

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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For President---1912 WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, Of Ohio.

THE MINIMUM WAGE PROBLEM.

In recent sociological discussion there has been a great deal of contention over the question of the minimum wage. The problem has been made the basis for many a theory of legal enactment; but in this country at least there has been little progress along practical lines toward its solution.

From Portland, Maine, however, has come news that is genuinely encouraging. There a corporation with a soul has looked into the question of itself and set an example which if followed generally would greatly reduce the sum of misery of those millions of unskilled laborers, men and women, who have a right to live comfortably and happily. The experiment was made with working girls but the result can be applied to the conditions of employment that affect all, both men and women, in the poorly paid classes.

On its own account the corporation made an investigation. It found that a self-supporting girl could not live for less than \$7 a week and that she must be paid that as a minimum wage.

Those who instituted the inquiry were not actuated by sentiment; nor did they have in mind the inauguration of a nation-wide propaganda for a universal minimum wage. Their purpose was simply to insure the comfort of their own employes and thereby to increase their efficiency. Hence, because they acted only in response to the dictates of business judgment, there is reason for a stronger hope that what they learned will make such an appeal to other large employers of labor that self-interest will effect the reform for which idealists have long been planning compulsory legislation.

At present, the minimum wage problem is an issue in many states. Several commissions are at work on it, trying to fix rates below which employes shall not be paid. They will get little aid from the Portland experiment, because the cost of living is affected by local conditions and varies considerably; but employers in general have been shown that the question is one which they can well afford to study for their own profit, as did the Portland corporation. The more the problem can be localized and the more the certainty of a resultant increase of efficiency in return for liberal recognition of the right of employes to contentment can be impressed upon employers, the sooner will the reform sweep the country. Self-interest, once established, is much more powerful than law.—Sacramento Union.

The investigation into the Titanic disaster has disclosed several facts. The ship was driven at a maximum speed, though the commander had been warned of the presence of icebergs. The watertight compartments were not closed, and could not be closed after the collision. Had they been closed, the vessel might have floated at least until assistance came. The distress signals were seen on board the Californian but for some reason or other the captain of that ship, which was only a few miles away, failed to understand their significance and did not go to the rescue. Such are the blunders to which the tragedy was due. Ismay may have been responsible for the speed of the vessel, but not for the failure to keep the bulkheads closed. What is done is done, and cannot be undone, but similar circumstances should never arise again. The owners of ships should see to that, or the government should place them where they cannot risk the lives of their fellowmen in the scramble for large dividends.

And now it is proposed that members of Congress have their telegraphing privileges cut down to actual public business. A preposterous suggestion, to be sure! What would be the use of trying to become a statesman if all the perquisites are taken away?

It is vigorously denied that Frank Munsey of the steel trust will be made ambassador to Great Britain if Roosevelt is re-elected president. Both nations have reason to be gratified and to hope that the denial will stick.

TEACHING PEACE IN SCHOOL.

In a pamphlet just issued the United States Bureau of Education urges the addition to the curriculum in the elementary schools throughout the country of a course in good will. The announced object is to encourage a love of peace to the end that the coming generation may be prepared to carry on the movement for the abrogation of war in the event this generation fails in that humanitarian work.

But such a course would do a great deal more. It would train the child in habits of forbearance, gentleness and self-control, thus preparing the young mind in the lower grades for the emphasis that would be laid on the agitation for universal peace in the higher grades.

The plan is an interesting one. According to it, in the first grade the child would learn the treatment due companions and pets. In the second grade the lesson would be of gentility in home life; in the third, of the consideration that should govern the relations of children at school and in playtime; in the fourth, of the cordial and kindly treatment that should be accorded neighbors. And then the course would broaden to include consideration of the whole country. In the fifth grade the child would be taught the true meaning of citizenship; in the sixth, the close relations of the members of the world family; and, finally, would be impressed with the larger patriotism that could be served in furtherance of the movement for peace in every land.

Generously comprehensive is the course as outlined. It would also teach fidelity to principle, gratitude, hospitality, fairness and honesty; and would open for discussion such practical questions as: How can we help our community? How can we serve our country? What have other nations given us? What are our obligations to other nations? What are the effects of war? What are the moral substitutes for war? Who have contributed most to the progress of civilization? And why?

This is a splendid activity. It denotes on the part of the federal bureau of education an intense devotion to a great cause. That the child will profit by it cannot be gainsaid.

This is something for the young men and women to consider. Somebody has calculated that if a young man at the age of 20 years puts \$20 in a savings bank at interest instead of spending it for tobacco, and then at the beginning of the next year repeats it, and include also the principal and interest of the preceding year and thus continue to do from year to year until he shall have reached the age of seventy, the amount he would realize would exceed \$30,000. That sounds almost incredible but can easily be verified. Most young men could put away \$50, or \$100, or more instead of \$20, and thus have a fortune at the age of 70. If people would form the habit of saving instead of spending unnecessarily and then grumbling, there would be more contentment, more happiness.

Recently the city of Paris offered \$41,000,000 municipal bonds for sale by public subscription. The bonds were subscribed eighty times over in a fortnight. That is, the city of Paris wanted to borrow \$41,000,000 at a low rate of interest and was offered the enormous sum of \$3,280,000,000. All the offers were from citizens of France. Such a thing could happen in no other country. It is a striking evidence of the wealth of the French nation and the strength of the public credit in France. When the government of France wants to borrow money it never appeals to bankers, but offers its bonds to the people at a flat price. Every bond issue is subscribed many times over by the people. In consequence the public debt of France is owed exclusively to the French people and the government can get all the money it wants at any time.

A Chicago architect, Walter B. Griffin, has been awarded a prize of \$87,500 for the best design for the new capitol of Australia. His plan also includes a design for the new city to be called Chuberra, in which the capitol is to be built, and which will surround the structure, the streets running straight from it in every direction, so that it will be the easiest possible to reach the center.

The Pennsylvania Railroad company is urging the farmers along its line to raise more corn to the acre than heretofore, and of better quality. This is an important service, akin to the potato culture programme of our Oregon Short Line company, and to the extensive labors of the Hill roads for better farming and better stock raising.

World's Work: "The great office of president has been degraded in men's eyes. They have seen it handed over by one man to another and then treated by them as the prize of a personal combat to decide which of them shall now have it. This is a deep and lasting offense against the dignity of the great office."

The Dominion of Canada is seeking means to co-operate with the business interests of that country; Germany is actively fostering trusts and combinations. The United States alone is fighting "big business." After a while we shall all find out which is the better policy.

Judge Archibald's chief defenders have been the big officials of the corporations, but perhaps there is not so much to wonder at in that. It is an open secret that they are well disposed toward all the commerce court.

A Chicago man has given a million dollars "for the education of the farmers," but it is a question whether the farmers will feel flattered by his munificence.

The steel trust magnates are bound to speak well of a bridge company that carried them over safely.

The greatest world amusement in the United States at the present time is the strife for presidential delegates.

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