

THE LABOR WORLD.

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SABRIE G. AKIN, Editor and Publisher.

Letters and articles relating to the social problem are solicited.

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"The 'labor day,' which will be of greatest interest to labor, organized or otherwise, will be election day."—Social Democrat.

If Alderman Sang's statement concerning extravagance in the purchase of supplies for the fire department be true, and so far it has not been denied, it is little wonder that there is not money enough in sight to pay the firemen decent wages.

According to the Minneapolis Tribune a West Virginia judge has enjoined a Methodist preacher from holding religious services in the camps of the striking miners. Why don't he enjoin God Almighty from allowing his sun to shine on the poor devils?

Serious complications are likely to arise between this country and Russia over the unprovoked slaughter of several of her citizens during the Hazleton massacre. Russia is a semi-civilized country; human life in her borders is a very cheap commodity. But the government that will permit outrages like the Hazleton affair is several degrees lower down the scale of barbarism than Russia.

The New York Journal well says that the responsibility for the miners' strike rests entirely upon the operators. Manifestly the only basis for a fair and reasonable settlement was upon the uniformity basis, and since the Columbus convention expressed a willingness to go to work at the operators' figures, 65 cents per ton, and leave the main issue of the strike to arbitration, only those operators who stand in the way of a uniform scale can be held responsible for any further calamities that may grow out of the strike.

The LABOR WORLD does not condemn the oligarchy charter commission law because of any lack of confidence in Judges Ensign and Moer. On the contrary, we have little doubt that they will select excellent men for the commission. It is the principle of the law that we object to. We may be sure that its administration will not always be determined by the will of such safe men. The law is a crevasse that will widen and deepen until all of the little that still remains to us of honest city government tumbles in hopeless ruin.

Premier Greenway is said to have been successful in financing his proposed air line from Duluth to Winnipeg. It is also said by the same authority from which comes the foregoing, that John D. Rockefeller is the source from which is to come the cash. We thought Greenway's road was to be an anti-combination route that would restore competition in rates between the head of the lakes and the great Northwestern regions. If Rockefeller has got a finger in the

pie the people of Western Canada had better get along with what they've got. Rockefeller's first move will be an agreement on rates, and while the Canadian Pacific may be a robber, its present rates will be found exceedingly reasonable in comparison to what they'll be after its officials have had a few lessons in arithmetic from the Standard Oil Sunday school superintendent.

How cool we all take this Hazleton massacre? There is no Phillips, or Sumner, or Greely or John Brown to blaze with righteous wrath at this monstrous display of inhumanity. The American people are hardening to scenes of carnage; we are callous to the pitiful woes and brutal wrongs inflicted by tyrants at home on the ignorant and helpless. A few months ago our big dailies were lurid with justifiable indignation over the wrongs of Cuba and Greece. The faintest murmur hardly rises from the most pretentious of them at this slaughter of unarmed men, in our own land, in the midst of the very cradle of Liberty.

Is there no hope? Many there are who would gladly, even at this day, bare their breasts to the carnage of war in defense of human rights; but they are as but one among a thousand. Injustice, commercialism, animalism has eaten out the heart of American manhood and left in its stead an empty shell that shelters the soul of a pig. Eat, drink, and climb, if necessity says must, the weary treadmill that leads us towards a plenty that we can never reach. That is the life of millions, and as the wasted years slip swiftly by, each one of them leaves us as a whole less anxious about the institution, the traditions or the hopes of our country's founders.

The old fire-eaters of the South, whom we found later could fight just as hard as they could talk, used to call us in the North a race of traders—mercenaries, who had no stomachs for anything nobler than a bargain counter. They were right as to New York and some other commercial centers where the real spirit of our revolutionary ancestors was on the wane; they made a mistake, then, though, when by the standard of their New York acquaintances, they judged the common people of the whole North. In the thirty years that have passed since human rights were made the target of tyranny's bullets, has the whole country, clear down to the last industrial level, been Gothamized?

LOSING LITTLE TIME.

Mr. Debs' Social Democracy counts that day lost whose low descending sun sees not fifteen or twenty millionaires slaughtered in hot blood.—News Tribune.

It seems to differ from the millionaires, supposing the above to be true, in that the latter's victims are always slaughtered in cold blood. And the millionaires don't lose near so many days, either.

TRAITORS TO POPULAR GOVERNMENT.

The petition for the oligarchy charter was presented by Mayor Truelsen to Judges Ensign and Moer Thursday. It contains only 328 names and was circulated among the business men exclusively.

The law under which this charter is to be devised is the one alluded to heretofore in these columns, that introduces life-tenure in office, subverts majority rule, and establishes class distinctions based on property rather than personal worth. The Sheehan charter law is a backward step that is both undemocratic and un-American, and that reinstates

the worst political iniquities of the middle ages. The man who supports it either directly or indirectly, is either a tool of corporation and special interests, or is too ignorant to vote intelligently, let alone be entrusted with any responsibilities in the management of public affairs. Believers in popular government should spot every man who lends his aid to this conspiracy.

AN IMPENDING MALADY.

The organs of the bank trust are jubilating over the return of confidence as indicated by the increase in deposits in the national banks. According to the report of the comptroller of currency there has been an increase as compared with last year, of \$102,000,000. Just where the cause for rejoicing comes in, however, it is difficult to see. It is true that the increase stated has been reported, but the banks of New York City alone show an increase of \$116,000,000, so that outside of the financial metropolis there has been an actual decrease of \$14,000,000. The same is true of the loans and discounts. While New York alone shows an increase of \$66,000,000 the net increase is only \$7,000,000, so that for all the rest of the country there has been an actual decrease of \$59,000,000. If this means anything at all it means that, as in panic times, money is still piling up in useless hoards at the financial centers while the industries of the country are running, or rather stagnating, along on less money than ever before.

Money is often said to be the blood of the economic world. In the case of a human, being such a congestion of blood at the vital centers of the nervous system, if prolonged to any extent, would result in brain fever. The illustration is apt—the only difference being that in this case, the result when it reaches its final climax is most likely to be in the form of the "braining fever."

STILL TRYING TO DECEIVE.

The gold press is persistent in its efforts to humbug people into the belief that the rise in the price of wheat kills the silver argument that cheap wheat was the result of cheap silver. The New York World comes at the question with this sophistical query:

"If short crops in competing countries produce high prices, why do not large crops in competing countries produce low prices?"

In other words, "Why were not low prices produced by large crops in competing countries?"

They were. The World has completely obscured, in its query, the argument of the silver men. Present high prices for wheat, instead of destroying, emphasize the claims of the silver advocates. It is our contention that the large crops of wheat in India was the direct result of cheap money. In years gone by cheap silver brought about an abundant production of wheat, and this increased supply of wheat depressed its price. The present situation instead of overthrowing our argument, emphasizes it; for it has only been when nature steps in and by destroying the wheat crop in the silver countries, breaks the relation in the world's markets of wheat to silver, that the prices of those articles part company. That man is powerless to depress prices who has nothing to sell.

MURDER AT HAZLETON.

Again the hands of the plunderers who masquerade behind the cloak of law and order have been bathed in the blood of innocent suffering humanity. The wolfish hearts of plutoc-

racy must have leaped with joy at the whiz of bullets of their soldiery, as, at the sheriff's command, with the scythe of death, they mowed down human beings because they dared to exercise their right to travel public highways. The heart of the patriot stands still as he essays to tell himself where all these things will end. We, who have declared our fealty to the eternal principles of the brotherhood of man, as we ponder on our inaction, feel like guilty cowards who hesitate to strike the death blow when treason to all that is worth saving in modern society, stalks boldly red handed through the land.

Ah, but some one says, the Hazleton victims are ignorant foreigners, what difference does the life of a dozen or two of such cattle make?

No matter. They were human beings, members of the brotherhood of humanity, Americans from choice, not by accident, and entitled to all the consideration of him whose progenitor signed the declaration of independence. They were not shot down because they were foreigners, nor because they were bad or dangerous citizens. Their crime was sympathy for their fellow-workmen. In spite of the fact that they were foreigners, even though to that had they added the grossest ignorance, the most revolting customs, the most debasing opinions, not in the least would they have been molested so long as they evinced no interest and no concern about the mutual prosperity of their fellow toilers. They had committed no crime. Not even in Pennsylvania is it contrary to law to walk the highways accompanied by one's neighbors; they were not armed, even the Associated Press, the most malignant foe of the common people, admits that there was not a weapon on all the victims of that massacre more dangerous than a penknife; nor, if we are to believe the same "unbiased" authority, is there any truth in the sheriff's tale that he was roughly handled. Since when can a mob of Poles and Bohemians jump all over a man and leave not even a dust mark on his clothes?

No, the slaughter was cold-blooded, premeditated and who knows that it was not ordered beforehand by that subtle power that for thirty years has been gradually sapping and mining every valid stronghold of popular liberty? The end is not yet. As man lives the day of retribution shall come. "They who take the sword shall perish by the sword." The generation now passing away has had burned into its imagination the most vivid pictures of how Justice avenged the crime of chattel slavery. Is this generation to see, in redoubled horror, the punishment of the nation for the more monstrous crime against nature—industrial slavery?

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Voluntary Assignment, Assignee's Notice.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, ss. COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS. In the Matter of the Assignment of The Paddock Manufacturing Company, Insolvent. Notice is hereby given that The Paddock Manufacturing Company of Duluth in said county and state, has by deed in writing, dated September 15th, 1897, made a general assignment to the undersigned of all its property not exempt by law from levy and sale on execution, for the benefit of all its creditors, without preference. All claims must be verified and presented to the undersigned for allowance. Dated Sept. 15th, 1897. W. P. LARDNER, Assignee.

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Needs Protection.

DULUTH, Minn., Aug. 31.

To the Editor of the Labor World:—

I went with my horse and buggy to Superior last week across the new Duluth-Superior bridge, which is indeed a grand structure. I found on going over that the Bridge company had given the people the privilege of paying toll, whenever they go over the bridge, in return for the fifteen or twenty thousand dollars which the city of Duluth spent in condemning right of way and making streets to get to the bridge. This privilege is highly appreciated by everybody. It brought to my mind very forcibly the fact that the Duluth Street Railway company has what the lawyers term "vested rights" in Duluth. I don't exactly know what they mean by "vested rights," neither am I certain that the lawyers know, but they call them "vested rights." I do know, however, that they have good tracks, good cars and good service, and it occurred to me that it might be well if the council would pass an ordinance compelling the people to use these good things, for there are a good many people who walk on the streets where the good cars run, some ride bicycles and a few ride in buggies and carriages, and it don't seem right and fair that the people should be allowed to use these streets and not pay the Street Railway company, when they have their good tracks, good cars and "vested rights." On second thought, it might be better if the Street Railway company would go to the courts and get an injunction against the people using the streets without paying the company for doing so. Not being a lawyer, I do not feel competent to state which would be the best course to pursue, but something ought to be done to protect Gil Hartley and his pals.

J. J. HIBBARD.

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