

# ENGLISH TRADES UNIONS AND THEIR POLITICAL ACTION

Hon. Clarence S. Darrow Discusses This Subject.

AS THERE, SO HERE ALSO

First of a Series of European Industrial Letters by the Distinguished Lawyer Who Represented the Anthracite Miners.

By CLARENCE S. DARROW.

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LONDON, August 15.—In spite of all that the American finds now and strange in England, still the traveler soon discovers that the two countries are wonderfully alike. Of course, with the exaggerated egotism of all men and peoples, we are at first surprised to see how many of our customs, institutions and laws have been adopted here; on second thought we are glad to find that the English workingmen have not only followed the footsteps and experiences of the English people.

In no way do we find conditions more faithfully reproduced than in what is known as the "labor movement" of both nations. To determine what America will be to-morrow it is a good plan to see what England is to-day. Both in England and America the labor question in some form overshadows all other topics. It does this because it is the question of the labor question is the question of democracy, of the rights of the many against the long usurped privileges of the few.

### FOLLOWS ENGLISH LEAD.

The whole trades union movement of America has followed in the wake of the English lead. The history of labor organizations in the United States, with all of their trials and tribulations, their victories and defeats, is but a faithful copy of the impetuous struggle of the English workingmen. To be sure we Americans have written our history much faster, exactly as we do everything else with greater speed, but we do not more rapidly because the way is no longer strange and untried. In the United States the American trades unionist in the presence of what seems to be his almost invincible power is becoming strangely apprehensive of serious dangers to his cause. In spite of the unprecedented growth of trades unionism in the United States its strongest supporters and its best friends are looking to its future with perplexing doubts and fears behind the English trades unionist. The Englishman is already in the presence of deadly peril and is seeking the best he can to find a defense against the dangers that surround him.

### AN ANCIENT INSTITUTION.

Trades unionism is almost an ancient institution in Great Britain. Its every step has been in keeping with the spirit of democracy, which if after all the most constant aspiration of the human race. That trades unionism has greatly improved the condition of the English workingmen is a fact that is common knowledge. The common people would not be publicly denied even by its enemies. Still through all its progress it has met the opposition of the privileged classes, of those powerful families who long ago parceled out the land and through them of the aristocracy. It would belong to them and their forever. Just the same, too, it has been opposed by a class still more powerful and aggressive, the commercial class, whose wealth and influence really come from their control of the industrial life of the country. Both of these classes instinctively feel that any substantial improvement in the condition of the common people must be at their expense, and at the peril of their precious "rights." It is well enough for politicians and "superficial" observers to see the common people, and the plain fact remains that their interests are conflicting, and will be always so until the capitalist is the workman and the workman the capitalist. Both classes understand exactly what it means or why it is the case. So it is that even though trades unionism has constantly grown in England until it seemed to be almost as firmly established as Parliament itself it has over met, the conscious and unconscious opponents of the favored class. This opposition has once more been made effective in the English courts. To-day trades unionism in Great Britain stands almost stunned by the bloody blows that have been recently given it by the courts. True, it is so strong in England that it is groping about for means to defend itself against these deadly onslaughts, but that it has been seriously, if not vitally, wounded is beyond dispute.

### THE TAFT-VALE DECISION.

The Taft-Vale decision and other similar decisions in Great Britain, like the injunction cases in the United States, are striking at the very life of trades unionism, and no one realizes this more than the workmen themselves. By this decision the legal responsibility of unions in cases of strikes has been established in Great Britain, and almost \$50,000 taken out of the pockets of the courts to say nothing of the great expense incurred in its defense. Similar suits and others which the ingenuity of skilled lawyers can readily devise have brought the unions face to face with the fact that the law is against them. Trades unionism is, to say the least, stagnant in Great Britain. It is not growing, it has not grown for two years past; it has doubtless materially declined in power. While it has managed to keep its numbers almost intact, still it has been shorn of its strength. It has been a long time since the unions have conducted a successful strike of large proportions, and with the law now declared and administered it is difficult to see how they can ever again take such a strike. Of course, trades unions cannot be kept together unless they can do something, or at least promise something, for their members. Ordinary workingmen will not give dues and support unless they see that his union can help him in his struggle for life. And while it would be too much to say that this good can only come through strikes, still, better wages can not be obtained through negotiation

### POSITION OF THE COURTS.

It might be worth while to inquire why the courts in England always resort to the courts with such good result. The reason is very simple and is true in England and America and the world over. The courts are naturally drawn up to the most successful lawyers, and these have naturally been in the service of the privileged classes and have come to view all questions from that side alone. The law is not like arithmetic or geometry, a fixed science, but it depends entirely on the opinion of the men who pronounce it and their opinion has almost always been pro-



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lounced by men whose whole life has been spent with the privileged class.

### POLITICAL ACTION.

The movement in England toward political action is influenced by a still deeper though perhaps a more unconscious feeling system and this may come to be very closely associated with law. The strike and the boycott and the lockout are really systems of warfare and for this reason seldom lead to permanent good. The great problem is the orderly and lawful change of industrial and political institutions to bring about a condition of democracy and equality amongst men. So long as political institutions exist their action will be considered the law of the land, and for this reason if a State is really progressive, and stands for democracy against privilege, its political forces must represent its real life.

### PRINCESS ANNE

A Wonderful Trucking District Growing in Importance. BLOSSOM HILL, VA., Aug. 22.—There has scarcely been a time in the history of Princess Anne county that so much thrift and energy has existed. Crops of all kinds are looking well and bid fair to give abundant yield. The trucking industry is growing at a rapid pace and bids fair to be of magnitude at no distant day.

During the Irish potato season, the stations on the Norfolk and Western Railroad, which are about three miles apart, would receive for shipment about five hundred barrels a day. This year a great many farmers commenced shipping to Norfolk, and in trucking it is the earliest trucking and vegetables that bring the big prices. Watermelons are grown quite extensively and shipped in car loads to Norfolk and the Northern markets. The peach crop was a success from every standpoint, the yield was fair and the prices received above the average. Peaches grown in this section are of large size and splendid flavor and many of the farmers are increasing their orchards, adding to the bank accounts of many smiling and happy farmers.

### A REVIVAL OF THE LOST ART OF WALKING

Walking for pastime and exercise is so out of date in this land of ours that the missionary efforts of that grand old relic, Edward Payson Weston, are like the voice of the pelican in the wilderness, very lonesome and afar off. Bicycle, trolley and automobile have made a sturdy pair of legs, expanded chest and a high heart along a country road an infrequent combination. We faster ourselves than the British, have little to teach us in athletics; that our sporting experts can give them the dust in most lines of endeavor, and that when it comes to field sports, our teams, with a fair amount of practice, do not leave England a record to stand on. However, there has come a revival in walking as a pastime which has spread like a wildfire from the British Isles, and the sooner the microbe is imported the better.

### ATTACK COURT DECISIONS.

In all of these campaigns the decisions of the courts were openly attacked, these severely condemned, and they are pledged to destroy the Taft-Vale decision and all others of its kind. In this, too, the English workman understands what he can accomplish. Fifty years ago the judges of England had completely bound the laws of the land so that they had shaped the law that any concerted action on the part of the unions was criminal, but by a recent decision they have destroyed it at once, and trade unions left free to act. It would be a pity if the courts should be commended to undermine and destroy the work of the organizations of workingmen.

### OF COURSE THERE ARE A FEW PROGRESSIVE

members in England who propose to stop when these decisions are upset. The constructive policy which should follow this legislation is not so easily agreed upon, but it is safe to say that events have taught the English trades unionist that he must go into politics or be lost, and that the common people, when brought to the poll, have shown that the thing must needs be done, honest, honest leadership for the hosts of labor.

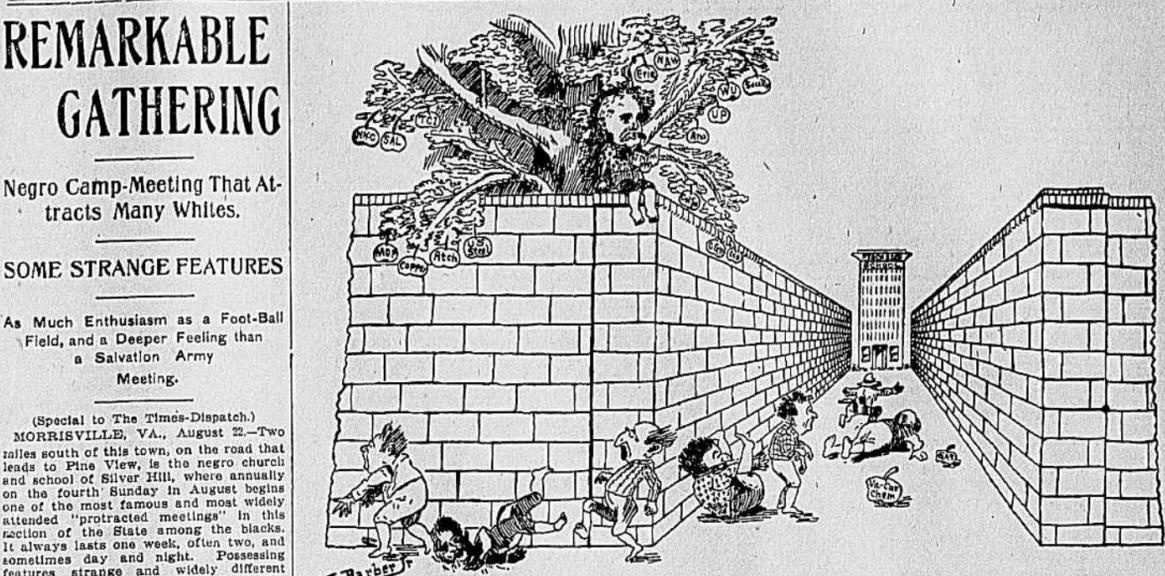
### END OF THE ROYAL BAND.

Yet another picturesque adjunct of the royal office in London, says the London News, it has been decided that the King's private band, which consists of thirty-four of the best musicians in England, shall be disbanded at the end of September. The present band, which is conducted by Sir Walter Parratt, is the successor of many others retained by our monarchs for the past four of five centuries to perform light and euphonic music during the royal meals and on state occasions of a private or semi-private character. It is probable, we are told, that another band, differently constituted, will take its place.

# The Closing Scenes of Our Summer Shoe Sale.

MONDAY AND TUESDAY We will make the busiest days of this sale by reason of the lots having a MUST-sell-out price on them. ARRANGED IN TWELVE LOTS FOR QUICK SELLING.

- 25c for Children's Fine White, Brown and Red Tennis Shoes, that sell at 60c.
- 50c for Children's Slippers, that sold for \$1.00, and Blue and White Button Shoes.
- Late. Just arrived, Ladies', Misses' and Children's WHITE CANVAS OXFOLDS, CHILDREN'S BAREFOOT SANDALS, Ladies' Tan Oxfords.
- SPECIAL—Barefoot Sandals, Tan Oxfords and White Canvas Shoes; all sizes.
- NOTICE—NONE EXCHANGED or taken back. None sent on approval. C. O. D. or charged.
- 15c for Ladies' Cloth House Slippers, leather soles.
- 95c Men's \$1.50 and \$2.00 Slippers, all sizes.
- Findings. Tan Paste 7c. 8 ounces Black Oil Dressing 7c. Ladies' Polish 1c. White and Gray Laces, for belts, each 1c.
- Leather Goods. 50c. to \$1.00 Belts reduced to 25c. and 45c. Belts reduced to 25c.
- Hosiery. 10c for Ladies' and Misses' Lace Hose, that sold at 15c. and 25c. for Babies' White Lace Sox, that sold for 25c.; small sizes.



## REMARKABLE GATHERING

Negro Camp-Meeting That Attracts Many Whites. SOME STRANGE FEATURES As Much Enthusiasm as a Foot-Ball Field, and a Deeper Feeling than a Salvation Army Meeting.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) MORRISVILLE, VA., August 22.—Two miles south of this town, on the road that leads to Pine View, is the negro church and school of Silver Hill, where annually on the fourth Sunday in August begins one of the most famous and most widely attended "protracted meetings" in this section of the State among the blacks. It always lasts one week, often two, and sometimes day and night. Possessing features strange and widely different from anything to be found at other gatherings in this section, and so well conducted is it that every year finds more and more whites attending the services, until it has become quite a fad, and there are few of the services that do not find some whites in the gallery.

## SOME RECENT WALL STREET EVENTS.

Tree of Forbidden Fruit: "Pierpont, didn't I tell you they would soon have 'dropsy'?"

officers of the church will hear of the fight and make them pay five dollars apiece into the church fund. One of the old characters always present on the fourth Sunday, is Tom Webster, a short, heavy built, very black man of decidedly pugilistic tendencies, who never goes into the church, but spends his time "boasting" of the "punch" he has kicked, or giving to pick a quarrel with some stranger of his own race, for those that know him will bear all his bullying rather than venture conflict. Pistols, knives, razors, sticks, stones, feet, have been used against Tom Webster in his boasting, yet he has never in numerous difficulties, yet he has never received a hurt that has caused the slightest inconvenience. In a famous fight he and his friends once had here with a desperate gang, known as "The Happy Twelve," Tom, in kicking at one of them struck his watch and sent it whirling above the tops of the tallest trees. "The Happy Twelve" went home that day with each one resting bloody and battered head on a woman's shoulder, and the woman driving with one arm, while with the other she kept her mangled escort in the vehicle.

## DOUBLE ROMANCE IN SAME FAMILY

Widower Introduced New Wife and Daughter Presented Her Husband.

A special from Findlay, O., to the Cincinnati Enquirer, says: "Children, let me introduce my wife," said Jonathan Aurand, a wealthy old land owner, seventy-eight years old, addressing his family this evening. He presented the former, Mrs. Elizabeth Orwick, of Mt. Blanchard, a sweetheart of the days before the civil war, from whom he had been separated, and of whose whereabouts he was ignorant until last spring, when they met as widow and widower, at a soldier's reunion. Their marriage today is the culmination of the courtship that followed.

## Widower Introduced New Wife and Daughter Presented Her Husband.

"Now allow me to introduce my husband," said Aurand's youngest daughter, after congratulations had been extended. She presented Deputy Sheriff Lynn S. Nichols, quartermaster sergeant of the Second Regiment, Ohio National Guards, whose hasty departure from Camp McKinley last Tuesday night was understood only by Colonel Bryant. They were married in Canada three weeks ago, but not until to-night was their secret even suspected.

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