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50c Balance Session---15c Lists of Twenty

PRESS-AGENT NEWS FAKER NEVER IDLE

"False Creations of the Mind" His Greatest Stunt—Imaginary Meetings Attended by Spooks.

Whenever an effort is made to compel railroads to respect the rights of those from whom they have begged their franchise; whenever a Legislature seeks to pass laws requiring railroads to bear their just share of taxation—immediately there are a thousand imaginary meetings attended by a million or two spooks, in protest against Legislative action that is pronounced by these spooks as "drastic," "confiscatory," and a few carloads of similar awe-inspiring adjectives.

The crop of bills now before the Legislature proposing "drastic" and all the other kinds of legislation brewed and concocted for the delectable purpose of despoiling the railroads, have been followed by an unusually large list of imaginary gatherings of railway trainmen in the usual protests.

These gatherings are hatched in the fertile brain of the press-agent of the plunderbunders, and are disseminated through the editorial mouthpieces of the same plunderbunders.

The press-agent methods of the corporations—others as well as railroads—should be quite well understood in these days, when their offenses are so common and so nauseating.

Even if there were a modicum of truth in these press-agent protests; even if it were true that the railway conductors and engineers did meet and protest—what is their protest to that of the other ninety-nine and nine-tenths per cent of our population?

There is no basis on fact for these alleged protests of these imaginary meetings; the increased taxes imposed on the undertaxed railroads will not cause them to reduce the wages of their employees. Already these wages are as low as they can be forced. Already those "protesting" trainmen are working as many hours a day as Nature will permit, although not as many hours as their employers would force on them did not Nature protest.

Beware of the plunderbund press-agent faker, and believe his ebullitions when your own eyes are witnesses to their truth.

ON CURRENT TOPICS

(CHAS. LEIDY.)

The Cigarmakers union is a strong organization; and like all other labor organizations, works to the uplifting of mankind. This union imposes fines on its members for uncleanly habits. But not all cigar factories are union. In its 1906 annual report, the State Board of Health had this to say of some Tampa factories:

"Seated in a superheated room, amidst an atmosphere heavy with odor of tobacco, smoke of cigars and exhalations of the inmates, and the peculiarly depressing irritation on account of the lack of ventilations, were from 100 to 650 persons, all jabbering away while ostensibly engaged in the manufacture of cigars. Among them were Cubans, Spaniards, Americans and negroes, all apparently speaking the Spanish language. The effect of the intense heat was uniformly manifested in their disregard for top shirts. The floors were dirty, sandy and covered here and there by scraps of tobacco.

"Some of the operators were chewing, and expectorations had accumulated by the side of their chairs in small pools. Others, especially those about the aisles, had covered with spittle the surface of the space limited by their projective ability. In finishing the cigars, I noticed they were accustomed to bite off the tapering end preparatory to put the final touches on the wrapper.

"At the close of the day, the tobacco that had fallen on the floor, trodden under foot for hours and mixed in varying degrees with spittle, is swept up and in some instances sent off to smaller shops, where it is used as filler for both cigars and cigarettes. The fear of injuring the tobacco is so acute that water, soap and a scrub-broom are never used.

"The hall and stairway leading to the main cigarmaking room bore the same evidence of reckless abhorrence of the demands of wholesome sanitation."

We have no class of public servants more deserving of our consideration and receiving less at our hands than our school teachers. Ill-paid, employed for an uncertain term, and sometimes having to wait a month or more for their pay—these are conditions that make it a hard matter to keep our schools supplied with teachers. And it is within the power of the Legislature to correct these evils. Read this from the Albany Ga., Herald:

"The school teachers of Henry county held a mass meeting recently and complained of the small salaries paid, complained more loudly still of the system which makes them wait so long for their money, declared that they often borrowed money from "Sharks" at usurious rates and that many competent teachers were becoming disgusted and seeking other fields of employment."

Geo. B. Hinman, president of the Builders' Exchange of Atlanta, takes a broader view of the relationship that should exist between the employer and the employee than do many men in similar positions. Says Mr. Hinman:

"Our constitution says that the object of this association is to inculcate just and equitable principles of dealing between contractors, architects and material men. The only fault with this utterance is that it says nothing about fair dealing with the laborer, and I think our constitution should be amended so as to include the laborer and mechanic, and that an agreement should be entered into fixing the maximum number of hours to constitute a day's work, and the minimum price to be paid each class of labor for such a day's work."

The Gainesville Sun complains of a scarcity of common labor and a superabundance of sporty negroes lounging about in idleness. Any blind tigress down your way, Mr. McCreary?

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