



THE REFORMER.

Rev. Charles Stelzle Interestingly Discusses His Personality.

On all sides one hears of measures for solving the "social question." Hard, cold remedies, they offer, sometimes—dust-covered and lifeless as a geometric problem. No blood, no pulse, no heart-beat.

Forgotten is the fact that this is an intensely human problem, having to do not only with statistics and computations, but more than this, and most of all, with real men and women. The beautiful schemes which read so well in book and magazine, which sound so plausible from lecture platform and public desk, go all to pieces when applied to flesh and blood men, because they leave out altogether the element of human nature.

Some social schemes fail because they are presented by those who lack the peculiar personality which is necessary in order to impress others. They do not inspire confidence. They do not impart hope. They sound a dismal note. The pessimist is never a success as a reformer.

Some social schemes fail because of the immoral character of their advocates. They may rally about themselves a few kindred spirits. They may issue a few propaganda pamphlets. They may even print a newspaper which shall become the organ of their party, thus giving an impression of great influence. Often, too, they may for a time win followers who are the victims of every new fad and fancy. But soon there comes a Waterloo, because no social scheme can permanently win the people which hasn't back of it the strength of a moral purpose.

Failure there is, also, because of a lack of aggressiveness. Men are not waiting to be reformed. They are not running about seeking help or advice. They do not readily listen to a new voice. Often, they will not heed the one that is old, though good, because it has become a monotone. It has lost its cheer and brightness.

And so, indifference must be met by a loyalty and a devotion to one's dream, which will prove one's sincerity. It must be met by the spirit of the prophet, who feels that he has a message for men. It must be met by the fire of enthusiasm which shall consume not only the criticisms and the objections of the people themselves, but which will burn up the dross in one's own character, so that the dream of the reformer for others' good, may become so vital a part of his own life, that he himself shall become the incarnation of the vision which he saw in his most inspired mood.

SHORT BITS.

Deliberately Swiped From the Portland Labor Press.

To lose the lockout against union machinists, the Baltimore Ohio railroad spent seven million plunks.

For many years the burden of sustaining the fight against the union smashers of Los Angeles has been carried by the local unions of all kinds and the International Typographical Union. The A. F. of L. is now in the ring, and innocent union men will no longer be railroaded to jail for want of means to perfect appeals.

Mayor Seidel of Milwaukee declares that the villainous sports who make victims of working girls must cease operations. Surely he does not expect those moneyed devils to make victims of daughters of the rich. What sort of a government is this Socialist going to have if working girls are protected from assault and degradation?

The "closed shop" is the anti-union shop. A shop manned by union men is always open to an honest and capable worker. It is only the self-styled "open shop" that is closed to self-respecting and competent mechanics. The only shops in Portland that slam the door on men who are capable and competent are some of the so-called "open shops" that think it wise to fight organized labor.

The pure food laws have made the manufacturer to take notice, who uses his profits to abuse and fight organized labor, come through and admit that molasses and "parts of wheat" compose his dope. The story of stale bread and 'lasses may have had strong foundation. Cut the stuff out. There's a reason."

Lorimer is just as clean as the 46 who voted to accept him as a brother and member of the Boodlers' and Millionaires' American House of Lords.

There are lots of politicians and even eminent statesmen, who are anxious to see the initiative and referendum adopted by every other state but their own.

A bread line a block and half long is one of the institutions of New York. It is a continual interrogation point regarding tariff prosperity.

We have 1,000 trusts in the United States. If they will go to swallowing one another we will have left one as big as the 1,000 are now.

Boiler makers on eastern railroads anticipate the extension of the troubles on the Lake Shore line. Strikebreakers and guns and all the accessories of a union-smashing fight have shown up.

THE PRESSMEN.

Although the membership of the I. P. P. and A. U. recently voted to hold biennial conventions, the board of directors has ordered that a convention be called this year to meet at Rogersville, Tenn., beginning June 19. This action was taken in order to enable the delegates and visitors to learn the progress that has been made in the matter of building the union pressmen and feeders' home at Holly Springs, and also to express the wish of the membership regarding the matter of renewing the agreement with the American Newspaper Publishers'

association, which expires on May 1, 1912. Secretary Crowley announces that work is proceeding rapidly on the house buildings, and that, on account of plenty of lumber, stone, sand, etc., having been found on the land, the cost of construction, as estimated by five reputable bidders, was reduced almost one-half. The main building and the technical school will be finished by convention time and the tuberculosis sanatorium will be under way.

OKLAHOMA CITY STRIKE.

The managers of the Oklahoma City street railway company made a contract with its employees and then proceeded to break it. As a result the strike was resumed almost before it ended. The company tried to import a gang of armed thugs to act as strikebreakers, but it so happens that the Oklahoman unionists were on watch when that state's constitution was drawn, and armed strikebreakers are jailed the minute they show up. For a week street cars did not turn a wheel, and the public good naturedly stood by the strikers. At the time of this writing the matter is still unsettled. The militia was ordered out once, but Governor Cruce recalled the order.

CHILD LABOR.

Throughout nature there is nothing so woefully appalling, nothing so brutally cruel or so horrible, as the spectacle presented by the human species when for profit it exploits and sacrifices its own offspring.

All other creatures exercise the greatest care and watchfulness over theirs, safeguarding them from every harm and when occasion demands it giving up their lives that their young may live. Even birds of prey have been known to pick the flesh from their own breasts to feed their starving fledglings.

The entire brute creation instinctively protects the young, as if in obedience to some natural law, and it is not until man is reached in his highest development that this law is violated. It is not until civilization in what we claim to be its highest type is reached that man, with a full knowledge of what he is doing, grinds the bone, blood and flesh of his children into money. With a brutality that is strictly human he cheerfully offers up his children as a sacrifice upon the altar of Mammon. For the sake of profit he does what the lower animals will sacrifice their lives to prevent.

Nowhere in all nature can the horror be duplicated; nowhere is there such a terrible example of debased depravity as that presented by child labor.

WAGES FOR CONVICTS.

New Jersey Commissioner Would Pay Prisoners For Work.

Dr. George B. Wight, state commissioner of charities and corrections, declares that convicts should receive wages for the work they do in the New Jersey state prison. In his annual report he recommends that they receive a certain sum daily and that this should be either sent to their families or put

in savings banks for them.

In discussing the charitable and penal institutions of New Jersey Dr. Wight says:

"In common, I think, with the majority of our citizens, I believe that inmates of penal institutions should, so far as health and age permit, be given suitable employment to assist in their maintenance and the convict placed upon such remuneration work as will pay his board and the cost of his conviction.

"In a number of states the prisoners' earnings bring to their treasuries large sums of money, sufficient in two instances, I am informed, to pay not only all the current expenses of the institutions, but to erect new buildings. I do not cite these as examples, for I do not believe that our penal institutions should be for commercial purposes, but I do not believe in the steady employment of the prisoner for compensation. Idleness will not aid in his reformation nor improve his physical condition, nor will it help the family he has left behind, deprived of his support.

"While in prison he should be required to earn his board and a fixed sum as to the cost of his conviction, and with that the state should be content. All that he earns in excess of this should be applied to the support of his family, if he has one, under such conditions and in such manner as may be determined, and if he has no family worthy of his support his earnings should be placed in the savings bank to be paid him upon his release, in monthly installments if deemed best, that he may have a fair chance to earn an honest livelihood."

Before Unions Interfered.

In the office of the Browne & Sharpe Manufacturing company of Providence, R. I., hangs a copy of the schedule of the hours of labor required by the Providence Machine company when Mr. Sharpe's father was employed there in 1847-88. Except during May, June and July, when it began at 4:55, work began at sunrise. Workmen had their breakfast before beginning the day's work only in the months of November, December, January and February. During the rest of the year breakfast was served anywhere from 6:30 to 7:30, and forty minutes only were allowed for it. Seven o'clock was the average time for ending the day's work.

Is There a Santa Claus?

"Is there a Santa Claus?" she asked.
"Come, daddy, tell me true.
I heard today the good old saint
Is really, truly you;
That no one down our chimney comes
To little girls and boys;
That you and mamma really buy
My dollies and my toys."

I held her on my knee and gazed
Into her searching eyes.
Somehow I've felt this time would come,
This question would arise,
And yet, I pondered to myself,
What shall I say or do?
And then I answered: "Yes, there is
A Santa Claus for you."

"He comes to you on Christmas eve,
But let me tell you this:
He's with you when you hug your dad
And when his cheek you kiss.
He's with you when you say your prayers
To God, who reigns above.
Sometimes he has another name.
We grown folks call him Love."

"You keep your faith in Santa Claus
When others bid you doubt.
You still retain your faith in him.
Let not belief die out.
And what you heard today is wrong."
I felt the teardrops start.
"Yes, yes, there is a Santa Claus.
He lives in daddy's heart."
—Detroit Free Press.

None to Do the Chores.

More than four million people are estimated to attend moving picture shows in the United States every day. No wonder it is getting so hard to find somebody willing to do the chores.