

THE EIGHT HOUR DAY

Great Labor Convention in New York City Tomorrow.

A MILLION MEN INTERESTED.

Combined Short-Hour Movement for May 1—The Leaders of the Federation of Labor.

One million organized workmen are to be represented in a conference which is to be held in New York city on December 5. They are to decide on details of another gigantic struggle for shorter hours, which may result in a war between labor and capital as long and as fierce as any which has yet been waged on this continent. It may be said that the struggle has been conducted without any disturbing consequences. Time alone will tell. The gathering which promises such important results is the fifteenth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

At the last convention of the federation, held one year ago in Denver, a resolution was adopted in favor of a combined eight-hour movement, to be set in motion on May 1, 1896. For twelve months the project has been simmering. It is one of the good points of the federation that it never does anything hastily. Readiness has never characterized its actions. It may be set down as most probable that this crusade will be conducted with as much deliberation and cool determination as have been those of former years, by which so much has been won for the cause.

Each individual of the 1,000,000 composing the various federated labor unions has been informed of the proposal and has had time to take an active part in the

establishing a policy against sympathetic strikes.

The Long Fight for Eight Hours.

What has been accomplished in one state shows something of the result of the organized efforts for an eight-hour day. Commissioner of Labor Statistics Downing, of New York state, says in his last report: "Nearly one-third of the 125,000 members of labor organizations in this state now enjoy the eight-hour day, and the call for further legislation extending the benefits of shorter hours comes from workers in nearly every trade and calling."



TREASURER JOHN B. LENNON.

Twenty-one organizations do not report the working time that prevailed previous to organization, and seventeen fail to respond to the query.

It is possible that the question of political action will come before the convention. If it does, there is likely to be some very free discussion of the point.

President McBride has said that he hopes to see labor organizations unite on a presidential candidate in the next national campaign. The Massachusetts state branch of the federation has come out for independent political action.

With their own policies the delegates will undoubtedly be much occupied. The election of a president of the federation always causes more excitement and is the occasion for a lot of wire pulling and log rolling.

The prominent candidates this year are about the same as they have been in previous years. Ex-President Samuel Gompers has always had a big following and will be in the race again without doubt. For twelve years, from 1882 to 1894, he was at the head of the federation, and while he has been criticised and has made enemies, he has many times earned the gratitude of the men who put him in office by keeping the organization clear of many shoals and reefs on which it could easily have been wrecked.

If this be the case, the federated metal trades will probably be the branch to be selected. At the second annual conference of the metal trades held in October at Chicago there was a good deal of eight-hour agitation. This was followed by a poll of the entire organization on the question of making a general demand. The metal workers all over the country voted, and there was much enthusiasm expressed in favor of the project.

The total membership of the metal trades is something like 175,000. Prominent among the organizations thus affiliated are the iron molders, with a membership of 41,000; the iron and steel workers, with 90,000; the machinists, with 10,000; the iron shippers, with 10,000; and the brass workers, with 2,000.

This is to be the nature of the entering wedge. It will be an iron wedge indeed, and the hammer that is to be used will be the whole federation, 1,000,000 men strong.

Long strikes may result.

Just what the results of a demand for an eight-hour day by the metal workers on May 1 next may be it is hard to say. If the manufacturers should resist, as they probably will, the contest will be Titanic.

A strike of 175,000 metal workers would paralyze many lines of trade. It would close the great foundries in Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia, stop work on many big buildings in the larger cities and throw into confusion a hundred branches of trade.

The conservative nature of the Federation is a guarantee, however, that a general strike of this nature will not be resorted to until capital has had every opportunity to make terms. If the metal workers are successful, they will come the turn for another organization.

Wrecked. He has met emergencies which have called for quick action, great discretion and cool judgment, and he has come out with credit to himself.

Samuel Gompers is of English birth and German parentage. He began life as a rubber's apprentice, but afterward learned the cigarmakers' trade. When a lad he came to the United States and soon began to take a deep interest in labor matters.

John McBride, who has held the office for a year, may be re-elected. He was president of the United Mine Workers' Union before he succeeded Gompers. He is a man of great personal magnetism. The miners almost worshiped him after his management of their last great strike. Since he has been at the head of the federation he has become widely known and is popular with all classes of wage earners.

His election in Denver last year was probably due to the radical delegates, who were dissatisfied with Gompers because of his conservative course in regard to the great railroad strike.

Candidates for the Leadership.

It is probable that one of these two men will be chosen, but there are a half dozen other men who are prominent in the federation, any one of whom might be selected president.

P. J. McDiarmid, chief of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, is a popular leader. He is a good speaker, has the reputation

of having engineered his union through several long struggles for shorter hours and higher wages and would have a good many votes if he should be a candidate.

Joseph Valentine, president of the Iron Molders' Union, has been spoken of for president. His union has 150 votes in the convention.

P. M. Arthur, who is at the head of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, is a leader whose popularity is waxing. John B. Lennon, of the tailors' union, is treasurer of the federation and might become its president. He is an energetic organizer and is known as well in the West as in the East.

William Prescott, president of the International Typographical Union, is a resident of Indianapolis. The printers, who will cast 250 votes in the convention, think that Prescott would be the right man for the place. He came near securing the office in 1894, but withdrew in favor of Gompers.

Martin Fox, of the iron molders; J. Kilgallon, of the iron and steel workers, and Daniel Harris, of the cigarmakers, are also popular leaders and may develop as candidates.

The convention is to be held in Madison Square Garden, where the delegates will have plenty of room. There will also be an opportunity to see the big auditorium for many spectators as wish to attend. The federation holds its meetings in public, and there is nothing secret about them.

More delegates than have ever before attended are expected to represent this year. The New York unions have made preparations to entertain the delegates in handsome style. There will be receptions in the various labor halls, and after the work is all done a big ball will be held. A banquet is also on the programme. The work of the convention is expected to take over a week.

The representation is governed by the membership. International and national unions are entitled to one delegate for less than 4,000 members, two delegates for 4,000 and over, three for 8,000 and over, four for 16,000 and over, and so on. Each local or district trade organization or federated body not having a national or international body affiliated with the federation is entitled to one delegate.

A number of delegates from British trades unions who are in the country have been invited to attend.

A JEWEL CASE.

Pretty for a Christmas Present and Easy to Make.

Celluloid, leather and chamois are favorite materials for gifts, but lace and artificial flowers enter largely into the composition of many of the daintiest articles made. Some of the prettiest articles may be readily imitated by clever fingers, and thereby gain added value in the estimation of the recipient.

One of the daintiest jewel cases shown has as a foundation a circular piece of pasteboard seven inches in diameter, covered with white elderdown. Three small rings, made of inch-wide strips of pasteboard covered with the elderdown, were sewed to stand upright like muffin rings to the center of the mat, forming separate compartments for the different articles of jewelry. Fastened to the center space between the three rings and falling over them was a full ruffle of white satin, edged with lace. Over this again was a second ruffle of wide lace and a final finish—everything starting from the same central spot—were tall loops of narrow white satin ribbon, with sprays of forget-me-nots. The effect is that of a huge rosette, beneath which in their little round boxes are hidden rings and trinkets. Pink, blue or yellow satin under the lace is equally pretty.

The Women of the Family Will Be Pleased with a Needle Case.

Purchase fourteen brass rings an inch in diameter and crochet over each with some handsome shade of knitting silk; then, with a single thread of the same, work a technically known as spider's web in the center of each and join them, as the drawing shows, seven for each side of the needlecase.

Cut six pieces of fine white flannel in the shape of the pattern shown, and with the silk buttonhole closely the edges of

each. Lay them one above the other, with one cover on each side, and make all fast together at the two rings that form the top. Attach No. 2 ribbon and tie in a bow, after the manner indicated, then fill with assorted needles of the best make.

The case will be both dainty and of eminent utility, though small, can be trusted to find a place in the recipient's regard, for what woman among us all but likes to find a needle close at hand and in her heart treasure her sewing outfit as a boon beyond that of any acquired right?

Read the Death Roll

Which the bill of mortality of any large city may be daily despatched, and you will find that renal and vesical maladies, that is to say, those that affect the kidneys and bladder, have a remarkable prominence. Bright's disease and diabetes in the chronic stage are rarely cured, and progress slay many. Yet at the outset, when the trouble merely amounts to inactivity of the organs involved, the danger may be nullified by that thorough renal tonic and diuretic, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which imparts the requisite amount of tone to the organs, without over-exciting them, and the use of which is convenient, and involves no elaborate preparation.

Dyspepsia, a usual concomitant of renal complaints and debility, which they invariably produce, are remedied by it, also are constipation, malarial, rheumatic and nervous ailments.

Fast Rail Service to Tacoma.

The Northern Pacific is now running six trains a day each way between Seattle and Tacoma. Trains leave at 9 a. m., 11 a. m. and 2-45 p. m. make no stops and reach Tacoma in one hour. Fare only 60c one way. If for round trip.

Get rates to Hood canal, the old reliable steamer Delta. Fare 50c; return ticket 70c, to all points on Hood canal.

COUNT VON TAARFE

The Irishman Who Governed Austria Fourteen Years.

RIGHT HAND OF THE EMPEROR.

His Skill in Ruling an Empire Composed of Many Races—How He Kept a Majority.

Adapted from the New York Tribune.

While Celtic names abound among the nobility of Scandinavia and of France, Irish patronyms are equally plentiful in the ranks of the aristocracy of Austria. The Scots in the northern part of continental Europe, such as, for instance, the Douglasses and the Hamiltons of Sweden, are the descendants of those officers who followed the King of the Romans in his great struggle on behalf of the Protestant church, while the forbears of those in France followed the Stuarts to that country after the Revolution. The sons of Erin, on the other hand, seem to have been attracted to Austria by the brilliancy of its court, by the facilities which it afforded for seeing active service in the army, and by the devotion to the Catholic church, of which the Holy Roman empire was in those days the principal champion, and last, but not least, by a great similarity of character. For there is much analogy between the Irish and the Austrian, especially among the higher classes, both being equally fond of pleasure, reckless alike in their daring and in their extravagance, British always eager for fresh excitement and adventure.

Indeed, in the last century, when Catholicism constituted a bar to advancement in the civil service, there was scarcely a single house of the Irish nobility that was not represented by one or more of its members in the Austrian army. To this is attributed the fact that the princely Knight, present ally of the emperor, Emperor Francis Joseph, has his chief in an Irish earl, young Lord Westmeath, now attached to the British embassy in Washington City, while the most conspicuous and popular statesman who has ever held the office of prime minister at Vienna since the beginning of the present century was an Irish Viscount Taaffe, who died November 24.

By no one is his death more deeply mourned than by his boyhood friend and chum, Francis Joseph, to whom he devoted the greater part of his life and his life. It was nothing but deep affection for the emperor and a patriotic sentiment of duty to the fatherland that caused him to sacrifice his own brilliant career, and then, when he first entered the service of the crown. Indeed, he always used to give me the impression that he regarded the emperor as a dearest and a dearest friend. It was only his Austro-Hibernian courtesy which kept him from yawning in the reichsrath as frequently as the Duke of Devonshire was wont to do when he sat in the British house of commons.

Strange-Looking Aristocrat.

Count Taaffe, when I knew him in the early eighties, was one of the most peculiar-looking men in Vienna. His head was narrow and long and sloped downward to the neck, and he wore brim-black hair rather long, falling on the collar of a strangely cut old frock coat that bore the mark of having been built by an extraordinary tailor. An old and rather disreputable silk hat of antiquated architecture was perched on the very back of his head, its narrow brim affording no shade to the numerous black spots that sparkled on either side of an aquiline nose, which, in turn, was perched above a drooping black mustache. The cheekbones were high, the complexion was sallow, and the general aspect of the man, if not Oriental, was at any rate that of a Spaniard.

It is needless to say that he proved a perfect mine to the Vienna journalists, who, when he was in office, never tired of portraying him and his old coachman, "Peppi," who was almost as well known in Vienna as his master, in the most favorable manner. Peppi, who used to abuse and order about the count in the same amusing fashion that Francisco, the old valet of Senor Canovas used to "boose" the autocratic statesman who is now prime minister of Spain, had been, when I last saw the Taaffes, in their service for more than thirty years. He used to trim his hair in the same old-fashioned manner as the count, and of the same kind of "tulle" perched on the very back of his head, and detesting his livery as much as the count did his uniform, was ordinarily arrayed then in a black frock coat, and in the latter's old gray frock coats. Then, too, Peppi aped all the little mannerisms of the count to such a degree that the resemblance between master and man was striking, so much so as to be positively ludicrous, and constituted for many years one of the stock jokes of the comic papers of Vienna.

The Importance of the "Moppl."

Another member of the Taaffe household whose good will I am proud to have possessed was that of "Moppl," the most famous poodle of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and certainly the most popular than ever Prince Bismarck's "Reichshund." "Moppl" was for many years the constant and inseparable companion of the count, and was especially acquainted with more state secrets than any dog in Europe. He used to sit solemnly in a chair in a corner of the prime minister's room at the palace, where the cabinet council were held, and where audibly he was granted, with a look of truly statesman-like sagacity on his clever and intelligent face. Unfortunately, "Moppl's" official decorum was unimpeachable constant in official matters did not extend to his private life, which was characterized by numerous indiscretions, and as soon as night set in "Moppl" was wont to cast aside the harness of office and to become one of the gayest dogs in Vienna. It was during one of these midnight excursions that he was so mauled and torn by a rival Don Juan of canine species that the subsequent state secrets that he had acquired in his injuries, although tenderly nursed by the prime minister of Austria and by Countess Irma, who is one of the grandest ladies in the empire. "Moppl" lies buried in one of the prettiest corners of the park surrounding the count's beautiful country seat at Ellischau, and the tombstone that marks his grave bears the words, "Moppl, the noblest species that the sun ever created, a beautiful bed of flowers."

The story of the emperor's first meeting with Count Taaffe after his ascent to the throne reads almost like a story from the Arabian Nights. Francis Joseph, a few years after his accession, happened to pay an official visit to the ancient city of Linz, the requirements of etiquette on such occasions, begged for permission to present his staff, and among the members of the latter was Count Edward Taaffe. In the emperor's young monarch recognized the old playmate of his boyhood. He said nothing at the time, but after the official receptions were over he sent for the count, and as soon as he was alone, threw his arms round his neck and told him how delighted he was to see him again. No man was ever more lonely, more isolated from his fellows than Francis Joseph in those days. Fate had dealt with him ruthlessly, both as a sovereign and as a man. On all sides he was surrounded by people whom he had been taught by bitter experience to distrust. The emperor's mind was half-battered and despondent, while his own nearest relatives had aloof from him, with rare exceptions bitterly condemning him for having so far forgotten the traditions of his race as to grant his subjects a constitution. He was literally without a single friend, even his beautiful wife being estranged from him at the time. It is not astonishing, therefore, that he rejoiced to find once more his old chum, in whom he could repose the most perfect trust and confidence.

From that time forth "Moppl" as the emperor used to call Count Taaffe, addressing him with the familiar pronoun of "thou," remained his sovereign's friend and confidant in the widest sense of the word, and the emperor probably never suffered more deeply from parting with a minister

than when Count Taaffe finally found it impossible to continue any longer in the office of premier.

Count Taaffe was blamed for pandering too much to the nationalist aspirations of the various races that go to make up the agglomeration of peoples known as Austria. But he had no alternative. The state of the political parties when he reluctantly assumed the office of premier was one of chaos. There were about a dozen of them in the reichsrath, and so bitter were they one against the other that it was impossible to carry on any legislation, the result being that Austria was politically and financially on the brink of ruin. Distress was general, agriculture was so weighed down by the burdens upon the soil that the land in its going out of cultivation. Factories were being closed on every side, the sufferings of the poor were terrible, and while wages were low and work scarce, all the necessities of life were heavily taxed. Count Taaffe understood that reforms were urgent, and that they must be put into execution quickly and no matter at what cost. As the German Liberals, from whom he cut every right to look for support, declined to help him unless he agreed to Germanize everything, thereby antagonizing every other political party, which would have rendered legislation impossible, he cut loose altogether from them and began a policy of conciliation toward the other political factions, the support of each of which he may be said to have purchased by means of concessions to their racial aspirations, so much so that his administration was known as the "concession market." It was by this means that he managed to pass an immense number of laws, and to bring about a waiting parliamentary sanction, and to introduce numbers of sorely needed reforms. Poor laws, factory laws, laws for the protection of women and laws bringing home to employers the duties and responsibilities toward the employed were enacted. The franchise was extended, and honesty and integrity were introduced into an administration where jobbery and corruption had been rife.

An Adept in Gaining Majorities.

No statesman ever showed himself a more perfect master in the difficult task of securing legislative majorities to endorse what he knew to be the policy of the emperor. In most other European countries where parliamentary form of government exists it is the prime minister, as a rule, who is subservient to the parliamentary majority. In Austria and Hungary, however, it is the prime minister who renders legislative majority subservient to himself. Allying himself personally with none of the political parties, he availed himself of the services of the one and then of the other, and when taxed with political inconsistency was wont to reply that the doctrines of both one and the other were indifferent to him except in so far as they could be rendered of use to him in the furthering of the aims of the emperor, whose wishes he alone consulted and endeavored to fulfill. He never under any circumstances allowed himself to be hurried or worried about anything, not even in the most turbulent sessions of the Austrian diet, maintaining throughout a neighborly and almost indolent repose and calm, lightened here and there by a cynical smile or else by a trite remark delivered in the broadest of Viennese "patois" (Wien-deutsch).

Of course there came a time when this sale of concessions to the various political parties had to stop, since matters had reached such a stage that any continuation in this direction would have resulted in the conversion of the empire into a number of federal states bound together only by dynastic ties. Having nothing more to sell, he could buy no further support; consequently his career of usefulness as a prime minister came to an end, and he definitely resigned office after a crushing defeat in his attempt to increase the electorate by some 3,000,000 votes.

After that time his life was spent mostly at his beautiful country seat at Ellischau, in Bohemia, in the pretty park of which there is a reproduction of the ruins of his ancestral Irish castle of Ballymote. Both his wife, the stately Countess Irma, and himself were noted far and wide for their freedom from all pride and affectation, their absence of hauteur, their interest in everything in the shape of fess and feathers, and for their simple, democratic, genial and kind-hearted bearing. Count Taaffe descended from Sir John Taaffe, of County Cavan, in Ireland, who was raised to the peerage of the Emerald Isle in 1628. The second viscount had his estates confiscated by Oliver Cromwell for having espoused the cause of King Charles I. while the third was killed in the battle of the Boyne while fighting for King James. It was the fourth viscount who migrated with his family to Austria. Loyalty to the sovereign, indeed, has always been the guiding principle in the lives of the Lords of Taaffe, in none more so, however, than in that of Count Edward Taaffe, the emperor's friend. EX-ATTACHE.

These Long Winter Evenings

Pass slowly if there is nothing to do but read. A guitar in the house lends up things and puts everybody in good humor. It is a pretty difficult matter to most folks to select a good instrument. The advisable way is to write to a reputable dealer and ask him to select a guitar for you.

But some people prefer a violin, a mandolin or a banjo—any of these instruments will do, and tell us which instrument you prefer, and the letter will be promptly answered. We can send instructions with the instruments so that you can learn to play well without the aid of a teacher.

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