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Child Labor a Deadly Menace to Civilization

Every citizen of our country ought to be well-informed about this problem of child labor. It is of prime importance that everyone should make himself familiar with important civic and national economic conditions, and child labor is a problem so far-reaching and so interwoven with others that it is of particular interest. It interests the poet and the painter, who have delighted to depict the beauty and the purity of childhood; it interests the educator, threatening as it does our long established standards of literacy and culture; it interests the statesmen, who fear the racial degeneracy sure to result; it interests the manufacturer, forcing upon him unskilled and inefficient operatives, and, perhaps most of all, it interests the workingman, for he sees in it a menace to his own and his children's livelihood.

The busy man may not wish to go into the entire history of the long fight against child labor, but he should know something of its beginnings

census reports 1,750,178 children between the ages of 10 and 15 years employed in gainful occupation. It is worth while to consider whether the gain is on the part of the child or on the part only of the manufacturer. It is worth while to consider what profit it shall be to the nation if dividends are increased, while children are destroyed. All these children are of school age and they ought to be in school, fitting themselves for some useful career. What may we expect as a result of their passing those years in the factory instead of in the school? They are not likely to become so habituated to their monotonous and wearying tasks that they will learn to love a life of drudgery, as was hoped by some English philanthropists. Rather are they likely to do what many have done, throw off the hateful burden and go out into the land to join the ever increasing army of vagrants and tramps. They cannot be expected to acquire or retain much literary knowledge, and so they in-

themselves for any useful career and after a few years they are pushed out from the positions which they occupied, with nothing higher to which they may aspire and without the training, the strength, or the skill to do even ordinary manual labor.

Every citizen should know the laws of his own state in regard to the employment of children and he should interest himself to see whether those laws are enforced. If the laws are not up to the highest standard or if they are not properly enforced, it is due to a lack of intelligent public interest and the citizen owes it to himself and to the state to help in awakening such an interest. Humanity, Christianity, patriotism, and self-interest all unite in protesting against child labor. It must be eliminated. Let us do it now!—By Everett W. Lord, Secretary New England Child Labor Committee.

Note.—Information regarding child labor may be obtained by anyone who cares to apply to the National Child Labor Committee, 105 East Twenty-second Street, New York City.

THE ENGINEERS' MEETING.

Plans Practically Completed for a Hearty Good Time.

The reunion planned by Division No. 98, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, to be held in Lincoln June 29-30, will be the biggest of its kind. This means that it will be something worth waiting for and going many miles to see. In addition to the good features of each session—and they

will be the very best—the social features will embrace a variety of things calculated to make the visitors believe that the Lincoln men know how to do things.

There will be some big Brotherhood men in attendance, not all of them engineers, either. The governor, the mayor and County Judge Cosgrave will deliver addresses of welcome.

TELEGRAPHERS GAIN.

Many New Members for the Month of March.

Six hundred and fifty-two new members were initiated into the Order of Railway Telegraphers during the month of March.

The grand division opened their regular biennial session in Atlanta, Ga., Monday, with the largest attendance in its history.

The surplus in the mortuary fund of the mutual benefit department now exceeds \$253,000, which is the high water mark.

VETOES EIGHT-HOUR BILL.

Governor Draper of Massachusetts has vetoed the bill which provided that no public employes shall be required to work more than eight hours a day. The bill was an amendment to an eight-hour act already on the statute books, providing that public employes would not be "required or requested" to work more than eight hours a day, the claim having been made that the present law is evaded by "requests" that overtime work be done.

Workingmen Want an Opportunity to do Things

There was an interesting meeting at the city hall last Monday afternoon, called to consider ways and means of "helping the workingmen" and participated in by ministers, laymen, Y. M. C. A. workers, women of the City Improvement Society, and others. Professor Howard was elected chairman and that especial friend of labor, L. O. Jones, was elected secretary. The matter of drinking fountains and public lavatories was given first attention, and after the need for them was discussed at length a committee was appointed to interview the city council in relation thereto. It was stated that there was a double need for these conveniences "now that the saloons have been closed."

Then the meeting proceeded to discuss some other things that the workingmen might need, "now that the

having others do something for him while insisting that he do nothing that is repugnant to the ideas and instincts of others."

This speaker also declared that the churches were not reaching the workingmen as they should, which declaration brought out a declaration from Rev. Dr. Roach that the speaker was making assertions he could not substantiate, and the further intimation that the speaker did not know much about church work. The speaker retorted by saying that as he was the son of a minister, the grandson of a minister and a very close relative of two other ministers, and himself a church member as well as a workingman he felt somewhat qualified to talk with knowledge upon that particular point.

Mrs. T. J. Doyle injected a little



BOYS WORKING IN A COAL BREAKER.

(The machinery in this mill has been built to fit their height.)

more than a century ago when the good people of England were shocked to learn that thousands of English children, some of them not more than five or six years of age, were being driven to death in their factories and mines. The pauper children of the London workhouses were being fed to the machine almost as children in the ancient idolatries were fed to Moloch. Pauper children whom nobody owned, deserted waifs, orphans and thousands to supply the demand for cheap labor created by the introduction of factory methods in the manufacture of textile goods. These puny laborers were worked to death, but that was not a serious matter because the supply seemed amply able to fill up the depleted ranks; and when the workhouse supply became low, there were not lacking English fathers and mothers who were willing to send their children to the factories that they themselves might live in greater ease.

When all this became known and the conscience of the English people was aroused, there was enacted in 1802 the first English factory law, which though but a beginning was a step in the direction of reform.

In America the conditions have never been so bad as they were in England a century ago, but they have been bad enough. When factories were first introduced in this country we had the advantage of having seen the experience of England, and from the first there were some restrictive laws in regard to the employment of children. Then too, our universal feeling for popular education kept the child in the school for at least a few years. But within the past generation there has come a change in the nature of our population, and the factories, which urgently need the cheapest labor they can get, have extended their field to part of our country where they had been formerly unknown. America now has to consider the case of thousands of children who toil in the textile mills, North and South. We have to reckon with the army of little boys constantly bending over the chutes of the coal and clear from clinkers at the expense of their very life blood; and that other army of boys working at night in the superheated glass factories. We have to consider the girls employed in the department stores, in the cigar factories, and the canneries; the messenger boys, and the newsboys, and the bootblacks, getting an education in our public streets. We have to remember the unfortunate children, and the very babies, kept awake and at work at night in a sweatshop home. Every citizen should ask himself what it means when the

introduce the hazard of a large percentage of ignorant and even illiterate persons in our population. We have been proud of our standards of intelligence, and it is somewhat of a surprise to some of us to know that the percentage of illiteracy of the adult population in the United States is greater than that of any of the more progressive European nations, yet this is true even of our most progressive states. The public school, which we have always regarded as the palladium of our liberties, has failed to reach one full tenth of our population, and it has failed to reach effectively a much greater proportion.

These children in the factories and mills are deprived equally of an opportunity for proper physical development. They have no opportunity for free exercise or for life in the open air, and what greater needs has the growing child than pure air and exercise? It is not surprising to find that many of them go to fill early graves and that others live only the half life of physical infirmity and mental inferiority.

We are told that child labor is only a result of poverty. True, child labor and poverty usually go together, but it is perhaps truer that poverty is a result of child labor, rather than child labor a result of poverty. At least, the two together form a vicious circle, each creating the other. Where children work adults are either forced out of employment or obliged to work at wages fixed by child standards. The family income is never permanently increased by the employment of children. Rather it is decreased, even though the adult members of the family continue their accustomed work. The young workers are not fitting

THE PROPER TIME TO BOOST

(Being the Rhyming Ruminations of the Boosting Bleacher Who is There With the Leather Lungs, Win or Lose.)

We can all be loyal boosters when the home team is ahead;
We can all be loud-lunged shouters when we beat.
But the "fan" best loved by player is the one as gay, or gayer,
When the home team goes kerplunk into defeat.
We can all wear smiling faces when the home team hits the ball
And we push our winning scores across the goal;
But it takes a loyal creature in the grandstand or the bleacher
To keep "rooting" when the home team's in a hole.

When we've got 'em on the hog train it's an easy thing to boost,
But it's different when they've got us going south.
When we win we're all the eustard; we're the boys that cut the mustard—
If we lose, the "knocker" gets there with his mouth.
We can all be happy winners when the scoreboard looks our way,
But the cheerful loser is the man we love.
May the Lord spare that affliction of the man whose predilection
Is to give the down grade team a hearty shove.

When the home team's up against it is the time to give a boost;
That's the time the loyal "fan" will rise and "root."
When the visitors are winning only "knockers" take an inning,
And it's time the loyal "fans" gave them the boot.
Here's a bleacherite who's pulling for the home team, lose or win:
Mr. Hard Luck can't forever camp in town.
You can bet your bottom dollar, and your hat, coat, shirt and collar,
That they can't keep Guy Green's bunch of players down.

Cheer up, Mr. Grouchy Loser! Throw your hammer in the weeds;
Boost, instead of always knocking on the team.
Quit your everlasting growling—smile a bit, instead of scowling—
Wait until the players generate more steam.
Don't think Fox, or Jude, or Pritchett, "Gus" or Waldron
Love to lose,
Or that Thomas, "Gag" or Mason like defeat.
Don't think "Davy," Jones or "Sully" love to linger in the gully—
Victory is for all the team a morsel sweet.



CHILDREN CHEAPER THAN COTTON.

saloons have been closed," and a municipal club house was suggested. Another suggested coffee houses. Some one else suggested a place where men might play pool and billiards amidst clean surroundings, which brought out a protest from another who was quite sure that pool and billiards were the inventions and chief weapons of the devil. Unfortunately no one suggested ping pong and croquet, to say nothing of "fitch" and golf, "now that the saloons have been closed." Another committee was appointed to consider the club and coffee house propositions.

It was also suggested that "now that the saloons have been closed" it might be a good idea to provide a series of public band concerts in the city park, and this suggestion met with instant favor, and some of the ministers present even went to the length of saying that Sunday afternoon concerts in the park might be helpful, especially in view of the fact that "now that the saloons have been closed." Somehow or other, the impression was conveyed that owing to the closing of the saloons it was imperative that something be done for the workingman, the intimation being that workingmen spent all their leisure hours in the saloons.

One man present, who admitted that he did not and could not speak for workingmen, but who did lay claim to speaking as a workingman, declared that it was high time to quit insulting the workingmen by offering to do something for him. "What the workingman wants," declared this particular speaker, "is an opportunity to do things for himself. His inherent democratic feelings impel him to resent the idea of always and eternally

ginger into the discussion by inquiring what there was about the saloon to attract men. She was quite certain it was something other than the sole desire to drink, for she could not believe there was any amusement in merely drinking intoxicants. She declared that slovenly housekeeping and poor cooking was responsible for a large part of the loafing around saloons. This brought out a rejoinder from another woman who was absolutely sure that men loafed around saloons and spent their money there because they craved intoxicants. This, by the way, merely demonstrated that the good woman who made the assertion simply didn't know what she was talking about.

Dr. Weatherly, pastor of All Souls church, declared it to be his opinion that it was time to quit putting themselves in the attitude of "doing something for the workingmen," and begin helping workingmen to do right things. He favored park concerts Sunday afternoons and week-day evenings, public play grounds and like attractions, all owned and controlled by all taxpayers, not by any particular organization. This would make the workingmen a part and a parcel of the movement.

The Rev. A. L. Weatherly moved that the chair appoint a committee of three to prepare a suitable memorial to the city council urging the establishment of drinking fountains. The committee includes A. L. Weatherly, Mrs. J. L. Clavin and C. E. Prevey.

A. J. Northrup asked that a committee of seven be appointed by the chair to investigate the matter of a gathering place, rest room and amusements to report at a later meeting. The committee consists of C. M. Mayne, A. J. Northrup, W. M. Maupin, W. E. Hardy, W. A. Selleck, Miss Lucile Eaves and E. S. Ripley.

It was agreed that a committee of three be appointed with Mr. Hagenow as a member, to consider the question of band concerts in the city. Dr. S. Z. Batten, A. Hagenow and A. L. Weatherly were named.

It was decided, "now that the saloons are closed," to hold another meeting at a later date to consider other questions and to hear the reports of the committees appointed. The meeting then adjourned.

WHITE FIREMEN STRIKE.

Every white fireman and hostler employed on the Georgia Railroad is out on strike as a protest against the employment of negroes by the company. The officials of the road say the strike will not interfere with the operation of the trains.

The Labor Movement in Europe

By
Rev. Charles
Stelzle

V. LABOR LEADERS IN THE CHURCH.

At least twenty of the labor members in parliament are affiliated with the church, and several of them are "lay" or unordained preachers, spending their Sundays in conducting religious services. Large numbers of the leaders of labor in England and Scotland are actively interested in the church—indeed, they will tell you that they received their training as public speakers in the church.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, M. P., chairman of the labor party in the house of commons, is vice-president of the great church brotherhood movement in Great Britain, which has a membership of 500,000. He, together with such men as Will Crooks, M. P., George Nicholls, M. P., and other labor leaders who are not members of parliament, frequently speak at the national conventions and Sunday afternoon

meetings of the brotherhood in various cities. These church brotherhoods, by the way, are composed very largely of trades unionists, as I discovered when addressing brotherhood mass meetings in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Manchester.

The trades union leaders on the other side have learned the value of having the church with them, and the church, at any rate the non-conformist church, is closely identified with the interests of working people. It is also quite evident, that whatever the average workingman may personally think of the church and of the temperance question, he is careful to select his leader, and as his representative in the house of commons, the man who is of a high moral character and usually one who is a total abstainer and a member of the church.