



ARTHUR P. GORMAN, Maryland's Senior Senator.

NATIONAL LABOR DAY.

Congress Has Officially Recognized the Right of Our TOLLERS.

A Day Set Apart for Rest and Recreation in the Interest of the Laboring Man—Some States Already Providing for by Statute.



EX-GOV. HUMPHREY, OF KANSAS.

The cause of labor received an important recognition in one of the few bills just passed by the present congress—that making the first Monday in September henceforth a national holiday devoted to the cause of the toiler and set apart for a rest-day in the workingman's interest.

The origin of Labor day dates back to 1850, when following the labor difficulties of 1877 the cause of the labor unions received a considerable impetus.

There was a demand for a general gala occasion, and in the labor assembly of New York the matter of adopting a special day for this purpose was discussed.

With the recurrence of the season the idea spread, and labor unions of all kinds came to select a day in the first week of September for their celebrations of this kind.

Up to 1880, however, no state observance of the day had taken place. In August of that year Gov. L. U. Humphrey, of Kansas, by request of the Topeka trades assembly, issued a proclamation setting aside the first day of September for a labor holiday and asking the people of the commonwealth to devote the occasion to the interest of the toilers.

acted by the president, becomes a public holiday only by state legislation providing that any day designated by president or governor as a day of thanksgiving shall be a public holiday.

Some states, including Pennsylvania, already have a Labor day of their own, set apart by state legislation, and have chosen the first Saturday in September rather than the first Monday as being more suitable to the laboring classes who get a holiday at the end of the week's work rather than the beginning.

The Labor day observance is not similar to that of any other holiday. It approaches the Fourth of July, but is without the hilarity and exuberance of that occasion.

The chief feature of the day is a parade—but it is not a procession devoted to drum majors and bunting. It is more in the nature of a trades' display in which every avocation is represented by workmen busy at their various trades.

While it is perhaps true that somewhat extreme ideas are more readily received than upon occasions like Independence day, it is not generally done without disapprobation, and with the day made a rest day for the whole nation instead of for a particular class or section, its observance will become far more broad and less marred by any expression tending to arouse antagonism between the toilers and any other class whatever.

The significance of the day is far-reaching, and the unanimity with which congress indorsed it, the bill passing practically without opposition in either branch of congress, proves the sympathy with which it has been received by those high in authority.

Indications are that it will be more generally observed this year than ever before in the nation's history, and the problems that confront labor and have received so much discussion during the past few months will be prominently before the gatherings in every village, city and hamlet in the nation for so long.

It is an encouraging sign that labor has received this recognition, and that the United States of America has been the first nation on earth to make so important a concession to the laboring classes. It is not only a permanent concession, for such an enactment can never be abrogated, but it will, if rightly used, aid in bringing about a better understanding of the labor question, now so prominent in political and ethical economy of the world over.

EVERLASTING REST.

Dr. Talmage Tells Where It May Be Found.

The World the King's Highway, Where All Must Be Moving—Peace, Quiet and Happiness at the End of the Journey.

Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage selected for the subject of his sermon through the press this week the words, "Everlasting Life," the text being from Micah ii. 10: "Arise ye and depart, for this is your rest."

This was the drum-beat of a prophet who wanted to arouse his people from their oppressed and sinful condition; but it may just as properly be uttered now as then.

As far as I can see, your great want and mine is rest. From the time we enter life, a great many vexations and annoyances take after us. We may have our holidays, and our seasons of recreation and quiet, but where is the man come to mid-life who has found eternal rest?

You and I have seen men who tried to rest here. They built themselves great stores. They gathered around them the patronage of merchant princes. The voice of their bid shook the money markets.

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"Down with him! He is an office-seeker. He is a sot. He is a libertine. Away with him!" And there is no peace for the man until he lays down his broken heart in the grave at Marshfield.

Napoleon wanted to make all Europe tremble at his power; made it tremble, then died; his entire military achievements dwindling down to a pair of military boots which he insisted on having on his feet when dying.

Now, for what have I said all this? "Arise ye and depart; for this is your rest." I am going to make you a grand offer. Some of you remember that when gold was discovered in California, large companies were made up and started off to get their fortune.

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from that chain; here a bright light put out, and there another, and another. With such griefs, how are you to rest? Will there ever be a power that can attenuate that silent voice, or kindle the luster of that closed eye, or put spring and dance into that little foot? When we bank up the dust over the dead, is the sod never to be broken? Is the cemetery to hear no sound but the tire of the horse wheel, the tap of the bell at the gate as the long processions come in with their awful burdens of grief?

Oh ye whose looks are wet with the dew of the night of grief; whose hearts are heavy, because those well-known footsteps sound no more at the doorway, yonder is your rest! There is David triumphant; but once he became Abimelech. There is Abraham enthroned; but once he wept for Sarah. There is Paul exultant; but he once sat with his feet in the stocks. There is Pausanias radiant with immortal health; but on earth he was always sick.

Others put down the work of midlife, feeling they could hardly be spared from the office, or store, or shop, for a day, but are to be spared from it forever. Your mother went. Having lived a life of Christian consistency she ever busy with kind words for her children, her heart full of that meek and quiet spirit that is in the sight of God of great price, suddenly her countenance was transfigured, and the gate was opened, and she took her place amid that great cloud of witnesses that hover about the throne!

Giorious consolation! They are not dead. You can only make me believe they are dead. They have only moved on. With more love than that with which they regard you on earth, they watch you from their high places, and their voices cheer us in our struggle for the sky. Hail, spirits blessed, now that ye have passed the floods and won the crown! With weary feet we press up the shining way, until in everlasting reunion we shall meet again. Oh! won't it be grand when, our conflicts done and our partings over, we shall clasp hands, and cry out: "This is Heaven!"

THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM. Your Wire Can Be Picked from Hundreds with Very Little Trouble. In a telephone plant for a big city there are cables containing thousands upon thousands of miles of copper wire.

Complete records are kept of the position of every wire, and the men in charge can pick out at once the one of any subscriber whenever it is necessary to inspect it or to work on it. When a line gets into trouble it can be tested in both directions from the switchboard and toward the subscriber's station.

At every exchange there is an official called the "wire chief," whose duty is to overlook the making of connections between the subscriber's line and the switchboard, to inspect the wires, and to test them electrically in order to determine the position of any defect that may occur in a subscriber's line or in a special desk, from which wires run to various parts of the system, and he is provided with electrical instruments with which to make tests on lines that develop "trouble." He is the ambulance surgeon of the telephone plant, and his wires give him the advantage of being truly ubiquitous.

He receives complaints and reports of "trouble," enters on a special strip every "trouble" reported or discovered. These slips are handed to "trouble men," who search out the cause, and, finding it, apply the proper remedy. They then enter an account of what they found and what they did on the slip, and return it. In this way a close and comprehensive check is kept on the operation of the telephone plant, which, on account of its complexity and the number of small parts that go to make it up, is peculiarly liable to trifling but troublesome defects. Returns are made up periodically from the "trouble slips," and these form a continuous record of the efficiency both of the plant and of those immediately in charge of it.—Boston Transcript.

A Natural Museum. The new Siberian insular group, which has lately been so frequently mentioned in the reports of various arctic and polar expeditions, consists of the three large islands, Kotelnikoff, Faddeevsk and New Siberia, in the open sea to the northeast of the delta of the Lena and a few smaller ones situated like Liakhoff and others, nearer to Cape Sviatof. Further to the north beyond the islands of Nova Zembla, the American expedition of the lost Jeanette discovered some other small islands, but the three large New Siberians are the only ones visited by Russian traders and inhabitants of the polar tundra zone. These islands are generally reached in spring before the thawing of the ocean ice, and the traders drive over the frozen surface of the sea in light sledges, drawn by reindeer or dogs, and passing the short summer on the islands, return home again in the autumn, when the ocean ice has again set. The New Siberians are of great importance from a scientific point of view, as they form a vast and interesting cemetery of the whole organic world as it at one time existed under seventy-five and seventy-six degrees of north latitude.—London News.

FARM AND GARDEN.

WANT GOOD ROADS.

During the agitation that has been kept up in favor of good roads for the year or two last past, a good many people have been inclined to attribute the most of the talk on this subject to the makers of bicycles, and many times it has been intimated that their efforts in behalf of better roads were not altogether disinterested.

It may be a safe factor to rapidly coming to the front, and the bicycle is the factor, though instead of agitation beginning with the maker of bicycles and working toward the people who are to make the roads or pay for them, the process is reversed and the good roads talk is coming from the users of bicycles in the country.

THE KIND OF ROADS WE WANT. [View of a stretch of New York road in Camden county, N. J.] pressure for good roads to bear that will give those who believe in them a majority and the problem will be solved in the near future.

EXCELLENT CELERY HOE. A Tool Which Makes Play of What Used to Be Hard Work. It will soon be time for the operation of "handing" the early celery plants grown in the ordinary way, namely in separate rows.



CELERY HOE.

and knees. If people who make so much fuss over the operation could once see the work done as we did in celery fields near Mount Morris, N. Y., where the men used hoes like the one here illustrated, it would dawn upon them that celery can be handled with a small fraction of the effort usually wasted upon it.

DAIRY SUGGESTIONS. GET THE COW WHEN APPROACHING TO MILK HER. Such little attentions pay; we know they pay. The dehorned cow, experience shows, is better than a horned animal, other things being equal.

CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE ACTION. That the subject of good roads is important enough to be considered by congress, and in a broad and liberal way, there can be no doubt. Before the advent of the automobile, a common saying that a country's civilization might be measured by its roads, if such were the case now, the United States would be far down in the scale.

GOOD WORK DONE BY WHEELMAN. I consider the bicycle one of the leading factors in solving the problem of good roads, as every wheelman not only knows a good road, but knows where they are to be found, and will use his influence to secure them in his vicinity.—B. R. Felton, City Engineer, Marlboro, Mass.

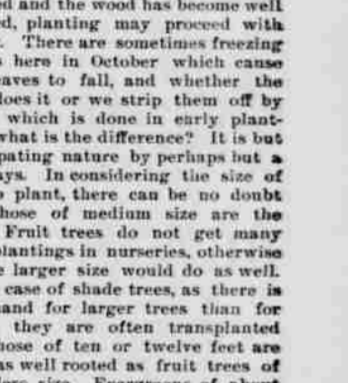
PLANTING IN THE FIELD.

Trees Set Out in September or Even Later Do Very Well.

The experienced planter it is often a source of surprise that more persons do not plant trees in the fall. Nurserymen, who have much experience, of course, usually state in their catalogues that fall is just as good a time for planting as spring, but it seems to have but little effect on the public, for there are twice as many trees planted in spring as there are in the fall.

THE WARM SOIL IS PRECISELY LIKE A HOT BED IS TO A CUTTING, AND IN THE SAME WAY ARE YOUNG ROOTS MADE. The cool, dewy nights and warm soil make it almost impossible for a tree to die. Evergreens set out in September rarely fail. When well-watered, that the damp earth fits closely about the roots, fresh fibers appear almost at once.

THE ITALIAN BUFFALO. A Breed of Cattle Little Known Outside Its Native Land. The Italian buffalo is a breed of cattle but little known outside of the locality of which it is a native. The origin of the breed is unknown. The cattle roam about in a semi-wild state, and are very difficult to control.



ITALIAN BUFFALO.

are to be found chiefly in the vicinity of Naples, where it is calculated there are 12,000 of them. They are chiefly used for yielding milk for a peculiar kind of cheese called "fatina." While giving milk they are also used for tilling the soil until the age of fourteen years, when they are turned over to the butcher.

CARRYING THE COW EVERY DAY. Some people seem to think that they do quite enough for their cows if they give them food and shelter; but besides they require to be kept very cleanly, though seldom indulged in that luxury. The cow should be carried daily, like the horse; its hide should be freed from all impurities and relieved from everything that causes uneasiness.