

OFFICE BOY'S OBSERVATIONS

W'ot puzzles me is how girls can believe all them fussy fixin's on their heads is foolin' us fellers or makes them look purtier to us. Every time I see some woman nussin' a pup instead uv a baby I feel darned glad f'r th' baby.

If I don't give up my seat t' th' shoppers it's not because I ain't polite it's because I'm too darned tired after workin' all day t' make it possible f'r them same women t' shop.

A lot o' women w'ot celebrate th' birth o' th' Christmas baby a couple o' thousand years ago are too finickey t' have any babies o' their own.

I don't know mutch, but I know enuff t' buy my goil Christmas presents on th' installment plan.

Givin' gobs o' money t' charity on Christmas ain't no sign of th' real Christmas spirit.

If dem philanthroffists will help make it easier f'r me t' take care o' my mortal body I'll try an' take care o' my immortal soul. It's mighty hard t' make me take a intrust in th' hereafter while I've got t' hustle so like thunder t' git me eats now.

I guess dat if de boss can worry after workin' hours about gittin' me pay envelope ready I can afford t' hustle purty hard f'r de eight hours.

I ain't no wise guy, but it don't strain me eyesight t' see dat de politicians w'ot took such a intrust in us woikin'men a month ago ain't worryin' a bit about us now.

Just as soon as I finish me time an' git me card I'm goin' t' say a few woids t' de foreman. But before I begin I'm goin' t' see dat de front dcor is wide open.

SHORT ARM JABS

Chief Malone's class in city ordinances seems to be sloughing on him.

Doubtless Addison Wait is quite anxious that no one stir up the democratic Pool.

Augustine A. Hyers—beg pardon, "Gus" Hyers,—is being boosted for sheriff by a lot of his republican friends—and friends who are not republicans. If "Gus" gets into the primary race he is apt to make the man who beats him go some.

The Nebraska State Federation of Labor meets in Havelock about the time the legislature meets in Lincoln. We'd like to have the two bodies compared as to intelligence looks and value to the state and we speak as a union man, not as a politician.

Any change in Lincoln's form of government must be for the better. But Lincoln citizens are not going to stand for any attempt at foisting any fourteen-councilmen-at-large scheme on them in the name of "improvement!"

The label of the Allied Printing Trades on the printing of a merchant is an invitation to union men—always well paid mechanics—to trade with them. Its absence is semi-notice that the trade of union men is not appreciated.

The thoughtful woman on Christmas shopping bent will start home from the stores before the mechanics leave their work. The mechanics have some rights, and one of them is the right to a seat in the cars after a hard day's work.

By the census figures Nebraska gained 11 per cent in population during the last decade. In reality Nebraska gained about 20 per cent, but a padded census ten years ago prevented the facts from being known. At any rate, Nebraska's 11 per cent gain means a lot more desirable lot of new citizens than New York received with her 25 or 30 per cent gain. We'd rather boast of a high order of citizenship than of more numbers o' citizens.

HARD ON WORKERS

Toil of Slaves Used to Drive Out American Free Labor.

STATE'S SIMPLE METHOD.

Minnesota Employs Convicts to Manufacture Binder Twine That Under-sells the Product of Free Workers. Family Rights Ignored.

We are unable to join in the enthusiasm manifested by the governing powers of the state of Minnesota over their "successful" methods of putting the price of binder twine down to 3 cents below the level at which "the trust" is able to sell it. Nor can we hurrah very heartily over the fact that by the same method the state will regulate the market rates of agricultural implements in the coming year.

The state's method is simple—so simple that the morality of it seems to have evaded the attention of its legislative, judicial and executive departments and of its citizens in general. It is the good old plan of reducing a workingman to slavery and taking from him by force all of the product of his labor except a bare subsistence. Success in this plan blinded many a generation of slaveholders, and the success of Minnesota is undoubted, for she made a profit of \$189.69 last year out of every slave in her twine works, and with her new agricultural implement works also operated by the same sort of slave labor her total profits from this source are expected in future to average \$300,000 a year. All goes into the state treasury.

Apart from our objection to slave labor, the feature of the plan which results in barring the trust made binder twine out of Minnesota brings up in our bosom certain disturbing sensations. There are many good trade union people working for "trusts" in this country, if by the word "trust" is to be meant any industry conducted on a large scale. The railroads are an example. Actually we prefer to see railroad men in their present condition rather than in slavery.

The binder twine trust employed free labor to make the goods it formerly sold in Minnesota. Each slave who is now handing over to the state \$189.69 annually has been substituted for a freeman, whose wages must have been approximately the same as those prevailing in similar grades of work in the United States, and on the whole, after some extended observation, we believe that the general American rate of wages is still somewhat more than sufficient to maintain our workingmen above the slave level. We shall be reckless right here and now and say, however much the trust in the financial and industrial field is abhorrent to justice, we are willing to tolerate it for a little while longer rather than to see it abolished by the Minnesota method. There may possibly be some other way.

Another thing that appeals to us in this case is that before being thrown into slavery many of the men in Minnesota's binder twine slave works were husbands and fathers, and their families are now in sad need of the proceeds of their labor which Minnesota is taking from them by force. It is a hard thing when even a slave's little children are in destitute circumstances.

As is always the case in social problems, at the bottom of it all is a question of morality. To the state of Minnesota—nonsense, there is no state of Minnesota in moral responsibility—to

the people of the state of Minnesota, we suggest that they ask their pastors to address them on a given Sunday on the commandment "Thou shalt not steal."

How easy it is for men to lull their conscience asleep when they have other men at their mercy and can make them do their bidding! How blind men are to the remote effects of any social contrivance by which they themselves profit!

It might be thought that the Minnesota method would be denounced by every other state in the Union. A mistake! Michigan talks of taking it up. If the idea spreads to other states the working classes will have before them an urgent task in self protection, for, whatever their sentiments toward the slaves who are made to work for the enrichment of the state, they must see to it that they themselves are not deprived of the work that by the scheme goes to the state manufactories operated by slaves.—Samuel Gompers in American Federationist.

THE WORKERS' SLOGAN.

Let every union member regard it as his mission to organize—to bring one worker into membership of his trade union. Let the slogan be—organize, agitate, educate!—Samuel Gompers.

Spread of Child Labor Reform.

The recent meeting of the commission on uniform laws had some cheerful news to give on the reform in the child labor situation.

In six years thirteen states and the District of Columbia have established departments of inspection for the enforcement of child labor laws, and ten states and the District of Columbia have established an eight hour day for children under sixteen. In 1904 the fourteen year age limit was in effect in only twelve states; now it is in force in thirty-seven.

UNIONISM IN WYOMING.

Miners Blazed the Trail, and Other Crafts Followed.

The principal industry of Wyoming is coal mining. In 1905 the total of the United Mine Workers of America in Wyoming was 471 members. There are now 6,447 in good standing. In this short time a district treasury of \$56,105.23 has been built up, besides large local treasuries. The workday has been shortened from ten hours to eight, and wages have been raised on the average 20 per cent. Working conditions have been improved in every coal mining town in the state.

Other crafts and trades have made great advances in the localities where they have succeeded in perfecting an organization, notably in Sheridan, where in the last five years the carpenters have reduced their hours of labor from ten to eight and raised their wages from 40 to 60 cents per hour. A state federation was organized Aug. 20, 1909, and has affiliated with it sixty-one local unions, comprising nineteen trades and crafts.

Complaint of a Plutocrat.

The goose had just laid the golden egg.

"I suppose they will want it weighed next," she cried.

Thus we see that she was up to date. —New York Sun.

The Quick Hard Answer.

"Lady," said Plodding Pete, "will that dog bite me?"

"That's what I'm waiting to see. If he cares anything about his home he will." —Washington Post.