

The St. Paul Globe

THE GLOBE CO., PUBLISHERS

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way.

RESULTS COUNT—
THE GLOBE GIVES THEM.

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1904.

INDUSTRIAL COMMOTION

A presidential year is always a year of more or less unsettled industrial conditions. Business is apt to be dull at that time. There is no reason why this should be so at present. There are few disturbing conditions about the present political controversy. As far as the financial issue is concerned, which held business in suspense four and eight years ago, there is now no room for anxiety. It has become so much of a habit, however, with our business men to curtail somewhat their operations at the beginning of a year when a president is chosen that it persists even when the reasons for it have vanished. Therefore there are always six or eight months of dull business before a national election occurs, and dull business means usually some labor trouble.

The big events of this year so far are the strike of the packing house employees and the strike in the textile mills at Fall River. In one case the men are fighting for an increase in the wages of a portion of the employees, and in the other they are protesting against a material reduction; which, we believe, the second to be made within a comparatively short time. The Fall River manufacturers can at least plead the excuse of a falling market. It has not been easy to push their products of late, and they have met market conditions by reducing wages accordingly. The prospect there is for a prolonged struggle. The packing house strike has already passed through so many changing and surprising phases that it would be rash to predict whether it will last for twenty-four hours or for as many weeks.

The world of industry is singularly slow in working away from the conditions that make such disturbance on a large scale possible. Everyone of them, of course, costs all parties involved, together with the innocent public, enormous sums of money. A strike is war, and it is as expensive as the other kind. There is always a belief that in a presidential year it will be easier to obtain advances in wages or to keep them from being cut, because it is imagined that powerful political influences, which would be unfavorably affected by prolonged labor troubles, will step in and insist upon a settlement. Several times this has happened; with the result of postponing by just so much the coming of the time when wages and hours will be matters for adjustment between labor and capital without the slightest possibility of the discharge of a single man or the stoppage of work for a single hour by reason of the difficulty of coming to an agreement. Meantime, we must bear the ills of our semi-civilized economic condition as best we can, and utilize public opinion as far as it can be done by bringing pressure on all parties concerned to insist upon an early and amicable agreement.

THERE'S THE RUB

When an attempt was made during the late city campaign to make a party issue out of alleged sales of liquor in the Midway district, and the police department was accused of neglect to enforce the law there, **The Globe** re-

minded the insincere critics on the other side that in the past it had been found impossible to get convictions. The trouble lay not in the unwillingness to apprehend, but in the stubborn determination of the average jury not to find anybody guilty of keeping a blind pig.

Now that no election is pending, we desire to note the issue of a trial on this particular offense, which has been pending in the municipal court for some time. **The Globe** knows nothing whatever about the sufficiency of the evidence, but it does know that there was a great amount of it. There was also a strong defense, which the jury considered ample. From the fact that there were eleven of them for acquittal from the outset, no question can arise about the practical fairness of their verdict. Under the law we must believe that the charge stood not approved. It will be well to have this event in mind when another campaign comes around and the same old charge is made, as it surely will be.

The fact that Tom Taggart once ran a lunch counter is not to be charged against him. There are few men who have lived entirely blameless lives.

SHORT CROPS AND HIGH PRICES

All indications point to a modest grain crop this year. Neither the excessive promise nor the threatened disaster of different periods since spring fairly opened will be realized. That the winter wheat crop was materially damaged is now admitted. For a time there was reason to suppose that both the spring wheat and the corn crop would rank among those of bumper years. Although the spring was late, it was followed by such an abundance of moisture that grain got a good start. Then came the prolongation of rainfall beyond what was either necessary or desirable, accompanied by absence of sunshine and by piercing winds. Lowlands were under water, portions of Kansas were ruined by flood and there was danger to our crops in the Red river valley and other portions of the Northwest not thoroughly drained.

We are now fairly advanced to a point where we can calculate upon the future with some reasonable certainty. Harvesting has already begun, and the crops are far enough along everywhere to admit of reasonable estimates. We should judge from the best advices that can be obtained, and from the figures of the most careful estimators, that there will be a large shortage in the total yield for the country, while we of the Northwest will have the advantage of at least a fair crop to be marketed.

On the other hand, the probability is that prices will rule high. All conditions are favorable for a good market. Stocks in hand have been well run down; and while the war in the East does not create the same demand for breadstuffs that it would if the nations engaged were those of Western Europe, it nevertheless does make a difference both in increased consumption and in a decreased Russian contribution to the world's supply. The expansion of the Oriental market, relieving the pressure and furnishing outlet for a considerable percentage of the American yield, is a powerful and permanent influence working in the same direction. But the main factor is the actual shortage, which points to better prices.

Looking at all the facts of the situation, the promise is that the farmers of the Northwest, if they understand their interests and are not deceived by false reports, will do very well. Unless some entirely unforeseen disaster occurs between this and the close of harvesting, they will be able to dispose of their grain at more than ordinarily satisfactory prices. Upon such prices, with this enlightenment as to the situation, they should insist. This is our great reliance, the fountain of prosperity which neither trusts nor politics nor any other political or economic calamity can shut off.

The czar's idea of peace appears to have a destructive effect on unarmed merchant ships.

IT IS UP TO MR. HAY

Whether or no Secretary of State John Hay accepts the grand cross of the Legion of Honor, conferred on him by the president of France, is no part of the public's business. It is merely a matter of taste in which Mr. Hay will decide for himself.

Men of much greater eminence in the United States than Mr. Hay have made no difficulty about accepting decorations from foreign powers. Some of them, it has been charged, have accepted things more substantial than decorations. The bestowal of the grand cross on Mr. Hay is said to be in recognition of his services in promoting the entente between France and the United States. It appears to us that President Loubet has a nicer appreciation of the improvement in existing conditions than we have, for the work of Mr. Hay is not visible to the naked American eye. It would be absurd to admit, as some too zealous partisans have insinuated, that the decoration is in the nature of a bribe. Diplomats inspired by the genius of the republic are not bribed with a bit of ribbon to stick in one's coat.

A man with a very nice sense of the fitness of things might have refrained from accepting the decoration while still an officer of the government. That, as we have said, is merely a matter of taste. The constitution of the United States expressly prohibits the acceptance by any citizen of a title of nobility, present, honor, office, emolument or title of any kind without the consent of congress. The consent of congress will probably not be withheld in the case of Mr. Hay, and why grudge him his decoration? Mr. Hay has had more kicks than ha'pence by reason of his efforts in the field of diplomacy, and a ribbon more or less will not hurt his value in world politics.

The value of the onion as a substitute for the beefsteak is beginning to appeal strongly to all manner of folk.

WANTED: SOME GOOD MEN

Good men, substantial citizens, are wanted on the Ramsey county board of commissioners. The fact that there are openings for men of this sort has been made patent by the doings of the present board. The filings so far for places on the board, to be filled at the fall election, are not, generally, of the character to inspire the hope that the most desirable class of citizens will seek the nominations.

This condition should be rectified. The county board exercises most important functions in local government. These functions should be administered by men of intelligence and unquestioned probity. As for the latter quality that may or may not have been lacking in the past: If it was not wanting then there have been some very stupid men on the county board.

The county does not ask the citizen to give his time to the work of the board for nothing. The compensation—\$600 per year—is quite sufficient to amply compensate a business man for the time he would be compelled to devote to the work of the commission. But it is utterly inadequate compensation for the professional county commissioner. The salary was fixed at the rate of fifty dollars per month for the purpose of inducing men of business to seek the office in the knowledge that their time would be paid for. That object has not been attained.

It should be the aim of the Democrats to urge capable and fit men to file for this office and to support such men in the primaries and on election day. The practice hitherto seems to have been to let the county commissioners go as consolation prizes to party workers. This unworthy practice must be dropped and the standard of membership on the board elevated. In no month does a county commissioner devote more than five days to the work of the board, and ten dollars a day ought to command a fair article of business talent.

The way to put the county board on a business basis is to elect business men. Let it be understood now, while filings are being made, that the man who aspires to a place on the board must show cause.

A sympathetic strike is fellow feeling for a rest.

MYSTERIES OF THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT

The mysteries of the postoffice department are not to be penetrated by the ordinary mind. There is much complaint in St. Paul about the slowness of the mails and the uncertainty of delivery, and yet we are told every now and then that a new substitution will be opened to facilitate the delivery of letters. This has gone on for several years. The central postoffice is large, commodious and could easily handle the entire mail business of the city. But for some mysterious reason the postoffice powers that be desire substitutions for the ostensible reason that it is serving the public, whereas it is a fact well known to those in the vicinity of the stations that they received their mail more expeditiously under the old arrangement. This complaint has become so universal that the Commercial club has taken the matter up and proposes to thoroughly investigate it.

Under the old way and before the establishment of the St. Anthony hill substitution, the residents of the hill district would receive letters that arrived on the fast mail from the East in the afternoon, immediately. But since the starting of the station these letters are held until the next morning. In other words, whereas formerly they received Tuesday's mail on Tuesday, they now receive it on Wednesday. The same complaint has been made since the lower town station has been established in the wholesale district. If you mail a letter at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at the central postoffice that you want delivered on Robert street that same day, you will discover that owing to its having to go to the substitution first it will not reach its destination until the next morning. If all the mail of the city were sent out, as heretofore, from the central postoffice, none of the delays mentioned would occur. In the face of these indisputable facts it is strange that the postoffice authorities still claim that the substitutions are merely to facilitate delivery. The only way in which they expedite matters is when a letter for that particular district is mailed at the station itself. Letters that go from one part of the city to another are not delivered as promptly as they were when St. Paul was a smaller city and the postoffice department had less means and less room at its command.

Contemporary Comment

Campaign Story Nipped

It is a nice campaign story—that the beef trust brought on the strike in administration in getting out an injunction against the combinations. The alleged purpose of the trust is to have the people squeezed so hard that they will rise up in arms and drive down the president. But as the injunction has so far not been of the slightest effect in destroying the dressed beef monopoly, the story evidently needs to be called in for repairs. For how can the beef trust be harboring feelings of revenge when it has not been hurt?—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

Snapshot Photography in 1904

Snapshot photography, thanks to modern methods, has become a highly developed art. Even since 1900 it has developed rapidly. The reason for this is that the camera of 1904 will be more fully illustrated for the future than the camera of 1900. It is not overdo our criticisms of the snapshot man. He is performing a valuable work in the community, though he is sometimes too enterprising and too heedless of the proprieties.—Providence (R. I.) Journal.

Change Diet

The human body will endure—though often under protest—such eccentricities of diet as that many persons give the subject no attention and go on eating as heartily in summer as in winter. Should they take the trouble to vary their accustomed menus they might find that a lessened consumption, especially in summer, would improve their condition. Possibly they might discover, too, that the altered bill of fare would be of benefit throughout the year. Just at this time the experiment is worth making.—Kansas City Star.

Uplift of the Campaign

That many things will be said in the heat of a campaign which would better be left unsaid is perhaps inevitable. But there is no more sense in dragging a campaign down to the level of a mere vulgar quarrel, for the sake of a few principles are almost wholly lost sight of, and lies and vilifications are indulged in indiscriminately. We have the hope that the campaign of 1904 will be no more sense in dragging a campaign down to the level of a mere vulgar quarrel, for the sake of a few principles are almost wholly lost sight of, and lies and vilifications are indulged in indiscriminately. We have the hope that the campaign of 1904 will be no more sense in dragging a campaign down to the level of a mere vulgar quarrel, for the sake of a few principles are almost wholly lost sight of, and lies and vilifications are indulged in indiscriminately. 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