

THE WAGEWORKER



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Under Which Flag, Mr. Union Man? J. W. Van Cleave Says: What Samuel Gompers Says:

"The injunction's purpose is to head off injury for which, if allowed to be committed, the victim can secure no adequate remedy by the courts. It is the promptness, the certainty, and the justice of the punishment in contempt cases which renders the injunction so effective in preventing attacks on property and life. Jury trial would bring delay and uncertainty. Thus it would give a license to violence, would make industry and property insecure, would increase the number and the destructiveness of labor contests, and would assail legitimate trade of all sorts.

"It is the duty of American business men, regardless of their party, to bury Bryan and Bryanism under such an avalanche of votes in 1908 that the work will not have to be done over again in 1912, or ever."—Statement by J. W. Van Cleave, President National Association of Manufacturers, and President of the Buck Stove Co., St. Louis.

"I am very well satisfied with the democratic platform as promulgated at the Denver convention, and I will do everything to support these declarations, and of course that means we will work for the election of the men who stand for our principles.

"I have never expected defeat in any undertaking, never hoped for defeat, and never have given up fighting for an idea or principle that I firmly believed to be right and just. I will always be found fighting for what I believe is right, no matter what the temporary results may be. I believe that in this fight we now have on hand, that we will win; and I shall work for Mr. Bryan's election and for the ratification of the principles that we have advocated as officers and as an organization."—Statement by Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor, and now charged with contempt of court at the instigation of J. W. Van Cleave.

THINGS THE WORKINGMAN SHOULD PONDER OVER

Mr. Workingman, the politician who tells you that his party has granted you any rights is a demagogue—if not worse. Especially is he dangerous if he tells you that his party has given you the right to work, or that his party has put food upon your table, or clothing upon your backs, or a roof over your head.

No man can deny your right to work—but men and parties can deprive you of the opportunity of performing your work unhindered by unwarranted judicial interference. Men or parties can bring about an industrial condition that prevents you from exercising your right to work—but the right is still there, just as it has always been there—and always will be there.

Corporations may deny you proper recompense for your toil, and then throw you into jail by the act of judges of their own creation if you make an organized protest against injustice and an organized demand for a reasonable wage and fair conditions. And corporations have done, and are doing, that very thing.

Men who have sought to persuade their fellows to refrain from committing acts that caused injury to the whole body of labor have been thrown into jail for contempt of court. The beef trust violated an injunction, but its officials were not jailed—not at all. They were, instead, merely "warned." Men who have banded together to bring about better social, industrial and physical conditions have been declared members of trusts in restraint of trade. Men who have sought to aid their fellows by exercising their God-given right to work or rest as they saw fit have been sent to jail, thus making them in fact industrial slaves. Men who have dared to perform missionary work among their fellow workers have been declared criminals and sent to jail without trial by jury. Great trusts have been organized to squeeze the consumers on the one hand and the producers upon the other. These trusts have corrupted courts, purchased legislators and poisoned the fountain of civic liberty. And the supreme court of the United States has declared the labor unions to belong in the same category with these iniquitous, conscienceless, brutal trusts.

Judge William H. Taft brought the injunction into industrial disputes, and upon the precedent he set the courts have held trades unions to be trusts in restraint of trade, men have been sent to jail for daring to exercise constitutional rights, their organizations have been used through judicial decree to work injury to the organizations and benefit to their oppressors.

When the workers went to Chicago and asked the republican national convention for a redress of these wrongs, the republican convention turned a deaf ear to them, but listened with willing ears to the voices of labor's deadliest enemies. Then that convention nominated for president of the United States the judge who used the injunction as a bludgeon to beat workingmen into submission to the will of the great trusts and combines. William Howard Taft and his supporters may twist and wriggle as they will; the author of the "undesirable citizens" letter and the promoter of the "open shop" idea in the government printery may write and wriggle and palaver as he will, Judge Taft himself may grow red in the face while denouncing and villifying the president of the American Federation of Labor—the fact still remains that William Howard Taft, the republican candidate for the presidency, laid the foundation for the judicial decisions that have deprived workingmen of their rights.

Union men have no objection to the injunction writ when used as a purely equity writ—as it was originally intended to be used. They do object to its being used to deprive them of inalienable rights upon the mere dictum of a fallible and often corrupt judge.

Judge Taft was the first judge to declare that a railroad man, under certain circumstances within the interpretation and judgment of the court had no right to cease work. But the employer reserved the right to discharge at any time and without notice.

Judge Taft sent a man to jail, upon the testimony of a hired spy, for the awful crime of trying to organize men into an association that would protect them against organized wealth and organized greed.

Judge Taft fined union bricklayers for exercising their right to withhold their patronage from their enemies.

Basing their acts upon the injunction precedents set by Judge Taft, other judges have gradually enlarged upon them until today

the writ has been prostituted from its original purpose and is now little more than an industrial club held over the heads of the toilers.

A Pennsylvania judge enjoined a preacher from praying with and for striking miners. A Nebraska judge enjoined union men from using the United States mails to communicate with strikebreakers. A West Virginia judge enjoined the organizers of the United Mine Workers from riding on the street cars carrying strikebreakers or communicating with them upon the public streets and highways. Rights which have never been denied to one man have been denied to two and more men who saw the necessity of acting in concert for mutual protection.

Smarting under this injustice organized labor asked the republican party for relief—and the party not only refused relief, but showed its insolent disregard of the toilers by offering for their suffrages the judge who set the injunction pace.

The treason of venal labor leaders, the sophistries of the subsidized press, the strenuous efforts of the president to befool the issues, the mouthings of professional place-seekers and office-holders and the death-bed repentance of a frightened presidential candidate will not and cannot avail to blind the eyes of thinking workingmen to the real facts.

The election of William H. Taft will be an endorsement of the use of the injunction to deprive toilers of the right to trial by jury; an endorsement of the hideous doctrine that organizations dealing with human souls and human hopes are in the same class as trusts dealing with sordid matter and merchandise; an endorsement of the doctrine that a judge may make, interpret and execute a law, then fix the term of punishment and deny any appeal.

Mr. Union Man, is it not time that you do some independent thinking? Is it not time that you turned a deaf ear to the palaver of the trust barons, rolling in riches obtained by special legislation that goes under the guise of "protection to American labor," and take a stand for your rights as citizens and as free men?

Make your protest against this injustice so strong that in future no party will dare deny your demands for justice.

"THE ORGANIZED LABOR VOTE."

Organized labor has asked for relief from oppressive conditions. It has asked relief from the abuse of the injunction writ—not for the abolition of the writ. It has asked for a representative in the cabinet, the same as the financial and agricultural interests are now represented. Its petition has been heard and heeded by the democratic party. Its petitions have been heard and rejected by the republican party. If organized labor does not stand by its friends now, how can it ever hope to secure recognition in the future? If union men now divide on partisan lines, how can it ever hope to make practical men believe that the "labor vote" is not a political myth? If the beneficiaries of special legislation stand together in support of the party that sells them legislation in payment for campaign contributions, why should not the honest workers of the country stand solidly by the party that offers them legitimate relief from oppressive conditions? Is the "labor vote" a myth, or is it a practical entity? This question will be definitely answered by the election returns on November 3.

STAND BY FRIENDS

THE WAGEWORKER IS FOR ORGANIZED LABOR AND FOR ANY MOVEMENT THAT WILL BENEFIT LABOR AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF THE TOILERS.

AND STANDING THUS, WE ARE IN HEARTY ACCORD WITH THE INDEPENDENT POLITICAL PROGRAM SUGGESTED FOR LABOR BY THE NORFOLK A. F. OF L. CONVENTION AND NOW BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICERS OF THAT ORGANIZATION.

EVENTS OF RECENT OCCURRENCE AND FRESH IN THE MINDS OF ALL TRADES UNIONISTS WARRANT A DECLARATION BY THE ORGANIZED TOILERS AT THE BALLOT BOX IN NOVEMBER IN FAVOR OF WILLIAM J. BRYAN FOR PRESIDENT AND FOR A CONGRESS WHICH WILL GIVE THE WORKING PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES A "SQUARE DEAL."

"STAND BY YOUR FRIENDS; DEFEAT YOUR ENEMIES."

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED ONCE, FOR LUCK!

Mr. Union Man, Vote This Time for Your Own Interests and Your Union