

stubbornness, they will not recognize a labor union or a labor organization.

"Labor has just the same right to organize highly as does capital. Capital of recent years has affected a combination and an organization in power and importance never dreamed of and it has used this power and this influence together for illegitimate purposes in many instances.

"It has a right to organize for the purpose of facilitating operations and minimizing expenditures, but does not have any right to use this power to place laws upon our statutes which are in the interests of the few as against the interests of many. It has no right to place a man in congress or upon the federal bench or in the gubernatorial chair. These things and these things alone belong to the people under our scheme of government. And so I say again that this is the position that labor and labor organizations should take with respect to their rights."

This is, in part, what the governor said on this occasion. The substance of his address was that labor should organize for the purposes of self-protection, general promotion of the general welfare of themselves and their families, but that this organization never should be used for unlawful purposes. Organization must solve their problems, but that organization if successful, must solve their problems by the method of this law enforcement.

"Labor organizations have a right to participate in politics, for it is through the machinery of politics that laws are made and conditions imposed and they should see to it that their efforts are cast on the side of right, for better laws and better conditions.

"When they do this, they will become a power and factor in American politics."

WILL GET SMALL COMFORT.

Taft's veto of the wool bill, particularly, shows that he even preferred to leave an "indefensible" schedule stand, and the people suffer, rather than to sign the La Follette bill and seem to stand with the progressives. It was the standpatters who urged him to veto it, and he chose to make his bed with them. It was his right, but he can look for little comfort or sympathy from the great progressive west.—Blair Pilot.

GEORGE W. NEALLY.

Mr. George W. Neally, the well known electrician of this city, is now general foreman of construction for the Columbia Fixture, Motor & Power Co., located at 142-144 North Fourteenth street. Mr. Neally has been connected with several important concerns and is well and favorably known in Lincoln.

At any rate, while the Lincoln city council is wrangling and indulging in personalities it is not enacting any foolish legislation.

GO SLOW, COMRADES!

We believe that the shopmen on any railroad system have a perfect right to federate.

We believe that the shopmen have a right to delegate the management of their affairs to a committee of one man or a dozen men.

We believe the shop men have a right to strike if there is no other course left to them.

But we submit in all candor that this is not the time to strike; that this is not the time to plunge the country into an industrial war. Nor is this the time for the new federation system to be "tried out."

It is our candid belief that the system federation is the right and proper thing on the part of the employes. The only fault we have to find is that the railway shopmen did not thus organize long ago.

But the federation system is young, winter is close at hand, industrial conditions are not at their best. Here are three almighty good reasons for not plunging into a strike at this time. The editor of this paper knows something about the strike game. He has been through more than one, and today, being well along towards "middle age" he will stand a great deal more than he would have stood twenty years ago without striking. Not because we are any less independent, but because experience has taught us a few things. If the men who go out on strike were the only ones to suffer we wouldn't have much to say. But the ones who suffer are the wives and babies. It is the wife who makes most of the sacrifices. The babies, with faces pinched by hunger and little bodies exposed to the elements—what have these done that men should act hastily and thus compel the little ones to suffer?

Injustice! Of course! There always will be injustice until men are built like the angels. But the ability to resent injustice is not the sudden growth of a night.

A strike of any magnitude can not be won without public sentiment behind. This is axiomatic. Once public sympathy is alienated a strike is lost. With public sentiment behind the strikers only criminal mismanagement can lose it. A strike of railroad shopmen at this time would not have public sentiment behind it, therefore it could not win. The public has not yet been educated up to the point of believing that the system federation plan is a good one. Nor has the public yet learned that men can be so cruelly mistreated, so shamefully abused and so ruthlessly sacrificed as is wont in the great transportation circles. The system federation's first duty is not to strike for higher wages but to plan and prosecute a campaign of education—education of the rank and file of its own membership as well as education of the general public. Its duty is, also, to solidify its

forces. A union may be organized in a day—it takes months, sometimes years, to make it an efficient fighting force against oppression.

It may be said that right now is the best time to clash with the railroads over recognition and wages. Perhaps. That depends upon the point of view. But with winter at hand which side can stand the fight the longest, the railroads with their millions or the workers who have usually less than a week's wages between them and destitution. If the public begins to suffer by reason of a failure of the fuel supply, who will get the blame? The strikers, to be sure, for the public usually guesses wrong when it guesses impulsively.

Don't do it now, comrades! Take your time. Better suffer injustice a little while longer and then go into a fight with the chances all in your favor, than to go into the fight unprepared.

Strikes are bad things at their best. There is nothing more heroic in modern industrial life than men making a justifiable strike. But there is a foolish heroism that seldom gets the hero anywhere. There is another sort of heroism that makes victims by the score for every one it saves. To honorably get away from a strike is far better than to honorably strike and win.

If the railway shopmen strike now—although their strike be justifiable—it will be their wives and babies, not the wives and babies of the railway managers, who will suffer the rigors of winter. It will be the strikers who walk through the snow, not the railway managers.

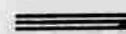
Wait! Possess your souls in patience! In a few months your forces will be more firmly united; your comrades in other lines of industry will be better able to assist you in your struggle; a greater and a more thoroughly solidified army will be behind you, holding up your hands and seeing to it that the wives and little ones do not suffer while husband and father is fighting for justice.

IF YOU SEE IT

in

**Will Maupin's
Weekly**

YOU CAN BET ON IT!



DOLLAR THE YEAR