

MAYOR THOMPSON AND THE LABOR VOTE

A reader of The Day Book dropped into the office this morning and requested that we print the following. He claims Thompson as a good friend of his and only wants his article published in a way of suggestion. Here it is:

In these days there is hardly a problem connected with education, civics, economics or public administration but is being interpreted from two distinct angles, viz.,

1. The standpoint of the employing class.

2. The standpoint of the wage-earning class.

While it is needless to assert that conclusions arrived at from these different viewpoints are usually diametrically opposed to each other, the former perpetuating privilege, the latter demanding equal opportunity, the docility and forbearance of the great working class under the surrounding circumstances is beyond the power of mind or spirit to solve.

William Hale Thompson belongs to the employing class. From 80 to 90 per cent of the votes that elected him were cast by working men and women.

No sooner was Mayor Thompson elected than he announced he would surround himself with "big" men and we know that there are big men in both the employing and the labor ranks, yet in his conferences and appointments he has absolutely ignored labor sympathizers, although they deposited more than 80 per cent of the ballots that elected him.

Is this class consciousness or is it plain ignorance?

The advisory committee of 100 "big men" selected by Mayor Thompson for the Sherman house lunch represented Chicago's money aristocracy with all the trimmings. There was not a "big labor man" or labor sympathizer in the bunch, although it is easy to name several, any one of whom know more about government

and economics than the entire galaxy of Chicago's dollar nobility combined.

Mayor Thompson's cabinet appointments are each millionaires or leisure class representatives who will interpret all their problems from the employing class standpoint.

Did the 80 per cent of labor voters who elected Thompson expect this? Do they know what this means to the cause of labor? Are they satisfied to vote on without representatives in the council of those whom they elect?

Wouldn't it be a good idea for Mayor Thompson to let thinking labor men have a say in his doings and plans for the coming four years as well as the other business men of Chicago?

PULLMAN PORTERS DISCUSS LABOR SITUATION

Conditions which make the Pullman Porters' union a secret organization were described by R. W. Bell yesterday in a talk before the Negro Fellowship club at 3005 S. State st. He was discharged by the Pullman Co. because he attempted to organize the men while a conductor.

"We keep the names of all our members secret," declared Bell. "Not a soul except myself knows how many members the union has or who they are. If the list of names got out there would be some wholesale firing in the Pullman Co."

"None would welcome more gladly an anti-tipping law than the porters themselves. If such a law were passed in Illinois the Pullman Co. would be forced to pay a living wage and the difference would not be out of the public pocket; it would come from the dividends of the Pullman Co."

"What is in the mail from daughter?" asked mother eagerly.

"A thousand kisses," answered father grimly, "and sixteen handkerchiefs, two waists and four batches of ribbons for you to wash and mend."