



## What the Church Owes Labor's Great Army

"I understand that the street railway men of Lincoln work eleven to thirteen hours a day, seven days a week. That is neither humane, Christian or American, and the church people of this city owe it to themselves and to the street car men to help them get one day off in seven."

Miss Mary McDowell made this statement in the most emphatic manner from the pulpit of the First Baptist church last Sunday morning, and she repeated it from the pulpit of St. Paul's M. E. church in the evening.

"Until the Christian people of this city help the trades unions secure a Saturday half-holiday they have no right to object to Sunday sports and amusements."

When Miss McDowell made that statement she spoke from the experience of one who has studied the labor problem from the inside, and she looked straight at the great congregation that fronted her in the First Baptist church.

Miss McDowell was to have spoken at the Labor Day celebration in Lincoln, but the weather man interfered and the celebration was called off. But the committee in charge of the celebration had planned wisely, and Miss McDowell did speak in Lincoln, and to the very people that the committee most desired to reach—the churchgoers, the employers and the professional men. Sunday morning she spoke at the First Baptist church, talking for her subject, "A Human View of the Labor Problem," and for forty minutes she held the close attention of her hearers with her simple yet forcible plea for humanity. Miss McDowell indulges in no oratorical prolixities. She clothes her ideas in simple language, but what she says comes direct from a heart that beats in sympathy with the weak and the oppressed. She pointed out that the labor problem meant something more than mere hours and wages. It means more for the future of the republic than any other problem. Unless it is solved rightly it means that America is to become brutalized; that the American home life is to be lowered; that our republican institutions are to disappear before an aristocracy of wealth and leisure. She declared that the solution of this problem demanded more attention from real womanhood than did the affairs of the Daughters of the Revolution or the Colonial Dames.

In plain and simple language she detailed the conditions under which thousands of girls are working and living. She told of the hopeless struggle men and women are making against conditions not of their own choosing and she urged Christian men and women to arouse themselves to the necessity of assisting in correcting the evils. The fact that little children are being robbed of the playtime of youth and made old before their time by forced labor in mills and mines is an indictment of humanity of the American people. Men who are touched by the spectacle of individual suffering are indifferent to the suffering caused by a perverted industrial system. The hitching of steam to machinery has forced a huge problem upon the people, and the problem must be solved or the republic is doomed. A century ago the weaving and spinning and sewing was done in the home; today it is done in the great factories and women have followed the work from the home to the factory. Today six million women and girls are in the industrial world, earning their own living. What this means to the home life of the nation time alone will tell, but Miss McDowell believes that it must mean eventual good or God would not allow it to be.

Miss McDowell did not attempt play upon human sympathy; she contented herself with an appeal to justice and patriotism. She pleaded for justice to the children, for justice to the young women, for justice to the overworked and underpaid men. She asked that they be given such wages and conditions and hours that they could make homes for themselves and their families, educate their children and make provision for old age.

After Miss McDowell had concluded Rev. Mr. Batten gave hearty endorsement to what she had said. He went further in speaking of the railway situation and declared that every de-

mand of the men was based on justice and deserved to be granted.

Sunday evening St. Paul's church was almost filled when Miss McDowell was introduced by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Roach. "The Helpless in Industry," was her subject, and she spoke along similar lines to the address of the morning, making a plea for organization among workers and demanding that the Church of Jesus Christ awaken to its duty and its opportunity. "It's not easy to interest a starving man in religion," said Miss McDowell.

Although the weather did not permit Miss McDowell to deliver her Labor Day address, the subject of which was to have been "Woman in Industry," The Wageworker is permitted to give a synopsis of the address she had prepared. It is as follows.

"The last census tells us that there are 5,319,397 women in the gainful occupations in the United States. Over 3,000,000 are wage earners working in factories, shops and mercantile establishments. Between 1890 and 1900 their number increased more rapidly than the total number of men, or the total population gainfully employed. Forty-nine and three-tenths per cent were under twenty-five years of age. Fourteen and one-half per cent were married. Women are found in every occupation except the army, navy and railroading.

"These girls do the weaving, spinning, sewing and canning; they make shoes, except the soles; they are in the iron mills making screws and bolts for the railroads, horse shoes and horse nails, are core girls in the foundries, are buffers in the metal works, they make the machines—a dangerous industry—are in twine and wire mills, wind all our telephone wire and make electric light and telephone appliances. They work in the packing houses; they make kodak films working in utter darkness, working under red light for ten hours a day, and they work in breweries and tanneries. Girls of sixteen and eighteen years of

age are thrown out into the world of industry unprotected by the mother and unsheltered by the home. A revolutionary situation—what will be the result to the home and the future generation? In Chicago the protective league investigated three department stores on State street and arrested eleven men in the act of urging girls to go with them to questionable places. The coming of the foreign girls in groups to such neighborhoods as the stock yards causes another problem. The girls often room in crowded houses with unmarried men. This summer when trained nurses visited the sick babies back of the stock yards in a few blocks thirteen illegitimate babies were found, born to the ignorant girls in the yards. And most of them were supporting the babies as the man in the case had disappeared. This is the natural result of an industry that needs and bids only for cheap and unskilled labor that does not want or need intelligence and feels no responsibility for its thousands of workers. It can only result in a social condition that endangers the family and neighborhood life of a whole community.

### Wages Too Low.

"Thousands of girl clerks in the downtown districts of our great cities are working for a wage that no self-respecting girl can live on if she must provide her own board and lodging, her clothes and dress like a lady, her own recreation and keep it whole. The newspapers tell us of two good ladies who visited girls in a house of ill repute. They talked to the girls about their sinful lives and the girls responded: 'It is too late now; don't trouble about us, but go down and raise the wages of the girls that can't keep decent on what they get unless they live at home.' No one has made an investigation to show the ghastly business.

"In the large department stores in a great city so little are the girls protected that in two weeks fifteen men were arrested by one protective league officer for insulting girls in three department stores.

"The individual girl in industry is a temporary worker as well as a supplementary wage earner. She expects to marry, but she is in the world labor market to stay when she

is dragging down the standard of wages and the standard of living because she is unorganized and inexperienced and undisciplined and will take any wages given her.

### Girl in Railroad Shops.

"I saw a bright young Hungarian girl in Cleveland, O., feeding a giant machine making screws and bolts for the railroads and she was so graceful in every movement that the superintendent told me she had doubled the capacity of the machine, and turned out twice the product her father did who ran the machine before she took it. I asked about the difference in wages. 'Oh,' he said, 'we paid the father twice what we pay the girl.' During a discussion over the merit of giving cheap lunches to the girls employed in one factory, one of the head men explained that it was not charity, because they paid the girls so much less than the men who had to pay full prices for their lunches. A girl 16 years of age who received 7 cents an hour was asked how she lived on that amount and she responded with eternal feminine resignation, 'Why, I have to.' Another girl who received 75 cents a day in the sausage room of the packing house, said, 'It was pretty good for a girl,' yet that very girl had taken the place of a young man who had made \$1.75 a day.

"More and not less women will be self-supporting and whether we like it or not they are in the industrial world to stay. It is for those of us who care for the future generation to see to it that our coming mothers are earning their livelihood under conditions that are rebuilding and not degrading.

"We must protect the men's wages and the American standard of living by organizing the women so that they may be disciplined and not a hysterical element in the industrial struggle. They must be helpmates in industry, not competitors. They must have the ballot for their education in responsibility and because of the power it gives them to change their condition.

### Fall River Figures.

"William Hard, in his article on 'The Woman's Invasion,' says that twenty-one women out of every hundred are working. In twenty years 1,000,000 have been added to the ranks

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## Miss McDowell Talked Frankly to Star Reporter

The unionists of Lincoln and Havlock, and especially those connected with the Labor Day committee, are under obligations to the three daily papers of Lincoln—the Star, the News and the Journal—for their liberality in the matter of advertising the star attraction of the Labor Day celebration, Miss Mary McDowell of Chicago. All three of the papers gave all the space asked, and, indeed, asked for more than the committee could find time to prepare.

Sunday morning's Star contained the following interesting interview with Miss McDowell:

"If the employer without sympathy for the oppressed who work for him, and without kindness or charity for the men who have spent the best days of their life in his service, can be depicted to a people of the middle west where poverty is almost unknown and where no problem of the working people exists, Miss Mary McDowell, the 'angel of the stock yards,' and the head worker of the Chicago settlement society, can draw the picture.

"Miss McDowell arrived in Lincoln shortly after noon Saturday. She will give two lectures in this city Sunday and will speak at the Labor Day meeting at Capital Beach Monday. In the parlor of her hotel Saturday evening she discussed the conditions of the working girls in the Chicago packing house district. She paints a picture of the treatment accorded the girls by their employers that would put to shame many of the nauseating scenes depicted by Upton Sinclair. However, Miss McDowell is not an admirer of the author of 'The Jungle,' and she alleges that he exaggerated conditions of the packing house district when he told some of the tales which she says were the emanations of a feigned imagination.

"For twenty years Miss McDowell has worked among the working girls in the stock yards district of Chicago and she has an intimate acquaintance with the majority of the three thousand girls who work day after day in the sausage rooms and in the canning fac-

ories of the great packing houses. As a strong advocate of unionism Miss McDowell thinks that the conditions of the working classes in the packing plants as well as the other large factories, can only be alleviated by the close organization of the working people.

"The average wages paid to the girls in the stock yards, Miss McDowell says, is about \$5 a week. Out of this allowance they have to pay for their board as well as lodging and clothes. Nearly all of the girls who are in the packing houses are foreigners, many of whom are unable to speak the English language, and most of them living in the tenements without the protection of a home and without the guiding influence of parents. The most miserable conditions, Miss McDowell believes, are not in the packing plants but in the eating and sleeping quarters of the girls. Dozens of them are huddled together night after night in a single room, she declared, where there is little ventilation and where the air is made more acrid by the foul odors of the near-by fertilizer plants and glue factories.

"More than one man, said Miss McDowell has spent twenty or thirty years in the packing houses working for wages that were barely enough to keep poverty from snapping at his heels only to be refused a job and turned away from the labor gates when he had passed the years of usefulness. The places are then taken by younger men who are better able to do the arduous labor. In such cases it has often been necessary for the wives and mothers of these men to do menial labor to furnish bread for the family. There is no pension system, or even a system of protection in most of the houses. One of the packing plants has a mutual benefit society, but it has been a current rumor that even that, instead of being for the benefit of the men has been made a money producer for the owners of the plant.

"There are no labor unions in the Chicago packing plants. There were strong trades organizations previous to 1904, but the defeat of 'Mike' Donally and his 30,000 workers at that time was so thorough that unionism has not regained its feet. For years, Miss McDowell said, attempts have been made to organize the women, but the foreign girls are difficult to control, and even if the unions were formed they would be ineffective on account of the necessity for the girls working whether or not they might desire. The American girls, she says, do not work in the plants, but may be found in the uptown offices or in the factories where more money is paid. In many factories the American born women have formed strong unions which have been a means of getting higher wages and better working conditions, and Miss McDowell believes that the same condition will exist in the packing house district as soon as the foreign girls can be made to understand what they would gain by unionism.

"A great deal of good has been done in Chicago by the American Association of Labor Legislation. Miss McDowell said, in discussing the working hours of men in the packing plants. This organization has succeeded in securing a ten hour working day for women and it attempting to get the limit reduced to eight hours. This organization was formed in 1906 to serve as the American section of the International Association for Labor Legislation. The International Association was established at the Paris exposition in 1900, and the permanent bureau was opened in Basel, Switzerland, in 1901. This bureau, which is strictly scientific in character, has as its special function the examination of labor measures and the investigation of actual conditions underlying labor legislation. It is semi-private in character inasmuch as it is a voluntary organization composed of experts and officials as well as public-spirited citizens. It is, however, quasi-official as it receives subsidies from most civilized governments, including one from our own federal government. Strictly non-partisan in character, as well as scientific, it aids governments by its investigations conducted by men trained in economics. It has directed special attention to industrial poisons, night work of women and young persons, and uniformity of la-

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## SOME GENERAL NOTES FROM THE FIELD OF LABOR

Sicilian bakers have organized in New York City.

Over a hundred carpenters in Ft. Dodge, Ia., formed a union.

Brewers are organizing the weiss beer men in Milwaukee.

Laundry workers in Jackson, Mich., have received their charter.

The custom vest makers have organized a union in New York City.

The Chicago Tribune declares the new tariff law is about as popular as the earache.

"Inside" electrical workers have effected a good organization in Des Moines, Iowa.

Journeyman barbers in St. Paul, Minn., have been granted an increase of \$2 a week in wages.

The Cloakmakers' strike in Cleveland for an increase in wages of 10 per cent is proving successful.

The Garment Workers in San Francisco have decided to affiliate with the National Women's Trade Union League.

Kansas City, Mo., city council has passed an ordinance barring out the Barnum & Bailey circus from that city on Labor Day.

A settlement has been made between the Mississippi Valley Telephone company and the Electrical Workers' Union in Keokuk, Iowa.

What the union does: A little contrast down in Florida—Organized machinists get \$3.50 for eight hours; unorganized get \$2.50 for nine hours.

The straw hat workers have entered into the industrial field, and, like all progressive unions, have adopted a union label to designate their product.

All of the tents used by Cole Bros., circus were made by union workmen. Each tent bears the stamp of A. F. of L. Tent Makers' Union, No. 1257 of Chicago.

The Dallas, Texas, strike or lockout—in reality a lockout—is settled and settled in the interest of the union plumbers. It lasted a little more than a week.

The Hatters' fight is still on—don't be misled in this matter. To be sure you are on the right side insist on the Hatters' label when buying a hat.

The entire force of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company in East Pittsburg, Pa., have been placed on full time. About 2,000 men are affected.

The journeymen tailors at their convention in Buffalo passed resolutions declaring for government ownership and democratic management of the means of production, and distribution.

An increase of 50 cents per day was won by 120 marble workers in Cleveland through a strike which began July 1 and ended Saturday. Setters will receive \$5 and helpers \$2 per day.

The strike of the carpenters in Fargo, N. D., has been settled and building operations have been resumed. The contractors agreed to concede the nine-hour day and time and a half rates for overtime.

The Barbers' International Union at its convention in Milwaukee next October, will discuss the founding of a home for old and disabled members after printers' pattern at Colorado Springs.

At St. Paul, Minn., the letter carriers—who will be holding their national convention in that city—have been invited to march and the Labor Day committee hope to have a detachment of the fire department in line.

A plan was advocated in the meetings of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Grand International Auxiliary in Savannah, Ga., to let the annual gatherings rotate among four Georgia cities—Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta and Macon. This would bring them together permanently in Georgia.

### RAYMOND ROBINS BACK EAST.

Raymond Robins has been stirring up the animals in the east. He is now in the big industrial storm centers, and he is carrying hope and cheer to the toilers. The union-hating corporation tools have ordered him out of town, but he laughed in their faces. They told him he should not make public speeches, but he made them. And every time he spoke he put another nail in the coffin of oppression. He arranged to speak at Appollo, W. Va., and the newspapers refused to announce the meeting, although offered treble their regular ad-

vertising rates. Not a job printer in the town would print handbills. Not a hall could be secured. But the Wheeling unionists went over by the score and advertised the meeting by word of mouth. They hired a vacant lot, and Raymond Robins addressed 3,000 toilers, unorganized and hopeless, and left them organized and full of determination to stand up for their rights. The day God made Raymond Robins He laid off when He had finished and called it a good day's work. Would He would get busy and make another one for each industrial center in this great republic.

### THANK YOU, KIND SIR!

W. M. Maupin, editor and publisher of the Wageworker of Lincoln, Neb., who was recently appointed labor commissioner of Nebraska, has also been elected president of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor. We wish Brother Maupin all kinds of success and from reading his paper we know that he is capable of filling any place that may be imposed upon him, and especially when it comes to anything connected with the labor cause. The Times extends a hand of congratulation to Brother Will, and may he live to do much good in his new fields of labor.—Council Bluffs Times.

### SOME LABOR DAY MOTTOES.

All laws are subordinate to the Law of Equivalents.

Nothing short of absolute freedom will make us contented.

The workers' motto: "Come up higher."

We are all creators, and mould our own destiny.

We have a perfect right to change our minds—also our votes.

The master is as much in bondage to the slave as the slave to the master.

We respect only the Laws of God and those that represent the will of the people.

Laws affect only the weak. The strong overcome them.

The injunction judge heels not the injunction, "Judge not, lest ye be judged."

No man can be absolutely free as long as there is one in bondage.—George Tyler, Machinists' Union No. 720, Toledo, Ohio.