroads will suffer from the strike, if it comes, the loss which the switchmen will suffer is a trifle compared to the loss that is inflicted on the third party in interest—the American people. The American people do not want the strike. They would make any honorable and proper sacrifice to avoid the strike. But they have no machinery for enforcing industrial peace, none for righting industrial injustices, none for settling industrial disputes. These are still left to the good old rule:

"The simple plan
That they shall take who have the power,
And they shall keep who can."

"We do not care, at this time, to argue at any length the merits of the case. On the face of things, the switchmen make the most convincing appeal. Everyone knows that the cost of living has advanced out of proportion to the advance in wages; and everyone feels a bit skeptical when the railroads vow in tearful voice that they can't possibly pay more wages, unless—they are allowed to advance freight rates.

"The point which interests us is that both merits and demerits are being urged with entire disregard of the rights of the third party in interest. Even the proposition of the railroads, that they will pay

more wages if permitted to charge higher rates, is just another evidence of this disregard, just another attempt to tax the public for the costs of the war. We are frank to admit that we have no ready-made solution of the problem. But we do think it would be well if the third party, the party who pays the bills, should call on his public servants to devise some means of preventing such disaster. If the American people have not now the knowledge needed to establish an industrial court, it is high time they went to work to collect that knowledge."

The above editorial in the Rocky Mountain News is a frank admission of the power of labor when concentrated. It is a confession that labor has the power, if properly organized, to paralyze not only the transportation facilities of a nation, but still the wheels of industry in every part of this continent. No one will dispute with the News that such a strike is to be deplored, but such a strike is only the natural result that is bred from an unnatural system. While the News admits that the switchmen have grievances that appeal to a sense of justice, yet the News reserves the most of its editorial tears for the PUBLIC, the third party that has no voice in the controversy.

The question might be asked who are the PUBLIC, and that question might be answered by saying that the PUBLIC is that part or element of the people who are not directly involved in the conflict between the switchmen and the railroad corporations. But the News seems to forget that the PUBLIC has had a VOICE and that the PUBLIC has used its political power to uphold and maintain an industrial system that arrays a master class on one side and a slave class on the other.

No one can escape the responsibility for the existence of the present system who is clothed with the right to cast a ballot.

The laboring man, the capitalist and that element in our society which is called the PUBLIC by the News, year after year, have gone to the polls and expressed their will, and by their voice deposited in a ballot box, have declared for a system that breeds strikes as naturally as insanitary conditions breed disease.

Strikes are the diseases in our economic life, and the only solution of the greatest problem of all the ages and which confronts every nation on earth, is in the building of an INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY where justice shall be king instead of profit.

Loyal to Mammon.

THE DENVER REPUBLICAN, the official organ of the public utility corporations of Denver, the mouthpiece of the Mine Owners' association and the Smelting Trust, in an issue of last week paid a tribute to the generosity of the Steel Trust towards its employees. Under the caption, "The Steel Trust and Its Employees," the Republican had the following to say editorially:

"Business judgment lies at the bottom of the liberal policy pursued by the United States Steel corporation in distributing a bonus to its employes and giving them an opportunity to become holders of its stock. To approve this policy one is not compelled to associate it with any form of philanthropy. The company does not have to conciliate its employes. It is simply pursuing a policy of profit-sharing which the study and experience of the men at the head of the corporation has convinced them is wise.

"This year the bonus distributed will amount to two million dollars, and according to a statement made by E. H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors, 60 per cent of this will be paid in cash and the rest in preferred stock at 124 or common stock at 90 "in accordance with the wishes of the recipients, so far as practicable and convenient." Also "the usual opportunity will be given to subscribe for 25,000 shares of the preferred stock of the corporation at 124 upon usual conditions stated in circular letters."

"Something like 210,000 shares of the corporation's stock are now held by employes. This represents at 124 for preferred stock a value

of \$26,000,000, and it is estimated that \$8,500,000 of this is profit made by the advance in the market price of the stock since the investments were made. The success thus achieved by the fortunate investors is a strong inducement to employes to make further investments.

"It may be depended upon that the management of the corporation views these profitable investments with great pleasure. The success which has followed the ventures is a vindication of the company's policy, and it should receive the approval of all intelligent men who seek harmony between labor and capital and a just distribution of the profits of industrial enterprises among those whose labor contributes to their success."

"In marked contrast to this liberal policy is the attitude of President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor in lending his approval to a proposed strike of the Steel corporation's employes to force it to discharge all of its employes who are not connected with labor organizations. The public will extend no sympathy to Mr. Gompers and his associates in their effort to establish the closed shop in all the plants of the United States Steel corporation. The policy of that company—not recently adopted, but which has been in force for years—of sharing its profits with its employes is a direct contradiction of the charge of oppression which President Gompers and his associates have made."

The above editorial in the Denver Republican will create no surprise among the members of organized labor. The Republican has ad-

ways been recognized as a staunch supporter of every trust and corporation that have waged relentless warfare against organized labor. It is but natural that a daily journal that lauded the unrivaled Peobody, that placed its seal of approval on bull pens and deportation, showered encomiums of praise on military lawlessness and scored strikers as undesirable citizens, should pay homage to an industrial oligarchy that is now attempting to chloroform its skilled and salaried employes, through a policy that makes the minority, holders of a few shares of stock.

The Republican says: "Business judgment lies at the bottom of the liberal policy pursued by the United States Steel corporation" and that statement is certainly based upon truth.

The "business judgment" of the corporation in selling stock to employes is based on the conclusion that those who purchase stock will become missionaries of the Steel Trust and use all their persuasive eloquence in prohibiting the lower-paid wage slaves from identifying themselves with the labor movement. The officials of the Steel Trust know that as long as their employes stand outside the pales of organized labor that they are helpless as individuals and will be unable to establish any of the conditions under which they may work, or wrest any concessions that may advance the interests of the employes. As individuals there can be no unity of action, and as individuals they must accept the mandates of the Steel Trust or seek employment from another master.

It is but a few years ago when the Republican took a special delight in drawing a contrast between the policy of the Western Federation of

Miners and the American Federation of Labor, but now that the American Federation of Labor has been forced to unfurl the flag of battle and declare war against the industrial oppression of a trust the A. F. of L. is no longer considered conservative. It is no longer looked upon as a "safe and sane" labor organization, but its officials are denounced when they proclaim against the tyranny of a combination that absolutely denies the right of its employes to come together for mutual welfare and advancement.

The Republican denounces Gompers because he is making an endeavor to organize the employes of the Steel Trust and to make the plants of the trusts union shops, but the Republican, like all other subsidized journals, has no words of condemnation for the trust that has established the "closed shop" against unionism.

In the eyes of the Republican, organized labor is not warranted in establishing the "closed shop" against non-unionism, but the trust is justified in establishing the "closed shop" against the man whose heart beats loyal to the principles of organized labor.

Lincoln and his contemporaries discovered that this nation could not live under the miasma of chattel slavery, and used the power of armed might to strangle to death an institution that threatened the life of the republic.

Either unionism or non-unionism must prevail in this country, and if a day dawns when organized labor goes down to its death on this continent then the last vestige of liberty will have fled, and the people from ocean to ocean will be a race of slaves yielding mute obedience to the will of trusts and corporations.

Peerless In His Infamy.

WHEN THE MEMBERS of the Switchmen's union, through the arrogance of railroad corporations, were forced to declare a strike to establish more favorable conditions and an increase in the wage scale, the daily press contained many reports, and a few of the daily publications have shown their loyalty to the corporations in editorials that could not be considered as a defense of the employes in proclaiming war against the railway magnates, who refused to grant reasonable concessions. But among all the reports that have appeared in the daily journals and among all the editorials that have been written to jeopardize the success of the switchmen's strike the most infamous statement that has appeared in print is the declaration of W. T. Lee, the Grand Master of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, who relieved himself of the following:

"Should the Switchmen's Union of North America declare a strike on the Chicago railroads not only would the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen not strike in sympathy with the Western roads, but we would protect the roads with which we have contracts by furnishing them with a full quota of men."

The above statement coming from the official head of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen should place Lee beneath the contempt of

every man and woman who have ever pledged their allegiance to the principles of organized labor.

The labor journals of the country have frequently snatched from the English language the most vitriolic words to portray the depravity of the traitor who confiscated his honor and manhood for the price of treason. Every man and woman who reveres the principles of a labor movement that is struggling to lift the human race on a higher plane in the world's civilization have voiced their indignation against the professional hirelings who under the banner of Farley became notorious as strike-breakers.

But what shall be said of a man who as chief executive of a labor organization in the railway service, proclaims his willingness to furnish strikebreakers from the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen to defeat another labor organization that is engaged in a life and death grapple with railroad corporations, whose magnates are deaf and blind to justice? The name of Judas has been scorned and despised by every generation that has lived since that Friday morning when Christ was crucified, but the infamy of Judas pales into insignificance when compared with the perfidy and treachery of a labor official who by his own statement shows an anxiety to prostitute the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and make it an ally of railway corporations to crush the Switchmen's union. This modern traitor in the ranks of the labor movement is certainly peerless in his shameless infamy.

"An Eye for an Eye."

LAST MONTH, 400 soldiers in this country's industrial army were murdered at Cherry, Illinois, because of the outrageous violations of mining laws. Contrary to the statutes, only one shaft was provided on the third level. This shaft was closed by an explosion or possibly other causes, and nearly half a thousand miners, with all escape cut off, were sacrificed on an altar that places cost of production above human life.

The loss of 400 workmen, cut down in the prime of life, through the man-killing negligence of state officials and the criminal cupidity of mine operators, is an indictment against a sacred and lofty patriotism of which our cackling lip servers sing.

After the disaster the most atrocious deeds of a flinty-hearted commercialism were witnessed, when the stricken and hapless relatives were denied the poor boon of according the mine's victims a burial in accordance with Christian rites, and with a savagery unequalled the company sealed up the mouth of the mine with concrete and steel, lest damages be awarded those who now find it impossible to prove their loss.

We are told the mine is now closed. Its managers declare it is a "hoodoo"—it was never a "money-maker."

But what of the workers' wives, whose weeping eyes have dried the source of tears? And what of the children and little babes, whose minds are forever seared with the dreadful order that entombs the bodies of their fathers deep in a coal mine, three levels down, topped by concrete and steel, to protect a few dollars wrung from the wasted forms of men who were told they stood on a legal equality with those who found it cheaper to murder men than obey the people's will?

It is well that we avenge the Maine.

It is good to protest against the killing of Ferrer, Spanish champion of liberty.

But the sobs of widows and the cries of tender babes, for 400 fathers, "sent before their time," and walled in a ghastly tomb, with poisoned vapors to serve as requiems, should call for such protests that an application of the doctrine, "an eye for an eye," would act as a future warning to those who place gold above human life.—Toledo Union Leader.

The Man "Higher Up."

A FEW LABORERS have been convicted for participation in the gigantic sugar frauds.

The Sugar Trust, trapped and without any loophole of escape, virtuously repaid a part of the millions that it stole from the government.

There has been brave talk at Washington about "thorough investigation" and reaching the "men higher up."

But thus far nobody has been convicted but the laborers, and the investigation has been in progress for months.

Up to date the highest man up has been a weigher employed on the

Sugar Trust docks in New York. Surely he did not get the pilfered millions.

Is it impossible ever to get the man "higher up?"

Who got the millions that were stolen from the people?

The Sugar Trust, by returning part of the loot, admitted the crime.

Surely, in this instance, it ought not to be so hard to run down the big criminals.

When indisputable proof was produced that the traction properties of New York had been looted, it was said that Whitney was the looter, and Whitney was dead.

It was said the other day that Havemeyer was responsible for the Sugar Trust frauds, and Havemeyer is dead.

But the Sugar Trust continued to rob the government after Havemeyer died.

Are the men "higher up" in the Sugar Trust frauds to escape just as the men "higher up" in the insurance frauds, and the New York traction crimes escaped?—The Buffalo Republic.

The Buffalo Republic asks pertinent questions and the Republic should be able to answer those questions without a particle of hesitation. The man of intelligence has observed long ago that "the man higher up" can violate law and escape with impunity. "The man higher up" is clothed with economic power, and being a potent factor in the corporate, commercial or financial world, is likewise, as a general rule, a giant in the world of politics.

"The man higher up" is the owner of vast interests and through his power to exploit the masses of the people can exercise a far-reaching influence on the administration of public affairs.

"The man higher up" elects his representatives to state legislatures, dictates in political conventions who shall be the governors of various states of the Union, names the judges that shall occupy seats in state judiciaries, selects his chattels for federal courts, nominates and

elects members of congress and with his money buys seats in the senate of the United States.

But "the man higher up" goes even farther, and names the political standard-bearer who shall be crowned as chief magistrate of a nation, and, through him, the jurists who shall make up the Supreme Court of the United States. "The man higher up," having economic power, has political power, and, being a Hercules, economically and politically, he towers above the law and laughs at the puny efforts of the people to punish him through public officials who are obligated to shield and protect "the man higher up."

"The man higher up" seems to have a license to corrupt courts, debauch legislatures and put brakes on the executive powers of government. Private ownership in the means of life has given birth to a class of privilege, and this class of privilege knows no obedience to any law that conflicts with profits.

The class of privilege, knowing that "the servants of the people" have been mortgaged to serve the interests of capitalism, feel no fear or hesitancy in sweeping law aside and satiating the appetite of greed on the spoils of plunder, because the class of privilege knows that their faithful allies whom they have placed in the legislative, executive and judicial departments of the government will use their official positions to fortress the interests of a master class.

The Story of Poverty and Plutocracy.

THE RECENTLY ACQUIRED control by J. Pierpont Morgan of the Equitable Life Insurance company, having assets estimated at more than \$470,000,000, becomes the most alarming factor in the financial world. With it comes the control of scores of subsidiary and inter-related corporations.

The resources which Mr. Morgan now dominates aggregate three billion dollars.

The financial dictator is in position to exercise irresistible power.

Political parties, financial institutions, even the government of the United States, would scarcely venture to oppose his will.

The Equitable is one of the three large insurance companies of America, known as the Big Three, whose hoarded assets of one and a half billion dollars, wrung from the pockets of the sleeping people, dominates the finances and policies of the government and threaten to destroy the temple of liberty and revel in its ruins.

Tens of thousands of insurance agents of three hundred insurance companies within the confines of our free republic strip the country of its substance as closely as the swarms of locusts in ancient Egypt stripped leaf and twig and bough.

The people pay more than twice as much money to insurance companies as they ever get back and the annual balance against the producers of wealth aggregates hundreds of millions of dollars.

The people pay the salaries of thousands of insurance officers, many of them being larger than the salary of the President of the United States, and bear all the expenses of all the companies, includ-

ing the most outrageous and illegitimate expenditures, ranging from the \$100,000 French balls to the purchase of legislatures and the subsidy of the public press.

How shall the people answer? Shall they continue to sleep while "thieves break through and steal" the little they have left?—The Union Advocate-Review.

The above editorial in the Union Advocate-Review of Oklahoma shows that the editor has become alarmed relative to the colossal proportions which King Morgan has assumed in the world of finance. But the editor, while seeing effects, seems to have lost sight of the cause which makes it possible for men like Morgan to become as powerful, if not more so, than the government of the United States. Morgan is a man of brilliancy and genius, and he has realized long ago that competition means death and that co-operation means life.

Instead of competing with financial institutions, Morgan effects combinations, whereby waste is eliminated and more profit added to the bank accounts of the fortunate ones who are members of the great financial syndicates. Morgan in establishing a money trust has only followed the examples of others when he attempts to corner the money market.

The flour trust, the beef trust, the ice trust, the tobacco trust, the steel trust, and all the other trusts are but the products of a system that breeds a class of privilege and a race of slaves. A bank merger is no more alarming than a railroad merger, and this merging process will continue until the people shall reach that standard of intelligence that will demand the creation of a TRUST in which all humanity shall be the stockholders and beneficiaries.

Railway Workers, In 1907-8.

ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL REPORT of the Interstate Commerce Commission, just published, the total number of persons reported as on the payrolls of the railways of the United States on June 30, 1908, was 1,458,244. As compared with returns for June 30, 1907, there was a decrease in the total number of railway employes of 213,830. This decrease was, of course, due to the crisis. The individual wages of railway workers were not reduced during the crisis, but the total wages paid out to railway workers were reduced by the proportion of the number discharged from employment.

The total amount of wages and salaries reported as paid to railway employes during the year ending June 30, 1908, was \$1,051,632,225. This gives an annual average of \$721 to each employe. Considering that the total includes not only the wages of workers, but also the salaries of officials, which in many cases are very high, the average wage is likely to be considerably below \$700 a year or \$14 a week. For this magnificent wage the railway workers are expected to sacrifice life and limb in generous measure.

The total number of casualties to persons on the railways for the year ending June 30, 1908, was 114,418—10,188 killed and 104,230 injured. These members include 381 passengers killed and 11,556 passengers injured; and persons other than employes and passengers, 6,402 killed and 10,187 injured. Deducting these figures from the total of killed and injured, there remain 3,405 killed and 82,487 injured among the employes. According to the report 1 employe in every 422 was killed and 1 employe in every 17 was injured.

Who were the "persons other than employes and passengers" of whom, as stated above, 6,402 were killed and 10,187 injured? No complete answer to this question is found in the report, but 5,489 of those killed and 5,756 of those injured are accounted for as "trespassers," that is to say, workmen in search of a job or former workmen reduced to the condition of tramps who were "stealing a ride." This class of trespassers pays every year the heaviest toll in deaths, although the number of those injured is comparatively small.—New York Call.

A Disgrace to the Bench.

Judge Cornell of New York, who has made a specialty of sending girl strikers to the workhouse, recently declared himself as follows:

"The reason I sent so many strikers to the workhouse was due to the custom of wealthy women paying the fines and offering bonds for the girls.

"Society women who have hysterically taken up sides with the strikers are to blame for the prolongation of the strike. I say so most emphatically. They have acted very unfairly. I am making an effort to have some of them taken to the factories just to show them they have made a most unhappy error in supporting the strikers. Apparently they have ignored the manufacturers' side."

The ermine of the judiciary in almost every state of the Union

has been trailed in the mire, but the statement of Judge Cornell will increase the disgust and contempt of the great mass of the people, who are gradually beginning to realize that the courts are but the bulwarks behind which capitalist despotism is entrenched. When did it become criminal for wealthy women to pay fines or go on the bonds of girls who have been forced to strike against starvation wages?

Where or when, did any legislative body enact a law prohibiting the wealthy class from offering security to keep a member of the working class from becoming an inmate of a bastille? But this judge in his eagerness for the waist manufacturers to crush and destroy the hopes and aspirations of thousands of girls, whose poverty chains them to the bench of wage slavery, shows his petulance when he declares that society women paying fines and going on bonds have been instrumental

in prolonging the strike. To end the strike as speedily as possible, no matter what means may be employed, seems to be in harmony with the ideas of justice entertained by this degenerate who disgraces a seat in a "temple of justice."

The society women of New York who have rallied to the rescue of the striking girls, have been shocked by the outrages that have been committed on women by the hired thugs and brutal policemen, who seem to have forgotten the common courtesy that is due to the weaker sex. When paid thugs of the manufacturers and uniformed officers of the law brutally assault striking women and then rush them into a subsidized court to be sentenced to a workhouse, in order that a strike

for living wages may be defeated, it is about time that women "higher up" should take notice of the barbarism that blackens our boasted civilization.

It is the work of such tools and chattels on the bench as Cornell that is opening the eyes of the people to the inhumanity of a system that requires the club and weapon of murder to perpetuate it. The condition of the working class is due to ignorance, but conflicts on the industrial battlefield will lift the working class to a higher plane of intelligence, and when the great mass behold clearly the brutality of the present industrial system, the last chapter in the reign of capitalism will be written.

The Situation In the Black Hills.

THE SITUATION in the Black Hills, South Dakota, remains practically unchanged, notwithstanding the fact that the Homestake Mining Company has used all its efforts in an attempt to induce men to sign the blacklist against organized labor. With all the energies of the superintendent, foremen, bosses and female persuaders, not more than one hundred men have severed their allegiance to the principles of unionism and dishonored themselves by placing their signatures to a mandate of a corporation that absolutely assassinates individual liberty.

The Homestake company is still pleading with its former employes to surrender their right to join a labor organization in exchange for a job, but the men of the Black Hills realize that they cannot afford to commit treason against themselves.

Last Friday night, Yanco Terzieh, the executive board member from Alaska, addressed his countrymen in the opera house at Lead, and standing room was at a premium. Terzieh, in returning to Denver, declared that he had never seen such solidarity as there is shown among the men who are fighting a lock-out and battling for the recognition of organized labor.

James Kirwan, the board member from the Black Hills, speaks in the highest terms of the unswerving loyalty of the locked out miners, and feels convinced that if every member of the Western Federation of Miners does his duty in rendering the necessary financial aid, the lock-out of the Homestake Mining Company is destined to go down to defeat.

But, notwithstanding the loyalty of the miners, every effort is being made to sow the seeds of dissension by creating a suspicion that the officials of the Federation are revelling in opulence, while the members of the organization in Lead and Central are bearing the brunt of battle in resisting the dictum of the Homestake company. The Call, the official mouthpiece of capitalism, whose editor prostitutes his mentality and manhood in the hope of securing some reward from the coffers of a corporation that has attempted to crucify unionism, has not hesitated to indulge in calumny and falsehood, in the hope that such villification of officers in the Federation might shatter the trust and confidence of the membership. The Call has even gone so far as to assume that the president of the Western Federation of Miners was living in a mansion, purchased on the graft that he has been able to file from the labor movement.

The following, published in the Black Hills Daily Register in the issue of December 31st, should put a quietus on the professional liar who disgraces journalism in Lead, South Dakota:

"In view of the fact that the Homestake company's local Flute

has had so much to say about President Moyer of the Western Federation of Miners living in a palatial mansion on Capitol Hill, Denver, the following copy of a letter and affidavit sent the Flute by Mr. Moyer for publication will be interesting reading to every member of the Federation:

"Denver, Colo., Dec. 27, 1909.

"Editor Lead Daily Call, Lead, South Dakota.

"Dear Sir: For some time past, as I am informed, you have devoted considerable space in your daily publication to myself, your purpose apparently being to convey the impression that I was a large property owner in the city of Denver and that I had accumulated said property by grafting on a labor organization of which the Lead City Miners' Union is a part. I therefore request that you publish the following affidavit:

"I, Charles H. Moyer, hereby certify that since August, 1904, I have resided at 1224 California street in the city of Denver, state of Colorado. That said 1224 California street is an apartment house and the property of Charles H. Howe. That since the date above mentioned I have been a tenant of Charles H. Howe, occupying three rooms in said apartment house and am occupying the same at this time. And further, that the records of the recorder's office of the city and county of Denver, state of Colorado, will show that I am the owner of one lot known as 305 West Fifth avenue, upon which is situate a five-room cottage, the purchase price of said lot and cottage being \$1,750.00, and that this is all of the property recorded in the name of Charles H. Moyer, or his wife, and is in fact all of their holdings, excepting personal property valued at \$200.00.

(Signed) "CHARLES MOYER.

"Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of December, 1909. My commission expires Oct. 22, 1912.

"MARGARET EDITH BUTCHART,

(Seal)

"Notary Public."

"There are other personal matters appearing in the Call from time to time which I hope to have the pleasure of taking up with you on my next visit to the Black Hills, which, if business will permit, will be in the very near future.

C. H. M."

The above should nail the brazen falsehood of the Call to the cross and stamp the prostituted editor as a corporation hireling whose diminutive moral stature will not permit him to be a man.

The men of the Black Hills must win the fight, and win they will, if the membership throughout the jurisdiction of the Federation are only true and loyal to the great cause that demands sacrifices to snatch victories from the clenched grip of a master class.

Considered a "Bluff."

WHEN A CONFERENCE was recently held at Pittsburg, presided over by Samuel Gompers, chief executive head of the American Federation of Labor, and a document issued by that conference bearing the signatures of a number of prominent labor officials, an impression was created throughout the labor world that a ceaseless campaign would be inaugurated that would result in placing the employes of the Steel Trust under the flag of the labor movement. When that vigorous document, which emanated from the Pittsburg conference, became public property and was read by the magnates of the Steel Trust, it merely evoked a laugh, and one of the potentates of the "infant industry," in his haughty despotism, declared that this document was merely "one big jumble of words." In other words, this magnate looked upon the document as a "bluff" and looked upon the American Federation of Labor as being unable to bring the slaves of the trust beneath the banner of unionism.

The document of the conference denounced the tyranny of the Steel Trust and proclaimed for the inalienable right of the employes to become members of organized labor. But intelligent men realize that in this day and age of "mergers," when wealth is solidified and arrayed in battle line to make war on organized labor, that mere "bluffs,"

negotiations and protests, will be futile and helpless in arresting the operations of an industrial oligarchy, that practically owns and controls the very functions of government.

Though resolutions may bristle with condemnation against the unbearable conditions imposed upon employes by great exploiting combinations, yet, resolutions with burning indignation, will fail to halt the industrial despot in his race for dividends.

To offset the contemplated action of the conference, the Steel Trust has given notice that its employes will be permitted to purchase stock, and as partners of the magnates, cannot afford to rise in rebellion against an industry in which they have been allowed to invest their surplus earnings. It is estimated that the Steel Trust employs 225,000 men, but not more than 25,000 will be able to purchase stock. The purchasers of the stock will be the skilled workers and the salaried clerks, and these stockholders among the slaves of the Steel Trust will be expected to use all their power and influence to placate the discontented. In the document issued by the conference it is provided that grievances be laid before the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House and the President of the United States Senate, but how it is possible for Mr. Gompers and his associates in the Pittsburg conference to expect any favorable consideration from "Injunction Bill," "Uncle Joe" or Sherman of the Ice Trust, who presides over the Senate, is an enigma that is incomprehensible to the man of average intelligence.

The American Federation of Labor, in making appeals to men in official positions who are interested in banks, railroads, corporations and trusts, demonstrates that the officers of the A. F. of L. have not

thoroughly surveyed the field or they would realize that no assistance can be rendered by men who are themselves vitally interested in combi-

nations, whose greater prosperity depends on the helplessness of the labor movement.



INFORMATION WANTED.

Information is wanted regarding the whereabouts of Linn Hill, supposed to be in Alaska or western states. Last heard of in Alaska in 1903. Anyone sending information leading to his present location will be paid reward by his brother, Herman Hill, Madison, Kansas. mch 24.

NOTICE TO LOCAL UNIONS.

Oatman, Arizona.
Notice is hereby given that anyone working 30 days in the jurisdiction of the Snowball Miners' Union No. 124, W. F. M., who leaves without a paid up card will be fined \$10.00, and until such fine is paid, will be considered unfair to organized labor and his name published in the Miners' Magazine. By order of Snowball Miners' Union, No. 124, W. F. M. (Seal). ULRICH GRILL, Secretary.

DECLARED UNFAIR AND FINED.

Manhattan, Nevada, Dec. 27, 1909.

Editor Miners' Magazine:

At the last regular meeting of Manhattan Union No. 241, W. F. M., Tony Demati was declared unfair and fined \$25.00 for the following reasons:

Refusing to deposit his card. He is an old member of No. 241, transferred to No. 121 December, 1907; stayed in Tonapah for a few months, then returned to Manhattan. Since coming back, instead of working for the union he has worked against it, advising all whom he thinks he can influence, and with some success, to keep out of the union. This is the man No. 241 thought enough of, at one time, to elect to office. Kindly publish this and oblige,
Yours fraternally,

(Seal.)

JAMES BOYD,
Secretary No. 241.

NOTICE FROM JEROME MINERS' UNION.

Jerome, Ariz., Dec. 26th, 1909.

Editor Miners' Magazine:

Jerome Miners' Union No. 101, requests the publication of the following Notice:

To the Secretaries of the Local Unions of the Western Federation of Miners:

Whereas, The conditions in Jerome, Ariz., are such that the Local No. 101, of the W. F. M., is not able to force all the men working here to pay up, and keep paid up in the Union, and,

Whereas, Many men while working in this Jurisdiction take advantage of this condition by not paying up and also leaving this camp without paid up cards;

Therefore, We, the active members of Jerome Miners' Union, believing that, if a man is a Union man, he ought to be such, no matter what place he is working in, and therefore we hereby notify and request all secretaries of local unions of the W. F. M. not to reinstate or transfer any member coming from the jurisdiction of Jerome Miners' Union, who has not a paid up card, until communicating first with the secretary of this union.

By order of Jerome Miners' Union, No. 101, W. F. M.

(Seal.)

JOHN OPMAN, Sec'y-Treas.

THE BLACK HILLS.

The Seventeenth Annual Convention instructed the incoming Executive Board to select and put in the field a solicitor for The Miners' Magazine, to obtain subscribers and advertising matter. Wisely or unwisely I was given the position and the Black Hills was my first territory. Beginning September 20th, I spent four weeks there. The principal camps composing this district are Lead, Terry, Central City and Deadwood. Few mining camps are so picturesque in the fall of the year as this section—unlike most camps the homes are substantial, surrounded by well kept lawns, flowers abound and these added to the rugged scenery when the leaves take on all the colors of the rainbow, present an artistic setting for one of the most productive camps in the jurisdiction of The Western Federation of Miners.

Everything in Lead rests on The Homestake Mining Company. The town has a Hearst Kindergarten ("Mothers' Union"), Hearst Library, Hearst Hospital, and on the 24th of November in order that the miners might be specially grateful, a Hearst lock-out was added to the other benefactions for no other reason than that the men stood for the right to organize.

The finest structure in Lead is the opera house, a four-story stone building erected by the Miners' Union at a cost of \$80,000—more than \$3,000 has recently been expended in improvements.

As a result of the campaign of organization begun in September, the membership of Lead Union increased from less than 1,000 to practically every one employed in the mines, approximately 2,500 men. New life was infused into the organization as the result of this activity, the apathy of the old days passed away. I myself saw the attendance (in four weeks) grow from less than two score to a throng that taxed the seating capacity of the opera house.

When the lockout came, to the astonishment of all, the men who had seemed sleeping leaped into the arena like gladiators and cleared the decks for action.

"New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth;

They must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of truth."

The Miners' Union of the Black Hills, while fighting their own battles, have not been unmindful of the welfare of others. A year ago last Labor Day the laundry girls of Lead desired to attend the Labor Day celebration; they were refused.

"Where is the man who has the power and skill
To stem the torrent of a woman's will?
For if she will, she will, you may depend on't;
And if she won't, she won't; so there's an end on't."

The girls went to the celebration and when they reported for work the next day, found themselves locked out.

The local unions and the Central bodies decided to embark in the laundry business and launched what is known as Unity Co-Operative Laundry. The first thing that attracted the writer's attention upon visiting the laundry was the following notice:

"NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES."

"All employees of this laundry must keep in good standing in their respective unions and must submit their working cards to the manager for inspection at least once a month. All employees must act with courtesy towards each other while on duty.

"J. B. JENSEN, Manager.

"By Order of Board of Directors."

The laundry is conducted on a co-operative basis. No union is allowed to hold more than \$2,000 worth of stock, no individual more than \$50, no stock sold except to union men. The laundry is practically owned by the unions of the Hills, both Lead and Terry being heavy stockholders.

While a laundry is not an ideal place to work, the Unity Co-Operative Laundry is as near a model as a plant of this kind can be made. The building is well ventilated, the latest and best machinery used, sanitary conditions, short hours and good wages.

The plant is not conducted for profits. This was evident in the contrast between the union plant and the individual laundries.

Space will not permit a full account of the achievements of the unions of the Black Hills, but there is one that must not be overlooked. History tells us that in all conflicts between capital and labor, the press is always on the side that pays dividends. The workers failing to understand the power of the press have not realized that a free press is the first essential in the battle for free men.

The editor of the Black Hills Daily Register, W. C. Benfer, was formerly secretary of the Central City Miners' Union. He came to the Hills with a paid up card in his pocket, from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Organized labor in the Black Hills first realized its need of an organ when one of the local papers, union until that time, locked out its printers about January 1, 1905 (a year later weakened and signed up). W. C. Benfer, the present editor of the Register, was then associated in the publication of the Weekly Register. He took up the cause of the locked out men with such ability that the union men of the district rallied to his support morally and financially to such an extent that the Register became a daily paper April 10th, 1905.

With Benfer as editor and proprietor, C. F. Sauerbrun, one of the cleverest cartoonists in the West, with Associated Press service, an up-to-date plant all combined—they play second to none and the very heart-beats of the workers are felt through the columns of this "Radical Newspaper."

What is true of Lead and Terry in citizenship and achievement is also true of the other local unions of the Black Hills. While the membership of Central City and Deadwood is small, they are not inferior in the spirit of unionism.

All the unions of the Hills own their own halls, support reading rooms, pay sick and death benefits and contribute liberally to all progressive movements.

At the present writing the Lead and Central City unions are involved in a lock-out by the Homestake Mining Company. But in the light of their past achievements, with a fearless organ championing their cause, backed up by the entire power of the Federation, we need not fear nor doubt the result.

EMMA F. LANGDON,
Solicitor Miners' Magazine.

THE MICAWBER.

(By Emanuel Julius.)

He died, I believe, about three months ago—in September, just as summer made way for autumn, and the blessed heat, that made our half naked raggedness bearable, gave way to a day that chilled our aching bones and drove the pent up despair that languished in our hollow breasts to a white heat that pained more and more as the body slowly cooled and shivered through the damp, wet nights of fall. And worse than all was the prospect of a bitter winter before us—a winter of homelessness, cold, hunger and weariness.

We lived, rather rotted, in a wretched hovel misnamed an hotel, a hundred steps from the Bowery on the north side of Rivington street.

I, a youth, with shattered hopes and monotonous existence, like a cork on the dashing sea, was tossed here and there, wherever the forces would direct; and the rocks, they pained; and the shoals, they tore at my vitals; and the sky 'twas black and seemed to tell me, at every move, that it soon was to be my sepulchre.

I often cursed and swore and raved; occasionally, I drowned my sorrow in the red wine of forgetfulness, but more often I merely breathed and sat back and looked on—that was all—looked on and saw and then I sighed.



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But this is not a tale of myself—'tis of Wallace—Wallace Scott. And it is not even a tale of him—it is merely a recollection, a flash from a drunken brain, a thought from a numbed soul.

Well do I see him now—old decrepid, wrinkled and bent. With hoary beard of grayish white, and legs that ambled painfully; with nose that sniffled all who came nigh and eyes that seemed to gaze on visions far, far away.

And as I sit here in this vulgar hell, with shouting drunks and scarlet women and clumsily put my words to paper, I see him—dead.

I see him now as I saw him then, in his room next to mine. I had heard a groan—a wail of suffering and with another had entered and there he was stiff and distorted—dead.

I rushed forward. Placed my hand to his brow—'twas cold, icy and chilled me.

Not a mark on his body, not a sign of violence; he had died of nothing exceptional—he was merely worn out.

Long had he suffered, long had he felt the pricking thrusts of adversity till at last his heart somehow felt like resting, sort of wanted to quit, and it did—simply stopped beating, that was all—and then, of course, he was dead.

It was an ordinary case. They often die—sometimes in the hospital, sometimes in jail, again on the streets and here—in bed.

I looked to his hands. They clasped something! Ah, yes, 'twas a strip of ticker ribbon.

An hour later they drove his corpse away as the gaping crowd idly and dully gazed on. A day later he was buried in potter's field.

I am somewhat dizzy—possibly the wine, for I have sipped and sipped for an hour or more.

And 'tis noisy, too. They laugh so loudly and coarsely. They laugh for they fain would weep. Aye, when a man is pained and would shed tears he hides them with bursts of laughter.

And the women. Oh, you creatures poor. See that maiden with painted cheeks—she smiles at me and calls me to her but I look blindly on and then she passes me by.

I write and write and forget my thoughts. Ah yes, my tale—Wallace Scott—the Micawber. But waiter! another wine! ha! make it large, and port is the wine I drink.

How that wine warms me and sends the blood flowing through my veins—how every fibre is heated and responds to this liquid of life—and my tongue—how it is loosened and utters kind words even to the lowest—ah! magic is the potion that wakes the sluggish brain and wags the silent tongue! Ah! heavenly is the liquid that tears down the barriers of hate and impels me to fondle the drunkard and kiss the prostitute!

But the story—Wallace. Yes, it is very short and soon will be told. I would have another dash of wine, but no, I shall write first and then will I sip the sweet nectar of the grapes.

He—Scott—came from the south, some thirty years ago. He had a fortune, many horses, and a wife.

He never had worked for his fortune—it was the sweat and blood of a drove of black chattels, chrystallized into bright, shining dollars—dollars that bought sparkling diamonds, and prancing horses, and an handsome wife.

But dollars he would have more. 'Tis a fever—this dollar getting—the more the dollars the more the fever to get still more.

And he went to the place where dollars are most—Wall street. "Ah here," said this Micawber bold, "are millions to be had—millions of dollars! dollars! dollars!!"

So he plunged blindly and deeply. But he was destined to fail—as certain as the outgoing of the tide, for he was fundamentally wrong—in his dealings—he had never learned to refrain from buying when stocks slumped and to refuse to sell when they soared up. For that reason he went down to ignominious failure. For mark you, only the novice buys when stocks are going down and hopes against hope that on the morrow they will reverse.

And perchance, the flow changed—they went up a point or two—then would this Wallace rush forward and sell, for he feared that soon they would slump again.

So he failed. His wife, she left him; his horses, the sheriff sold them; but his hopes? ah, they never deserted him. Never. For Scott was a Micawber.

With him it was always the morrow—"It's bad today? Oh, well, tomorrow it will be better."

He used to live in Irving Place—then the home of the dollar aristocrats. But he was forced to leave; so he travelled south a mile or two, to the Bowery.

There he lived in the filth and the scum and wallowed in the mire with others worse than he. But his hopes—they never left him.

He always dreamt of the ticker and its clicker, clacker was music to his ears and every tick seemed to say "Dollars for Scott. Thousands for Scott. Millions for Scott."

Give him a five dollar bill and on an envelope he would scrawl his crooked figures and in few minutes he would tell you how he will become a millionaire in a few, short months.

He never knew failure—this Micawber.

His margins always pointed to millions, but every time he always staggered away from the curb, separated from his last dollar.

But somehow or another he never seemed to realize it. "Something slipped" he would sigh and he would beg here and there to cover some wheat, certain that he had a good thing and that fortune was to be his—on the morrow.

It was his psychology, I think. He possessed that instinct of living in one environment and thinking in another. He never believed he was "down and out." He never believed that he was an inhabitant of the Bowery. He had contempt for it. He would never even walk along the Bowery. And when, in the morning, he made his regular trip to the street of gold he would dash across the Bowery, then west to Broadway and south till he reached Wall street. All this would he do—add a mile to his trip, rather than walk down the Bowery.

To my mind John street is the most terrible street in the world. It separates the underworld from the money world. North of John street Scott was looked on with respect by all the poor unfortunates that languish there—he was looked on as an ex-financier—a giant who had once toyed with millions. South of John street Scott was a "bum"—that was what they called him—"bum"—those brokers—and they would laugh heartily every time he walked away, downcast and penniless.

Occasionally one threw him a coin. More often they did not. But it was all the same to John—for tomorrow—ah! tomorrow the world would belong to him and he would control the destinies of men.

So he staggered through life with his eyes ever gazing beyond the horizon. Always he saw the golden sun of tomorrow—it warmed him, this eternal hoping, and its heat made him forget the cold blasts of today.

And his wife? Often he wrote her. But always the same story. "To-

morrow, dear, I shall be rich. Tomorrow. And then we'll be happy, ever so happy. Wait. I'll be rich tomorrow."

At last, one morning came when he could no longer say "tomorrow." On that morning when I heard him groan he must have awakened from a sweet dream of riches and when he tried to raise he must have been certain that he was going down to shovel in the yellow dust and when his heart sort of felt like resting he must have grasped the ticker ribbon all the firmer—so firmly that they buried him with it.

New York City.



WAGE SLAVERY VS. CHATTEL SLAVERY.

(From the Lantern).

The Lead Call, in attempting to deny that there is such a thing as wage slavery, says:

"The American workingman, drawing his wages and investing them as he sees fit, educating his children, saving his money to enter into business for himself and become in his turn an employer, leaving his employment or changing his employer at his own will, exercising all the political and civic rights that any man may have—this man is in the same position as the former negro slave ignorant, a chattel without power to change his master or his work, drawing no wages, having none of the rights of a citizen, unable to better his condition in any way and so far as educating his children or aiding them to rise above his own status, without even the power to prevent their being sold and carried away from him forever. What abominable rot!"

Well, let us see how this is. About a month ago 350 of these grand free American workingmen were burned to death at Cherry, Ill., because their masters were too greedy to furnish the necessary safety appliances for their protection. The reports from the authorities there declare that practically every family deprived of its head was only three days from starvation! The reports of the bureau of labor statistics declare that the average wage earner is less than thirty days from starvation. It is wonderful how these American workingmen are "drawing their wages, saving them, investing them and entering business for themselves!"

But the Call says that these "American workingmen" have the glorious privilege of changing masters. Sure, Mike. The chief difference between wage and chattel slavery is that under the former the masters had often to hunt the slaves, while under wage slavery the slave always has to hunt his master.

Until within the past month, the Call has been loud in its protestations of the grand and magnificent privileges accorded the workers of Lead. And it is true that their conditions have been very much ahead of the average wage workers of the United States. But in the thirty years of employment in the Homestake mine, how many of them have been able to "save money, enter business for themselves and in turn become employers?" And when, by the arbitrary act of their masters, the mine is shut down, what is the condition of these "American workingmen?" The fact is, the wages of the slaves of today are based upon the same thing as were the "wages" of the chattel slaves, namely the cost of living. And whenever, and wherever the wages are raised the cost of living is raised to consume practically all the wages.

It does not alter the fact because once in a while a wage slave does rise above his surroundings, and "enters business for himself." It only proves the rule. There were chattel slaves who worked over time, made money and bought their freedom. That did not justify slavery.

From the economic standpoint, the average wage-slave may well envy the old chattel slave of the South his condition. No Southern master would ever work his slaves under the same conditions as that endured by the great mass of wage slaves. No Southern master would ever think of sending 350 slaves worth a thousand dollars each into such a mine as that at Cherry. No chattel slave ever had to beg for a job or for a meal either for himself or his family, and they never had to hunt a new master, as have a large number of these "free American workingmen at Lead. No chattel slave ever had to stand for hours in the "breadline" on cold nights when the thermometer was below zero waiting for a loaf of stale bread handed out by the hands of their masters. No chattel slave ever had to hunt the garbage cans of the great cities to get something to appease their hunger as was reported by the Chicago newspapers last week.

AN ANTI-SLAVERY CRY, APPLICABLE NOW.

(By James Russell Lowell in "Bigelow Papers)."

In God's name, let all who hear, nearer and nearer, the hungry moan of the storm and the growl of the breakers, speak out!

But alas! We have no right to interfere. If a man pluck an apple of mine he shall be in danger of the justice; but if he steal my brother, I must be silent. Who says this? Our constitution, consecrated by the callous conduct of sixty years, and grasped in triumphant argument by the left hand of him whose right hand clutches the clotted slave whip. Justice, venerable with the undetachable majesty of countless aeons says SPEAK! The past, wise with the sorrows and desolations of ages, from amid her shattered fanes and wolf-housing palaces, echoes SPEAK! Nature, through her thousand trumpets of freedom, her stars, her sunrises, her seas, her winds, her cataclysms, her mountains blue with cloudy pines, blows jubilant encouragement, and cries SPEAK! From the soul's trembling abysses, the still small voice not vaguely murmurs SPEAK! But alas! the constitution and the Honorable Mr. Bagowind, M. C., say BE DUMB.

TO THE WORKING PUBLIC

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TERRY, SO. DAKOTA

There is a point where toleration sinks into sheer baseness and politeness. The toleration of the worst leads us to look on what is barely better as good enough, and to worship what is only moderately good. Woe to that man, or that nation, to whom mediocrity has become an ideal!

Has our experiment of self-government succeeded if it barely manage to rub and go? Here, now, is a piece of barbarism which Christ and the nineteenth century say shall cease, and which Messrs. Smith, Brown and others say shall not cease. I would by no means deny the eminent respectability of these gentlemen, but I confess that in such a wrestling match I cannot help having my fears for them.

TAFT COSTS THE UNITED STATES \$70,000 A YEAR.

List of Many Supernumeraries in the Pay of the United States in Connection With Duties at the White House—Where They Come From.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The executive staff of the white house, which is required to transact the official business of President Taft and to keep the executive mansion in running order, costs the United States \$70,000 a year, according to figures obtained at the executive offices.

The amount does not include the salaries of policemen who stand guard at the executive mansion night and day; the secret service men who follow the president wherever he may go; the head chef, his assistants, and a hundred other holders of important positions, whose names do not appear on the payrolls, but whose salaries come from the appropriation made by congress for the office of public buildings and grounds and for the maintenance of the white house.

Here They All Are:

The white house pay roll is as follows: Fred W. Carpenter, California, secretary to the president, \$6,000; Rudolph Foster, Virginia, first assistant secretary to the president, \$3,000; Wendell W. Mischler, Ohio, second assistant secretary to the president, \$3,000; M. C. Latta, Oklahoma, executive clerk, \$2,500; Col. William H. Cook, executive clerk and disbursing officer, \$2,000; Warren S. Young of Ohio, clerk who has charge of the social affairs and reception invitations, \$2,000; N. P. Webster, New York, in charge of correspondence, \$2,000; E. W. Smithers, Jules A. Rodier, E. C. Heasley, Pennsylvania district, and Frederick Hohbein, Virginia, telephone and telegraph operators, \$2,000 each; John L. McGraw, Nebraska; W. S. Hinman, Ohio; C. C. Wagner, Pennsylvania; Thomas M. Hendricks, Maryland, and C. T. Hess, Virginia, stenographers, \$2,000 each; I. R. T. Smith, Ohio, record clerk, \$2,000; J. C. Willis, Virginia, file clerk, \$1,400; Miss Alice S. Bleach, Ohio, secretary to Mrs. Taft, \$1,400; T. E. Stone, Maryland, chief doorkeeper, \$1,400; I. H. Hoover, Walter S. Dunn and Arthur Brooks, dist.; C. J. Pousy, Maryland; W. S. Parker, at \$1,400 and William Pennell, Virginia; P. E. McKenna and Franklin H. Hall, New York, at \$1,200, doorkeepers at the white house and in the executive office; Robert F. Anderson, North Carolina; Joseph L. Boardley, Maryland; Charles E. Ayler, Massachusetts, and Henry Pinckney, New York, messengers, at \$1,200 each; Mrs. L. A. Jaffray, New York, housekeeper, at \$1,000; Charles H. Thompson of Massachusetts; Wilson Jackson, New Jersey; John L. McCabe and George A. Kennedy, dist.; and E. J. Conover, New York, messengers, at \$900 each; Samuel Bicker, Maryland, watchman, \$900; William Strauss, fireman, \$900, and T. E. Dowling, laborer, \$720, both of the district and John E. Boardley, Maryland, laborer, \$600.

THE IMMIGRANT.

The sufferings of the immigrants on their way to this country and then to the points of their final destination—the horrors of the steerage, the indignities to which they are subjected, the impositions practiced upon them at Ellis Island by the sharks representing all the swindling and parasitic concerns that fatten on the immigrants' ignorance and helplessness, the crowding in the coastwise and river boats—these have now been made known to all the world by the United States Immigration Commission. And the world, as is usually the case, at first stands aghast at the disclosure of such horrors, and in a few days forgets all about it.

We submit however, that with the publication of its report on the conditions under which the immigrants travel to this country and to the places in which they work, the United States Immigration Commission has only begun its labors.

We respectfully submit that the time has arrived for making a thorough investigation into the methods by which immigrants are being lured into this country as well as into the conditions of their employment, for making these results public, and for adopting measures to protect the immigrants against the revolting cheating, and swindling which begins while they are still on their native soil and does not end until many years after they have arrived here.

What are the methods by which the industrial magnates, particularly of the coal and iron regions, have managed to attract immigrants in numbers so large that there is always, even in the periods of greatest industrial activity, an abundant, even an excessive supply of cheap and docile laborers?

What are at present the wages, the hours of labor, and conditions of work in these industries as compared with the time—some twenty years ago—when the majority of the coal miners and iron and steel workers were of native origin, or at any rate, of English speech?

The immigrant has played a peculiar role in the economy of this country. The native or long-resident workman looks on him as an enemy, as a beater down of wages. The capitalist, who makes an extra profit out of the unpaid labor of the immigrant and who is therefore averse to all anti-immigration laws, by no means objects to the presence of ill-feeling and distrust between the native and the immigrant workman. He even encourages this feeling so far as it lies in his power, for it serves his purpose, particularly in time of strikes. And none knows better than he that many a great American fortune has been derived, in whole or in large part, from the excessive exploitation of the immigrant.

The immigrant laborer is the industrial pariah of this country. He is exploited beyond the ordinary measure of capitalistic exploitation. He is maimed and killed in perfectly reckless fashion, as in the recent Cherry disaster. And of late years there has also developed a tendency to turn him into a political helot, by making it increasingly difficult for him to become naturalized. The immigrant suffers under the twofold curse of laborer and foreigner, and the ruling powers seem to have entered into a silent conspiracy for the purpose of forcing him to remain a foreigner.—New York Call.

CHARITY AT CHERRY.

Without the farce of Conventional Charity the horror at Cherry would not have been complete. It would have lacked something as a hideous epitome of the industrial hell of today.

There was no earthly excuse for the Red Cross at Cherry. There was an organization on the ground infinitely better equipped—the United Mine Workers. It had its relief committee, it knew the condition of the families to be relieved and required no "expert investigators" to determine the extent of their need. Its treasurer is bonded and every person who handles its funds must give a strict accounting of every cent. It is accustomed to the disbursing of large sums of money for relief in case of strike, as well as of sickness and unemployment. Its officers are paid regular salaries and no extra expense would have been incurred for administrative expenses had they handled the money.

Yet the Red Cross, in the name of "scientific charity," whose first principle is supposed to be the avoidance of duplication, "butted in."

The Daily Socialist knew these facts from the beginning, but for fear

UNION MINERS

When visiting Terry will find a comfortable home at the

TERRY HOTEL

TERRY, SO. DAK.
H. James, Prop.

that any friction on this question might stop the stream of assistance that was flowing toward the stricken ones at Cherry no comment was made. Only when it appears that the Red Cross is a definite obstacle in the road to relief, when ugly rumors of worse than carelessness and inefficiency are heard would we make a protest.

The writer of this is familiar with "scientific charity." He knows the principles of investigation, classification and the application of emergency relief as laid down in the books and as developed for more effective action in time of crisis. Judged by these very rules, the work of the Red Cross at Cherry was criminally inefficient.

Every family should have been classified and catalogued within twenty-four hours after the accident. Such a classification would have shown the number in each family and the relief needed daily. That relief should then have gone to the family uninterruptedly until further investigation showed that need no longer existed. There was no possibility of impostors, of "sturdy beggars," of any of the other things that make up the stock in trade of "scientific charityologists." There was no earthly excuse for anything but action. If every person who applied, or at least if the family of every miner lost in the holocaust, had been supplied with regular rations, up to the present time, without investigation, less money would have been wasted than has been thrown away on Red Cross red tape.

ALMOST ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE RED CROSS AT CHERRY.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THAT MONEY?

WHAT IS GOING TO BE DONE WITH IT?

Will we have a repetition of the San Francisco earthquake relief, where greater effort was made to assist powerful financial interests in controlling the labor market than in relieving suffering?

Will this money finally be used to pay the St. Paul railroad for the miserable shacks in which the widows and orphans are now housed?

Nothing can now save the Red Cross from condemnation for miserable inefficiency.

The only thing that will save it from a suspicion of much worse things is the fullest possible publicity. The public has a right to know where that money is being deposited, through whom the orders for supplies are cleared, what method of distribution is being followed, what plans are in prospect, what funds still remain, and every other essential fact about the matter.

The European papers told of colossal frauds at Messina, where the Red Cross was in charge. Some of these were investigated in the Italian Chamber of Deputies. Yet the head of the Red Cross gave the Italian government a clean bill of health. Such an institution must be above suspicion, and its efficiency must be such as to afford confidence. It has certainly failed in the latter qualification.—Chicago Daily Socialist.

COLLEGE SCABS.

Whenever there is a strike in Chicago the employers turn in two directions for scabs—the lodging houses of the First Ward—and Northwestern and Chicago Universities. It was so in the street-car strike. The same sources were used in the great teamsters' strike of a few years ago.

When the employees of a downtown grocery struck this week it was to be expected that the students from these two universities should be found taking the strikers' places.

For the hopeless denizens of the lodging houses there are plenty of excuses. There is the excuse of ignorance, of lack of solidarity with a society that has cast them out, and that excuse that is all-sufficient to the majority of individuals, that "anything is better than death by starvation."

The student can offer none of these excuses, unless it be the first. He is often ignorant enough, to be sure. He owes much to society. The university he is attending would not exist were it not for the fact that thousands and millions of workmen receive less than they produce. His opportunity for an education comes from the fact that millions have been compelled to go unschooled.

This betrayal of working-class interests by the students is something comparatively new in the history of the world. For many centuries the universities were the centers of progress and enlightenment. Only under capitalism have they been tied to conservatism and a plundering plutocracy.

Only in America do they furnish scabs.

In Russia students are going to the scaffold or the foul prison fortresses because they have learned that the cause of truth and the cause of labor are the same. There are few countries save the United States where some glimmer of this truth has not penetrated to the student body of the great universities.

Here alone do the students rank themselves below the pitiable social cutcasts of the slums in the competition to betray the cause of truth and justice.—Chicago Daily Socialist.

THE SEE-SAW.

The theory of organic evolution has been so firmly established, in the light of empirical science, as practically to compel the assent of every informed and open mind. High dignitaries of the church have been persuaded of its truth; and some of them have made extraordinary attempts to show that the Mosaic account of creation coincides in every main particular with the revelations of modern science. These attempts have not been very convincing. They nevertheless afford interesting evidence of the decay of superstition, and the extent of its replacement by more rational conception of the universe.

The evidence in support of the belief that the various forms of life upon the earth gradually evolved from lower forms, is very conclusive. Darwin supplied almost every link in the chain of evidence required to establish beyond cavil the fact of man's growth or evolution from a lower stage in the scale of life. Whatever gaps he left have since been filled by later scientists. Man's kinship with the animal world, and his immediate descent from the higher primates—the anthropoid apes—are no longer matters of controversy among scientists. They command universal acceptance.

And just as man has descended (or if you like, ascended) from the higher anthropoids, so they in their turn may be traced through still lower animal forms, until we arrive at the lowest organism to be found upon the earth, the "unicellular protist" (Haeckel). It is only fair to say, however, that here we meet with an obstacle. The origin of life upon this planet has not yet been satisfactorily explained. This is not to affirm, mark you, that no explanation is possible. Only that so far as we have gone, our knowledge will not solve us this riddle.

A necessary postulate of this theory of man's ceaseless evolution from the simple to the complex, and his eternal advancement towards yet higher things, is his continued progress in the future towards the goal of perfection. But while we may believe in the ultimate perfectibility of mankind, we must not

assume too hastily that at any given moment mankind is happier, nobler, wiser than mankind has ever been before. Human progress appears to consist more in a succession of waves, which flow on, then recede, to gather impetus for yet another forward surge of the tide, which again draws back, to repeat the process indefinitely. Or if you prefer it this way: Progress follows an undulating, ascending line (George), the trend of which is ever upward, and which always registers a mean gain, yet the undulations carry us far below, as well as above the point of mean advance.

Apparent contradictions to the theory of continuous human progression disappear in the light of this theory. We all know that there is more misery in the world today than there was two hundred years ago. The iron heel of capitalism grinds the faces of the poor more cruelly than did the heel of any previous despotism. Capitalism breeds poorer specimens of humanity than feudalism did. Chattel slavery saw to it that the unfit did not procreate too abundantly. But capital cares not for the physique of its slaves. A machine will produce the wealth, granted only a pair of hands to tend the machine. So the capitalist cares not what kind of a body accompanies those hands. No skill nor strength is needed to move a shuttle back and forth; or to take a lard can from beneath a spout, and put another in its place. Neither does the capitalist care how long his slaves live. He does not want them after they are forty, anyway. Indeed the position of the average workingman may be contrasted unfavorably with the position of any barbarian of the wild. For the savage, having free access to the bounties of nature, knows that if he be hungry, he will not be hungry long. Experience assures him that night will not fall without bringing some deer or other form of game within reach of his weapons. But the civilized wage-slave may only eat so long as he has a job. Let him lose that, and he knows not when he may eat again. Sometimes he gets so few chances to eat, after losing his job, that he gives up the ghost in despair. Every jobless workingman knows that every meal he misses renders the possibility of his getting another job more remote. His power to labor, that most perishable of commodities, deteriorates. He becomes unemployable. Two million are in this position in Great Britain today. Do you realize what that means? A mass of humanity, exceeding in number a third of the population of Canada, relies upon charity for sustenance from day to day. There is no place for these people in the scheme of things. Society does not want them, and would prefer that they were dead.

It is possibly true that this unemployed army is formed of the least efficient among the workers. That is not the point. The point is that it exists; and forms a picture of misery in which there gleams no ray of hope.

But let us remember that the darkest hour is just before the dawn. The wave seems to have receded far this time. Perhaps it is preparing for a mighty surge ahead, that shall, in its onward rush, sweep this misery with its accursed cause, capitalism, deep into the blackest pit of oblivion. Let us solace ourselves with the reflection that surely we have touched the lowest point in our undulating line, and when once the upward roll commences, never again shall humanity sound the depths of wretchedness it has sounded under the evil dominance of capitalism. When competition, with its inevitable fostering of the beast-like qualities in men shall have passed away forever, mankind may progress to heights as yet undreamed of.

The prospect is very fair. We call it Socialism.—A. Percy Chew, in The Voice.

THE PRICE OF BREAD.

Everywhere one hears a wail about the increase in the cost of living, and nobody seems to know what is to be done about it. In fact, nobody even seems to think he or she knows. The voice of the trust-buster even is heard no more in the land, or very faintly. For the harried consumer, we have but one crumb of comfort, that is, that the cost of living is not near as high as it is going to be.

We have before pointed to the accelerated production of gold and to its accumulation and its consequent "cheapening," as the prime factor in the continued rise in prices of commodities in the fact of the rapid improvement in the means and methods of production; but in the case of bread there are factors that will intensify this effect shortly to an enormous extent. That their effects have not been more appreciably felt is due to the bumper crops of recent years which have kept the world's elevators well filled. Let us have but one poor harvest and the fat will be in the fire.

The factors referred to are the decrease in wheat acreage and the growth in the market for wheat. In the Argentine wheat is rapidly giving way to cattle. In the United States wheat acreage is falling off rapidly. Wheat is the great pioneer crop on the virgin lands of the West, but hand in hand with the development of the new country and the increase of population, marches the growth of mixed farming, and so, while there are yet large undeveloped tracts, wheat acreage will increase, but as soon as the limit of these is neared the tide turns. The United States with its growth in population must very soon change its position in the market, from that of an exporter to that of an importer of wheat, first of all as raw material for its mills to fill their foreign markets for flour, then to feed its own industrial population. Of all the great granaries, Canada alone remains, and Canada, vast as it is, cannot meet the world's demand alone, more especially as it is not very far removed from attaining to the same stage as the United States.

On the other hand the market for flour is widening. The greed of capital works ever to its undoing. It has, profit hungry, sent its agents into the Orient to create an appetite for bread. They have done their work well and now the Orient is clamoring for more.

So up goes the price of bread. If the crops continue to yield heavily this rise will be slow and gradual and will be tempered by an increase in wheat production in Europe on the very lands where it had to be abandoned under the pressure of American competition. But given one poor crop in the West and production will never again approach the demand, at any rate under capitalism.

The result? In the latter case it will precipitate the revolution. In the former there will be a constant succession of strikes as the workers are driven to attempt to adjust their income to the standard of living to which they have been accustomed. Labor unions may look for no peace henceforth.

In either case there will be a bitter intensification of the sufferings, privations, and misery which must be the lot of our class, while they remain enslaved.

Remedy there is none. No homilies from Jim Hill on the duty of the American farmer to stick to his plough and save the country will serve. No "back to the land" movements. No agricultural colleges, or Roosevelt commissions. The only way to keep down the price of wheat is to raise more wheat, to keep down the price of wheat is a proposition that does not appeal to the farmer, and he is the man that raises the wheat. So what are you going to do about it?

There is no remedy, but there is a cure. Quit raising wheat for profit—raise it for use. To do that you will have to abolish those who reap the profit.—Western Clarion.

REVOLUTION IS PREDICTED—JOHN BIGELOW FEARS INDUSTRIAL ARMY WILL NOT ALWAYS BE PEACEFUL.

"President Taft, in his recent message to Congress, denies that the recent and constantly increasing cost of living is due to a protective tariff, a statement which proves nothing so clearly as that his training as a lawyer has not made of him a statesman, still less a political economist."

John Bigelow, former Ambassador to France, statesman, diplomat and

author, thus criticizes the President in a letter written to the Civic Forum, whose annual banquet was held in New York last week. Mentally alert, although in his ninety-second year, Mr. Bigelow gave his views by letter because he was unable to attend the banquet. The Civic Forum, which counts many distinguished men among its officers, encourages the freest utterance of opinion from its platform.

"Of course, under these auspices," continues Mr. Bigelow, "I see more prospect of a revolution than of any reform in our government. For the last two years there has been a larger army of wage earners on strike—that is, in revolt against their employers—than was at any time engaged in our Civil War by the Confederate States, thus far less bloody only because of enforced concessions to the demand of wage earners.

"How will he (Taft) explain the recent extraordinary impulse given to the white slave traffic, except by the tariff, which compels women to abandon their proper home life and take refuge in factories of protected industries for their daily bread, or else, if not, in consequence, abandon themselves to a life of shame?"—Ex.

In Memoriam.

Swansea, Ariz., Dec. 23, 1909.

Whereas, Death has removed from our midst our worthy and esteemed brother, Tom Lewis; and

Whereas, This local and the Western Federation of Miners, has lost a good and faithful member, who always upheld the rights of his class, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of Swansea Miners' Union, No. 156, of the Western Federation of Miners, offer his bereaved relatives our heartfelt sympathy in this their hour of bereavement and sorrow.

Resolved: That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his sister, a copy be sent Miners' Magazine for publication, and that same be spread upon the minutes of this meeting.

T. B. WILLIAMS,
B. O. LECRENS,

(Seal)

Committee.

Burke, Idaho, Dec. 17, 1909.

Resolutions adopted by Burke Miners' Union No. 10, on the death of Bro. Eror. E. Swan:

Whereas, another useful member of Society has passed to the Great Beyond, and while we know his many deeds of kindness are a greater monument to his memory than any made of cold marble;

Therefore, be it Resolved: That the Western Federation of Miners, tender his bereaved relatives a sympathy which cannot be expressed by mere words;

And be it further Resolved: That our charter be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days, a copy of these resolutions sent to the bereaved relatives, a copy sent to the Miners' Magazine for publication, and a copy be spread upon the minutes.

(Seal).

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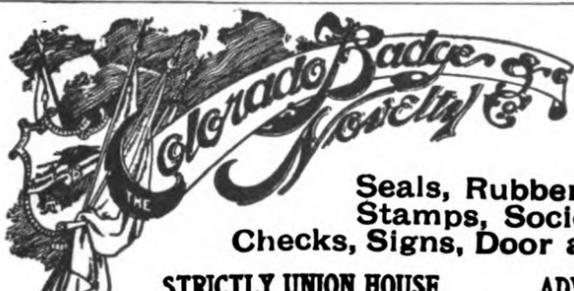
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