

## Union Labor Column.

EDITED BY JOHN PENN.

This Department is devoted to the interests of Organized Labor.

The Statesman assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

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### PROMISED A TREAT.

What promises to be an interesting meeting for members of organized labor bodies in the city, will be the lecture to be given next week at Army hall, under the jurisdiction of the Trades Council. Rev. Mr. Rice will be one of the speakers and in all likelihood may be followed by another eminent clergyman who, in times past has expressed a deep interest in the objects and aims of union labor. The exact date of this event is not at present definitely settled, but every union man is requested to watch for the announcement in the labor department of the Statesman next Saturday. By that time arrangements will be completed and the date known. Let every union man attend and bring all his non-union friends.

### DUTY OF UNION MEN.

Should Strive to Strengthen the Cause of Organizations.

One of the greatest of enemies any society, whether fraternal, beneficiary secret or otherwise, has to contend with is that deadly lethargy, that indifference toward attending or the full filling of duties pertaining to office. This is no more marked in our local unions than in our local secret societies yet there is an indifference creeping over a certain few unions which should be immediately shaken off. If the officers and members of these unions believe that the world is theirs because their requests in the past had met prompt compliance on the part of their employers, then it must be confessed that their collective bumps of self-esteem require a few severe jolts to clear away such an erroneous impression. Nothing delights an enemy of unionism more than this self-same conceit on the part of organized bodies of labor. The insidious foe to progress deadens the spirit of such unions and, when a challenge comes to them, drooping as it were, from what seemed to them a clear horizon, they usually find their union decidedly unprepared for a contest. If you to whom this pertains, cannot see any logic in strengthening your treasury and soliciting new members from the ranks of outside workmen in your own craft, during the "time of peace" then it is our earnest wish that some day your optimistic cranium may receive the jolt required to awaken your deadened senses. Wake up and do something. This cry of "Haven't time," "Am so busy," "There is no necessity," etc. comes generally from weak-kneed unionists who literally have no more love for their union than the employer who gives them work. Wake up and show you are men!

### CRITIC OF TRADES UNIONS.

Anthracite Coalminers' Lawyer on Organized Labor.

Clarence S. Darrow writes as follows in the Philadelphia North American: "The natural recovery of business, the waste of energy and men and material in warfare, the wonderful improvement of machinery and new methods of production have stimulated the formation of great corporations and trusts. These powerful institutions use their control of industrial institutions to enrich themselves. This was accomplished by putting up prices. And increasing price is only brought about by limiting production."

The increase of prices, the destruction of workmen by war, the natural growth of business have in the last few years taken up the surplus labor of the world. The workman, in order to gain his share of what has been called prosperity, sought to increase his wages. This he has done in exactly the same way that capital seeks to increase the price of commodities—by limiting production. The only way that labor has of limiting production is organization or monopoly."

Trade unionism in its last analysis is really the monopoly of the labor market, and in most of its methods it follows in the footsteps of capital. The great growth of trade unionism in the last few years has brought into its ranks tens of thousands of men unacquainted with its principles, and many not in harmony with its purposes, but who have joined these organizations to buy their peace, and as large numbers of people join the church, without any conception of or belief in the religion that it teaches."

**What Trade Unionism Means.** Trade unionism, aside from being an effort to control the labor supply is an historical movement which in its general purposes has stood for the elevation of man and for the bettering of the condition of the common people. It has lived and gained strength through opposition and prosecution during the past because it stood for justice and human liberty; it has flourished because in spite of the opposition that it awakened it has always called for the active sympathy and aid of all that class of men and women who believe in fair conditions of life and justice for all men.

**Adversity Will Be the Test.** The phenomenal growth of trade unionism through the last two or three years, although unparalleled in any other period of the world, is perhaps not unlike the growth of the Knights of Labor some 20 years ago.

It does not follow that trade unionism will live because it is so strong today. When adversity comes, as it must come under our present system of production when large numbers of men are thrown out of employment, then the great strain upon trade unionism will be felt. It is comparatively easy to organize workmen when all are employed, or while work is plentiful. It is difficult to sustain this organization while many men are living on the verge of starvation or want.

The great growth of trade unionism has caused the workman to feel his power; it has necessarily made many of them arbitrary, unreasonable and unjust in their demands. This has, in many places, awakened a sense of resentment among a large class who otherwise would be sympathetic towards the unions. For instance, in the late strike of the anthracite coal workers, the sympathy of the whole country was with the miners. This was due not to any special knowledge on the part of the public of the condition of the striking men, but to their hatred against the coal trust, which had monopolized and put up the price on a necessary product. The growth of these great industrial monopolies, whose business has been to take as much from the public as the public would stand, has set against them the great mass of the common people. These people have been sympathetic to trade unions, not so much because they understood trade unions, as because they hated the monopolies.

At best, only a small proportion of the real workmen are reasonably eligible to trade unionism. Farmers, small merchants and many others composing the great middle class do not belong to the unions and cannot reasonably be expected to belong to the unions. This great middle class, which really creates the sympathy for the common people, which, in fact, is the common people, have believed that they were plundered by the trusts and corporations, and have given aid to the trade unions. When they imagine that the trade unions are making unreasonable demands or unfair conditions their hostility will be turned against trade unionism as it is turned against the corporate control.

### Consumers Are the Real Arbiters.

The friendliness of certain great institutions towards trade unionism is not altogether a hopeful sign. The more progressive of the monopolists, without any real sympathy for the workmen, are beginning to feel friendly toward trade unionism. This friendship comes from the belief that they can deal with large numbers of men easier than with individual men. This leads them to tempt the trade unions with a prospect of higher wages, to gain their sympathy and their support; but the public will not long be willing to be ground to pieces by the monopolies on one hand and the trade unions on the other.

The great class of men who are the consumers and who stand neither in the relation of monopolist or trade unionist will insist that through the evolutionary movements of society their condition shall be made better. To put up the price of commodities and the cost of labor means little to the workman, but it means plunder to the great mass of men who cannot properly be placed in either camp.

### Raising of Wages a Delusion.

Many trade unionists seem to devote their whole time to the question of raising wages. The raising of wages in and by itself is simply a delusion and a snare. For instance: a carpenter raises his wages; this makes it necessary for the small merchant to raise his prices; this makes it necessary for the clerk to raise his; then in turn the butcher must raise his, while the carpenter finds that he has things he buys, and in turn he must raise his wages again. When the work of trade unionism is done, just conditions will prevail and trade unionism will disappear. Trade unionism deserves to live, as it has in the past, because it has stood as the protection of the common people. The permanent protection of the common people can only come by permanent changes in laws and institutions. So, above all things else, trade unionism should turn its attention to political action, not necessarily this party or that, but toward the solution by law and industrial changes of the problems of the day. For in the end natural laws must prevail.

Neither the trust nor the labor organization can arbitrarily fix prices for a long period of time. There is a tendency in things to come back to natural laws, and unless all agitator and energy tends to bring about such natural conditions that all labor be employed and all labor will receive the full product of its tools without artificial aid, then such agitation should turn its attention to political activity and its efforts will not be in vain. The energy now directed towards simply organizing men and seeking

to better their condition by raising wages must be more largely turned toward the political and economic questions of the day, upon which labor, capital and wages depend.

This great energy cannot be always kept in the narrow channel in which it is directed at the present time. It is for the trade unionists of the world to show their ability and generalship by directing this great army of workmen toward the substantial and permanent change and improvement of the laws and industrial institutions of the world.

### BOUQUET FOR PRINTERS.

Jamestown, (N. Y.) Advocate Warmly Praises Typographical Union.

One by one the scab publishing houses are coming into the fold of the union. The International Typographical Union has again and again demonstrated its strength and power. Never again will the wages of printers be forced down; never again will the hours of labor be long and tedious.

Many are the large printing establishments which have felt the power of organization. It was only a few years ago that the Buffalo Express was forced to withdraw its opposition to the union, while the recent victory over the New York Sun is still fresh in the minds of all. The Los Angeles Times will be the next.—Jamestown (N. Y.) Advocate.

### CONKEY CONQUERED.

Chicago Typographical Union Wins a Most Notable Victory.

The following is clipped from the Anniston Labor Review: "The plant of W. B. Conkey & Co., at Hammond, Indiana, which has been the source of many troubles for the printing trades for several years, is to be unionized. Chicago Typographical Union No. 16, at its last meeting, decided to waive jurisdiction over Hammond, and permit the International Typographical union to form a local there and give it control of the town. Conkey has offered, if this is done, to unionize his entire plant and pay \$18 a week to printers, which is 60 cents a week more than the highest scale paid in the state of Indiana.—Anniston Labor Review."

### JURY FINDS 200 INDICTMENTS.

Authorities Are Paying Attention to Peonage Cases.

Washington, July 15.—Attorney Knox is giving the Alabama peonage cases his closest attention, and in order that the cases may be prosecuted with still more vigor, has appointed Julius Sternfall as special counsel to assist United States District Attorney Reese at Montgomery.

The extent of the evil and the activity of the United States authorities may be realized when it is said that nearly 200 indictments have already been found; that it is now expected that nearly one thousand indictments may be secured in Alabama alone before the investigation is closed. And the same system, it is declared, is in vogue in Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi and Texas.

The attorney general's department is much interested in the appeal which has been taken in the first conviction, that of S. N. Clyatt of Florida, a producer of naval stores, who had a number of negroes in servitude. He was sentenced to four years. His appeal has been argued before the United States court of appeals, at New Orleans, and a decision is expected shortly.

### GRAY THEIR MAN.

Democrats Name Him For the Presidency.

Pottsville, Pa., Judge George Gray, of Delaware, former United States senator and president of the Anthracite Coal Commission, is being quietly boomed in the anthracite region for the democratic nomination for the presidency. As the result of a canvass that has been made throughout the region it has been found that nearly all the miners' union officials who are democrats are heartily in favor of his nomination and, since the reported collapse of the Cleveland boom, both Cleveland men and Bryan men are enthusiastic in declaring that Judge Gray is a man who can unite the party.

Ex-Congressman James K. Reilly, who was a member of the lower house when Judge Gray was a senator and who was later United States marshal for the eastern district of Pennsylvania thus coming very often in contact with Judge Gray, says that he is a man of such strength and power that, if he can be nominated, he will probably be elected.

It is pointed out that, while Judge Gray's state is a small one, it is one of the most doubtful states in the union, and he could certainly carry it for the democrats.

### GIRL COWS A MOB.

Tried to Lynch a Murderer, but She Stood Them Off With Gun.

Columbia, S. C.—Mary Creech, the 18-year-old daughter of Sheriff Creech at Barwell, stood off with a rifle a mob of armed men which had sought to lynch Herbert Sanderson, who had surrendered himself, for killing Seaborn Moore.

The girl was alone at the jail, her father having left the keys with her during his absence. When she leveled a gun at the crowd it fled.

The murder was the result of a quarrel at a dance over a girl.

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## INJURED

### KNEECAP

Used As a Means of Defrauding Cities

### BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST ASTORIA

Was Granted \$2000 Damage But Officials Were Give a Tip Before Money Was Paid.

Astoria, Ore.—During the present week two men are to be tried in the circuit court here on the charge of perjury. They are Charlie R. Lane, alias John L. Bock, alias John Lane, and Josier S. Smith, alias George R. Rodgers, and they are accused of having testified falsely in a damage suit brought by Lane under the name of John L. Bock, against the City of Astoria.

In his complaint Bock alleged that on the evening of August 21, 1900, while walking along Duane street he fell through a hole in the plank and fractured his right knee cap. About a year later he filed a suit for \$5000 damages. The case was tried twice, the first jury disagreeing and the second giving the plaintiff a judgment in the sum of \$2500.50. Smith testified at the first trial that he was with Bock at the time he was alleged to have been injured. About two months ago a proposition was before the City Council to compromise the claim by the payment of \$2000, when District Attorney Allen received information to the effect that the men were frauds. City Attorney Smith and Sheriff Linville left immediately for Contra Costa, Cal., where Bock and Smith live, and soon secured sufficient evidence to warrant their arrest on the charge of perjury.

At the preliminary hearing testimony was introduced showing that Bock's injury was of long standing and that he had made use of it several times before to secure damages from cities, corporations and individuals. An affidavit was presented from Thos. Wilkinson, warden of the California state prison at Folsom, and on it was a photograph easily recognized as Bock or Lane. It said that C. R. Lane was sent to the prison from Contra Costa county on August 19, 1895, for grand larceny, and was discharged on December 18, 1897. In its description of the prisoner the affidavit said Lane's right kneecap was badly broken and he walked lame. E. W. Leus and C. L. Perkins testified that they had lived near the two defendants for 12 or 13 years, that Bock's true name was Charles R. Lane, that during all this time he had been lame and that Smith knew it. They also testified that about three years ago Bock or Lane secured \$300 from Mrs. Hinton, of 647 Folsom street, San Francisco, by claiming he was injured on her property. In December, 1899, he got \$1200 from the owner of a building being erected in San Francisco and about two years ago he was paid between \$80 and \$100 by the San Pablo Street Railway company of Oakland for the same injury.

From other sources it is learned that in 1902 Bock, under the name of John E. B. Myers, secured \$2000 from the City of Seattle in settlement of a suit brought to obtain damages for breaking his leg in that city on August 17, 1900, just four days after he was alleged to have been injured here. It is also alleged that shortly before coming here he sued Jacobs Bros., of Portland, on a similar charge and after that was dropped, he called in a prominent physician of that city, whose name the officers will not make public, to examine his leg preparatory to bringing suit against the City of Portland. The physician, it is said, pronounced the break an old one and the scheme was dropped.

At the preliminary examination Bock said his true name was John L. Bock but on being arraigned in the circuit court he said it was John Lane and an order was made directing that he proceed against under the latter name. Smith's trial will be commenced on Wednesday and Lane's will follow immediately afterwards.

### WILL NAME COMMISSION.

Canada and United States Prepare to Take Up Waterways.

Chicago.—The Canadian and United States governments are getting ready to make the long-pending appointments of members of the international waterways commission for the purpose of investigating into the international features of the land waters which formed the subject of the report of the deep waterways commission of the United States about three years ago.

The most interesting part of the report is that General O. H. Ernst now at the head of the government's engineering corps in this district, will be one of the Americans appointed. Other likely members are said to be George Y. Wisner of Detroit who served on the former commission, and Harvey D. Goulder of Cleveland, the well known marine lawyer, and attorney for the Lake Carriers' Association.

The new international commission is to take up the question of the effect on lake levels of the numerous proposed channels, improvement schemes, of the diversion of water in to the Chicago drainage canal and for power purposes, and the probable damage to riparian rights resulting from rising of lake levels by means of regulating works at Buffalo, as recommended by the former American commission.

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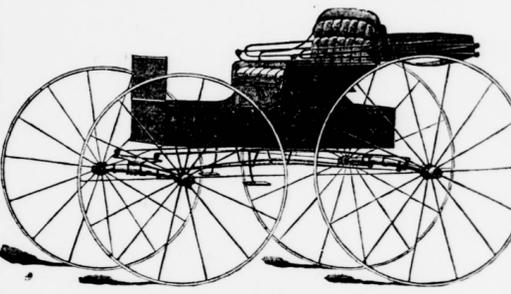
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