

THE LABOR WORLD

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A HOPEFUL CHRISTMAS.

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas and with due appreciation of all it implies, The Labor World extends greetings to its many friends and readers.

Christmas is the one great International holiday, observed as such wherever the divine principles enunciated by the Prince of Peace are recognized and believed. It is a day that calls for human brotherhood. It brings men to the realization of their interdependency and their duty to one another. That is why it is marked by the bestowal of gifts and other sentiments of love, friendship, benevolence and good wishes.

The world approaches this Christmas with more hope than it has possessed in centuries. It is slowly emerging from the awful devastation of war, with suffering, starvation and misery as its natural aftermath. The people everywhere, chiefly the innocents, are paying with pain and want for the neglect of industry and the cost of human slaughter. Those who profit from war are basking in luxury with their blood-gotten gains. One is a tragedy; the other is a crime against humanity. Both are an indictment against our civilization.

A ray of hope comes from the conference at Washington on the limitation of armament. A naval holiday in itself will not stop war. It is but a beginning. Small as it may appear on the surface, its deeper significance is in the fact that it will help to reverse the world's habit of thought. That is, it will get people to think more in terms of peace than of war. It will be a step forward.

Already there are forces everywhere engaged in organizing public opinion for peace. That's the best thing we are facing at this Christmas. They are endeavoring to get the world's statesmen to take up and discuss some of the causes of war, which are not in armament, but lie chiefly in unsatisfied economic needs, ambitious imperialism, differences in national points of view, and international distrust.

When economic needs are satisfied by a workable division of the world's resources; when ambitious imperialism is moderated by a capacity for international self-sacrifice; when nations appreciate one another's point of view—then international distrust can be replaced by faith and goodwill. That will reduce the causes of war to a minimum.

Under such conditions universal disarmament is possible. The naval holiday is the best chance we have ever had for a start in the right direction. And that is why we look with renewed hope on the coming of this Christmas.

THE HEATING FRANCHISE.

Speed up the heating franchise. If it is not granted at once the town will go to the dogs. We need it to abate the smoke nuisance, to save the merchant's stock, to give employment to labor, to protect the public health—all very good reasons.

There is no necessity for "railroad" franchise through the council, for if such a move could succeed, and it couldn't with this council, there is the referendum, the people's safeguard. The best friends of the heating franchise will see the importance of building on the skeleton they have presented to the council, so that the public interest will be fully protected.

The Herald, the same old Herald, with its customary adroitness, cannot find it "easy to see why the city should hesitate to grant a properly safeguarded franchise for a central heating plant." It argues that what will be a benefit to the patrons of the plant will be a benefit to the city, and that sounds plausible. It throws a smoke screen before the real issues in the proposal by talking about the smoke nuisance, damage to stocks, giving work to the jobless and the public health, but it has not seen fit to tender a single suggestion to the commissioners that would enable them to expedite the passage of the ordinance.

What does the Herald mean by a "safeguarded franchise"? There are folks who believe that if the council reserves the power to control rates and the character of service such a public utility shall render that would be safeguarded enough. There are other folks who have other ideas about proper safeguards in a franchise. What are some of those ideas which have come in the light of experience?

In the first place the applicant for this heating franchise wants one to cover but the profitable section of the city. He wants the cream and is perfectly willing to let the skimmed milk go to the city. THE COMFORT OF CENTRAL HEATING WILL NEVER BE ENJOYED IN A PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN DULUTH OUTSIDE OF THE CONGESTED TERRITORY UNDER THE PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF A HEATING SYSTEM. That's a foregone conclusion. There's no profit in it.

Take our gas and water system and compare it with our traction system. One is publicly owned and the other is privately owned. The publicly owned system extends with the growth of the city. It develops the city. It is a city asset. The privately owned system follows in the wake of the city's growth. It takes no chance of serving a sparsely settled locality. It leans on the city and it retards its growth.

In the second place, the city must some day build or purchase a central heating plant. That's a coming issue. It is in the march of progress. That's the day to look forward to now. A franchise is a contract that cannot be altered or amended without the consent of the city and the company holding it. It is the duty of the commissioners to see that such a contract will protect the people of the future from having to pay an exorbitant price for the plant when it is a going concern. It takes time to work out provisions that will safeguard the public interest and simplify the method of purchase. The commissioners are to be commended for looking at the question in that light, rather than to be reprimanded for exercising caution.

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. NEFF. Nothing that has happened in business circles in recent times has given us such genuine pleasure as did the public announcement of the elevation of Bentley P. Neff to the office of president of F. A. Patrick & Co. His promotion is a well earned reward for honest, able and faithful service to the many interests of Mr. Patrick and his associates.

Mr. Neff started in business life with Mr. Patrick at an office boy on a salary of eight dollars a week. He applied himself diligently to his work and steadily advanced from one position to another with the growth of the great Patrick organization until now he has become the active executive of the company, and he is still a young man.

He has always been a very busy man, but never too busy to devote his time to numerous public and patriotic affairs. He served as president of the Duluth Commercial club and gave that institution the best that was in him during his term of office. He aimed to make the club more democratic and more representative of popular thought, and his administration was marked by activities that won for the club many new friends.

He took a prominent part in war work at home, and later was called to New York and Washington to assist in war organization activities. In every instance he made new friends and returned to Duluth the recipient of fine praise for his able and patriotic service.

But the really big thing about Mr. Neff is not so much in his business and public achievements as in his high character and fine personal qualities. He has a heart. He is tolerant. He has sympathy. He can understand the other fellow. He is no snob. He is always willing to give a good boost to the man who is trying under adverse circumstances to make good. He can be decent to one with whom he disagrees. He has no class prejudice. He is human.

That's why we are over fond of him, and that too, is why we have been made very happy to read of his latest promotion. We congratulate Mr. Neff. He has our best wishes for his continued success. The future still holds many good things in store for him, and not the least will be the growing friendship and accompanying good wishes of a lot of folks, some of whom he probably never will know, but who will understand.

HAYS RAIS BURLESONISM. Whatever may be said about Postmaster General Hays and his methods of publicity he has his ear to the ground and he evidently has learned what the postal employees are thinking about. He is doing what Burleson was advised to do and refused. He is making allowance for the human equation in post office discipline.

Burleson surrounded himself with a type of post office experts and inspectors who did their thinking largely in terms of dollars. He reserved confidence in that judgment and retained them in nearly every instance.

The business men of the country did not appreciate the efforts of the Burleson administration to keep postal expenses somewhere within the receipts of the service. It was public business and they were not interested in Burleson's economies because it did not add to their profits.

On the other hand the postal employees never forgave Burleson or his assistants for the manner in which they were treated as such during his "efficiency and economy" administration. They were cowed by a discipline unbecoming in modern employment. They were subjected to a surveillance patterned after that of the czar of Russia. The rule in the American courts that the accused is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty was reversed in the postal service, and every employe charged with an offense was held to be guilty until he could prove his innocence.

Civil service rules prevent postal employees from taking an active interest in politics. They did not and they could not actively campaign against the Democratic administration as was understood political campaigning, but they employed means a thousand times more effective. The city and rural carriers reach nearly every home in the land. They make their visits 300 days a year. A groch dropped daily has in time its psychological effect. The attitude of the Burleson regime towards postal employees had become a matter of popular discussion long before the last general election. It did more to weaken the Wilson administration than any other single factor.

Mr. Hays, keen as he is, no doubt made use of it as chairman of the Republican National committee. And he has been wise enough to remove the evils complained of since he became postmaster general. Indeed the hardest raps that a government official ever gave Burlesonism, which is synonymous to Garryism, may be found in Mr. Hays' first annual report recently submitted to Congress. He serves notice on governmental and private autocrats that the postoffice department will not be a model slave pen.

We are away in the postoffice service from any idea that labor is a commodity," he says. "To treat a postal employe as a mere commodity in the labor market is not only wicked from a humanitarian standpoint, but it is foolish and short-sighted even from a business standpoint.

An employe, who is conscious that he is regarded as a mere commodity, will do enough to 'get by' and keep his job until he finds another, and he will do no more. He contributes nothing to the morale of the organization; the chances are, in fact, there will be no morale to which to contribute. He grouches and passes on his grouch. Feeling that he is ill-treated by his government he does his work badly, that soon everybody is growling at the mail service and at the government. A postal employe, on the other hand, who is regarded as a human being, whose welfare is important to his fellows, high and low, in the national postal organization, is bound to do his work with a courage, a zeal, and a thoroughness which no money alone can buy. The security he feels he passes on to the men and women he serves. Instead of a distrust of his government, he radiates confidence in it."

Mr. Hays presents this direct rebuke to the slave ideals of Burleson. "When we took hold of the administration of the postal service, seeking for some point of application in an earnest desire, quickly to improve the service, we looked at the relation that existed between the employes and the department. It seemed that there was the field in which the greatest progress might be made in the shortest time.

"That honest and efficient labor should have a voice in these phases of the management of a business which concerns working conditions and a living wage commensurate with the value of the service is but common justice."

COURTS USURP POWER. The injunction granted by Judge Landis on the application of the Pennsylvania system restraining the United States Railroad Labor board from publishing its decision against that road for violation of an order carries the Federal courts into a new and dangerous field.

Clashes with the labor board started when the Pennsylvania organized its company "union." The board ruled that members of trade unions were disfranchised, and voted admission by the railroad officials to sustain this point. The railroad was ordered to hold a new election, but it has not done so and now seeks an injunction to restrain the board from making public its decision.

The railroad board that the board exceeded its authority. The board replied that it was acting within its authority. The Supreme Court in law requires carriage of this

Is There a Santa Claus? Yes, Indeed!

(From The Labor World, December 23, 1921. Reprinted by Request.)

It is Christmas day. Children are playing down stairs, joyfully dancing around a beautifully trimmed tree, laden with dolls, books, toys and loving gifts of many kinds. All see very happy, particularly little Jane, who is loud and enthusiastic in her praise of Santa Claus. "Ah, what's giving us," shouts Jimmy, the skeptic of the household, "there ain't no Santa Claus. Just kidding yourself about such stuff. I've got over it. Our father and mother is Santa Claus. I guess I know."

"There is too a Santa Claus," little Jane indignantly retorted. "Mamma and Papa and Uncle Bill and everybody says there's one, but you. They ought to know." Jimmy held his ground unyieldingly, and Jane disputed him with the strong and simple faith that only a child possesses. Mother is too busy preparing the Christmas dinner to settle the controversy. Father will not be home till noon, and so they run excitedly to Uncle Bill, busy writing in his study, to whom the dispute is submitted.

"Uncle Bill," Jane begs, "Jimmy says there ain't no Santa Claus. You know that there is, don't you, Uncle Bill?" "Yes, my child," reverently replied the uncle as he lifted the little girl on his knee and threw his arm around little Jimmy, "I know there is a Santa Claus, and he was in this happy home last night when you were fast asleep. He is here now. He is everywhere. I believe in him as sincerely as I believe in God, and I do believe in God."

"Some day when you are a little older," continued Uncle Bill, "you will understand what I mean. You will know Santa Claus much better than you do now, and you will know God, too. Time will prove to you that Santa Claus visits every home on earth where love abounds, and sometimes he goes to homes where there is no love, but is sent there by the love of others. He comes down chimneys, through doors and windows, enters human hearts and opens them so wide that everything good in them flows out like water in a great flood."

Turning to Jimmy, Uncle Bill said: "When I was your age, I too, doubted as you do. I couldn't understand how a great, big man could come down such a small opening as there is in a chimney, and I doubted for many years thereafter, for I could think only of the Santa Claus I had read about in books and saw in pictures. But as I grew older and learned more of the world, and of men, and of things, I learned more of God, and of Christ, and since I have learned about the real God I have learned about his message of love, the real Santa Claus, who visits us every Christmas. Jimmy, when you get the right idea of Christmas you will also get the right idea of Santa Claus, and then you will never doubt him again."

"Now, didn't I tell you there was a Santa Claus," shouted little victorious Jane to the puzzled boy, "I guess Uncle Bill knows, Uncle Bill knows everything." With a heart full of glee and an air of complete satisfaction she rushed from the room, two little feet glided nimbly down the stairs, and in another moment Jane was singing her doll to sleep, while Jimmy, deep in serious thought, referred to his book, his kerpaw, his little shaker. Uncle Bill smiled in his chest to complete his story; no, to write a new one with this incident as its theme.

Oh, that we could preserve the simple faith of the child and combine it with the broader vision and ripe experience of grownups, then none would doubt that there is a Santa Claus.

at the state of New Hampshire to take over the college as a state university was in violation of the Federal constitution. It was held to be an impairment by the state of the obligation of contract. Dartmouth college had been chartered by the King of England in 1769, just 18 years before one constitution was ratified. The decision in that case has legalized over questionable railroad grant and public franchise then in effect or since granted by any city or state in the Union.

So here we have the Pennsylvania railroad making a new precedent through Judge Landis. He prevents judicial advice the publication of a report and raising issued by a government agency. If such is within the power of the Federal court what is to prevent an accommodating Federal judge to stop by injunction a United States senate committee from printing and publishing its report on the outrages in the coal fields of West Virginia, in fear that its publicity would excite and "create unrest among the miners and the people!"

That power unchallenged a bolder judge, guided by precedent, could some day entrap the people from reading a president's message. We've had timid precedents who would accept such an order in meekness. Only rare intervals have we had one like Andrew Jackson to challenge the supreme court's right to interfere with the administrative and executive business of the government.

There is nothing the courts can do that will more quickly destroy public confidence in their own integrity than continued abuse of their power. Jefferson looked upon judicial usurpation of power with fear. He seemed to see in it the ultimate dissolution of the Union. "The germ of dissolution of our Federal government," he said, "is in the judiciary, an irresponsible body, worshipping the gravity of law and by night giving little boys and a little man (immortal) an advancing, its sole step like a thief over the field of jurisdiction until all shall be usurped."

On another occasion he said as if he were looking into the problems of this day and generation: "If we ever lose our liberty it will be through the action of the Federal judiciary."

None knew this so well as Webster. He had a great case to be decided by the United States supreme court. He had been beaten in the state courts, which hold to the accustomed interpretation of the law and the constitution. There was a ray of hope for him in the supreme court, although that hope for a long time hung on a slender thread. But Webster was master of his case. Every doubtful point was clear to him. Other lawyers declared he had no chance. The fact did not discourage him. He had planned a course of action, which he calculated would bring him victory. He did not give up his case in the supreme court, but by carrying his main case there, even which he decided in his favor, would establish precedent. All the time he was paving the way for the big case, which he won in every way.

THE WHOLE BY REV. CHARLES NELSON PAGE.

He met the master on his way. He stopped, he looked, he looked again. Such challenge to nobility. He never had met from man or men.

He turned around and followed Him. A step or two, and half in fear. He paused, and then more resolute. He hastened forward, pressing near.

He caught step with this man supreme. He walked with Him along earth's road. He heard Him speak, and saw Him work.

He felt Him lift life's heavy load. He learned the truth, repeated it. Began experiments of love.

And his soul came virtues rare. Like fragrance from God's fields above.

Enamored of this life renewed. He bolder grew each passing day. And happier, holier, grew the task of helping others on the way.

Impersonating what he learned. Of this great Master, newly found, His life partook that spirit, as the two were intimately bound.

Less of his selfish way had he. More of the Christ life came to view. In all his thoughts and words and deeds.

In all the good, the right, the true, And thus that strangest miracle. The eyes of men on earth may see: A man transformed and transformed to Christlike personality.

LITTLE BITS OF HISTORY

While Robert Fulton is accredited with being the inventor of the steamboat in 1812, Congress gave credit to another, to James Rumsey who conceived the idea of steam navigation in 1782.

The Boston News-Letter is generally credited with being the first American newspaper. Its publication began in 1764. It was followed by "The Gazette" of Boston and by "The American Weekly Mercury" of Philadelphia in 1773.

The first congress of the American colonies was held in New York city, May 1, 1760. It was called to "agree upon the general security."

It followed an attack on Schenectady by 400 French and Indians. A new English confederation was formed in 1442.

A certain type of offenders against the law of this day would appreciate the Quaker laws of New Jersey enacted in 1851 by which the aggrieved person in all criminal cases, except for murder, treason, and theft, had the right, if he wished, to pardon the offender.

Harvard College was founded in 1638 and incorporated in 1650. It was named after the Rev. John Harvard who had died and left \$1,000 for the erection of the new buildings for a college at Cambridge, known then as Newton, three miles from Boston.

The first printing press in America was set up in Harvard college in 1639. It was the only printing press in the country. The first news journal, "Public Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestic," made its appearance in September, 1689. But one number was printed because the royal authorities refused to license it.

WAGE FIXING BY LAW

Since President Harding has suggested the passage of a law to prevent strikes similar to that championed by Gov. Allen in Kansas he has been charged by Mr. Gompers and others with attempting to drive the workers back to slavery.

Fixing wages by a government agency was the means used to "destroy monopoly" during Colonial times. In the town of Newburyport, Massachusetts in 1777, one year after the Declaration of Independence was announced to the world, the following vote was taken:

"Pursuant to 'an Act of the General Court to Prevent Monopoly and Oppression,' it was voted by the Selectmen to establish the following as the maximum daily wages to be paid: carpenters, five shillings; day laborers, four shillings; masons, four shillings; painters, four shillings; and masons, six shillings. The employers were prohibited from paying more, but not less than the above schedule.

A SMILE OR TWO

SOUND TOO MUCH ALIKE. "Why are you so opposed to Bill Board?" asked the friend. "They remind me too much of my board bill," answered Board.

NO ORANGE. This marriage game is getting feverish. If you will that to shake her. Your wife will shoot, and all you'll need is a hammer.

SMALL FOR HIS SIZE. They were talking about work. "One of our men mentioned a small man," continued up to the end of the line. "He said that man could do any work that you could do."

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WORLD ORGANIZATION NECESSARY FOR PEACE

An organic and continuing relationship between nations in which America will accept a full share of responsibility is declared for the General Committee on the Limitation of Armament in its adopted program and in the first number of its official bulletin just issued. In this bulletin the viewpoint of the General Committee is expressed as follows: "One hundred million people want less armament and no war. The first half of that wish is in a fair way of satisfaction. The second half does not appear prominently on the agenda of this Conference. In fact, the larger problem of the limitation of the arms and probability of the war, the people of the United States must choose between the ideal of nationalistic isolation—every nation's arms against its neighbors—or a realization that peace can only be achieved by a policy of mutual accommodation and international co-operation."

The General Committee is unqualifiedly in favor of "an organic and continuing relationship" between the nations, in which America will accept its full share of responsibility. It will seek to keep before the public, during this period of general interest, the need of some permanent international body to supervise the execution of the agreements reached at this Conference, the necessity of further Conference, in the near future, to deal with the many other and equally pressing questions which disturb the nations, and the obvious gain in convenience and efficiency to be secured by regularizing such meetings through creating permanent organization.

Under the wage-fixing powers of the federal arbitration court, Justice Brandeis endeavored to carry out the wage intent of the law, but he has been driven from office. Recently the federal government appointed a basic wage commission, and Premier Hughes agreed to abide by its decision. The government has since rejected the award, and Justice Powers of the arbitration board declares that the industries of America can not afford to meet the rates. It has now developed that he arrived at this conclusion through figures that the trade unionists were not permitted to see. Labor members in the federal arbitration board, who are confidential communicators, say that this is a scandalous reversal of all principles of equity that a court's decision should be supported by secret testimony.

Other Australian labor members voice the workers' belief that reductions and will smash the thing that they prayed for a year ago. The Daily Herald, of Adelaide, South Australia, says: "If the arbitration courts are to go it will be very much matter to the welfare of the workers so long as we determine to stick together, in the attitude of the Communist Party, and as only one hand can clap."

BIG BIZ QUITS TALKING ABOUT AUSTRALIAN LAW

The tinsel of Australian "basic strike" laws is exposed as employers discover that this scheme does not make workers "contented."

No longer is compulsory arbitration praised. No longer is the country referred to as "the land without strikes."

Instead, employers are openly antagonistic to the plan, and the sentiment is being voiced by reactionary agents in the lawmaking bodies.

Premier Barwell, of New South Wales, has declared in favor of wiping out the entire federal wage state compulsory arbitration system.

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THEN AND NOW

BY REV. CHARLES NELSON PAGE. Once Christmas was a day to me—a bubble on a shining tree. And then a tale of Jesus' birth and angels' songs of peace on earth as years came on I learned to live. And found it man's best way to live.

So now the gifts I have received. And Christian truths I have believed. Have made my faith a glowing flame.

Through it I hear the Master's name. That story cheery as the way. And Christmas was a good day every day.

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A Christmas Message

Happy all of our season of information that better times are just ahead. This message property and prosperity.

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