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A FACTORY CHILD.

Reflections of a Little Bread-winner.

AN OLD STORY RETOLD.

Pitiful Thoughts of Toiling Infant Whose Life Is Spent In Drudgery. Applies to Almost Every Manufacturing Center.

Got up this mornin' at 4, as usual. Oh, my, this is my birthday! Ain't I glad I saved up nearly 50 cents in my bank? 'Nd I told my ma 'nd my father it would be nice to use it to celebrate with. Ma was tired bein' up with the baby, 'nd she has a cough, you know, so I cooked myself the loveliest breakfus of fried bread before I started. I was ten minutes late on account of this, 'nd the superintendent docked me 10 cents. Oh, well, it was worth it. I don't have a birthday every day in the year.

It's a lovely walk to the factory in the mornin'. 'Nd I like it so much better than at night, because then it is nearly dark, 'nd I am so tired 'nd kind of stagger along 'nd my eyes don't see straight, 'nd I'm so glad to get home 'nd throw myself down anywhere 'nd sleep.

But in the mornin' the sun is just lovely. Once I stopped to pick some daisies—they're a kind of a beautiful yellow 'nd white flower, 'nd there was a few of 'em growin' on the edge of the street—'nd I took 'em with me to the factory, but the superintendent he frowned 'nd says, "Ah, loiterin' again." That's a queer word. But I know what it means. It means takin' up some one else's time.

Oh, my, yesterday we worked fourteen hours! I choked some in the last part, the smoke got on me so, but it's lovely to earn so much money. I got nearly 15 cents more than my regular, 'nd it just seemed like I was one of them multimillionaires I heard tell about once when I went to a circus. But that was so long ago, when I was a child.

The factory is a great big long brick place, 'nd I like the window I work in so much, 'cause I can look out through it all day 'nd see green trees. 'Nd onct I saw a squirrel! Then the foreman caught me, 'nd he said I was gettin' to be a little loafer. That's a terribul thing to be, but sometimes I wisht I was, you know—just for fun.

'Nd then it's nice to have kind of lovely dreams when you're honest awake, when your eyes is wide open, only they ain't lookin' at anything else 'cept what you see in your dream. I thought I was the only one in the world that had 'em, but a boy, he said he did, too, sometimes. I'm kinder sorry for this, 'cause I wanted 'em to myself, but it ain't right to be too selfish.

Yesterday a man came, 'nd we all had to lie about our ages. The superintendent said it was only a matter of form, but we'd better do it, 'cause we might lose our jobs if we didn't, 'nd I said I was over fifteen, 'nd then the man—he was an inspector or something—he put his hand on my head 'nd said I didn't look it, 'nd then the superintendent he says, "No, it stunts 'em sometimes, but it's good work for 'em," says he, "to be 'leadin' useful lives.'" 'Nd then the inspector went away smokin' a big cigar. I seen him go by the tree where the squirrel lives, 'nd he stopped there onct 'nd

looked at somethin' outen his pocket.

Pretty soon I'll be makin' \$4 a week. I'm gettin' \$3 now, which for twelve years old is a fine start. We work from 7 until 6 at night, with an hour at noon; but, oh, my, when I get a little bigger I'll belong to the union, 'nd then I won't have to work so hard. 'Nd I'll have time to go on journeys 'nd attend big meetin's 'nd learn to read 'nd write, 'nd maybe I'll be a walkin' delegate, whatever that is.

We're three months behind in our orders. 'Nd all on account of Prosperity bein' around. Prosperity, I guess, must be an invisibil giant like the kind the feller told me of in the noon hour onct that took the little boy who came to work for him 'nd ate him up. Prosperity he comes around in the mornin' 'nd wakes me up 'nd makes me cook my own breakfus 'nd marches me off to the plant. Prosperity makes the big wheels whir 'nd plies up the orders 'nd makes the foreman swear at us 'nd makes night shifts 'nd gives me pains all over in my bones 'nd sends me home like I was dead with sleep. I hate Prosperity, 'nd I wisht he never come around.

'Nd I wonder did God make him. God is another giant, 'nd he lives in the clouds, 'nd he's the biggest giant of all. 'Nd the Salvation Army gal she says he was a father to us all. 'Nd he never takes my money on Saturday night. But they say he is a good giant 'nd is sorry for people that work, 'nd he loves everybody just the same. 'Nd they say he loves me just as much as the multimillionaire, but if he did he might hurt the giant Prosperity that hurts me so 'nd that the multimillionaire likes so much. Oh, my, it would be fun to see a fight between God 'nd Prosperity!

'Nd I hope that God would win. 'Cause from what I heard about him I kind of like him. But I guess after all he's only a dream, like Santa Claus 'nd the picture books 'nd the picnic. Still you never can really tell, 'cause I thought the multimillionaire was a dream till I seen him. 'Nd then I knew he wasn't. 'Nd maybe God's that way.—Thomas L. Masson in Life.

Trade Union Notes.

The legislature of New Jersey has passed and Governor Wilson has signed an employers' liability act.

Members of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union have commenced to advocate San Francisco for the 1915 convention of the union.

The union label section of Boston Central Labor union has begun a campaign to inform all labor men of prison made goods and the places where they are sold.

The union carpenters of Kansas City, Mo., have been granted their demand for a 5 cent an hour increase of wages and a Saturday half holiday by all the leading contractors.

The Women's Trade Union League of Greater New York has been incorporated. The corporation now has power to hold property and purposes to advocate or oppose legislation affecting women wage earners.

Governor Hadley of Missouri has approved the woman's nine hour bill, a bill prohibiting the assignment of unearned wages and a measure making the child labor laws applicable to all cities of 5,000 or over.

The executive committee of the State Federation of Labor voted to ask the New York legislature to pass an insurance act for the benefit of men in hazardous employments. It is proposed to have the state, employer and employee contribute.

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