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VanCleave Feels a Jab From Lincoln

Vice-president Templeton of the Buck Stove and Range Co., of which James W. Van Cleave is president, was in Lincoln this week, called here by pressing business. It was the pleasure of the editor of The Wagworker to hold a long conference with Mr. Templeton, in company with other unionists of Lincoln. The word "pleasure" is used advisedly, for Mr. Templeton is a most courteous and affable gentleman, and the conference was marked by good-natured, even though at times emphatic, controversy. The conditions that called Mr. Templeton to Lincoln may be briefly stated.

The Hardy Furniture Co., has handled the Buck output in Lincoln for a number of years. The recent political and legal activity of James Van Cleave has demonstrated to the firm that while they may be selling a goodly number of Buck stoves and ranges, the mere fact that they handled this line of goods operated against their whole business. It must cheerfully be admitted that the unionists of Lincoln were lax in their duty to themselves in not calling the attention of the Hardy Furniture Co., to the controversy many months ago. In the stove business orders are booked many months ahead. Consequently the Hardy Furniture Co., loaded up on Buck goods before it was cognizant of the circumstances. When it learned all the facts it immediately corresponded with the Buck Stove & Range Co., and Mr. Templeton's visit was the result.

The Hardy Furniture Co., whose members are avowedly friendly to organized labor, and the managing member of the firm, Mr. Will Hardy, is on record in that regard. Now it finds itself in the rather peculiar position of being the "innocent purchasers" of a big line of unfair goods and therefore the victims of the resentment of trade unionists. Mr. Will Hardy has stated to several union men who were invited to confer with him, that unless the Buck Stove & Range Co., can adjust its difficulty with the unions, the Hardy Furniture Co., as a measure of protection, will have to discontinue the line. The statement of this self-evident fact was deemed by the Buck Stove & Range Co., to be of sufficient importance to demand the personal attention of some member of the firm, consequently Mr. Templeton came post haste.

H. C. Peat, of the Typographical Union, is the "pestiferous cuss" that brought the matter to a focus. When Mr. Templeton arrived, Mr. Peat and the editor of The Wagworker were invited to meet him and "talk it over." Both Mr. Peat and the editor of this humble little labor paper bear witness to the fact that the Buck Stove and Range Co., acted with a full knowledge of the gravity of the situation when it sent Mr. Templeton, for that gentleman is certainly there with the conversation, and he made a mighty fine presentation of what good union men believe to be a very bad case.

Mr. Templeton laid especial stress upon the injunction granted by the District of Columbia courts against the American Federation of Labor, and insisted that as good citizens the unionists of Lincoln ought to quietly submit to "the law." When asked to cite the exact statute, federal or state, which might be violated he side-stepped gracefully and insisted that the dictum of the judge was "the law."

"What do you ask us to do?" queried one of the conference, "lay down?" "No, you ought to obey the law, and confine your efforts to getting the law changed."

"Then, when the court declares the amended law to be unconstitutional, as it has about every law enacted in the interests of labor, we ought to lay down for keeps?"

Mr. Templeton replied by repeating a former statement to the effect that he was not a lawyer.

According to Mr. Templeton's view of the case organized labor should quietly submit to the District of Columbia court and try to secure an amendment of the laws, forgetful of the fact that even an attempt to get the proposed amendment by citing the injustice of the Buck injunction would, under his interpretation of that injunction, be contempt of court.

The clever representative of the Buck Stove & Range Co., got his wires slightly crossed in trying to explain the origin of the difficulty. The diffi-

culty arose in the polishing department of the plant—among the platers, polishers and buffers. Business getting slack the company proposed shortening the hours in order to avoid laying off any of the men. This was agreeable to the men. But when business got good the company insisted on lengthening the hours from eight to ten instead of adding to the number and granting a nine-hour day as demanded. Mr. Templeton declared that the plant was an "open shop," which, by the way is a misnomer, further adding that an employe was not asked whether he was union or non-union, and that there were no union contracts. Then he stated that the platers and buffers refused to abide by the decision of an arbitration committee provided for in an agreement—failing to explain how there could be an agreement between the company and the union without recognition of the union. Certainly if there is an agreement with the union the agreement implies recognition of the union, which is hardly possible in an "open shop."

When Mr. Templeton made the assertion that "lots of good union men

goods from the handlers of the unfair product. He admitted that this would be only natural, but insisted that this would be a violation of the District of Columbia injunction. But on this point he was assured that the matter had never been mentioned in any union meeting in Lincoln, and that it had never been discussed among union men. Enough publicity had been given to the injunction proceedings to make it unnecessary to resort to even the most remote semblance of an organized boycott.

Throughout the whole transaction the Hardy Furniture Co., has maintained the most friendly attitude towards the unions. It can not, in justice, be asked to sacrifice the eight or ten thousand dollars it invested in this season's stock of stoves—an investment made before the union men who were most vitally interested were active enough to bring the matter to the firm's attention. It can only assure the unionists that unless the matter is settled between the Buck Stove & Range Co., and the unions it will discontinue handling the line. Nothing more could be asked or expected. This leaves the matter just where it started—between the Buck Stove and Range Co., and the metal polishers.

But, as was stated in the beginning, it was a real pleasure to meet Mr. Templeton and to listen to his very

He was stopped by a ragged and shivering wretch who craved a minute's conversation. "Bill" paused while his companion strolled down the street. Presently "Bill" came along, minus the overcoat.

"Where's the overcoat, 'Bill'?" asked his friend?

"O, that poor devil was in hard luck and freezing, and no place to go, so I gave him the coat because I didn't happen to have any money with me. I can get another coat, but he might have frozen to death tonight."

And that's "Big Bill" Mahon.

It was Mahon who attended a meeting of the National Civic Federation at the home of Mrs. Potter Palmer in Chicago, a year or so ago, and made a speech that attracted national attention. After a lot of scientific philanthropists had discussed with great erudition the industrial problem, "Bill" was called on.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "we unionists are not trying to dynamite the palaces; we are going to dynamite the hovels. We are not interested in rest rooms and bathrooms in the factories; we want bathrooms in the homes. We are not asking for reading rooms in the factories; we want wages and hours that will permit us to have books in our homes and time to read them. We are not asking for sympathy; we demand justice. We are not fighting for ourselves; we

How Straus Loves American Workers

Oscar Straus, secretary of commerce and labor in the cabinet of Theodore Roosevelt, announces that he will take the stump for William H. Taft. This announcement appeared in the newspapers of Saturday, September 12.

It is quite natural that Oscar Straus, cabinet officer, should support the election of William H. Taft, but the reasons for so doing advanced by Secretary Straus are proper subjects for discussion. Here is what Secretary Straus says:

"As the head of the department of commerce and labor, I am decidedly interested in the welfare of labor, and I regard the Bryan fallacies more dangerous to labor than to any other element in the campaign. His government ownership of railroads and his bank deposit scheme would so cripple industry as to reduce the wage paying fund even more than his previous fallacy of 16 to 1."

Before discussing these points it might be well to know just who Oscar Straus is. He is a millionaire dry goods merchant of New York, whose acquaintance with the needs and desires of the American mechanics and

As a result of the strike the lithographing industry—one of the greatest in the country insofar as the business of publicity is concerned, was paralyzed.

The striking lithographers would have won handsily had it not been for the unwarranted and illegal interference of Oscar Straus, secretary of commerce and labor and pretended friend of the workmen of this country.

The employing lithographers appealed to Secretary Straus, and with one stroke of his pen he defeated the hopes and aspirations of the striking lithographers.

How did he do it?
On the pretense that there was a dearth of skilled workmen in the lithographing trade, Secretary Straus SUSPENDED THE ALIEN CONTRACT LABOR LAW IN SO FAR AS IT PERTAINED TO LITHOGRAPHING, AND PERMITTED THE EMPLOYING LITHOGRAPHERS TO IMPORT LITHOGRAPHERS FROM EUROPE.

And this, mind you, when hundreds of American lithographers were walking the streets, unemployed, and asking only for an eight hour work day!

American workmen have had enough and a plenty of friendship like that. It is the same kind of friendship that pretended to be for the protection of American labor but has filled the mines of Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the steel mills at Homestead and Chicago and the tube mills at Youngstown with Huns, Slavs, Finns and Hungarians who gladly worked for wages that would reduce the American workman to the level of the pauper labor in Europe.

Continuing Secretary Straus says: "I do not think that even Bryan himself would claim that President Roosevelt was inimical to labor and I know from my own connection as a trusted member of his cabinet, and I say this without disclosing any of the privacies of the cabinet room, that whenever the labor question came up, either in or out of that room, Mr. Taft's position has always been for the best interests of the laboring man."

We hold that any fair-minded and unprejudiced man will admit that the men who toil at the forge, the bench, in the mine, the shop and the mill, who feed the furnaces and handle the throttle—in short the men who perform the nerve-racking labor—are better fitted to pick their friends than some man who sits at a mahogany desk in a cabinet room or a counting house. Straus says William H. Taft is a friend of labor. He says that Mr. Taft has always been for the best interests of labor.

Is that the reason Judge Taft cinched the union bricklayers of Cincinnati because they refused to handle the product of a firm that was injuring them as workmen? Is that the reason he sent Frank Phelan to jail for trying to organize railroad men in defense of their rights? Is that the reason he jailed the Ann Arbor engineer who insisted upon his right to cease work when he saw fit? Is that the reason he usurped the functions of grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and forced that order to rescind a rule which, in the judgment of its members, was necessary for the protection of the engineers? Is that the reason he offered the chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen the choice between going to jail and promulgating to the membership an order written by Judge Taft himself, which order nullified the efforts of the organization to protect and benefit its members?

Theodore Roosevelt and his attitude towards workmen is not a subject of discussion at this time. Neither is government ownership of railroads. Neither is "16 to 1." But William H. Taft is. So is guarantee of bank deposits.

William H. Taft's friendship for labor is a matter of record. So is the friendship of Oscar Straus. So is the record of a score of bank failures in Omaha and Lincoln wherein hundreds of workmen lost their little savings—and lost them beyond recourse.

Uncle Joe Cannon is "defending his record," according to the Associated Press. Cannon must be one of those lawyers who don't give a darn who the client is just so they get the attorney's fee.

WHAT GRAND CHIEF P. M. ARTHUR SAID ABOUT IT

One of the first and most notorious of Judge William H. Taft's labor injunctions was the one directed against the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in the now famous Toledo, Ann Arbor & North Michigan railroad case. In this injunction Judge Taft enjoined the Brotherhood of Engineers from refusing to handle the cars of an unfair railroad, and not only compelled Chief Arthur to rescind an order issued under the duly adopted rules of the Brotherhood, but also compelled Chief Arthur to issue an order that was in direct contravention of all that the Brotherhood was organized to secure.

This all happened in the early spring of 1893, while Judge Taft was a federal judge and P. M. Arthur was alive and grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. As grand chief of the order Mr. Arthur was also editor of the Journal of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. In the Journal for May, 1893, Grand Chief Arthur had the following editorial in reference to Judge Taft and his famous injunction. It is called to the attention of Brotherhood Engineers at this time:

"Judge Taft lays much stress upon the fact that, as Grand Chief of the B. of L. E., Mr. Arthur wields power beside which that of the autocrat of many a state is insignificant. It is true that as Grand Chief of the B. of L. E., Mr. Arthur has power, and it is solely by reason of the belief among the members of our brotherhood that we have a common cause, and that as a leader he is best fitted to represent that cause before the world. It is true that even such power may be, as it too often has been, used for the injury of the people. But it has been wielded by Mr. Arthur for years, not merely without objections from any influential quarter, but with the greatest acceptance, even to Judges Ricks and Taft, the Ashleys and others who join with the above gentlemen in their denunciation at this time of what they term labor's autocratic power. For years at all prominent terminal railroad centers the B. of L. E. has had social fraternal gatherings, to which the most

learned and able of jurists, governors, professional, political and civic gentlemen were invited. They laid aside the cares and duties of the office, home pleasures and engagements that they might by their presence and words assure not only the members of the B. of L. E., but the public, their appreciation of our efforts, also that they might be in touch with the humble citizen who six days out of seven have the care of the traveling public and millions of property in their hands. These gentlemen have at all times endeavored to impress vast congregations how thoroughly they were in accord with, and how highly they appreciated, the noble work we were as an association accomplishing. They have spoken in the highest terms of our leader, never failing to commend Mr. Arthur's conservative policy, which in the past has adjusted the many grievances between railway companies and their employes. Even eminent divines from the many denominations have laid aside their priestly robes and bidden Godspeed in our mission. We were assured by the press that we were engaged in a fealty for our fellow men worthy the highest efforts of noblemen. Judge Taft's decision publicly proclaims the members of the B. of L. E. a band of conspirators, and he endeavors to impress the public of its unfitness to judge of our standing. This has caused the public press, with few exceptions, to denounce our mode of protection, and it is but natural we should hesitate to pick up again the unfinished work which has claimed our attention for the past thirty years. We cannot accept Judge Taft's decision in any other light than treason to republican institutions and the liberties of the people. It is, will be, and ought to be, denounced and repudiated by all liberty loving men. If the decision stands as the decision of the highest tribunal of the land, it will be defied and violated by the highest earthly tribunal—the people.

"We believe the members of the B. of L. E. and B. of L. F. are what is termed free American citizens, whose loyalty to State has never been impeached, and we do not believe we can be deprived of the liberty vouchsafed to us by the constitution without due process of law."

were buying Buck stoves" there was an instant disclaimer from the two unionists participating in the conference.

"Men carrying union cards may buy Buck stoves, but good union men do not," said Mr. Peat.

Mr. Templeton gracefully admitted that there might be a distinction between being a good union man and merely carrying a union card.

"We want it distinctly understood," said Mr. Peat, "that this is not the fight of the Lincoln unionists. It is a matter that must be settled between the Buck Stove & Range Co., and the metal polishers. When you get right with them you will be right with us."

"But why should you make the Hardy Furniture Co., the innocent victims of a boycott?" asked Mr. Templeton.

He was emphatically assured that there would not be the remotest effort made towards boycotting the Hardy Furniture Co. It was merely pointed out that the attention of the local firm had been called to the fact that its handling of the unfair Buck product operated against its other departments; that it was natural that a union man who resented having the unfair product flaunted in his face would carry thru resentment to the point of refusing to buy other lines of

eloquent, if not quite convincing, presentation of the Buck stove and Range company's side of the controversy.

NOMINATED FOR CONGRESS.

"Big Bill" Mahon Honored by Democrats of Detroit District.

William D. Mahon, "Bill," as he is affectionately known by thousands of trades unionists throughout the length and breadth of the land, has been nominated for congress by the democrats of the Detroit, Mich., district.

"Bill" Mahon is president of the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employes, and is one of the staunchest trades unionists in the world. No man has worked harder or sacrificed more for trades unionism than has this big, tender-hearted and tireless man, Mahon. We can remember when "Bill" Mahon was trying to organize the street railway employes. He actually traveled via the box car route to get the organization started, having no money to pay for riding on the velvet cushions.

One night a few years ago "Bill" and a friend were walking along a quiet Detroit street. It was bitter cold and "Bill" had on a heavy overcoat.

are fighting for our wives and babies."

Here's hoping that this splendid type of American manhood, this type of the trades unionist, will be elected and thus enabled to stand on the floor of congress and fight for a recognition of the men who toil. We'll take chances on his more than holding his own with the representatives of "vested rights," and opponents of trades unionism.

WORRYING ABOUT OUR FUTURE.

The editorial writers of the great American dailies, always unfavorably disposed toward the organized workers, are using up columns of space to show that the rank and file are disatisfied with the attitude of Sam Gompers on the injunction plank in the democratic platform. How awfully worried they are about us. They "fear" the beginning of the end of the American Federation of Labor. But don't let those editorials cause you the loss of any sleep, brother trade unionists. You may gamble if the writers thought we were going on the rocks they wouldn't be hanging out danger signals. They'd just keep mum and let us slide to our doom.—Pittsburg letter to Union Labor Journal.

craftsmen is purely academic. He never belonged to a union, never served an apprenticeship at any trade, and never lived among men who worked for a daily wage, dependent wholly upon an uncertain state of trade for employment that would keep the wolf from his door.

"As the head of the department of COMMERCE and labor," says Secretary Straus, "I am decidedly interested in the welfare of labor."

Well, now, let us see about that. Of course it will be cheerfully admitted that he is interested in the welfare of commerce, for he is essentially a commercial man. But what about his interest in labor, as it affects the union men and women of this republic. Let the records tell the story.

About two years ago the union lithographers of the country, following the lead of other unions of the allied printing trades, submitted a demand upon their employers for the eight hour day. The eight hour day had already been secured by the printers, and the bookbinders and pressmen were already virtually victorious in a similar struggle. The employing lithographers, however, absolutely refused to consider the eight hour day proposition, and the lithographers struck to enforce their demands.