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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1908.

LABOR AND THE SHERMAN LAW.
In closing his impressive address at Jamestown last May, Mr. James Bryce, the British ambassador, solemnly said that the message he brought to Virginia and to all America from the old country was that they would find their safety only in liberty regulated by law.
Undoubtedly the greatest claim to distinction that England has is the unwavering and impartial manner in which her laws are enforced. When the laws are made by the representatives of a free people, it is plain to the simplest mind that these laws, which are but the expression of the agreement or social compact under which people are to live, must be absolutely and inflexibly observed, or society will go to pieces and every man become a law unto himself. This idea is so perfectly self-evident to every American that it may excite a feeling of indignation that it should be deemed necessary to recite or even to refer to it. We have, however, reached a stage in social evolution which makes it necessary to go back to first principles and to determine whether principles that we have supposed to be self-evident are really so, or whether the theories of the leaders of labor organizations are not safer guides for the welfare of the community.
This is the proposition which Mr. Gompers, the exponent and representative of the Federation of Labor, is now bringing to the attention of the country, and especially to the attention of the representatives of the people in the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled. To enforce his attention he is threatening all who will not accept his views with those direful consequences which every politician believes will follow his defeat for office. The issue between Mr. Gompers and his followers and the rest of the country is now made definite upon the claim by Mr. Gompers that the labor unions shall have the right to boycott whomsoever they will, and that the Federal statutes forbidding any conspiracy or combination whatever in restraint of trade shall be so amended as to exempt labor unions from the effect of the law.
We believe it has been settled under common law and before the Sherman law of 1890 against combinations in restraint of trade was ever thought of, that a combination or conspiracy to ruin a man's business was against the law, and could be not only restrained, but punished. This was deemed essential to the preservation of the peace of the community and the protection of the liberties of citizens. But the Sherman law, known as the antitrust act of July 2, 1890, expressly provided that "every combination, in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States or with foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal." And further, in Section 7, "Any person who shall be injured in his business or property by any other person or corporation by reason of anything forbidden or declared to be unlawful by this act, may sue therefor, and shall recover threefold damages by him sustained," etc.

The construction of this statute in respect to labor unions was brought before the Supreme Court of the United States in what is known as the Danbury Hatters' case, which originated in the State of Connecticut. In that case the whole power of the American Federation of Labor was used to destroy a firm of Danbury hatters who operated an open shop, but who made no discriminations against union labor. The aim of the federation was to compel these people to unionize their shop, which they refused to do. A vigorous boycott ensued, causing the hatters to suffer damage, and a suit was brought under the Sherman act, and carried up to the Supreme Court, where it was held that the Sherman law applied to just such cases. The court stated in its opinion that the records of Congress show that several efforts were made to exempt by legislation organizations of farmers and laborers from the operation of the act, and that all these efforts failed, so that the act remains as we have it before us.
It is this law and the decision construing it that have excited the wrath of Mr. Gompers, and make him now declare that "lawyers and jurists are men whose education, surrounding and environment are not in accord with the spirit of the times." What the spirit of the times is Mr. Gompers does not say, but we presume that from his environment he means the spirit

of labor unions as directed by intense partisans, who can see no right in anything that does not concur with their own views. We regard with abhorrence the threats that are being made to punish the members of Congress who are not willing to make a favored class of farmers and labor unions and to permit them to do things which they themselves would denounce as unlawful if done by other people; but we should regard not only with abhorrence, but with contempt, those members of Congress who would betray the most sacred citadels of American liberty for fear of the wrath of Mr. Gompers.
It is a patent fact that the great majority of the American people fully intend to do what is fair and right by one another, and they are prepared to listen to any reasonable arguments for changes of law which will tend to their common benefit. But the privileged classes were overthrown with the American Revolution, and should never be restored. It is immaterial whether the one who seeks special privilege and exemption from the common law calls himself laborer or lord. Absolute equality is all that any American citizen can ask or ought to have, and we feel no anxiety that either boycotting by labor unions in Connecticut, or night riding by farmers in Kentucky will accomplish any change in the fundamental principles whereby American liberty is secured.

JACK ASHORE.
Few classes in human society are so capable of enjoying themselves and everybody else as are sailors on shore leave. Absence from the delights of "town" makes the heart grow fonder, and a month of life on the ocean wave always tends to enhance the merits and beauties of solid land. Further, your sailor is a life-loving and sociable fellow, a good spender, a good mixer and a good comrade. Probably not many tars, however, have had so thoroughly merry a time ashore as those now making holiday in Los Angeles.
A quarter of a million people from all over the West lined up on the beach to greet Jack when he disembarked from the Big Sixteen. The same number, apparently, have since devoted themselves to giving him a good time. Los Angeles, bound hand and foot, belongs to him. Refreshments, sold and liquid, are crowded upon him gratis at every turn, and his blue and white uniform is the open sesame at all turnstiles and to all hearts. Whether receiving nosegays and ribbon badges from kindly old ladies, or following the lavish hand of "Lucky" Baldwin, or gazing at big Jim Jeffries and, happily, feeling his biceps, or falling hungrily upon the Spanish barbecue, or walking with the pretty California girls at the dancing pavilions, or even staying aboard and explaining the art of naval warfare to admiring sightseers, Jack is the centre and forefront of everything. And wherever his sunburned face appears there does the welkin ring with salves.
California is fleet-crazy and glad of it. The haul of new members which the Navy League could make in that State at the present writing would be something stupendous.

JAPAN'S ACTIVITIES.
Italy's proposed demonstration against Turkey having been called off as superfluous, Japan now announces one to take place in Chinese waters. This is a purely "friendly" affair, according to the reports, but as there is no friendship, or possibility of it, between China and Japan, the observer may safely conclude that the Mikado's merchants are feeling the pinch of the boycott.
Japan's dislike of the West is no less active than its unconcealed contempt for China, but it has a subtler edge upon it. Her semiofficial explanation of the assault upon Mr. Straight, the American consul at Mukden, is said by those who know to strike the straight and narrow path of perfect accuracy only at intervals. Oriental diplomacy is proverbially wily, but it is not necessarily the more amiable on that account.
If Japan is really spooling for trouble, and China, her logical enemy at present, will not oblige, the time will doubtless come when some other nation will prove more accommodating.

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot appears to think our reference to Richmond as the grub hub of the world was in some way a slam at this city. Will our confused contemporaries understand us better if we state simply that Richmond is admitted by leading astronomers and political economists to be the Jupiter axis of the solar system?
As this is written, the Richmond baseball team had a score of 1,000 in the percentage table, in the common parlance, however, we implore members of the United States Tailors Association throughout the country to hold their scornful and bitter remarks in leash for a brief while and stand back and give us a chance.

We regret to report that the Texas Legislative Committee's petition to old Bill Skillet, of Henrico, to open a correspondence school in the Applied Science of Poultry and Eggs has been contemptuously rejected. Mr. Skillet's one comment was that "ain't no use to try to teach some people anything."
"Alfred Austin has written an ode to Mozart," says the Houston Post. Well, where's the harm? As long as Alfred confines his attentions to those who have passed beyond the disturbed, the rate is likely to remain undisturbed.
Charley Murphy, of New York, is a cat all right. Opinions as to whether he's a demo, auto, or aristocrat will doubtless be divided.
"Strange Struggle with a Tiger" reads the headline, but the story, disappointingly enough, says not a word about Pat McCarren.

In point of good, working efficiency Turkey's Reconsideration Department would probably give China's close slave for the money.
The President may have annihilated Harriman once upon a time, but he carelessly neglected to bury him.
Now for a lawn-mower named the Merry Grass-Widow.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.
Good opportunities for electrical undertakings in Spain are reported.
The Federated Malay States produce 50 per cent of the world's production of tin.
The new prescribed for Italian schools is long and pondered, pierced three times about the crack.
There is a hacienda, or ranch, in the Mexican State of Durango, comprising 16,000,000 acres.
The per capita cost to the people of maintaining the poor in England and Wales is now \$1.00.
Andrew Lang, the great student of folklore, celebrated the other day his sixtieth birthday anniversary.
Berlin trembles with jackets, which are filled from the hose and afford a great protection from the flames.
The extensive killing of cattle because of the export of the hides to the United States during 1905 and 1907.
Kite day is a Chinese national holiday. An expert Chinese kiteflier will easily keep up eight kites going one at a time.
The use of maulin windows, instead of glass in dairy construction, is said to help materially in the fight against tuberculosis.
For the convenience of motorists, complete topographic outlines are furnished with all the essential chemicals, in tabloid form.
Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, has just issued an opinion in the text that public debts are not public blessings.
General William Booth, the venerable head of the Salvation Army, has been seen fish, fresh nor fowl, and he does not smoke; take tobacco or opium in any form, and that he is a conscientious abstemious "in the conscious favor of God."
Thomas Hardy has completed his Napoleonic drama, "The Dynasts," the work which he has been engaged upon for the last three years. It is in three parts—the first part was published in 1905, the second in 1906, and the third contains nineteen acts and 130 scenes, while the number of characters runs into hundreds.

Wants Webster Quoted.
In a speech in the United States Senate in 1838, Daniel Webster spoke these words:
"There are persons who constantly quarrel with the established institutions of our country. They complain of oppression, speculation and the pernicious influence of accumulated wealth. They cry out loudly against all banks and corporations, and all means by which small capitals become united in order to produce important and beneficial results. They carry on mad hostility against all the securities of the Union. They would choke the fountain of industry and dry all the streams. In a country of unbounded liberty they would prevent against oppression. In a country where perfect equality they would move heaven and earth against privilege and monopoly. In a country where property is more evenly divided than anywhere else, they would be shouting agrarian doctrines. In a country where the wages of labor are high beyond parallel they would teach the laborer that he is but an oppressed slave."
As one reads the Congressional Record from day to day during the present session, it is not surprising that the clamorous attacks on banks and corporations and mad hostility against all established institutions, one cannot help feeling that some Webster would arise and request the secretary of the chamber to read these words delivered by Webster seventy years ago—Wall Street Journal.

Rhymes for To-Day
MORE LIME LIGHT ON SOPHY.
SOPHY'S as cross as a couple of sticks,
Fresh as the earliest spring-flower,
Hard as the head as a dry-load of bricks,
Bitter and surly and grouchy and sour.
Sophy's as homely as ever was made,
Pled as to features and thin as a hair,
Squinted a bit as to eyes, 'I'm afraid,
Mouthed in a manner that no man could bear.
Sophy's two cheek-bones are frightfully high,
Sophy's complexion's the color of seeds;
She has a nose slightly hubbous—oh, my!
Teeth too protruding and chin that recedes.
Sophy's tall figure is terribly thin—
That her most ardent admirers must own—
She is constructed too much like a pin,
Standing six foot and just weighing six stone.
Sophy's a love that I won a bet—
What is my curse that I'm worshipped and by?
What would I give if we never had met!
What, if she didn't adore me so much!
H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.
A Rule.
"But that umbrella looks so awfully cheap and common," said the customer. "The price you ask for it is preposterous."
"My dear sir," replied the dealer, "that's the beauty of that umbrella. It's really the very best quality, but it's made to appear cheap and common so no one will steal it." Dundee Advertiser.

No, Indeed.
"Time is money."
"Hard times aren't,"—Harpers' Weekly.
Couldn't Connect.
Stella: "Any gossip?"
Bella: "No, our hats went us so far apart we couldn't whisper."—New York Sun.

Quits.
"I fear we are beaten."
"Why?"
"The other side has an expert who will testify to anything."
"Back up! Have we a witness who will testify to anything?"—Washington Herald.

The Wily Ed.
"I accept all first contributions," declared the editor.
"It's a paying scheme."
"As to how?"
"The author buys many copies of the magazine, and the publisher frames the check we send."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Probably So.
"I wonder why Damon and Pythias were such great friends?" queried the young lady who writes type between meals.
"They were like a couple of girl chums, I guess, rejoined the bachelor with the ink on his fingers, "and they wouldn't see through each other."—Chicago News.

AFTER THE TIMES-DISPATCH.
RESPONDENT who signs himself "Justice," writes to the Richmond Times-Dispatch as follows: "At the bottom of lynching and night-riding there is a true and just cause, the purity of race in the one case, and the 'die semper vivans' spirit in the other." Of course, all races are all honorable men.—Columbia State.

"Grub hub of the world" is what Colonel Henry Snyder Harrison, of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, calls Richmond. Huh! The grub hub of the world, what business of yours is compared with the saintly cur of Jovian Jackewell. Now, isn't the Jacksonville episode, driven into the Richmond "Pilot" by the Louisville Times-Union?

Henry Snyder Harrison calls Richmond the "grub hub of the world." Harrison is a renegade Virginian, solving the misery of a Texas exile by casting sturs at the grub hub of the world. What business of yours is it that the Democrats of Richmond eat each other with a trimming of committee salaries and a dash of Texas? This spring is Bailey "dove brown." It is only in Norfolk that political cannibalism finds no countenance.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch notes the fact that Lillian Harrison, who was married in Houston, Tex., and escaped without marrying, Lillian is red-headed and a widow in her fourth year, and that her husband is safe against matrimony in Houston, Tex.—Chattanooga Times. Now see here; red-headed women are safe from matrimony in that city. The fact that she is a somewhat numerous widow shouldn't be any bar—not in Houston, at any rate.—Montgomery Advertiser.

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STATE PRESS.
Pathe's Incident.
Editor of the Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—A pathetic illustration of the injustice, if I may properly say, inhumanity, of the transfer system of the street car service in this city came under the writer's notice yesterday.
Two little girls paid their fare to the street car to bring their little cousin, a tot under five years of age, to the Easter egg hunt at the Glatter home yard on West Franklin Street.
They were given transfers at Seventh Street to the West Broad line. Here they waited for fully half an hour, not being able to secure even platform accommodations, owing to the great rush for the baseball game. Finally they boarded a Laurel Street car, but the conductor put them off at Sixth Street. Informing them that their transfers were not recognized on that line.
They had to pay their fare again, thus depriving the girls of the portion of the money that they expected to invest in dainties at the Easter egg hunt. As a result these little children had to foot their way home, quite a long distance.
April 21.

SHOPPING IN CAIRO.
Some Business Methods That Prevail in the East.
"I entered Sidl Okbah's shop," said the man with the Shepherd's dog labels on his luggage, "and a handsome carpet caught my eye."
"What is the price of that?" I asked.
"That carpet is not for sale," Sidl Okbah answered. "I bought it at great cost for my own delight, and how beautiful it is. But will not Monsieur partake with me of coffee and cigarettes?"
"I partook. The next morning I was in that neighborhood again, and Sidl came forth and saluted me. He had changed his mind and retained the carpet. Allah forbade selfishness among the True Believers, and since I had bought it, he would let me have it for \$1,000."
"I'll give you \$10," said I.
"He fell back, almost fainting. Then, in a low, pained voice, he offered me coffee again.
"Next day, when I turned up, he came down to \$500 and I went up to \$100. He drank more coffee and smoked.
"Next day he dropped to \$500 and I rose to \$1,500. He was very cheerful and offered me coffee and tobacco that day. We had the carpet spread before us to admire. It was evident that he was a bargain hunter.
"And just before he left Cairo we did strike a bargain. The carpet became mine for \$50. It would have cost me \$1,000 had I not done so."
"As we shook hands in farewell, Sidl Okbah said:
"I am a true bargainer like you. Bargaining is the bloom, the perfume, the poetry of trade. I once it. Once—he ground his teeth—once I was a true bargainer. I once it. Once—Morgan, came in here, selected three carpets, and said, 'How much?' I told him \$2,000 for the three. Well, he said, 'I'll give you \$100 for each and he paid me then and there in gold.'
"Sidl rolled his eyes.
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"And just before he left Cairo we did strike a bargain. The carpet became mine for \$50. It would have cost me \$1,000 had I not done so."
"As we shook hands in farewell, Sidl Okbah said:
"I am a true bargainer like you. Bargaining is the bloom, the perfume, the poetry of trade. I once it. Once—he ground his teeth—once I was a true bargainer. I once it. Once—Morgan, came in here, selected three carpets, and said, 'How much?' I told him \$2,000 for the three. Well, he said, 'I'll give you \$100 for each and he paid me then and there in gold.'
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