

The Labor World

A BI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

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SABRIE G. AKIN, Editor and Publisher.

Letters and articles relating to the social problem are solicited.

In issuing this, our initial number of the LABOR WORLD in Duluth and West Superior, we take pleasure in announcing that we now become a permanent fixture in your cities, and will devote our money, time and energy in co-operation with every labor union, to advance the interests of all those who work, advocate solidarity and harmony among all the labor organizations in Duluth and Superior and throughout the great Northwest. To working men and women—we mean all who toil honestly with hand or brain, we say that the LABOR WORLD is published in your interest and behalf and ask your co-operation and support.

LABOR WORLD, go forth, and may you reach the homes of wealth, and awaken them to their duty, may you fire the hearts of reformers to greater deeds, may you stir the mind of legislators to the need of better laws, and may you above all, help to bring the great mass of the laboring millions to realize that the secret of their greatest happiness and the settlement of all our industrial troubles lies in the upholding of that law laid down by Him who not only said "do unto others as ye would that they

should do unto you," but also that "the laborer is worthy of his hire."

Why is it that those who make clothes are ragged? Why is it that those who build palaces are houseless? Why is it that those who do the nations work are forced to choose between beggary and crime, or suicide in a country that has fertile soil enough to produce plenty to feed and clothe the world? There is something wrong some where. Where lies the awful responsibility for all this untold suffering on an innocent and outraged people?

Republicans say it is because the Democrats are in power, the Democrats say it is because the Republicans have been in power so long, the Populists say the cause lies with both of the old parties and in our financial system, the prohibitionists say the cause is largely the liquor traffic, and I want to say wherever the cause lies it does not lie with the unemployed—they would gladly work if they could find something to do, especially if they can receive living wages.

There is no longer any excuse for ignorance of the curseful and awful condition of the oppressed masses. Toiling brothers, you must use your brains more in your own interests or you will be compelled to use your muscles more in the interests of your master.

We must know the right before we can do the right. The first step to a remedy is that the people care, and if they know, they will care. To help them to know and care; to stimulate new sympathy for the victims of power, is the mission of the LABOR WORLD.

The snow storm of a week ago gave many willing but idle hands work. Men were seen shoveling snow bare-handed and poorly clad, cheerful and happy at the prospect of a few days work.

The Duluth Trades Assembly has taken up the cause of the miners on the iron range. It seems that the mining corporations have forbidden their employes to join labor organizations and have posted up notices to that effect. They also are discharging, as fast as possible, men who are already members. An appeal has been made to the Trades Assembly and they will take up the fight in the miners' behalf. The contest will undoubtedly be a bitter one, but the miners have right on their side and will in the end win.

The law will be tested as to the rights of laboring men combining, but to prove these men were discharged because they belonged to a union is where the difficulty comes in.

The action of these corporations is an outrage! What right have they to dictate to free born Americans (?) whether they shall organize or not? Capital is organized. The iron companies combine to keep up the prices of the wealth taken from mother earth, yet in their hellish greed they will do all in their power to keep the workingman from organizing so that he may command a higher price for what he has in the market to sell—Labor. They say: Organize and you shall not eat.

These Shylocks and shysters hold justice by the throat, and force and bribe courts and legislatures to assist in perpetuating this terrible, hideous hell of hopeless hunger in a world of plenty. And yet, many cry, "Wait a little longer! We are not ready for a change; the world must grow more wise!" They set up the hypocritical cry that the world is not ready for justice. Nobody has the gall to stand up and declare that a system which gives justice to the toiling masses would be an injury to our govern-