

IT WAS HIS FAULT

"I shall never set foot in Blankington's store again," declared Mrs. Wedderburn in such a tone of fierce determination that Wedderburn looked up from his evening paper in surprise.

"I was actually insulted there, Harry," she went on. "I had intended to ask you to start an account at Blankington's, but after the treatment I received there to-day I shall certainly not patronize that firm any more."

"I don't believe we need any more charge accounts," said Wedderburn, easily. "But I'm surprised that you should have met with any discourtesy at Blankington's. What happened, anyway?"

"Well, when I went down town this morning I thought I'd just take a five-dollar bill with me. I knew that would be plenty for the few little purchases I intended making and for Beulah Russell's and my luncheon. I telephoned Beulah to meet me at Blankington's and lunch with me and, do you know, she simply insisted on paying the bill. She said it was her turn, and all that sort of things, so, of course, I had to let her pay."

"I was kind of glad afterward, for I saw a splendid sale of lingerie blouses for only two dollars apiece, and it was nice to know I had plenty of money in my pocket to buy one and the other things I wanted, too."

"I selected a perfect beauty and I knew you'd be awfully pleased with it, because it buttoned in front, Harry. I told the saleswoman to send it and then we looked around at all the other waists and I didn't see any I liked better than mine, and, after quite awhile, I went to the girl who had waited on me and asked her if my change hadn't come yet."

"Change!" she repeated. "There isn't any change. You gave me the right amount—a two-dollar bill."

"I couldn't have done that," I said, "for I didn't have a two-dollar bill with me. I had just one five-dollar bill."

"She called the manager of the department and we both told him of the error. I was careful not to say anything critical about the saleswoman's carelessness, for I know everybody is liable to make mistakes. The manager went down to the cashier and, after I had waited until I was getting tired, he came back and said there had been no five-dollar bill paid into that department for some time before I had bought my waist."

"Then you doubt my word?" I said. "No, madam," he replied, "but it is possible that you paid a two-dollar bill without noticing it."

"How could I, I asked, when I had only a five-dollar bill with me?"

"Are you quite sure that you had no two-dollar bill?" he returned.

"Don't you think, Harry, it was impertinent of him to question me in that way? Beulah was incensed at his rudeness, I can tell you."

"I certainly am positive," I replied, "for I remember thinking this morning that I'd take a five-dollar bill for my day's expenses, and as I had but one bill in my purse, that must have been it, for I haven't even seen a two-dollar bill for a long time. And, I went on, very firmly, 'I wish you would refund my three dollars at once.'"

"That's just what we can't do, madam," he declared, "but if our cash balance to-night should show that we owe you three dollars we'll send it to you to-morrow."

"To-morrow!" I repeated, scornfully. "In the meantime I am left without a cent of money in my purse and am practically accused of trying to cheat Blankington's out of three dollars, when the shoe is really on the other foot."

"Then I demanded back the money I had spent on the blouse, for I knew after all that fuss I should never take any pleasure in it. As I told you at first, Harry, I've decided never to go into that store again."

"Have you looked for the five-dollar bill since you came home?" Wedderburn asked, stretching an arm toward his wife's desk.

"No; why should I, when I know I took it with me this morning?" Wedderburn did not argue the question, but quietly pulled out the little drawer of the desk. There lay a crisp, green bill.

"Why, I couldn't have taken it out, after all!" exclaimed Mrs. Wedderburn. "But where did I ever get that two-dollar bill? I can't understand it at all."

"This morning I took a look into your purse, my dear, and, as it was empty, I put in the two-dollar bill, which was all I happened to have with me."

"Oh, Harry, why didn't you tell me? Just see all the trouble you have made for me! And that was such a beautiful blouse for the money at Blankington's! And now I shall be ashamed to go there and buy it again!"

The Wrong Kind.

"Maybe had a terrible fit yesterday."

"Goodness gracious! What caused it?"

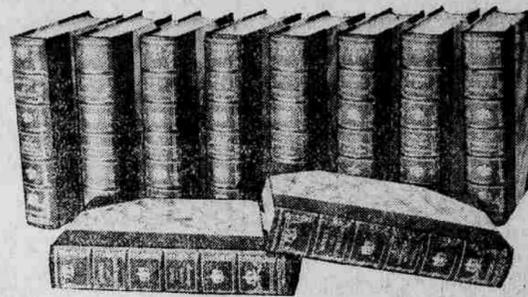
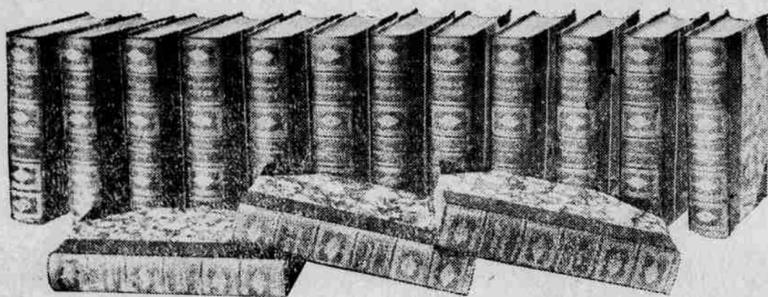
"Her dressmaker. Who else do you suppose?"

An Ancient Metal.

The use of iron has been traced back to the ninth century B. C., at which period the Egyptians made weapons from meteorites.

Metal shavings and concrete constitute a new paving material.

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FEDERAL UNION 12916

Federal Union No. 12916 is now equipped for business and is doing it. George Bush is president and R. Quarles secretary. The meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Labor Temple.

The membership at the last meeting was 36, and several applications are on file. At the next meeting the constitution and by-laws of the local will be ready for discussion, amendment and adoption, and then the full machinery of the local will be in ac-

tion. By that time, too, the application blanks for membership will have been received from headquarters, and then the thirty-six members will get busy and shove the membership up to or past the 100 mark. The membership is now confined almost wholly to building laborers, but it is the intention to branch out and include laborers in other lines, particularly men employed by the municipality. The new organization is full of ginger and expects to accomplish tangible results.

GENERAL MENTION.

Brief Bits of Labor News Picked and Pilfered From Manywhere.

Painters have formed a union in Salem, Ohio.

Philadelphia Typographical Union will be 60 years old April 4.

Job printers in Toledo have been granted \$18 per week.

Toledo printing pressmen have secured substantial wage increases.

Sheet metal workers in Jackson have made application for a charter.

Theatrical stage employes in Joplin, Mo., have secured a charter.

Inside men in the packing industry in Ft. Wayne, Ind., have organized.

Ninety per cent of the competent bakers have organized a union in Oklahoma City, Okla.

A local of glass workers, with a membership of 30, has been organized in Lansing.

Cleveland city council passed a resolution ordering that city printing be awarded to union houses.

The claim is made that the average pay of shoe workers in St. Louis, Mo., is less than \$6 a week.

Preliminary returns show that the Western Federation of Miners will soon be a part of the A. F. of L.

New York state branch of the Amalgamated Association of Meat cutters and butchers gained 14,000 members last year.

Plumbers in San Antonio, Texas, have secured the closed shop and a recognition of the apprentice law.

Every employe of the city of Pittsburgh will get a raise in salary, the council finance committee approving the readjustment.

Plumbers in Alliance, Ohio, have decided to ask for a minimum wage of \$4 for an eight-hour day, to take effect April 1.

The culinary crafts in San Francisco are jubilant over the way Japanese are being replaced by white labor.

Employes of Oakland, Cal., shoe factories have organized a union and will try to improve working conditions.

Pensions are to be granted the school teachers of Boston. The rate is to be one-third of the salary at the time of retirement. The age limit is 65 years.

The Colorado Industrial Review reports that Pueblo organized colored building laborers are receiving \$3 to \$3.25 a day, while their white unorganized brothers are paid from \$1.75 to \$2.

Governor Deneen of Illinois has appointed six employers of labor and six representatives of workmen to draft an employers' liability law and submit to him by September 1 of this year.

Five hundred more stone workers at Bedford, Ind., go out and thus tie up Hoosier quarries. Several hundred men went out several months ago when the companies tried to enforce a drastic wage cut.

Non-union drillmen at the plant of the Buda Foundry and Manufacturing company at Harvey, Ill., struck for an increase of 2½ cents per hour. They were receiving 18 to 15 cents.

John F. Worley, one of the largest printing office owners of Dallas, Texas, signed a contract with the Typographical Union. The poor old "Teapot" is now only a shadow.

New York board of education defeated a resolution calling for equal pay for men and women teachers in the public schools. Three of the four women members of the board voted against equal pay.

American Type Founders company will hereafter send out only union men to set up printing machinery. The company's employes are members of the Machinists' union and are enjoying an eight-hour day.

The National Model License league, which advocates the licensed saloon as against prohibition, has "come across" with its printing and hereafter all its products will, by order of the executive board, be given to union shops, so that the union label can be placed on all the work done for the league.

603 STRIKES IN 1909.

Reports Made to the American Federation of Labor.

The latest report of the American Federation of Labor shows that during the year 1909 statements were received from sixty-eight international organizations showing that in the

twelve months there were 603 strikes, involving 87,031 members. Of this number 53,971 members were benefited and 9,432 were not. The associations involved in these strikes contributed \$1,862,836.03 to maintain them. In addition there was contributed by locals for the support of other locals on strike, irrespective of trade affiliation, the sum of \$305,440.91, making \$2,068,276.94 expended during the year to sustain members on strike. Three hundred and forty-one of these strikes were won, fifty-seven were compromised and one hundred and four lost. At the close of the year there were still sixty-four strikes pending.

WON BY ORGANIZED LABOR.

Herbert N. Casson wields a powerful pen. In his "Organized Self-Help," he says:

"The high rate of wages in this country, compared with Europe and Asia, is not accidental. It is not due to the greater benevolence on the part of American capitalists. It is not due to the fact that this is a new country; the Canadian province of Quebec is a new country, yet the wages are lower there than in England. It is due to the seventy-five years' fight against low wages made by organized labor."

This country was not a workingman's paradise when it was first settled. Every inch of progress for the laborer has had to be fought for.

"When America was a British colony the workingman had no more rights than a horse. A law was passed in 1633 enacting that all 'master workmen' should be paid not more than two shillings (48 cents) a day, or 82 cents a day and board. This was the maximum rate. There was no law to prevent the employer from paying less. Any worker who demanded more than these rates was fined. The wage-worker who tried to raise the market price of his labor was regarded as an anarchist and a criminal and dragged before the nearest judge."

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