

THE LABOR WORLD

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THIS WEEK'S THOUGHT.

What does labor want? It wants the earth and the fullness thereof. There is nothing too precious, there is nothing too beautiful, too lofty, too ennobling, unless it is within the scope and comprehension of labor's aspirations and wants.

NEXT TUESDAY'S PRIMARY.

A primary election will be held next Tuesday for the purpose of electing delegates to the national conventions of the political parties.

The Republicans have several sets of candidates most of whom have declared they will vote for Senator Cummings of Iowa, although it is freely admitted none of them is very enthusiastic about his candidacy for president.

In the Democratic party there is a division between the candidates recommended to the Democratic voters by the state conference of more than a thousand delegates held last month in St. Paul, and a set of candidates put up by members of the party opposed to the continuance of F. B. Lynch as National Committeeman.

Mr. Lynch is attacked by his opponents within the party because he has not succeeded in pleasing every Democrat in filling appointive offices, but this fact should not influence the votes of very many Democrats, as he was guided largely in his recommendations by the advice of the majority members of the county committee in each of the counties where offices were filled.

The Democrats of St. Louis county and the Eighth Congressional district are for Woodrow Wilson, and events of the past week should put them on their guard.

The candidates recommended by the state conference of Democrats are so pledged. They are A. C. Welsh, Daniel W. Lawler, B. F. Nelson and W. A. Just for delegates at large, and John Jensen and Douglas Greeley for delegates from the Eighth Congressional district.

BLIND AND UNPATRIOTIC.

Minnesota people generally were pained to learn that every Minnesota member of the lower house of congress, including the lone Democrat, voted for the Mc-Lemore resolution to warn Americans of belligerent-owned merchantmen that are armed for defense.

We believe that these gentlemen will find that trucking and cowardice appeal no more to Americans of German origin than they do to Americans of any other class. We believe that the rank and file of Americans of German ancestry do not countenance weakening the president's position and tying his hands with respect to grave international questions, particularly when it is clear that the underlying purpose of the little Americans is to serve the interests of a foreign power.

When men elected to congress as Americans by Americans, forget America, forget America's rights and interests and are willing to serve a foreign power, they are certain in good time to experience the resentment of all true-hearted Americans, those of German descent as well as those who spring from any other racial stock.

FOR AMERICA FIRST.

In the course of a recent debate in the upper house of congress, Senator Clapp made the astonishing argument, to which Senator Gore subscribed, that there is no difference in principle between our government's withholding passports from Americans who wish to visit "belligerent countries for pleasure, sightseeing or touring" and our government's preventing American citizens from traveling on belligerent-owned merchantmen carrying guns for defense.

This is in line with the reasoning that because the government urged Americans to withdraw from strife-stricken Mexico, it is inconsistent for it to permit Americans to travel on the high seas where warships are operating.

It is all weak and silly reasoning. Mexico's soil is Mexico's. Germany's soil is Germany's. Great Britain's soil is Great Britain's. But the seven seas belong to all the world. They belong to America as much as they belong to Germany or Great Britain.

Through the years the chief purpose in perfecting international laws has been to protect and extend the rights of neutrals. It would be a shameful thing for America, the chief neutral nation amid a world in arms, to yield her plain rights and to betray all neutral nations.

A REACTIONARY CANDIDATE.

Henry D. Estabrook of Omaha and New York, chiefly of New York, candidate for the Republican nomination for President of the United States, delivered an address here Tuesday before a fair sized audience of Duluth citizens.

Mr. Estabrook is a typical standpat Republican of the old school. If there was any doubt about it before he arrived in Duluth there was no question about it when he concluded his address.

This is what Mr. Estabrook said about the Seamen's law: "The La Follette act is the stupidest piece of legislation in the history of the country, and all who are in any way responsible for it share in the culpability of its author.

It is the same old gag. Republicans of the Estabrook type can see no merit in anything that springs from below. To their mind it is of no value unless it comes down like manna from above.

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PROPER BUSINESS FOR CONGRESS.

Under the above heading the Duluth Herald aptly and ably discusses the Burnett Immigration bill now before congress, which is supported by the American Federation of Labor and by all true Americans who have given unbiased thought to the great and momentous question of immigration.

The most powerful lobby ever seen in Washington is arrayed against the Burnett bill, and it is said the big steamship companies are contributing immense sums of money to defeat the measure.

The Duluth Herald comes to the defense of labor unions and praises their work for the bill in the following strong manner:

"Well, could labor unions be in better business? Could congress, for that matter, be in better business?"

"For years prior to the incoming of President Wilson and a Democratic majority, congress has been busy 'protecting the labor market' by tariff bills taxing labor for the profit of manufacturers, while leaving the immigration gates wide open for an influx of labor to compete with and to drive out American labor on its own ground."

"The greatest hypocrisy in the world's history has been that by which a Republican government has taxed all the people to build up great fortunes for a few in the name of 'protecting American labor,' while at the same time it has exposed American labor to utterly unlimited competition by a free and even fostered immigration."

"Many think, and we think with them, that the time has come to strain the flood of immigration somewhat finer. We cannot rejoice over the literary test, because it bars the people who have been kept ignorant by oppressors and who therefore need America more than others.

ST. PAUL UNIONS TO HAVE LABOR TEMPLE

St. Paul is soon to have a union labor temple erected according to present-day requirements, conducted with proper consideration for all the claims of good order and cleanliness and equipped with every facility for the needs of the labor movement in this community.

This improvement will be furnished by the Carpenters' union, which is the largest and most influential in St. Paul, and has in its treasury a considerable part of the money necessary to carry the design into execution.

A drawing of the proposed temple has been made. This indicates that it will be an imposing and attractive structure, and the layout of the several floors shows that it will admirably meet the wants of the labor organizations which wish to hold their meetings in it.

The union expects to have the new building completed by September, when the lease on Trade Union hall, 309 Wabasha street, will expire.

STOP IMMIGRATION FOR TERM OF YEARS

I am in favor of the complete and absolute prohibition of immigration the next five years. I do not believe that any class should be exempt.

This would not necessarily interfere with visitors under certain conditions, but every foreign visitor in this country should be under police inspection, should be registered with the police authorities and should be compelled during his stay to present his papers whenever called upon to do so.

I am not sure that the tide of immigration to this country will be greatly increased after the war. I think, however, that this is more than likely. At any rate, I am in favor of the absolute prohibition into this country for a period of at least five years.

SWEET CHARITY

By James H. Seymour, the Hobo Poet. Come, cheer up, pal, it's nearly ten, De doors 'll soon be open; We'll get a bowl o' Java den (Leastwise dat's w'at I'm hopin'). An' dat'll make us good an' warm, Jes' wot we been a-wishin'; It's cold an' wet here in de storm, An' all right in de mission.

Now, see? we're in, sit closer mate; We'll soon be warm an' eatin'. We's dat e says? Aw, heil, dat's great! 'We'll first have noond an' meetin'.

Now, listen, bo, dey're goin' t' preach An' tell us 'bout de Saviour; It's mighty nice, dem t'ings dey teach 'Bout keepin' good behaviour; But seems t' me, from what I've read 'Bout Christ, an' 'bread, an' fishes, Dat first he'd have us bums all fed An' den we'd heed his wishes.

HE SAVED HIMSELF FIRST One day Pat and Mike went out boating. Suddenly the boat overturned, and left Pat and Mike struggling in the water. Pat, who could swim, struck out for the shore. As soon as he reached it he turned and made ready to go back to save Mike.

AN EDITORIAL THEME "Whither are we drifting?" murmured the editor of the Plunkville Palladium. Guess it's time for another editorial on that.

WHY SOUTH OPPOSES CHILD LABOR BILLS

According to the Home Circle, published in Greenville, S. C., here are the reasons why southern cotton mill owners oppose the Keating-Owen child labor bill, which is intended to exclude from interstate commerce child labor products:

"First—When children are excluded from the mills, they have to go to school, be educated and enlivened."

"Second—Ignorance is what plagues the cotton mill authorities. "Education means light, knowledge, power, emancipation and freedom."

"Fourth—The cotton manufacturers have been made vastly rich by working children at half wages, doing grown folks' work."

"Fifth—When this bill is passed, they will know they will have to pay the grown folks enough to support the children anyhow. If they don't, the farms are inviting them."

"Sixth—As long as they can keep the workers in ignorance, they can cheat and rob them and control them "When the textile workers are better educated, they can get better employment, therefore demand better wages—a decent living."

"The above are some facts and reasons why this bill is opposed by the money powers. "Didn't the mill owners circulate and beg their employees to sign petitions, asking for this bill not to be passed, because it would seriously interfere with the factory business?"

WHEN CALEB POWERS, HIT JUDGE WRIGHT

Caleb Powers, congressman from the Eleventh district of Kentucky, who was seven years in jail accused of killing Governor Goebel, is now a freshman law student at the George Washington law school in this city. Three years ago Powers started the law course, but was informed by the college authorities that his preparatory education was insufficient.

He accordingly dropped out and has been going to night school to correct this deficiency. While formerly a student, the law class was hearing a lecture by Daniel Thew Wright, ex-judge of the district supreme court, when the latter called to the attention of the class the fact that the Goebel case had brought strongly the legal responsibility of persons who instigate the commission of a crime.

He was interrupted by a tall form raising in the audience and Caleb Powers in a soft southern drawl remarked to Judge Wright: "There is a lot about that case, Judge that you don't know and advise you not to use it as an illustration to this class until you know more about the facts. I am Caleb Powers."

PREPAREDNESS

We are with you, Woodrow Wilson, From Cape Cod to Golden Gate; We are with you, strong and daring, Though we chant no hymn of hate; In our minds no thought of conquest, Ours to stand in prudence, ready, Ours to strike hard, if we must.

It is wise to hope for justice, When the world is all aghast With the flames of hate and malice, Just because we know we're right? Shall we blind ourselves with logic Founded on Utopian dreams? Can we hope for love and mercy Where the gush of battle streams?

We are living in the present, And we face some burning facts; And one is that quarrels are settled Sometimes with the battle ax. Somewhere in the distant future Men may cease their strife, and love, But at present we must carry Hand of steel in sheathing glove.

Battle rages wildly round us, Might, inspiring fear and awe— In this holocaust of passions We must keep alive the law, We alone stand cool, and sanely Point unto a better day. If we fall, die law and justice! Might and bloodshed, hold thy sway!

Europe, are we mercenary When we feed your orphan hordes? Are we just a herd of traders Hawking with your warring lords? You will find us quick and willing, If you goad us to a fight, You will find us strong and daring To defend what we call right.

Bank not strongly on the hyphen, For we are a nation yet, And although we talk too freely, There are things we won't forget. We've a history that we cherish, We have men who dare and do, We have rights that must not perish, We can stand united, too.

We still love that glorious standard, That to Washington was dear, 'Neath whose ripples Webster thundered, That was draped on Lincoln's bier. We are with you, Woodrow Wilson, From Cape Cod to Golden Gate, Zealous in our country's service, Though we chant no hymn of hate. W. L. TIERNAN.

STUDY IN SACRIFICE "Would you sacrifice your principles for the sake of an office?" "I suppose not," replied Senator Sorghum. "And yet when you smother your principles you stand a chance of reviving them after you get the office. It seems too bad to sacrifice both."—Washington Post.

TWO GOOD MEN. It is a hopeful sign for real democracy when men like Louis D. Brandeis and Newton D. Baker are given recognition at Washington. There is nothing that resembles reaction so much as when men are appointed to offices of public trust.

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PARCEL POST PROOF AGAINST EXTORTION

Many will recall the long fight to obtain a real parcel post system a few years ago. But those who opposed the new system are not likely to give any special publicity to the following figures which are a bit damaging to their cause:

In the last year before the parcel post the express companies hauled 317,000,000 packages at a cost of \$158,000,000. In 1915, 280,000,000 express packages were hauled for \$78,000,000 and 400,000,000 parcel post packages for \$56,000,000, making 680,000,000 packages carried for \$134,000,000.

The significant point in these figures is that parcel post has largely made its own traffic. The express companies are carrying almost as many parcels as before, the decrease being only 37,000,000. But the cost of hauling express packages has declined on the average from 40 cents to 28 cents.

The express companies have lost many millions of dollars a year, but it is generally conceded that their former charges were excessive and that henceforth the prosperity of express companies will be legitimate, on a sound basis, with the public receiving a proportionate benefit.

The outstanding fact is that in 1915, 680,000,000 packages were carried for the public for \$24,000,000 less than that number of packages in 1912. Here is a genuine cut in the cost of living, a very tangible betterment in transportation and marketing conditions, accomplished without fulfilling any of the dolorous prophecies of the elimination of the small town merchant by the alleged "perils of the parcel post."—Milwaukee Journal.

PREPAREDNESS IN THREE PARAGRAPHS

The true militarist believes that pacifism is the masculine and humanitarianism the feminine manifestation of national degeneracy. World empire is the only logical and natural aim of the nation.—From the Seven Seas, organ of the Navy League.

War hardly ever brings to the collective mass any benefits that suffice to compensate the individual members of the mass for their private sacrifices of life and fortune.—From the Review of Reviews.

If the war continues two years more, there will be a crop of at least five hundred more millionaires.—From an article by J. George Frederic. Cecil Montague.

For every dollar of "relief" money charitable Americans are sending abroad the munition makers are pocketing \$1,000.

FOLLOWS ENGLAND IN SHIPBUILDING

The total output of mercantile tonnage from the shipyards of the United Kingdom during the past year may be put down, roughly, at slightly over one-third of that of 1914, for whereas in the last-named year, according to the annual returns of Lloyd's Register, 656 merchant vessels, representing 1,682,553 tons gross, were consigned to the water, the reports received show that the total mercantile tonnage launched during the last twelve months only aggregates between 600,000 and 700,000 tons gross.

The total of the world's output of merchant vessels during 1914 was 1319 of 2,852,753 tons gross, vessels, representing 1,169,200 tons gross, having been built abroad. It may be taken for granted that the number of merchant vessels launched in France, Germany, Japan, and Russia during 1915 is considerably below that of 1914, while Belgian yards may be altogether left out of account. Taking this into consideration, however, it would still seem that at least 1,000,000 tons gross of merchant shipping has been added to the world's tonnage by shipyards abroad, and that the total of the world's shipbuilding, so far as the output of merchant ships are concerned, will aggregate 1,500,000 tons at least. To the total the United States has contributed over a quarter of a million tons, the country next in importance being Holland, with something over 200,000 tons. It is a striking fact that the United Kingdom, in spite of the enormous calls made upon her shipyards by the Admiralty, has still been able to turn out more mercantile tonnage than any other two countries combined.—Liverpool Journal of Commerce.

HE WAS RAISED. Here's a story we picked up which illustrates pretty well our idea of ideal wage slave—that is, almost ideal, for the really ideal one would keep on being busy and would never ask for a raise: A year ago a manufacturer hired a boy. For months there was nothing noticeable about him except that he never took his eyes off the machine he was running. A few weeks ago the manufacturer looked up from his work to see the boy standing beside his desk. "What do you want?" he asked. "What my pay raised." "What are you getting." "Three dollars a week." "Well, how much do you think you are worth?" "Four dollars." "You think so, do you?" "Yes, sir, and I've been thinkin' so fer three weeks, but I've been so blame busy I haven't had time to spetak to you about it."

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