

MAIMED TOILERS.

Two Millions Annually Injured In Industry.

PROBLEM OF COMPENSATION.

United States Behind All Other Civilized Nations In Laws For Protection of Workmen—Lack of Safety Devices Largely Responsible.

John Mitchell, former president of the mine workers, in a recent address before the Liability Insurance association said in part:

Industrial accidents and compensation for losses caused by them are subjects in which the workmen are more directly interested than any other group in society. Primarily the workmen are more concerned with the means of preventing industrial accidents than they are with the subject of compensation for losses caused by them. It is all very well for a workman to receive \$1,000 for the loss of an eye or the loss of a leg, but it is much better for the workman, as it is for society, that the eye or the leg be not lost.

In the United States the number of persons killed and injured is not even counted, but William Hard credits the American Institute of Social Service with the statement that 536,165 workmen are killed or maimed every year in American industry, while Dr. Hoffman has estimated the annual number of industrial accidents at approximately 2,000,000. As a matter of fact, however, the death roll of industry is longer than is evident from official figures. It is a strange commentary upon our boasted American civilization that in this country twice or three times as many persons per thousand employed are killed and injured in the course of their employment as in any other country in the world.

When we observe the contrasts between the number killed and injured in the industries of other nations with that of our own we are led to the conclusion that if it cost more to kill a workman in American than to protect him, as it does in Europe, the American workman would not be killed—he would be protected, and the number of industrial accidents would be reduced at least one-half.

As a further means of reducing accidents our iniquitous and antiquated liability laws should be supplanted by an automatic system of compensation to workmen for losses caused by industrial accidents.

The United States is now the only industrial nation on earth that maintains the old system of liability based upon negligence. We still live under the common law only slightly modified by statute.

As a rule, an injured workman has no remedy at law if his injury were caused by the act of a fellow workman or if he contributed in any degree to his own injury. In many instances he has no remedy at law whatever, because it has been held by the courts that the workman in accepting employment assumes all the risk of his work. The result of all this judge made law has been that the workman is practically helpless, the employer is under heavy expenses defending himself in the courts, and the courts of the state and nation are burdened beyond their capacity with litigation that in every other nation is eliminated because of the automatic settlement of such claims.

It may be interesting to consider the expense and the useless waste of mon-

ey which is involved under our present liability system. Mr. Hard states in his booklet that in the eleven years 1894-1905 the employers' liability companies of America took in \$99,959,075 in premiums from American employers and that these companies paid out in the settlement of claims of injured workmen \$43,599,498, or 43 per cent of the amount they took in. Of the \$43,599,498 paid in the settlement of claims of injured workmen I believe it is safe to say that 35 per cent was expended by the injured workmen in the payment of attorneys' fees and court expenses, so that in the final analysis the injured workmen received less than \$30,000,000 out of the \$100,000,000 paid by employers during this period in premiums to liability companies. In other words, \$70,000,000 was wasted—worse than wasted—because the money was used in burdening our courts with litigation and in delaying or defeating the settlement of claims, many of them just claims, when it should have been used and would be used under a wise system for the immediate relief of the men and their families who are the victims of the hazard of industrial pursuits.

I am not prepared to say that even though the entire \$100,000,000 had been paid directly to the injured workmen it would have been sufficient to have indemnified them for their losses, but I do believe that it would not have required very much more to have compensated them on the basis of the British workmen's compensation act. I believe that industry should bear the burden of the pecuniary loss sustained by workmen as a result of industrial accidents, just as it is now required to repair its machinery and to offset the loss caused by depreciation in the value of its plants. The workmen and those dependent upon them are and will be under any system required to bear all the physical pain and mental suffering. For this they cannot be reimbursed, but they should be relieved of the harrowing fear of hunger and want. They should be guaranteed against the humiliation and degradation of becoming objects of charity.

DEMAND THE LABEL.

Workers Need Feel No Shame In Asking For Union Made Goods.

There is no occasion for a union man or woman to blush or hang his or her head when asking for union made goods bearing the union label. This little emblem of fairness and honesty on everything you buy tells its story of honor and trade unionism and as such should be respected by all who come in contact with it.

The way some stanch unionists go about buying union made goods reminds one of a school child of the kindergarten class spending her first penny in the candy store, when she does not know what she wants and would be afraid to ask for it if she did.

There is an absolute lack of necessity for any such conduct or bashfulness in such cases, and the union man or woman should be proud in asking for goods bearing the label instead of seemingly being ashamed of it. When you purchase the products of your co-workers in the army of labor see that the label of unionism is on it, and if it is not do not invent some excuse for not buying and sneak out of the store, but make a bold demand for the label, and if the storekeeper has not what you want bearing it tell him frankly why you cannot deal with him and inform him when he sells goods bearing the label you will become his customer. You don't blush nor seem embarrassed when you receive your union wages. Why should you do so when asking for union labeled goods? You have earned your money honestly. See that you spend it honestly.

Think it over and the next time you

go to buy anything heed its precepts. The union label stands for the protection of just and honorable employers from competition by cheap labor rivals, fair wages for the laborer and better trade conditions. It guarantees the workmen a better living, shorter hours and more money. Therefore there is no reason why you should not demand the union label. Demand the union label all the time.—Streator Gazette.

Labor Opposes Congressmen.

The Connecticut branch of the American Federation of Labor, in convention at Danbury recently, took a decided stand against the returning to congress of Senators Bulkeley and Brandegee and Congressmen Hill, Tilson, Henry and Higgins. This action, taken in the form of a resolution, was unanimously adopted and was to the effect that the state's representatives had voted against bills introduced in the interests of labor. A resolution was also adopted deploring the recent dynamiting of the Los Angeles Times building and resenting the charge that it was the work of union men. It also expressed the hope that the perpetrators of the outrage would meet with swift punishment.

AN APPEAL TO WORKERS.

Here is a brief statement of the demands which organized labor in the interest of workers—aye, of all the people of the country—makes upon modern society:

Higher wages, shorter workday, better labor conditions, better homes, better and safer workshops, factories, mills and mines—in a word, a better, higher and noble life.

Conscious of the justice, wisdom and nobility of our cause, the American Federation of Labor appeals to all men and women of labor to join with us in the great movement for its achievement.

More than 2,000,000 wage earners who have reaped the advantages of organization and federation appeal to their brothers and sisters of toil to unite with them and participate in the glorious movement, with its attendant benefits.—Samuel Gompers.

Generous and Independent.

In front of a confectioner's shop in Paris there used to sit a woman with two wooden legs. She sold pictures and songs and played well on the violin. In 1848 she was there, very pretty and dressed with a good deal of taste, and when Louis Napoleon, then merely Prince Louis, used to go through the street nearly every day, he never passed without giving her something.

She knew him and was also aware of his pecuniary embarrassments and his political ambitions. One evening she said to him, "Monsieur, I want to say a word to you."

"Say it, madame."
"They tell me that you are a good deal cramped just now. I have at my house a comfortable sum which is earning nothing. Let me offer it to you. You will return the favor when you are emperor."

Prince Louis did not accept the money, but he did not forget the kindness, and when he became emperor he offered her a small annuity. The woman was as independent as she was generous. "Say to the emperor," she replied, "that it is exceedingly good of him to remember me, but I cannot accept his offer. If he had accepted mine I won't say what might have happened, but as it is, no!"

Balance of Power.

A thorough organization of labor directed by wise and conservative leadership is the strongest fortification that can be established for the conservation of our republican form of government. It is the strongest guarantee that our constitutional liberties will be protected and perpetuated. Without such an effective balance of power we will become a judicial monarchy controlled by selfish moneyed interests that will lead the nation back to the oppression and the tyranny that our forefathers fought against and from which they successfully escaped.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

Chief Importance of Legislation to Protect the Worker.

Edgar A. Bancroft, president of the Illinois State Bar association, in speaking on the subject of employers' liability at a recent meeting of that body declared that the chief importance of such legislation did not lie in the legal questions involved nor in a sure recompense for injured workmen.

"It lies," he said, "in the fact that if a plan is found for insuring every workman against loss through accidents in his employment it will not only end the personal injury disputes between employer and employee and relieve the courts of a very large burden, but it will also preserve the independence of the men and their families and at the same time remove entirely the wasteful antisocial influence of such strife and unite, as they should be united, the employer and the employees in a common interest and purpose."

Carpenters Want Old Age Fund.

Over 200 proposed amendments were acted upon by the carpenters' committee on constitutional changes at the recent convention in Des Moines, and its members approved only nine. Among those approved are that recommending the establishment of a superannuation benefit fund and that each district elect its own member of the executive board.

NO CASE ON RECORD.

How many times has a manufacturers' association ever established a shorter workday, increased the pay or bettered conditions in any trade or calling? Not once in a thousand years. Only labor organizations do that.

Ohio Labor Statistics.

According to a bulletin just received from the bureau of labor statistics, a review of the labor conditions throughout Ohio for the quarter ending July 1, 1910, reflects a general increase in the demand for labor in all branches of industry. The supply has shown an almost corresponding increase, yet it was not sufficient by a marked percentage to meet the demand.

Railway to Raise Wages.

Announcement has been made at the Pennsylvania railroad offices at Harrisburg that an increase of wages for engine drivers and firemen would be made on the company's lines in that part of the state. The increase will be about 10 per cent, not including the increase of 6 per cent announced in April.