

UNIONS AND MILITIA

On the Wrong Track—Better Counsel Must Prevail or Labor Organizations Will Get a Set Back

One by one erroneous theories have been dropped by the leadership of organized labor, and just as an advance has been made toward true democracy and sound economics, these organizations have increased in numbers and influence. Now a new error has been adopted by some of the organizations, which if not abandoned will work toward their destruction. Many trade unions are declaring their opposition to the militia, and their attitude is stirring up no little comment. Mr. John Mulholland of Toledo, O., president of the international association of allied metal mechanics, recently stated that he did not want the members to join the militia. The local trades assembly of Syracuse, N. Y., also recently passed a resolution, by a unanimous vote, requiring union men who are members of the national guard to resign under pain of expulsion from the unions. The Illinois state federation unanimously passed a similar resolution week before last, stating that membership in military organizations is a violation of labor union obligations, and requested all union men to withdraw from the militia. President Young of the federation is reported to have said that the militia is a menace, not only to unions, but to all workers throughout the country.

Laying aside all patriotism and the duty of loyalty to the form of government under which we live and viewing the subject from the purely selfish standpoint, it seems strange that any labor leader should take such a position. Until labor gets control of the government, there will never be any difficulty in obtaining soldiers enough to support the orders of the courts. The refusal of wage-workers to serve in the militia will not result in leaving the authorities without soldiers to enforce the decrees of the government. Would a militia composed of scabs be better for labor unions than if composed partly at least of their friends? The maxim of the English capitalist is true and applies as well to America as England, namely, "We can always hire one-half of the population to shoot the other half at a shilling a day whenever it becomes necessary." The refusal to allow members of labor unions to serve in the militia will not alter the case in the least and such a regulation puts into the hands of the plutocratic press a tremendous club with which to hammer them into the earth.

Labor unions must take the position that The Independent took ten years ago: "We will not abolish the militia, but we will take command of it." When labor takes control of the government, as it will some time in the future, it will need a force to keep the plutocrats in order. What would a government do without a force sufficient to enforce the laws? Suppose that the workers should carry one of the states and a union labor man was elected governor with a union labor legislature to back him up. Suppose that that legislature should pass an eight-hour law, and the corporations should import enough scabs to run the railroads and work the mines—work them twelve hours a day—and they would be sure to do it if they could, how would the union labor governor and legislature enforce the law, if they had no military force? Under such circumstances labor would be worse off than it is now. The coal barons had an armed force in the field besides the militia. Carnegie hired the Pinkertons by the hundreds to shoot down union laborers. The plutocrats would have a military force and the wage-workers nothing with which to defend themselves.

The wage-workers in Pennsylvania are numerous enough to elect John Mitchell governor by a bigger majority than Quay landed his cousin in the gubernatorial chair. Suppose that

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they should some time drop their partisan insanity and elect John Mitchell governor. Would he not need a military force to control such plutocrats as "me and God" Baer?

No, this thing will not do at all. It is positively against the interests of organized labor. A society organized within the state which will not allow its members to bear arms in the service of the state will never have back of it the irresistible force of public opinion upon which John Mitchell builds his hopes for the success of organized labor. Face about. March the other way. In that direction lies the road to victory. Get the government and command the militia.

FATHER AUGUSTINE

Details of His Murder in the Philippines in the Most Horrible War of Modern Times

In December, 1900, Father Augustine, a Catholic priest in the Philippines, a sympathizer with the party fighting for independence, was seized in his home by a body of soldiers belonging to company D of the 26th regiment, United States volunteers, acting by the authority of officers of the company, and brought a prisoner to Banate, a port near Iloilo. The soldiers dressed him in a uniform of the United States artillery, and he was kept in a well at Banate pending his torture to compel him to confess where certain guns—or, as some of the witnesses say, gold—were concealed. Three times in two days he was subjected to terrible torture by Captain Brownell of the company and a squad of his men, but he endured the torture in steadfast faithfulness to his people, giving no word of information—and after the third torture he died. "It was common talk all day," says Sergeant James Prendergast of the company, who was sergeant of the guard on the night of the murder, and who was this summer and is still in garrison in Boston harbor, "that they were trying to kill him with the water, but he wouldn't die. But it was known to those who saw the man killed that the water didn't put him out. They say he could stand that all right, and threw a powder down his throat which poisoned him. The officers were in this. There was something in private between the priest and the officers for which they wanted him out of the way."

"Some of the men," says Albert W. Bertrand of Lynn, who was clerk of the company—and his testimony as to the murder is confirmed by William La Belle of Lynn, another private in the company—"were sworn to secrecy, and the body was buried in a plot of land used by the troops as a baseball ground. A non-commissioned officer was seen with the priest's watch and chain, and when a commissioned officer learned this they were turned over to him." Such in brief is the story which many already know only too well. Captain Brownell concealed the circumstances from the higher officers of the department; by and by the regiment came home; the murderers came with the rest and dropped back into regular New England life, assuming once again the look and ways of decent men and trusting that knowledge of their crime was buried with its pitiful victim there in the grave in the Banate baseball ground.

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

An Excellent Opportunity for Young Nebraska Farmers to Gain Useful Knowledge

Too much attention cannot be given to advertising the fact that the Nebraska school of agriculture affords a most excellent opportunity for young men to devote a few weeks' time in the winter to acquiring a practical knowledge of the latest experiments in agriculture. This is a state institution, run in connection with the University of Nebraska, and supported largely by funds received from the general government. A large number can be instructed at substantially the same cost as for a few. It will not add a dollar to the taxes of any farmer to have his son take the nine weeks' course, and the knowledge acquired in that time will probably result in a direct gain in one year of more than the total cost for living and other expenses while at Lincoln.

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A recent bulletin makes this announcement:

The Nebraska school of agriculture, in offering the short winter course and the two weeks stock judging and corn judging course, is endeavoring to meet the needs of all the people who desire instruction in various lines of farming. While these courses are both of a very practical nature, they are not duplicates of each other. The nine weeks course begins January 5, 1903, and is intended for well-matured young men, farmers' sons who have been kept busy in the field in caring for the crops but who can get a few weeks' rest from farm work in which to take a short course. On coming here they will find their work divided between a study of crop production and a study of animals.

In crop production he learns the principles of cultivation by which maximum crops are produced through the saving of soil moisture and the maintenance of soil fertility. Examples will be given where the crop has been increased from 10 to 50 per cent or over through systematic and intelligent methods of cultivation. Methods of storing water in soils are also discussed along with the maintenance of soil fertility through rotation of crops.

In the corn judging course the young man learns what constitutes a good ear of corn and how to select seed corn. If the best selected seed could be planted in every Nebraska cornfield next spring, it would increase the yield on our 7,000,000 acres at least 35,000,000 bushels in a single season. A student finds on examination that two ears of corn apparently the same size may be selected from a bin, and one ear will be found to contain practically twice as much corn as the other. He is able to detect corn that is running out. By a little study, the student learns how to select vigorous kernels which have a strong germinating power and will give a good stand of corn.

Just now it is very important in Nebraska that the farmer know how to get more out of his corn crop than he can get through the elevator. A study of feeding teaches the student what mixtures or combinations of food will pay the largest profit. He learns that corn rations require from twenty to twenty-eight per cent more food for a given gain than rightly balanced rations. He also learns that there is a very great difference in the value of animals dependent on their type and breeding. He learns how to judge accurately the quality of feeding steers and breeding cattle and is much better prepared to make a success of the live stock business after his course in the school.

While this course is independent of the two weeks judging course, it covers all subjects contained in that course and in a more thorough and systematic manner.

The judging parliament begins January 23 and continued to January 31, inclusive. It is intended for men who own farms and cannot get away for a longer period.

This course is given up wholly to the judging of farm animals and seed corn and to discussion of these subjects. When breeders and farmers get together and discuss the comparative merit of different animals under the instruction of a competent judge, they will certainly get a great deal of benefit from it. A specially fine collection of breeding cattle and feeding steers will be available and special attention will be given to the judging of young bulls of a class that can be used by farmers for the production of steers.

Lectures on horses will be given and heavy horses will be judged by practical breeders.

The judging of swine will be given due attention, with good specimens at hand of various breeds.

C. W. Lawson, Ennis, Tex.: I believe this nation will never elect another president or officer of any kind under the constitution of these United States; but the issue or contest next waged will be holy bible against constitution or sovereign power of the people—government ownership of everything, social, financial and industrial, world-wide forever.

"KINE" is a familiar word. Makes one think of cattle at once. It ought to, for "Kine" is said to be a sure preventive and cure for the so-called cornstalk disease, a real and dangerous disease to which all cattle are subject. It is well sometimes to be conservative, but you can carry it too far occasionally. E. E. Bruce & Co., proprietors of "Kine," are one of the most reliable firms in the country and a letter to them will bring their personal statement regarding "Kine" as a sure cure for cornstalk disease. They say it will cure. In view of the dangerous character of this disease, it would be good policy to write them at once. Address E. E. Bruce & Co., Omaha, Neb.

Have You Seen Your Neighbor's New Sewing Machine?

A number of finest Five-Drawer, Drop Head Cabinet Sewing Machines have recently been shipped to families in every town in the United States on three months' free trial. The prices are \$95, \$110, \$115, \$125, and \$135, according to make and style of machine. If you will mention the name of this paper or magazine, cut this notice out and mail to us, no matter where you live, what state, city, town or country, we will immediately write you, giving you the names of a number of people in your neighborhood who are using our machines, so you can see and examine them and convince yourself there are no better machines made at any price. We will also mail you, free, our new special sewing machine catalogue, showing handsome illustrations, descriptions and prices of an immense line of machines at \$5.00 to \$12.35, special three months' free trial offer and most liberal sewing machine proposition ever heard of.

A sewing machine trust is said to be forming for the purpose of cutting off our supply and if accomplished you will no doubt be compelled to pay \$25.00 to \$40.00 for machines we can now furnish you at \$5.95 to \$15.20. Our stock is now complete and for catalogue, all offers and particulars you should cut this notice out and mail to us today. SEARS, ROEBUCK & Co., Chicago.

Names of Farmers Wanted.

The Missouri Valley Farmer wants names and addresses of farmers anywhere in the West. They want to get them interested in their big farm magazine which now has a circulation of over 100,000 copies and is acknowledged to be the best farm paper in the West. The subscription price is 50c per year, but if you will send them five farmers' names and addresses and ten cents in stamps or silver they will enter you as a subscriber fully paid for a whole year. Address Missouri Valley Farmer, Topeka, Kansas.

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