

THE HERALD. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

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A PARTIAL TRUTH. In the course of his address on the labor question President GOMPERZ is credited with saying:

There are some who say if you work more you'll get more pay. The very opposite is the truth. The country in which the people work the longest number of hours, the wages are lowest; wherever the wages are highest, the hours are shortest.

You will find that the workmen who go into any factory earliest in the morning and leave it the latest, get the least wages, while those who arrive latest in the morning and leave earliest in the afternoon, get the highest.

To state it crudely, the reason is that those who work the longest hours can not afford to work cheap—they must sell their services high. Fewer hours means less poverty, better womanhood, sweeter childhood, nobler manhood.

The whole civilized world asks of your legislators to enforce the eight-hour law. If long hours make great nations, China should be at the head.

The statement of Mr. GOMPERZ is true, but it is not quite complete in explanation. It is true that those who work longest often get the least wages; but it is not because of the great amount of work that they do, nor the great number of hours spent on the work.

The reason that wages are high in some places and in some occupations is that the labor performed is efficient, not that the hours are short. In trades where much machinery is used, a skilled operator may earn twice as much as another who works as hard and twice as long by hand.

The chief reason that American wages are high is the efficiency of American workmen; and one of the most direct methods of increasing wages is by the laborer increasing his efficiency.

The basis of wage earning in any country, is the advantages of which the workman may avail himself. In this country it is chiefly a cheap and fertile soil of vast extent that forms the basis of wages in other departments of manual labor.

To begin with, a man may acquire a farm and make a fair living without much capital to start on.

Theoretically, he must be paid as much wages in any other industry as he can earn at farming, since he is free to take up the latter occupation at any time. Practically, however, there might be a considerable difference in the wages of farmers and those of any other class of manual laborers, because of the disinclination of men to leave their present occupation for another, though the latter offered slightly higher wages.

But there is an approximation to the theoretical condition, that wages will be governed by the amount obtainable in an occupation in which almost every hand laborer can engage at will.

We have spoken of farming as if it alone were the basis of industry in this country, since a greater number are employed in it than in any other; but other industries, such as mining, lumbering, and to some extent transportation, co-operate with the leading one to make up the general basis from which wages are fixed. For what- ever wages can be earned in them will be demanded in other lines, and a little more on an average, because of certain distant rewards that these may bring in addition to the immediate returns.

It follows that if the farms, etc., pay well, then the hand-crafts must be equally well paid or their members too will gradually take to farming, and so the productive-ness and profits of agriculture depends strictly upon the intelligence and thrift of its followers, it will be seen that the question of wages is at bottom a question of the effectiveness of labor.

The industries that laborers may fall back upon if employers do not pay satisfactory wages, determine the point beyond which depression in wages cannot go. In new countries the production of raw materials constitutes that industry; in older countries commerce may be a leading one of that kind. It is evident that if there were no such retreat for oppressed labor, then the limit of forcing wages down would simply be the limits of the power of capital to combine against labor.

But while the wages of the various hand trades cannot be forced lower than those which may be earned in the leading occupation, agriculture, both classes are limited in wages by the effectiveness of their labor. Thus, the farmer's effectiveness of his farm double in its yield, for the farm crop is nearly all wages; and, leaving out of view the disinclination of men to change their occupation, this of itself, occurring generally, would cause the wages of the hand trades to rise in about the same proportion or members would keep leaving those trades for farming until the general level was approximately the same.

Correspondingly, if the mechanic doubles his own skill, he thereby doubles his own wages, provided that he works by the piece or that his occupation is such that with a little co-operation the mechanics themselves may engage in it, if their employers refuse to pay them in proportion to their earnings.

The observed fact that in most occupations in this country the laborers are paid more than in Europe, is due to the fact that they work shorter hours, though that has probably a good deal to do with it also. The greater efficiency of men working shorter hours, when it occurs, is due to the improved condition of the men, by which they are enabled to do more or better work than they had previously done in the longer hours.

It is further demonstrable by the same laws that if the reward of farm labor is cut down one-third, as it is by our present system of taxation, then the reward of other labor will be proportionally affected in a corresponding amount, though it takes time for the diffusion of the loss throughout the whole system of industry, and its most apparent evils are first felt by the farmers.

Impoverish the farmers of this country, and labor will have then no retreat from

the oppression of capital; the question of hours and of combination among laborers, important as they are, are clearly subordinate to the great issue of whether the only available retreat of oppressed labor shall be taken away. The mill-owners say it shall; that the farmers shall be oppressed still, like the hard-working agriculturalists of China, they are content to the home market. If that day ever comes, the laborers will be completely at the mercy of the capitalists, and on a level with the laborers of Europe.

WHY RUSSIA PERSECUTES THEM.

It has never been satisfactorily explained in this country why the Russian government so bitterly hated the Jews and was so vicious in its persecution of them. It has only been known that the Czar and his government entertained no love for the Hebrews and that he and his subordinates persisted in making their want of affection known in the most emphatic and offensive manner. In an article in the March *Figaro* "Russian Treatment of Jewish Subjects" P. G. HENRI, Jr., states the principal grounds upon which the Russian justifies his persecution of his Hebrew brother as follows: 1, That the Jews are too rapacious, and too successful in getting money and property away from the surrounding Christians; 2, That they hold themselves, as a class, apart from the rest of the community; 3, That they furnish many of the leading nihilists and mischief makers; and 4, That they evade service in the army and do not become patriotic Russians.

Just how well-founded these accusations are does not appear, but if they were all true the blame would rest upon the Christian Russians quite as heavily as upon the Jews themselves. As to the first charge, the allegation implies a compliment rather than an offense, for it is a confession that the Jew has more intelligence and is a better financier than the Russian. The former certainly ought not to be punished for possessing a better brain than others, for practicing economy and industry and for accumulating wealth, a thing which is commended in Christians. If the Hebrew holds himself aloof from others, is it not because he has been forced to do so? For nineteen hundred years he has been compelled to stand aside and herd with his own people socially. He has been proclaimed against by laws, by Christianity and by society, and has been taught by centuries of maltreatment that his race is regarded as unworthy to associate with others, and if he does not mix with those with whom he comes in contact, it is because they will not admit him to their circle. If the Russians had manifested any disposition to receive the Jews on terms of social equality the barriers which now separate the races and which cannot be overruled in one generation, would not exist.

As to the other accusations, as a disposition to nihilism and an evasion of army service, it would be strange indeed if they were not more or less true. The course of the government inspires the Jews, as it does other classes, to resistance and retaliation. The Hebrews would be something else than human if they did not seek to "get even" with those who make it their study and business to oppress and persecute them; and it is asking too much to request that men will love the government and be patriotic, when that government insists that those men's very birth is an offense against law, against society and against mankind.

There is really no good ground for the persecution of the Jews in Russia, and that persecution is the result of ignorance and fanaticism, which are criminal in this age of enlightenment and exalted civilization. The bill to provide for the creation of a fourth judicial district in this territory, as it finally passed, confers upon the governor and the supreme court of Utah the authority to establish the district and to readjust the districts in such manner as to best promote the convenient administration of justice. The supreme court is also authorized to assign one judge to each of the districts.

It shall have power from time to time to change such assignment and to provide for occasions of disability or absence in such cases according to the practice now authorized by law.

REBUKING REED. Was there ever such a spectacle as that presented in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, when every member of the great party of the people present voted no on the customary resolution of thanks to the speaker? In the past it has been the practice of a leading member of the minority to move that the thanks of the House be presented to the speaker for the "able, impartial and dignified manner in which he has presided over the deliberations" and performed the arduous duties of presiding officer, and it has also been the rule for every member of the minority to vote for the resolution. Such a thing as a demand for the speaker's resignation was unknown until yesterday, all taking pleasure in testifying by a vote to the official disposition to be fair. But on Wednesday the yeas and nays were called, and as the Democrats were named they each and all asked to be recorded as saying the speaker had been unfair, unjust, partial and undignified in presiding over the deliberations of the House. Mr. REED bluffed it through, and delivered himself of a speech in which he justified his course and indulged in self-congratulation; but unless his hide is like that of a rhinoceros, and his sensibilities cannot be touched, he must have felt and will continue to feel keenly the terrible rebuke which was administered. The fact that thanks were voted by his own partisans, by those in whose interests all his rulings had been given, furnishes no balm; the vote of the Republicans rather emphasized the circumstance that he was being repudiated and denounced by those only whose thanks would be prized on such an occasion.

How different was the closing scene in the Senate! There Senator RANSOM, one of the foremost gentlemen on the Democratic side, offered a resolution "tendering thanks to the Vice-President for the courteous, dignified and able manner in which he had presided over the deliberations of the Senate," and the resolution was unanimously agreed to. Mr. MONROE will prize that vote more highly than anything which has occurred since he mounted the presiding officer's bench, and in the years to come his children will refer to it with pleasure as evidence that their father had so high a regard for law, for fairness and for decency that notwithstanding his partisan politics his political opponents were pleased to go upon record as testifying to his uprightness and impartiality as president of the Senate.

We are highly glad that the Democrats of the House had the courage to express their opinion of the autocrat, and to administer the rebuke which accompanied their refusal to sanction the resolution. We are glad that they said to Mr. REED that he had disgraced the position which he occupied. That vote will have its effect on future speakers, inspiring them with the idea that it is better to be fair, to be just and to recognize the fact that minorities have rights which it will be minor to respect.

THE OLD FORT SQUARE.

THE HERALD never believed for a moment that he resolution to sell the Old Fort square would be defeated in the council. When Mr. BACON put in his bid for that block it was virtually settled that the majority of the council would accept, and do their utmost to demolish the people. A gang of men who will vote away a million dollars of the people's money in one year and impudently chuckle when the tax-payers protest against the waste and extravagance; officials who will be so reckless in their administration as to destroy the corporation's credit in one short year, and drive the city bonds—heretofore the best and most sought for security in the country—way below par, may be safely counted upon to sell anything belonging to the corporation which promises more money to squander.

The aim of THE HERALD in opposing the alienation of the square was not to defeat the proposition in the council, but to expose the viciousness of the scheme, and to show how defiant of the taxpayers and their rights the present council is. We are glad that there are four members of the body who have a higher regard for the law and for the people's wishes than for the flattery of irresponsible boomers. Those four stand higher to-day in the esteem of the bona-fide citizens of Salt Lake than they have ever before stood.

As to the square itself, we are confident that in spite of the action of the council, the title will continue with the people, who will be enjoying that block centuries after the ten councilmen have passed into obscurity and their names been forgotten. There are courts which have greater authority than the council, and we believe they will stand between the people and this contemplated job. Furthermore, we don't believe that Mr. BACON can raise a dollar on the strength of the resolution, which at best means that some future city government may convey to him a shady title to half a million dollars' worth of realty for \$150,000. Capitalists will hardly bite at a hook so clumsily baited. It has been apparent for some months past, the booming assertions of the contrary notwithstanding, that Mr. BACON was unable to induce anybody to invest in the railway project, and it may be doubted that he will succeed any better now.

We are not in the least degree alarmed over the final outcome of the proposition to take from the people the Old Fort square.

"There is one view of the Old Fort proposition that has not been advanced," said Mr. F. A. MITCHELL, of the Home Coal company, yesterday, "and I think too much stress cannot be laid upon it. That block is the spot where the Pioneers made their first resting place when they came to this valley. There the foundations of Salt Lake were laid, and there a settlement was made before San Francisco and Sacramento were dreamed of. The Old Fort ought to be hallowed to every son of Utah, and what I would like to have it beautifully parked and a grand statue of BRIGHAM YOUNG raised in its center, and on the pedestal of the statue the names of all the Pioneers. If this scheme to sell the square to boomers is defeated, as I think and hope it will be, I stand ready to pledge myself to raise \$5,000 to help put the Fort block to the uses I have named."

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Table with columns: OFFEN, CLOSE. Lists office hours for various services like Money order window, Register window, etc.

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