

LATE LABOR DECISIONS

Cases of the Ann Arbor Engineers Discussed at Washington.

WHAT SUPREME COURT WILL DO

It is Thought the Findings of Judges Ricks and Taft Will Be Sustained—Organized Labor's Only Recourse is Arbitration if the Other Fellow Will Arbitrate.

There has been much comment in Washington upon the decisions of Judges Taft and Ricks of the United States courts in the locomotive engineers' cases at Toledo involving the handling of freight on the Ann Arbor railroad. The sharpest possible interest is always taken here in such issues as that one, and it is natural.

The decisions—either as regarded the most important ever rendered in the labor line—were based upon laws passed by congress, and there is ever agitation upon the question of amending these laws; besides, it is conceded that the questions involved will come here to the supreme court of the United States.

Senator Cullom of Illinois, the author of the interstate commerce laws, or the principal one who constructed them, will not enter into a criticism of the views taken by Judges Taft and Ricks, but in private conversation he is quoted as saying that the decisions will, in his judgment, be sustained by the highest court in the land. It is the belief of the friends of the engineers here that it would be better not to carry the case up here, as the decision below will be promptly sustained, and it will add but another blow to organized labor.

In the adoption of amendments to the interstate commerce law it seems there has been given no respect to the labor questions involved. Yet the third section of the interstate commerce act, which provides against "undue preference" or "discrimination," which formed the principal basis for the decisions against labor, set up what may prove the death blow to the boycott and the prohibition of individual action upon the part of laborers in times of strikes which are ordered by the brotherhood. When congress put into law the "unreasonable preference" or "advantage" clause in section 3 it had in mind small shippers and weak transportation companies; it desired only to place every shipper and carrier upon an equal footing. This was really the object the farmers had in view when they made their original demand for the interstate commerce act. The framers of the law builded stronger than they knew. They made it not only possible, but the duty, of the federal courts to decide, as they have, that it is a misdemeanor, punishable by \$5,000 fine or imprisonment, for employes to carry freight to a certain point and then refuse to handle it, as they have given one road an "undue" or "unreasonable preference" in acting for one line and refusing to act for another.

It has been insinuated that this clause was placed in the law by shrewd railroad attorneys who had in view just such emergencies as have arisen at Toledo; but I am assured by Senator Cullom that this is untrue. The phraseology of the clause was the result of a compromise, and was practically dictated by the small shippers who knew and cared nothing for the labor questions which might arise under the law as a whole. In fact, the labor question never entered the minds of those who really drew the act which is now law. It seems an accident that in applying a remedy against monopoly a law should be framed which would tend to strike down the interests of organized labor. In congressional and the highest court circles here, it is believed that the boycott is practically a thing of the past, and that arbitration of all disputes is the only solution of the situation. An arbitration bill will come forward again when congress meets next fall or winter. It is difficult to pass any arbitration law which will be effective, as voluntary acquiescence is necessary upon both sides, and the one getting the worst end of the bargain in each specific case would be inclined to repel the law and kick backward. The action of the courts in the Homestead cases; the decisions of Judge Baker at Indianapolis in the Lake Erie and Western strike cases at Muncie recently, and finally the decisions at Toledo, leaves open but one recourse short of revolution, it is believed here, and that is arbitration, for the combined decisions of the federal courts amount to this: That it is a crime to force union men or "scabs" to quit work under any pretext; to tie up railroad property; to refuse to handle freight or the mails, or to injure the value of railroad or other property by either refusing to work when once in the employ of interstate roads or peaceably permit others to work. The boycott has been declared unlawful.

When congress and the supreme court of the United States back up these decisions the legislators here ask: "What recourse is there left for the laborer but arbitration?" So an arbitration law will be attempted with vigor at the coming session of congress, and since the necessity for it is now so great it will probably be adopted. When arbitration was attempted two and four years ago in congress some of these drastic decisions had

been rendered. Only the superficial portions of the interstate commerce law were tested. The whole question has now been lifted out of politics into the high hands of the federal judiciary under a permanent law, and it is cold-blooded business and not sentiment.

There is not the least question as to what the supreme court of the United States will do with these propositions, these decisions, when they come here from the district and circuit courts. They will be affirmed, with possibly one or two dissenting or modified opinions. Then there will be quiet submission to the will of the law, for labor is always submissive when it sees the will of the people and stands in the face of law and order.

I got it indirectly from a member of the supreme court that should this question at Toledo come before the court here a decision will be rendered which will cover quite all of the questions heretofore decided by the lower courts under the interstate act; that it will be a blanket decision and will put at rest affirmatively the accepted fact that the interstate act is constitutional.

It is suggested, in the interest of labor, that for this reason it will be better that the decisions at Toledo be accepted as sufficient and attention be turned to arbitration as the most successful means of reaching conclusions in labor disputes. There is no objection to the present organization of labor, so far as the court here is concerned. It is simply regarded as unfortunate for labor that the exigencies of times have driven the organizations of labor into such straits as to require the extreme steps which have been taken. All demonstrations of force, either upon the part of the corporations or labor, are here looked upon as most unfortunate, both for labor and capital.

AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

Some of our republicans exchanges are speculating upon Senator Manderson's probable successor. It is some time in advance, but we want to say right now that Senator Manderson's successor will be a populist.—Holt Co. Independent.

Senator Allen of Nebraska, wears his honors gracefully and is already becoming a favorite. His frank open manner and evident desire to do right seem to impress everyone who comes in contact with him favorably.—National Watchman.

J. Sterling Morton's political biography Born 1832; graduated at law school 1852; defeated for Nebraska legislature 1856; defeated for congress 1860; defeated for governor 1866; defeated for governor 1880; defeated for governor 1884; defeated for congress 1888; defeated for governor 1892; picked up by Cleveland 1893.—Minden Workman.

The people's party stands forth today as the only champion of the rights of the poor. Wall Street democracy and Wall Street republicanism are synonymous terms and both mean goldbugism. All the millionaires are in the other parties. The people's party is composed of the poor. They represent the interests of labor. The others labor for the establishment of an imperialism of capital and have joined hands with the money Kings of Europe for the enslavement of labor.—Free Press, Winfield, Kansas.

People may say what they please but the populists of the present legislature have done more real good for the state of Nebraska than any party or parties have done for the past ten years. They have fought stubbornly for principle and right, against hoodlums and corporation cappers have got a black eye every time. The Newberry bill fight was enough of glory in itself for one term. The selection of Senator Allen was also a great victory for them; in fact victory has been perched upon their banner from beginning to end. Long live the new movement of reform, and may it grow and expand and reach to the National Capital four years hence.—The Express, Crete.

PEASANTRIES.

"And the colonel shot him on sight?" "He did." "What was the trouble?" "Nohin'; just makin' a record!"

Immigrant Inspector—You're nationality, please. Immigrant—Orish. Immigrant Inspector—What is your occupation? Immigrant—O'im a Frinch nurse.

Clergyman, examining a Sunday school class—Now, can any of you tell me what are sins of omission. Small Scholar—Please, sir, they're sins you ought to have committed and haven't.

Tenant—Our house is in a frightful condition, Mr. Quarterday. One of the walls has bulged out three or four inches. Landlord—Hal! Then the house is larger, and I shall have to raise your rent.

Husband—Let me have \$3, my dear. I am going to Mueller's funeral. Wife—All right, but I don't see why you need spend so much money in grieving for a man whom you know only very slightly.

First Little Girl—Oh, I've got just the loveliest doll you ever saw, and I'm so happy with it! I don't know what to do. Second Little Girl—Is it big? First Little Girl—Big! It's so big it most breaks my back to carry it.

Col. Julep—That bird dog cost me \$500, but I've got to get rid of him. Uncle Mose—What's de matter wid dat yor dog? Colonel Julep—He kills neighbor's chickens and brings them home. Uncle Mose—What yor rocks yor take fer dat yor pup, Max's Colonel?

Little Bobby—I can't find my hat and coat. Father, rushing, I can't find mine, either. I don't see what your mother does with things, he's gone out, and there's nothing for a le do but hunt til we find 'em, or stay in. Little Bobby, after long thought—Let's look on the hat rack.

BRIEF NEWS NOTES.

Interesting Items Gleaned from People's Party Exchanges.

The number of locomotives in use on American railways is 32,193.

The United States contain more than 1,700 distinct and separate railways.

The government of Colorado favors compulsory arbitration in labor troubles.

The Georgia Populist is the name of a new reform paper lately issued at Jug Town, Georgia.

It is estimated that of the entire human race, 250,000,000, or about one-fifth, go entirely without clothing.

The convict miners at Coal Creek, Tenn., have been found by the Legislative Committee to be diseased and starving.

From April to December, 1892, the Paris Labor Exchange provided situations for 10,389 workmen in twenty-four trades.

The United Mine-workers of North America propose to make a general demand for an advance in the price of mining on May 1.

It is said that when a bank fails in China it is the custom to cut off the heads of the offending bank officers as an example to others not to do likewise.

Performances at theatres of ancient Greece sometimes lasted twelve hours. Seven o'clock in the morning was the time for the rising of the curtain, so to speak.

Franceville, one of the new Bebrides Islands, is said to be the smallest republic in the world. Its population comprises forty whites and about five hundred negroes.

The mayor of Detroit, Mich., after a careful investigation declares that cities which own and operate their own electric lights do so at one half the cost of plants operated by private companies.

One million and a half men work in the coal mines of the world. Of these, England has 535,000; United States, 300,000; Germany, 235,000; Belgium, 100,000; Russia, 44,000. The world's miners of metals number 4,000,000.

The mines in the northern portion of Michigan producing Bessemer iron ore have entered into a combination for keeping up the prices of ore. The combine is said to be strong enough to dictate terms to the furnace owners.

During the last campaign Tom Yoe, of the Independence (Kas) Tribune was very bitter in his denunciation of Mrs. Lease. Now he is a member of the same state board and Mrs. Lease is the chairman. This is adding insult to injury.

The legislature of the young state of Washington has passed a bill making it unlawful for anyone to manufacture, buy, sell, give away, or have in his possession cigarettes of cigarette papers. This is sumptuary legislation with a vengeance.

The art of making needles was kept a secret until about 1650, when it was taught to the English by Christopher Greening. Now English needles are sold all over the world. At Redditch alone 20,000 people make more than 100,000,000 a year.

When a California girl goes east people are sure to hear about her. One stopped in Chicago recently and in the mere effort to curl her hair effectually set the biggest hotel in the place on fire. This is a little expensive, but keeps the record good.

The few Populists in the Texas legislature are making a noble fight, a first class record. They are positively lying up to the state platform, and thus will it be demonstrated to Texans that when in the future the People's party promulgates a platform they will be understood to mean just what they say.

It isn't true that Chicago is thinking of accepting an opening day exposition ode beginning: In fourteen hundred and ninety-two Columbus sailed the ocean blue. Else we wouldn't be here, and neither would you. Too-roo la-loo-ra-loo-ra-loo.

Tom Watson says in his paper of Mar. 31: I think it only fair to notify the people that I will make no speeches till summer. My private business demands my attention, because it has been neglected for two years. I also need rest and recuperation. When summer comes I will take the field and canvass the state. Until then I shall beg my friends to excuse me.

The Minnesota Bureau of Labor Statistics is noted as one of the best conducted and most impartial governmental institutions of its kind in this country. L. G. Powers, its director, has just issued an annual report, 110 pages of which are given to a review of the financial system and standing, the mode of organization, the achievements and the conditions of every important National and International Trade Union of the country.

CURIOUS PICKINGS.

A New York city shoemaker displays a sign which reads as follows: "Squeaks taken out of shoes."

Of 184,384 recruits received into the German army and navy recently only 824 could not read or write.

Seven American presidents have died in the month of July and in that month Garfield received his fatal wound.

A snow white opossum, a rare specimen of the possum tribe, has been presented to the Central park (New York) menagerie.

A new shoe for men which will shortly be introduced has a flap top like an "arctic," and fastens with one single snap buckle.

New Zealand streams were stocked with trout and salmon twenty years ago. Now one day's ordinary work of an angler is 150 pounds of trout.

The best way to become noted is to keep your right arm spread a tumor that you are thinking of.

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