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## AIMS TO AID WORKERS

Plan of Operations of the English Labor Exchanges.

### SEND MEN WHERE NEEDED.

Main Idea is to Bring Together the Labor Supply and the Demand. Fares Paid to Distant Points—Rules For Applicants.

Nothing has occurred in the British industrial world in recent years which has attracted more attention than the inauguration of the government labor exchanges through an act of parliament passed last year, which has been very generally approved. The royal commission on the poor laws recommended unanimously the establishment of these exchanges. They are not designed to furnish temporary aid to the unemployed, but to direct labor where it is needed. The central idea is that the information of "wants" and "wanted" shall be periodically sent from branches to central offices and thence transmitted to other localities. When necessary advances will be made to pay fares of unemployed persons to points where their labor is needed, such advances to be refunded from wages.

On the opening day, Feb. 1, nearly eighty exchanges were in operation, and thousands of applications for work were received. These represented all classes of labor and did not seem to come to any considerable extent from the shiftless and incompetent. Employers also made use of the exchanges.

The registration of applicants for employment is to hold good for seven days from the date of registration. The officer in charge is to undertake no responsibility with regard to wages or other conditions beyond supplying any information in his possession as to the rate of wages desired or offered. Copies or summaries of any agreements mutually arranged between associations of employers and workmen for the regulation of wages or other conditions of labor in any trade may, with the consent of the various parties to such agreements, be filed at a labor exchange, and any published rules made by public authorities with regard to like matters may also be filed. Documents so filed are to be open to inspection on application. No person is to suffer any disqualification or be otherwise prejudiced on account of refusing to accept employment found for him through a labor exchange where the ground of refusal is that a trade dispute which affects his trade exists or that the wages offered are lower than those current in the trade in the district where employment is found.

When an applicant for employment has been engaged through a labor exchange at which he is registered to take up employment at any place removed from the exchange or from his ordinary residence by more than five miles by the quickest route or by such other distance as the board of trade may direct from time to time, either generally or as regards any specified district, the officer in charge may at his discretion make an advance to the applicant toward meeting the expenses of traveling to the place of employment. The advance may be made at the request either of the employer or of the applicant. The person at whose request the advance is made must give such undertaking with respect to the repayment of the advance as the board of trade with the consent of the treasury may from time to time prescribe, either generally or as regards any specified district or class of applicants. In making advances care is to be taken to avoid unduly encouraging rural laborers to migrate from the country to the towns or between Great Britain and Ireland. The advance is not to exceed the amount required to defray the applicant's fare to the place of employment and is to be made by the provision of a ticket or pass or in exceptional cases in cash. The question of strikes and lockouts was given very careful consideration by the framers of the general regulations, and the following rules have been adopted governing this matter:

Any association of employers or workmen may file at a labor exchange a statement with regard to the existence of a strike or lockout affecting their trade in the district. Any such statement shall be signed by a person authorized by the association for the purpose. Such statement shall only be in force for seven days from the date of filing, but may be renewed within that period for a like period, and so on from time to time. If any employer who appears to be affected by a statement so filed notifies to a labor exchange a vacancy or vacancies for workmen of the class affected, the officer in charge shall inform him of the statement that has been filed and give him an opportunity of making a written statement thereon. The officer in charge, in notifying any such vacancies to any applicant for employment, shall also inform him of the statements that have been filed. All of the expense is borne by the government, a special appropriation being set aside for the purpose.

### State to Have Real Printer.

Oklahoma printers are jubilant over the new state printer bill passed at the present session of the legislature. This act provides for the election of the state printer and requires candidates to have at least eight years' experience as a journeyman printer, and the term "journeyman printer" is defined as a printer who has served an apprenticeship of at least four years.

## LUNCH AT THE FACTORY.

How the Silk Mill Girls Partake of Their Midday Meal.

I have implied that the eating of the midday meal is a very haphazard operation. Only in the rarest cases is a separate lunch room provided. In a study of thirty-two factories in a single industry we found just two that did so. The dinner "hour" is almost universally a half hour, so that only the few girls who live practically at the factory door are enabled to go home. Those who are left have at their disposal within the mill a seat on the oily floor or on a bobbin tray in a room which often reeks of ill smelling raw material. In the summer it is possible to go out of doors, and where the location of the factory makes it practicable this is the general rule. But sometimes this wholesome alternative is not offered.

I recall one factory situated on a bed of fine coal dust between two railroad tracks. The sole choice lay between a seat on the coal heap in the blaze of the sun or on the oily floor of the mill in an atmosphere where the noise of the machinery gave no possibility of rest. Some of my most vivid and painful recollections of the noon hour call up pictures of weary figures crouched on a heap of spools, their heads sunk between their hands as if to shut out the clatter of the machinery—on account of the short lunch period some factories keep their machinery in motion instead of shutting it down—their shoeless feet on a floor strewn with the remains of their own and other luncheons.—Florence Sanville, Secretary Pennsylvania Consumers' League, in Harper's.

## HELP THE HATTERS.

Every Union Workman Should Wear a Label in His Hat.

Nothing in the whole history of organized labor has been more striking, spectacular or manly than the heroic struggle of the union hatters of the country for elementary rights against frightful odds. That the organization of this craft has been able to maintain itself and keep on presenting an undaunted front to its assailants is really wonderful. And now it is winning new triumphs, which is also a remarkable thing. Recently it gained three big factories in Philadelphia.

It is the duty of every union workman to help the hatters all he can, and one way in which he can be of service to the heroic and struggling union is by demanding the union label in every hat he buys and getting his friends to do the same. This will not cost him much exertion, and it will be of substantial benefit to an organization that has suffered much and is entitled to all credit for the manner in which it has met the issues involved without quailing in the presence of its foes or surrendering anything of its manhood. The Philadelphia houses which have returned to union conditions complain bitterly of the manner in which they were treated by the Manufacturers' association and declare they have had enough of fighting the unions.—Minneapolis Union Advocate.

### British Laborers Warned.

Courtenay W. Bennett, British consul general at New York, in his annual report to the British government cautions emigrants against assuming that New York is an Eldorado for the workingman. "It is not," he says. "The expenses of living are so high and so constantly rising that a man in regular work in the United Kingdom at lower wages is as well off as better off than his fellow workmen in New York at the higher wages here, while if out of work he is better off at home. It is estimated that to live in decency here a man with a wife and two children must spend just \$1,000 a year."

### For Better Living Conditions.

Boston Central Labor union delegates have endorsed the principle of old age pensions, called for a more adequate and effective inspection of the factories and workshops of the state and favored the calling of a state convention of representatives of all the central labor unions in the state for the purpose of discussing the best means of bettering the health conditions in the homes and workshops.

## LABOR BRIEFS.

New York ministers are aiding letter carriers in their crusade for a national law assuring one day of rest in seven for all mail men.

Unionists of Nova Scotia are going to attempt to secure the enactment of a law compelling employers to recognize and treat with organized labor.

The sheet metal workers of Toledo, O., are revising their constitution, making it compulsory to attend a night school maintained by the union. The members are striving to increase their efficiency.

Four hundred and fifty thousand wage earners in Greater New York are receiving wages smaller than \$800 a year, the "minimum of decency" fixed by the annual report of the committee on congestion of population.

The Boston, Revere Beach and Lynn railroad recently announced a 5 per cent wage increase for every employee to date from March 31. It is the third increase voluntarily granted by the road since 1903. The total wage increases since that time average about 20 per cent.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, the second largest international union in the country, has sent a letter to its various locals announcing that the twenty-ninth anniversary of its institution will occur in August. The letter announces that each local is expected to observe the event.

## A Surgeon's Story

He Saw the First Part of a Drama and Was an Actor in the Second Part.

By BEVERLY WORTHINGTON.

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I am a surgeon, and my home is in Florence, Italy. When a young man I studied at a college of physicians and surgeons in my native country, America, but, possessing a taste for art, concluded to change my profession. Coming here to Florence, I studied art for awhile, but soon saw that I did not possess the talent necessary to make an artist. Having fallen in love with this delightful city, I remained, hanging out my shingle as a surgeon.

One night I attended a ball at the Pitti palace. It was my first appearance among the aristocracy of Florence, and I was much interested in watching the people there, few of whom I had ever seen. A young girl with a gentleman attendant on each side of her walked by me. The appearance of the three told a story. The man on her left was young, handsome, in every way attractive. He on her right was past middle age and disagreeable looking as the other was engaging. As they passed me he gave the younger man a malignant look. The girl appeared to be much troubled. It was plain that her heart was with the man on her left, that she was constrained to choose the man on her right and that the two men hated each other on her account.

"Everywhere," I remarked to myself, "the stream of life is troubled. To be rich, to be prominent, does not render one immune from that which is disagreeable. Happy love has evidently come to this young girl, to be interfered with by one who, judging from her expression, has some claim upon her. How I should like to know the story!"

As I thought the last words I little dreamed that within a few hours a climax would come in the drama being enacted by these three persons and that I would come upon the stage for a minor part. When I left the palace I went directly to my rooms and to bed. An hour later I was awakened from a sound sleep by a violent knocking. I arose, slipped on a gown and opened the door. Two gentlemen in evening dress stepped into the room.

"You are the American surgeon, I believe?" said one.

"At your service," I replied. "You are wanted to attend a man dangerously wounded," said the other. "You are chosen partly on account of your standing in your profession, but principally because you are not one of our circle. We do not like our affairs to be known. I must ask you to permit me to blindfold you."

I objected to this, but one of the men put his hand to his hip pocket and drew forth a small pistol with mother-of-pearl mountings, while the other produced a stiletto. I picked up my bag of instruments and suffered them to tie a handkerchief about my eyes. They led me out to the sidewalk, told me to raise my foot, and I stepped into a carriage.

"Drive a roundabout way," I heard one of the gentlemen say.

"No," interposed the other. "He may bleed to death. We must go as quickly as possible."

There was no need to make turns, for I had no idea where they were taking me. In what I supposed to be ten minutes the carriage stopped. I was helped out and soon by the increased warmth of the air felt myself to be in a building. Then I mounted steps, and at last the bandage was taken off my eyes. I was standing beside a bed on which lay—miraculously—the young man I had seen walking on the left of the girl at the Pitti.

I knew too well the danger of showing any sign of recognition.

"Senore Dottori," he said with a feeble voice, "I have been stabbed on the left side—here," uncovering. "It is near the heart."

It was near the heart, but had fortunately just escaped that organ. After an examination I assured the patient that if he kept perfectly quiet till the wound should heal he would recover. But I thought that, considering its close proximity to a vital organ, a surgeon should remain with him until a healing should be established.

"Then," said one of the men who had brought me, "you must remain. We do not care that two surgeons should be introduced here just now."

"But my practice—my patients?"

"All damages to your practice shall be liberally paid for."

I made a virtue of necessity and assented. Meanwhile I had bandaged the cut and when I had finished turned and looked about me. I was in one of those old palaces, as they are called in Florence, belonging to some influential family. The furniture, at least some of it, must have been several hundred years old. The bed on which the wounded man lay was canopied. On the walls were paintings, some of which I recognized as masterpieces of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. There was no one in the room except the two men who brought me and the patient. I directed that a large lounge of antique pattern should be made comfortable for me to sleep on, as it would be best for me to be very near the patient. Then the men who had

brought me left, one of them first saying to me:

"Senore Dottori, we are very glad to hear you say that the patient has so good a chance for his life. When you leave here be discreet and all will be well with you, but if you talk—well, all I have to say is you will not talk very long."

I remained a week at the palace, the name of which I did not know. Indeed, I was not permitted to leave the room of the patient, my meals all being served there. My mail was brought me, and it was amusing for the first day or two to read the messages of my patients with reference to my sudden disappearance. Then I asked those who had kidnapped me to leave word at my apartments that I had been called to Siena on a very important case. This had the effect to quiet those who sought me.

My patient turned out to be as engaging a man as I had deemed him to be when he passed me in the Pitti palace.

"Your effort," I said to him one day, "to keep your drama—it came very near being a tragedy—from me would possibly have been successful had it not been that I was at the ball at the Pitti palace the night you were stabbed. I saw you pass me with the man who stabbed you and the lady for whom you were stabbed. So you see it would be safer for you to tell me the story, since I have a part of it, and I am obliging myself to secrecy, rather than to permit me to go away with what I already have unpledged."

He was not only very much astonished, but saw the reasonableness of what I said.

"I did not notice you," he replied, "at the ball and supposed that you had no position in court society. An Italian surgeon would have been unavailable for us. We are all so interlarded socially, those below constantly watching those above and all watching one another, that we dare not trust any one of our own number. You, as an American, are not mixed in our jealousies, our disputes, our—"

"Assassinations,"

"You are wrong there. There are no assassinations in modern Italy. I fought with the Duke—But I will tell you the story and have every confidence that you will not reveal it."

"I am Count Baradini, and my ancestors have lived in this palace since the twelfth century. The man you saw on the other side of the senator at the ball was the Duke of Abolino, a relative of the king. The senator herself is the daughter of the Countess Francocco, an old family that sprang up under the influence of Lorenzo de' Medici, commonly called Lorenzo the Magnificent. Senatorina Bianca Francocco and myself have been lovers ever since I was sixteen and she fourteen years old. Upon her entrance into society lately on her eighteenth birthday the duke saw her and became desirous of possessing her. He is a widower, very rich and has great influence with the king. Soon after seeing Senatorina Bianca he made a formal application for her hand. Her mother—her father is dead—urged her to accept what is to be considered in a worldly point of view a better position than I could give her. To be a duchess and rich is higher in the worldly scale than to be a countess and with no possessions except this old palace. As for Bianca, her heart is all mine, as mine is hers, and if left to her own will she would refuse the duke to marry me. Indeed, rather than wed with him she declares she will go into a convent."

"The duke was expecting to have his own way in the matter when at the recent ball at the Pitti he discovered that I was his rival. I was with Senatorina Bianca a few minutes before we passed you, when the duke joined her and by a look bade me give way to him. I asked the lady to go with me into another apartment. She assented, whereupon the duke went with us. On reaching the other room Bianca showed the duke so plainly that his presence was not desirable that he left us, giving me a malignant look as he did so that plainly meant 'I am a man of much importance to be interfered with by such as you.'

"On leaving the palace the duke, who took occasion to go out at the same time as I, jostled me. Seeing that I must have it out with him, I sent him a challenge."

"Just at present the king would be furious if he knew that members of the nobility to whom he looks for support, especially his relative, had fought a duel. If I were known to have sent a challenge to the Duke of Abolino I should in some way be made to suffer. I met him within an hour after we left the Pitti; but, realizing my position, I did not dare even pink him. He came very near killing me, as you see, and I doubt not will be disappointed if I recover."

"The duke and my second joined in reference as to how to keep the matter secret and decided to call upon you to attend me."

"There you have the story so far as it has been enacted."

The balance of the tale I learned from Count Baradini after he had recovered. Senatorina Bianca was commanded by her mother to marry the duke, and the king sent a message to say that he would be pleased at a match between her and his well beloved cousin. Despite these commands and requests the girl flatly refused to marry any one but the man she loved, and when those who were conspiring against her found it impossible to move her they desisted, and finally her mother gave a reluctant consent that she should marry the count.

When the wedding came off I was present and had a pleasant chat with the bride about her husband's wounding, of which she had been kept in ignorance till the affair had blown over.

## FAMOUS AGITATORS.

They Have Risen Up Wherever Tyranny Reigned.

### LEADERS OF ALL PROGRESS.

To the Men Who Were Not Afraid to Do What They Knew to Be Right the World Owes All the Advance It Has Made.

The word "agitator" is a favorite one with corporation officials. In the corporate view it includes any one who has the courage to stand up and express his convictions and opinions concerning abuses that exist in the service. But this blind antagonism is not altogether confined to corporations.

There are some people who are bitterly opposed to agitators and who, if they could only have their own way, would eternally silence them by process of law, and some of these people are good people, too, and call themselves Christians, though how a real downright, honest, conscientious Christian can take such a position we utterly fail to understand. The agitator is to society what a stream of pure spring water is to a pool—stop the flow and the pool stagnates, becomes covered with scum and throws off its deadly malaria on the surrounding air. It is the agitator that keeps society from stagnating and imparts life to the community in which he moves.

The agitator holds an honored place in history—in fact, the most honored. Moses was an agitator. He dared to stand out and agitate for better conditions for the children of Israel, and he had to flee from Egypt for his life because he protested against the bondage of his people. Elijah was an agitator who protested against the wickedness of Ahab and a corrupt court, and he had to flee into the wilderness to escape the vengeance of the king.

Jeremiah in his day was a notorious agitator. He was what the modern capitalistic apologist would call a calamity howler. And agitator could be placed opposite the name of nearly every old time prophet.

Jesus Christ was the greatest of all agitators. He came propounding a doctrine that would literally turn the whole world right side up, and he was hounded to the death and crucified because he taught the doctrine of human brotherhood and the application of the Golden Rule.

Paul was a mighty agitator, and he had for company the brotherhood of the apostles.

Garrison was an agitator when he protested against human slavery, and he was rotten egged and had many narrow escapes for his life.

The reader of history is aware that wherever tyranny has reigned, wherever right has risen up to overthrow the wrong, the agitator has always first got in his work. It is the agitator that always leads and swings aloft the hammer of the truth. The agitator is the man who is not content with things as they are, but desires to improve them. He is the man who believes in progress and longs for better things and higher ideals. It is no wonder that wrongdoers in high places, that corrupt corporations and unprincipled politicians, decay and misrepresent the agitator. They know what his work means, and if the people were wise denunciations from such a source should be the best certificate of character.

To the people who have such a holy and unreasonable dread of the agitator we might remark that there is one country where there are no agitators, and that country is China. China is the stagnant pool where all is calm repose and where no turbulent life-giving stream disturbs and agitates the never changing surface. What China is Christendom would be but for the agitator who dares to speak out and protest against unjust conditions.

Thank God, reader, that you live in a land where the agitator is a possibility. Do not forget that agitation is an unending indication of life. Where there is no agitation there is death.

### Strikers True Soldiers of the Cross.

Rev. Dr. George Chalmers Richmond, pastor of St. John's Protestant Episcopal church, Philadelphia, in a recent sermon on "The Crucifixion in Modern Life" declared there has been a continuous crucifixion going on and that the prosperity of the nation has seriously declined. Referring to the trolley strike, Dr. Richmond said:

"These men who represent large financial interests should assume a greater degree of responsibility for the settlement of our difficulties than they have so far shown. They seem to fear getting down on the level with hard handed workmen. The present strike shows the absolute need for a practical brotherhood."

"How nobly have our strikers displayed their devotion to Christ's cause! They are true missionaries of the cross, and I hail them as worthy to stand before any band of eastern crusaders who tried in ages past to save the sacred tomb. They seek to rescue suffering humanity from the curse of greed, selfishness, evil mindedness and vulgar human ideals."

### Industrial Insurance.

The Wisconsin Industrial insurance committee has made good progress in its investigation of the cost of accidents and now has under consideration the first draft of a bill which prior to a new series of public hearings to be held in April will be sent to manufacturers and to labor organizations throughout the state.