

Evolution the Emancipation of Labor.

UNIONIST.

Many are the men who believe that monopolistic rule will find its end in an uprising of the people. Some are assured that the day will dawn when the mobility will rise up in arms and that the world will run red with blood. Others believe that this detestable reign of money power will meet its death in the ballot box. Who can say that such things will not happen? All reforms were born of the mob!!! Discontent is progress!! Monopoly preaches contentment hoping thereby to lull the advancement of labor to sleep. Contentment is the horse that privilege rides to death. The contented toiler, if his satisfaction is detrimental to the welfare of the majority, is but a relic of the dark ages. If all mankind in the ages past had said: "Contentment is a virtue; let us be satisfied with our present condition; let no man dare to upset our peace of mind under penalty of death." What would have been the history of the world today? Would not the negro, yes, and the white man have been in chains this hour? Would we ever have heard of a Cromwell, a Shakespeare, a Washington, a Darwin, a Lincoln, a Mills, a Debs or a Gompers if our fathers had been content? No, contentment is retrogression. Discontent is reform! Privilege through all time has strenuously resisted all reform originating in the ranks of the masses. Discontent among the people is the prosperity of the nation; it is the safeguard against corruption.

What would the fate of our country be if it was to be controlled solely by plutocracy? Why labor would fall back to its old level and become the target at which snobility would hurl its sneers and insults. Again the pillory, mutilation of the laborer would be called up to force the rebel slave into submission. The homes of those who toil would become prisons, their children would cry for bread. The country would be sacrificed to alleviate nabobs' thirst for gold. Labor, the backbone of every nation, would become a mean, cowering brute, trained to obey the wishes of insatiable greed. But monopolistic rule has not its old power. Once it could openly tear from the hand of labor its dues; today it is a highwayman, a thief that prowls about in the dark. The people are beginning to awaken; they are becoming aware of the fact that monopoly is robbery; that if it is allowed to pursue its course without a check it means ruin.

Revolution! Who can read the future? The Russian peasant in general is contented with his lot; he is satisfied to look up to the Czar as the cousin of God, as his own father. Cunning aristocracy has pushed this content and this heathenish belief into his cranium and he has accepted it. What is the result? He goes through life in poverty, in ignorance, and worships as a god his bitterest foe.

Poor benighted peasant! A mortal with thine own consent rules thee with a rod of iron. Thy bayonet helps to uphold the throne of a man whose rule is a disgrace to civilization. Such is the reward of contentment, but the day of enlightenment will dawn for even darkened Russia. Even now about 30,000 factory operatives at St. Petersburg are battling for their rights; something new in Russia. They are hardly organized at all yet. Aware of oppression every individual sprang simultaneously into the fight. They demand a reduction of hours of labor from 14 and 12 to 12 and 10½ hours, respectively; increase of wages, and bi-weekly payment of wages. Several employers are prepared to grant their demands, but the government, the Disciple of Content, has unconditionally forbidden their doing this for fear that the strikers should feel themselves victorious. The strikers are ordered to return immediately to work, or be banished to their respective native places as criminals. Shame! How corrupt is the thing called justice meted out by Greek. But Russia must be awakening, and the toilers of other countries are applauding her first step in the direction of reform by pouring into her lap hundreds of dollars to aid in carrying her on to victory. Nations are awake. Money earned by the sweat of the brow, in the bowels of the earth, in the store, in the factory, are being given in hopes that the fetters may be struck from off the limbs of a fellow worker in a foreign land. Labor draws no line between nationalities, for all are human beings and must be regarded as such.

The great international meeting of trades unions is being held in London. The toilers of all the leading commercial nations are now met together, and are laying plans for the solution of labor problems. The toiler of one nation is shaking hands with the toiler of another, even though the governments of their respective countries are perpetually "chewing the rag."

Let governments wrangle; labor is friendly all over the civilized world. Monopoly is war; labor is peace. The people themselves are drawing together in the bonds of common interest and friendship. Tongues and seas no longer hold the nations apart, objects of mutual hostility. This coming together of labor of nations fortells the fall of that power whose creed has ever been, "Obey the powers that be."

Discontent is universal. The people of many countries show it by rushing over bodily to one side then to the other side at election times. Political parties have gone in by overwhelming majorities and then gone out with scarcely a vote. First one political faction, then another have risen and fallen. How is this? The people are not content. What they have been looking for has not been given them. What will be the result, if the masses, weary of this favoring of the money kings time after time,

arrive at the conclusion that justice will not be given them? Evolution, the emancipation of labor!

This discontent, flickering in the breasts of the "mob," must inevitably come to a crisis. Countries have run red with blood for lesser grievances than those of the present day laborer. Let our political opinions be what they may, let us vote for what we deem the right, but the politics of the future will be the emancipation of labor and the breaking up of monopoly.

Negaunee, Mich., July 31.

Organizer Nichols.

LAKE LINDEN, MICH., }
July 25, 1896. }

S. G. AKIN:

EDITOR LABOR WORLD: Replying to yours of the 21st inst., I would say: That I feel both pleased and honored to be called upon to write a letter in the interest and behalf of my old-time friend, J. W. Nichols. Mr. Nichols was a resident of this district a number of years ago, and there are many people here today who would gladly aid him.

He has been trusted, tried and found true. A champion of labors cause, unrelenting in his warfare against wrong and oppression, and untiring in his espousal of the right. While here he was a leader among men.

In 1892 he was the Peoples party candidate for sheriff of Houghton county, and together with the writer hereof, made one of the grandest efforts in the people's behalf it has ever been my pleasure to witness. Mr. Nichols at that time held a very lucrative position at Calumet and lost it because of his zeal and tireless efforts to better the conditions of his fellow workmen. He gave not only his time and efforts, but every dollar he owned.

The savings of years of hard labor at his trade were gladly sacrificed on humanity's altar. Thoroughly American in spirit, intelligent, honest and independent; he is peculiarly well fitted to be Duluth's next sheriff. It is rarely that such a man is chosen as a candidate, and if he is elected Duluth or its people will have no cause to regret their choice of candidates. I know Mr. Nichols better perhaps than many of his friends elsewhere, and would not make the above statements were I not absolutely positive of the position I take. I did all in my power to help elect him as sheriff of this county in 1892, and will add, that I stand ready at any time to again help him to the same position. If the people of Duluth will honor him to whom honor is due, J. W. Nichols will be the next sheriff of that county.

You may publish this if you wish, and will be obliged if you will send to my address several copies of issue containing same.

Yours for the the right,

W. L. HAGEN.