The Labor Advocate

A PAPER FOR ALL WHO TOIL

Official Organ of
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of Cincinnati and Vicinity

ISSUED WEEKLY

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70

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MINDING OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS.

This is the day of the public censor. From moving pictures to private morals we are subject to a person, a board or a commission. One cannot go to see a moving picture show until after the pictures have been passed upon by a board which usually consists of a policeman, a suffragette and a preacher. No matter how artistic a theatrical performance may be, it is likely to be forbidden if it does not meet the approbation of the Ministerial Association of some jay town.

The Anti-Saloon Leaguers say we shall not drink; the Anti-Tobacco propagandists say we shall not smoke; the Sabbatarians say we shall do nothing but go to church on Sunday; the Baptists tell us we shall be damned if we are not baptized and the Methodists tell us we shall if we do. There is always some one with no business of his own who is ready and willing to devote his time and infinitesimal ability to attending to the business of the public.

No one can pick up a daily paper today without reading of crime in all its varied forms. Divorces, murders, sex scandals in high life and in low, all are set forth in vivid word pictures which any one, even our school children, may read. But the moving picture which would depict any of these things is barred because the moving picture has come into existence since the craze for censors became rampant.

Preachers who couldn't make a living in any competitive line of human activity sit in judgment on the morals of the community; old maids take a prominent part in a Mother's Congress; women who neglect their own homes and leave the training of their children to hirelings demand a part in governmental affairs and weep in public, over the poor children of the slums who have a mother's care although they may lack some of the comforts that money will buy.

Take any censor you may happen to know and size him or her up along with other of your acquaintances. Does he or she rank high in the community for ever having accomplished anything worth while? Are they virile, red blooded men and women, or are they of the anaemic class, the physical and mental mollycoddles of the community?

What right has a preacher to stop you on the street, or call at your home, and ask you about your soul any more than a lawyer has to pry, unconsulted, into your legal affairs or a physician to force a prescription upon you? What right has a board of censors to say what pictures or what plays you may see? What has become of our right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" if some long-haired or short-haired woman is permitted to hand us a blue print of the lives we must daily lead?

Isn't it about time we began to exercise some judgment of our own and not submit to having our lives regulated by social misfits and financial failures?

GREED DID IT.

What was the matter with the steamship Eastland, which rolled over in the Chicago River with the loss of more than 1,000 lives, is revealed in the correspondence between the general manager of the company operating the vessel and Secretary of Commerce Redfield more than a month ago.

Discussing the provisions of the La Follette law, which does not take effect until next November, the manager insisted that obedience on his part would decrease the revenues of the boat 40 per cent and add considerably to the expense. In reply the Secretary said that he had no option but to enforce the law after it became effective; yet he did not fail to warn the steamship manager that by taking advantage of existing law in the meantime he was needlessly endangering the lives of his passengers.

What the owners of the Eastland did was to seize every dollar from a holiday crowd that was permissible under present regulations. They assumed the risk, knowing it to be a risk, for the sake of profit alone. Under the La Follette law providing for life-saving apparatus the Eastland's passengers would have been reduced by more than one-third. In that case it is probable that there would have been no such overcrowding as that which caused the boat to capsize at its dock.

If the disaster had happened in mid-lake the toll of death would have been much greater. There were at least 2,570 persons aboard, and there were life-boats and rafts for only 771. Greed took every chance permitted by a loose law loosely enforced. All the inquests, investigations and trials that are to follow will point to nothing but greed that gambled with human life.

Woman named Pearl Bunn has been awarded alimony of $10,000. She can get a peach of a bun with that much money.

LIGHT RATE REFERENDUM.

One of the latest moves in the proposed lighting rate referendum was the indorsement of the proposition this week by the Findlay Market Improvement Association. The meeting was held in Flamm's Hall. It should have been held in Flim Flam's Hall, for the members of the association are being "flim-flammed" by the Rev. Herbert Bigelow and his fellow agitators.

Aside from the fact that, in the opinion of many of the best lawyers in the city, the proposed referendum cannot legally be held, that other and much more important fact remains that, even though a referendum should decide that a majority of the voters of the city are opposed to the lighting rate ordinance passed by City Council, and want a six-cent rate, which is promised by the promoters of the referendum, the result of the election would not give them the lower rate, but would restore the rate to ten cents per kilowatt hour, the price prevailing before the recent ordinance was passed, pending a settlement in the courts or by the Public Utilities commission on a satisfactory and business-like basis.

The Bigelow bunch which is active in getting signatures is getting them under what savors strongly of false pretences. Circulators of petitions call upon a man and ask him if he would rather have six than eight-cent light. Naturally, he prefers the lesser rate. "Then sign here," says the solicitor, "and you will get six-cent light." That is not true, and Mr. Bigelow knows it even if his paid solicitors are ignorant of the fact that they are practising a fraud to get signatures.

A referendum cannot settle the matter. All it can possibly do is to register the opinion of the people on the lighting ordinance recently passed.

The fight on the Green Line was made along similar lines. Prospective signers of petitions were told that if the Green Line franchise was not extended universal transfers would be available, good both in Cincinnati and the towns across the river.

Have you seen any of those universal transfers? Do you see any indication that they soon will be issued? Have you even heard them mentioned since the franchise proposition was defeated?

It is the same with the lighting referendum. Its promoters are promising something which they cannot deliver and know they cannot deliver. As usual, they are dealing in promises and visions that have no foundation.

Signers of the proposed lighting referendum are paving the way to a restoration of ten-cent light. If the proposition carries they will pay ten cents again instead of eight. They will lose, not gain, two cents per kilowatt hour.

RISKS AND RIGHTS.

It has taken Mr. Bryan many days to formulate to his entire satisfaction the basic theory of his peace-at-any-price policy, but here it is in its latest form:

"If patriotism requires a man to risk his life for his country when his country is engaged in war, it would seem to be patriotic for a citizen to avoid risks that might involve his country in war."

On this principle we assumed foolish risks when we declared our independence; when we fought Great Britain in 1812 for the freedom of the seas; when we attempted to reinforce Fort Sumter in 1861, and when we took umbrage at the destruction of the Maine in 1898.

The risks which Mr. Bryan asks the American people to avoid are rights.

ARE STRIKES FOR SALE?

Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor is credited with the statement that "the American Federation of Labor does not care whether German gold started the Bridgeport strike or not."

Does Mr. Morrison support the doctrine that strikes should be bought and sold in the open market, and that it is legitimate for labor leaders to accept bribes from agents of a foreign Government to paralyze American industries?

The first intimation that foreign influence was back of the Bridgeport strike came from Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, who said that he knew "that foreign interests, well supplied with funds, have sought to bring on labor troubles to prevent the shipping of American products to Europe." Such a serious charge, made in connection with the Bridgeport strike, demanded an immediate investigation; yet men like Secretary Morrison proceed on the theory that a strike is its own justification, whether leaders of it are bribed or not.

We can think of nothing that will more completely discredit organized labor than such an attitude on the part of leaders who ought to be as jealous of the integrity of their unions as they are of the integrity of their Government.

The American people certainly will not be indifferent to industrial discontent that rests under the imputation of having been purchased by foreign agents. If "German gold," as Mr. Morrison calls it, can buy one strike, it can buy a hundred strikes, providing it finds labor leaders who are sufficiently venal and workers who are sufficiently tractable to follow the guidance of crooks.

The United States Government maintains a Department of Labor at great expense to the country, and the Bridgeport situation needs the immediate attention of Secretary Wilson. With any honest differences that may exist between the Remington Company and its employees the country has only a casual concern, provided laws are respected and there is no resort to violence. But in a matter involving an issue of whether a foreign Government is buying industrial warfare in the United States, this country has an immediate and vital concern. The sooner the facts are known the better.—New York World.

Cackling to a Purpose.

Husband—I wish you'd stop this everlasting cackling about my expenditures.

Wife—I shan't. Cackling saved the capital of Rome and I'm going to see if I can't save your capital that way.—Boston Transcript.

ARE ALL OF US DRUNK?

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

Do half of your acquaintances—or half of the citizens of your town and your state and your country—die of alcoholism? If they do, what shocking conditions exist!

Dr. E. S. Allen, of Cherokee Road, is quoted as saying that he is opposed to a saloon in his section of Louisville "because it has been proved that 700,000 persons die in the United States annually as a result of drinking liquor." He quotes Richmond P. Hobson as his authority, or one of them, for the statement.

Capt. Hobson is vehement, rather than authoritative, upon any subject that interests him. He asserts, rather than proves, amazing things about our internal and foreign affairs. It is reckless to quote reckless persons when asked for proof.

Dr. Allen may be right in opposing a saloon as an additional facility in his neighborhood, but it is one thing to protest against a groggery being established next door, and quite another to represent drunkenness as being so common that half of those who die do so as a result of drink. That, substantially, is the Hobsonian allegation which Dr. Allen, somewhat incautiously, adopts as "proof."

Sense and Non-Sense.

The mortality statistics for 1912, published by the United States Census Bureau, give the deaths from all causes in the registration area, including about two-thirds of the continental area of the United States, as 838,251, a death rate of 13.9. This death rate, assuming the population to be 90,000,000, would cause about 1,200,000 deaths a year in the United States. If 700,000 persons die of alcoholism each year more than half of the deaths that occur are caused by drink.

When we consider the fact that about half of those who die in a year are women, we must, if we adopt the Hobsonian allegation as truth, reach the depressing conclusion that more than half of the women of all ages and social stations are habitually or periodically drunk, and pay for their excesses with their lives unless we take the other horn of the dilemma and say that the women are sober, but that all of the men are drunkards and all of them die of drink.

Between 150,000 and 200,000 of those who die in a year are between 70 and 100. Another large fraction of the total is composed of babies in arms, boys in knickerbockers and girls in short skirts. The shocking dissipation of these old people and young people is reflected in Captain Hobson's figures unless we assume that all persons of both sexes who die after childhood and before they have passed three score and ten stagger to their graves arm-in-arm with John Barleycorn, who dumps them in and goes back from the brink after new victims.

Dying in America.

Dying in America in these circumstances lays a man—for that matter a woman—open to suspicion. As long as any one is alive he may prove by not staggering, and by other means, that he is sober. But when he dies the chances are more than one to one that the rum demon personally conducted him to the regions of the damned. And dead men can make no arguments in self-defense.

The assertion of the Census Bureau that 3,183 persons died in a year of alcoholism in the registration area, is more encouraging to Americans who value their country's reputation, if less inspiring to Prohibitionists, than Captain Hobson's shocking allegation. This is true even when due allowance is made for the willingness of physicians to give the deceased the benefit of the doubt if there is any other cause than alcoholism that can, with reason, be assigned.

If all of us were as drunk as we're painted by Captain Hobson, or as many of us drunk as must be in order for half or two-thirds of us to die of drink, would enough of us be sober to put the rest of us to bed? And who would transact business?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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