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Justice Outraged Again in State That Gave Lincoln

Last week Judge Tuthill of the circuit court of Cook county, Ill., granted an injunction restraining the state factory inspector, Edgar T. Davis, from enforcing the recently enacted law prohibiting the employment of women more than ten hours in any one day. The last legislature of the state passed an act limiting the hours of employment for women in factories and other industries to ten a day, and prescribed severe penalties for violations of the law. The employers soon afterward began to busy themselves with plans to overthrow the law. W. C. Ritchie & Co., a box manufacturing concern, prayed the circuit court for an injunction against the enforcement of the statute, urging in the petition as complaining parties two women who have been in its employ for a long time, one of them thirty-two years and the other sixteen. These women swore that they could not make a living at the work they were doing unless they were allowed to continue it longer than ten hours a day.

Judge Tuthill promptly acquiesced in the contentions of the petitioners and declared the law unconstitutional on the ground that it interfered with the right of women to make individual contracts and work as many hours as they please. In rendering his decision he said: "To deny this injunction would put woman back one hundred years. The law as it now stands virtually relegates woman back to dependence. It deprives her of the power to exercise the right of contract, which is vested in her by the constitution."

The utter sophistry of the plea of the employes, and the utter disregard of common sense, if not of judicial procedure on the part of Judge Tuthill, is so much better explained by Louis F. Post in the Chicago Public than The Wageworker could hope to do it. That Mr. Post's words are here quoted in their entirety:

"Upon urgent petitions from working women, the legislature of Illinois last winter enacted a law limiting the employment of women in factories to ten hours a day. As the law met opposition from the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, it was with great difficulty that its enactment was secured; and in order to secure it the working women were obliged to modify the limitations they desired, from eight hours to ten. The Illinois Manufacturers' Association is now checking the operation of this law as unconstitutional. It has applied for an injunction to restrain the criminal courts from enforcing the penal provisions of the law against the employes. This would have been to laugh a few years ago—the bringing of a suit in chancery to restrain public prosecutors and grand juries and criminal courts from enforcing a criminal statute! But since the judicial innovation known as 'government by injunction,' such a proceeding is no great novelty, and one of the judges has granted the injunction. His expressed reasons are that the law prevents a woman from exercising her right of free contract.

"A stupid reason that, for any really intelligent judge to give. The law in question is essentially in the interest of free contract; its nullification is in the interest of economic coercion. Mrs. Raymond Robins, president of the Women's Trade Union League, drives this point home when she says: 'Everybody who knows what is going on in the world (except judges and lawyers) knows that freedom of contract can exist only between parties on an economic equality.' It is manifestly true, as Mrs. Robins implies, that working women and their employers do not contract as economic equals. The employers can wait; the workers wait at peril of starvation. The employers command working opportunities; the workers are cut off by privilege-fostering laws. And inasmuch as this economic inequality is intensified by long hours and modified by short hours, laws limiting hours are in the direction of freedom of labor contracts, while injunctions against the enforcement of such laws are away from freedom of labor contracts. Under existing economic conditions the theory of free contract as applied in this ten-hour case, brings a mere phrase of industrial freedom to the aid of actual industrial despotism.

"Regardless however of that view of the matter, what is there severe

enough to say of the hideous confession of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association in this case? Neither the Association nor its members could get into court technically without going through the form of appearing to make the court believe that its lawsuit is in behalf of working women. What it wants is an injunction that will give its members the power to exact long hours of their workers. But what it had to show, technically, was that the right of workers to work long hours was at stake. So a couple of workingwomen are induced to lend their names to the suit. And now, thoughtful folks, think of the fact which this employers' association itself discloses through the affidavit of those unfortunate workingwomen. Think of the hideous confession which it makes! It proves by that that neither of the two—faithful workingwomen, mind you—that neither of them, although one has worked faithfully at her trade for sixteen years and the other for thirty-two years, and given satisfaction—yet that neither of them gets for ten hours a day of faithful work, enough wages to live upon! Isn't this confession of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association hideous enough to make baby-farming and the 'white slave' traffic seem tolerable by comparison?

"When women of long experience and expert and faithful at their work, are not paid enough wages to live upon for ten hours' work a day, there is something rotten in the industrial Denmark. When these conditions exist, workers must be at an economic disadvantage in selling their work; for no one would voluntarily contract to work ten hours a day for less than a bare living. When this is so, there is a higher duty for judges—if they wish to be regarded as intelligent, or humane, or even as 'learned in the law'—than driving about 'free contract,' and granting injunctions against the criminal clauses of labor-limitation laws. And when manufacturers confess to paying to women who work for them faithfully and competently, less than a living for a ten-hour day, it behooves manufacturers' associations to do something better than whine about the despotism of ten hour laws. If there are any decent men in the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, they should be glad to escape the odium of this wretchedly hideous confession, by explaining why they do not pay better wages. And if it is because they cannot, then by trying honestly and fairly and with as much energy as they now expend in invoking 'government by injunction' against workers in duress, why is it that they can not? Is it because they are sordid and greedy? or is it because they also, as well as their hired people, are plundered? There are open minds for explanations from them. But they deserve the severest censure for giving countenance to the gross inhumanity which their own association attributes to them by its hideous confession in this ten-hour case."

LABEL BACK IN DANBURY HATS.

According to the terms of the temporary agreement entered into between the hat manufacturers of Danbury, Conn., and the union hatters three months ago, last Monday was the day on which the union labels were to be restored to the hats. Several of the firms complied with the terms of the agreement at once, and it is thought that the label will be restored within a few days by all the manufacturers in that city.

LABOR AGITATION COUNTS.

Many Reputable Newspapers Refuse the Advertising of Crazy Men.

Grape Nuts Post is the last man one would expect to acknowledge that union label agitation amounted to anything. But the constant demand has pierced the thick skin of the Battle Creek union buster. He is now running a large advertisement in any paper that will accept it, in which he charges all manner of crimes to the emblem of fair dealing. Many newspapers are refusing to publish the screed. Every Toledo newspaper has declined his business

which will amount to hundreds of dollars. Last Tuesday the Detroit News, in a leading editorial, questioned Post's sanity and refused space for the four columns of trade.

All of which should urge unionists to greater label activity. Attention is called at this time to the Teams-

ters' label. Demand the button when ordering your winter coal. Don't be satisfied with the "almost union" story. Insist on a union teamster. The proof is the button.

Post's squeal is the best proof of the label's power.—Toledo Union Leader

More Daylight

It Affects Every Person in United States

By THURDE RAYLE BRUCE

IN MY TRAVELS I have read with great interest the many articles appearing in the different newspapers and other publications on the use of more daylight, and have been pleased to see that the press has not only been liberal in the space devoted to this subject but that the vast majority of the publications are favorable. However, quite a few fall into the common error of thinking that the same thing could be accomplished without complications by changing the hour of work and that the advocates of securing more daylight by changing the clocks during the summer time fool themselves.

They overlook the fact that suburban trains are run to-day in accordance with the present schedule of hours in the commercial world. Mail trains are regulated to a large extent along the same lines and the office force as a rule time their arrival with the first mail. Therefore if the hours of beginning the day's work were advanced an hour everything would be out of line. If it became an established custom to advance the hands of the clock May 1 one hour, allowing them to remain until October 1, when they would be changed back to the present standard of time, it would not be necessary for the railroads to change their time tables and all schedules would be kept by the clock, the same as to-day, and the change would be forgotten almost immediately. In the summer at least those sections of the country that were robbed of a good portion of an hour by the establishing of standard time would have this time restored and every one given an additional hour during the summer time to devote to rest or recreation, as they may elect.

It must not be overlooked that as this proposed reform contains no politics or religion and is not of profit it is everybody's business and therefore nobody's business. Yet it is unique, inasmuch as it injures no one and does not call for the expenditure of Uncle Sam's money. So every one should do what he can to aid it. It affects every man, woman and child in the United States and it is a subject worthy of strenuous activity on the part of politicians, the press and all who act for the good of humanity.

More-daylight associations should be formed in every section of the country, as it is only concerted action that changes which are not of profit can be brought about.

Modern Public Desires Popular Melodies

By EDWIN L. ARKINS

A writer speaks of the low nature of many vocal solos rendered during bands concerts and asks if we lack composers of more inspiring songs.

It is not so much the lack of composers as it is of the people who appreciate higher class songs. The modern public desires melodies of this nature; in fact, the majority would not understand any other. If the songs that were popular two score or more years ago were produced to-day they would, no doubt, be jeered at and ridiculed. Surely the admirers of most of the modern songs could not comprehend the beauty and uplifting character of such as "Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes," "Silver Threads Among the Gold" and "Mary of Argyle."

In order to cater to the degraded tastes of the majority of the people of to-day the maudlin songs are composed.

Nevertheless, those who have charge of these concerts should give to the public a series of numbers that have nothing of the debasing character in them, but which will have an elevating influence on the minds of those who appreciate them, regardless of the likes and dislikes of the rabble.

What Is Use of Getting Married

By SIDNEY BELL

What is the use of getting married?" asks a correspondent. I'll tell you. It is to have a happy, comfortable home. That statement looks selfish, too, doesn't it? But look farther. To have that kind of a home there must be love, and that takes unselfish regard for each other. To make a home comfortable it must be comfortable for your husband or wife. That takes more unselfishness on your part. Children are the greatest blessings that can come into a home. They take still more unselfishness. You must care for them, love them, watch over them, seek to make them happy, and teach them to love the home. They won't love home unless home is made attractive for them. Neither husband nor wife alone can make home happy and comfortable.

If you will try to make your home as happy and comfortable for the other inmates of it you will do a great deal toward making it happy and comfortable for yourself. Then if the others will do the same—and you must get them to—you will no longer ask "What is the use of getting married?"

Church and Labor Have Work in Common

There may be many points of difference between the Church and Labor as to specific aims and methods, but there are enough points of agreement and a sufficient number of fundamental principles for which both stand to warrant Church and Labor in uniting for the purpose of carrying out a common program.

Church and Labor should be sympathetic one toward the other, first, because of their common mistakes. Both organizations have been controlled by men and women who were very human and therefore fallible. There are still occasions when a criticism one of the other is justifiable. But this criticism should be sympathetic, because it will no doubt be discovered that the critic has been guilty of the same offense.

Church and Labor may co-operate because they both believe in the salvation of society, although they may not agree in every particular as to how this salvation is to be accomplished. No one can successfully deny that the influence of the Church has extended infinitely beyond the comparatively narrow limits of its own institutions and organizations. A city without a Church would present a hopeless situation. The unconscious influence of Christianity cannot be measured. The principles of the Church have so permeated society, that the great mass of men have come to accept them as a matter of course. But even more significant is the positive influence of the Church upon society. However ineffective it may be in some respects, the Church may well be proud of its history in the matter of social reform. The labor movement, if it counts for anything at all, must be considered as a social movement. In a very important sense, the individual is absolutely lost in it. There is no term that is more frequently employed to express the significance of the movement than "the solidarity of the working-class."

Church and Labor may co-operate because they both believe in the emancipation of the individual. They both demand that a man shall rise up and be counted as one. There was a time, when nothing was quite so cheap as human life. Even today, many large employers of labor consider it cheaper to run the risk of killing their employes and paying the slight indemnity than to go to the expense of introducing safety appliances. Labor has long been fighting for the recognition of the value of the individual human life. It has insisted that a man is of more value than a machine. The ancient philosophers declared that a purchased slave is better than a hired one, and in accordance with this principle, they compelled half the world to live behind prison bars. They insisted that the workingman had no soul. Then came Jesus Christ. He showed the world how highly God values the individual. And the Church has ever since advocated this principle.

Church and Labor may co-operate because they both believe in the care of the human body. It would not be very difficult to produce proof texts from scripture in order to indicate that the Bible teaches this doctrine. "Ye are the temples of the Holy Ghost" was the statement of the New Testament writer when he argued for bodily cleanliness. Labor is trying to secure higher wages and shorter hours in order that living conditions may be improved. In such matters as sanitary reform in tenement houses and factories, in the securing of suitable social and recreative centers for the people, and in every other particular that influences the physical conditions of the masses, Church and Labor may present a united front.

Church and Labor may co-operate because they are both aiming at the development of the human soul. One takes it for granted that the Church's work is soul development. It must not be assumed, however, that the Labor movement is simply a bread-

and-butter question. It is more than that, and always has been. The trades unions have not only raised the standard of living, they have not only improved the morals of the workers, but they have given them aspirations and ideals which are influencing the soul life of the masses.

REV. CHAS. STELZLE.

HAYS HAS OPPOSITION.

Thos. P. Curtin, of Boston, Wishes to be Secretary of I. T. U.

Thos. P. Curtin, for many years secretary of Boston Typographical Union No. 13, has formally announced that he is a candidate for the office of secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical union, the place now held by John W. Hays. Mr. Curtin is a very active member of Boston union, and, besides being secretary of this powerful union, in which position he has shown splendid executive ability, has twice represented Boston in the conventions of the I. T. U., at Birmingham and Colorado Springs. Other positions of trust were membership on the board of trustees and chairman of the scale committee of No. 13, the first committee to secure a signed scale with Boston's employing printers, a splendid piece of work in itself, and one which readily gives Mr. Curtin the reputation of being a diplomat. Curtin has many friends throughout the country, especially in the east and New England.—Minnesota Union Advocate.

IN AID OF WOMEN WORKERS.

Meeting at Chicago Discusses Their Betterment.

Chicago, Sept. 27.—The betterment of the condition of women workers, their children and their homes, both in this country and in Europe, is the central idea of the second biennial convention of the national women's trade union league, which began here today. A hundred delegates from all parts of the United States are present, and two delegates journeyed from foreign countries to attend.

Mrs. Raymond Robins, president of the league, outlined the future work of the league, recommending industrial education, persistence in the fight to obtain shorter hours and the increase of the number of women factory inspectors as most important. She also urged the formation of a body composed of women to study the industrial condition of women and children, the body to be a branch of the government department of commerce and labor, with a woman at the head. The convention will be in session for several days.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

October Meeting Will Be Held at Fraternity Hall Sunday Afternoon.

Lincoln Typographical Union No. 209 will hold its October meeting Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the usual place of meeting. One or two proposed amendments to the constitution are up for consideration. Aside from this there appears to be nothing much "on the hook." The referendum vote on matters submitted by the St. Joseph convention will come up in the very near future, and the membership should be investigated.

Gene Lyman has gotten as far as Omaha on his way to the Pacific coast. At this rate of progress he will land in Portland about July 4, 1927.

The Daily Nebraskan has again appeared. It means more work for the printer and pressman during the winter. It is again issued from the office of the Western Newspaper Union.

President Conway of the Retail Clerks' Protective association is the only candidate for the position of secretary-treasurer of that organization, made vacant by the death of Max Morris. Conway's home is in Chicago, but he will move to Denver.