

# Result of Boycott.

The only place in the United States that guarantees freedom from strikes, lockouts and labor warfare is Battle Creek, Mich.

The story? The work people, merchants, lawyers, doctors and other citizens became aroused and indignant at the efforts of the labor unions throughout the country to destroy the business of one of our largest industries—the Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., and at the open threats in the official union papers that the entire power of the National and State Federations of Labor was being brought to bear to "punish" the industries of Battle Creek, and particularly the Postum Co.

This sprung from the refusal of C. W. Post to obey the "orders" of the unions to take the Postum advertising away from various papers that refused to purchase labor of the labor trust—the unions.

Mr. Post was ordered to join the unions in their conspiracy to "ruin" and "put out of business" these publishers who had worked faithfully for him for years and helped build up his business. They had done no wrong, but had found it inconvenient and against their best judgment to buy labor of the labor trust. It seems a rule of the unions to conspire to ruin anyone who does not purchase from them upon their own terms.

An inkmaker or papermaker who failed to sell ink or paper would have the same reason to order Post to help ruin these publishers. So the peddler in the street might stone you if you refused to buy his apples; the cabman to run over you if you refused to ride with him; the grocer order the manufacturer to discharge certain people because they did not patronize him, and so on to the ridiculous and villainous limit of all this boycott nonsense, in trying to force people to buy what they do not want.

If a man has labor to sell let him sell it at the best price he can get just as he would sell wheat, but he has no right to even intimate that he will obstruct the business or attempt its ruin because the owner will not purchase of him.

The unions have become so tyrannous and arrogant with their despotism that a common citizen who has some time to spare and innocently thinks he has a right to put a little paint on his own house finds he must have that paint taken off and put on again by "the union" or all sorts of dire things happen to him, his employer is ordered to discharge him, his grocer is boycotted if he furnishes him supplies, his family followed and insulted and his life made more miserable than that of a black slave before the war. If he drives a nail to repair the house or barn the carpenters' "union" hounds him. He takes a pipe wrench to stop a leaking pipe and prevent damage to his property and the plumbers' "union" does things to him. He cannot put a little mortar to a loose brick on his chimney or the bricklayers' "union" is up in arms, and if he carelessly eats a loaf of bread that has no "union" label on it the bakers' "union" proceeds to make life miserable for him.

So the white slave is tied hand and foot, unable to lift a hand to better himself or do the needful things, without first obtaining permission from some haughty, ignorant and abusive tyrant of some labor union.

It would all seem rather like a comic opera if it did not rob people of their freedom; that kind of work will not be permitted long in America.

Some smooth managers have built up the labor trust in the last few years, to bring themselves money and power, and by managing workmen, have succeeded in making it possible for them to lay down the law in some cities and force workmen and citizens to "obey" implicitly, stripping them right and left of their liberties.

They have used boycotting, picketing, assaults, dynamiting of property and murder to enforce their orders and rule the people. They have gone far enough to order the President to remove certain citizens from office because the "unions" weren't pleased.

That means they propose to make the law of the unions replace the law of this government and the union leaders dominate even the chief Executive.

This is a government of and for the people and no organization or trust shall displace it. But the unions try it every now and then, led by desperate men as shown in their defiance of law and support of lawbreakers.

The "union" record of assaults, crippling of men and even women and children, destruction of property and murder of American citizens during the past two years is perhaps ten times the volume of crime and abuse perpetrated by slave owners during any two years previous to the civil war. We are in a horrible period of lethargy, which permits us to stand idly by while our American citizens are abused, crippled and murdered in dozens and hundreds by an organization or trust, having for its purpose, thrusting what it has to sell (labor) upon us whether or no.

Suppose an American in a foreign city should be chased by a mob, caught and beaten unconscious, then his mouth pried open and carbolic acid poured down his throat, then his ribs kicked in and his face well stamped with iron nailed shoes, murdered because he tried to earn bread for his children. By the Eternal, sir, a fleet of American men of war would assemble there, clear for action and blow something off the face of the earth, if reparation were not made for the blood of one of our citizens.

And what answer do we make to the appeals of the hundreds of widows and orphans of those Americans murdered by labor unions? How do we try to protect the thousands of intelligent citizens who, with reason, prefer not to join any labor union and be subject to the tyranny of the heavily paid rulers of the labor trusts?

Upon a firm refusal by Mr. Post to join this criminal conspiracy a general boycott was ordered on Grape-Nuts and Postum all over the country, which set the good red blood of our ancestors in motion, bringing forth the reply that has now passed into history: "We refuse to join any conspiracy of organized labor to ruin publishers, nor will we discharge any of our trusted employees upon the orders of any labor union. If they can make their boycott effective and sink our ship, we will go down with the capitan on the bridge and in command."

This set the writers in labor papers crazy and they redoubled their abuse. Finally one of their official organs came out with a large double column in denunciation of Battle Creek, calling it "a running sore on the face of Michigan," because it would not become "organized" and pay in dues to their labor leaders. The usual coarse, villainous epithets common to labor union writers were indulged in.

The result was to weld public sentiment in Battle Creek for protection. A citizens' association was started, and mass meetings held. Good citizens who happened to be members of local unions in some cases quit the unions entirely for there is small need of them there.

The working people of Battle Creek are of the highest order of American mechanics. The majority are not union members, for practically all of the manufacturers have for years declined to employ union men because of disturbances about eleven years ago, and the union men now in the city are among the best citizens.

No city in the state of Michigan pays as high average wages as Battle

Creek, no city of its size is as prosperous, and no city has so large a proportion of the best grade of mechanics who own their own homes.

So the work people massed together with the other citizens in the organization of the Citizens' Ass'n, with the following preamble and constitution:

Whereas, from 1891 to 1894 the strikes instigated by labor unions in Battle Creek resulted in the destruction of property and loss of large sums of money in wages that would have been expended here; and,

Whereas, These acts caused serious damage to the city and in a marked way delayed its progress at that time; and,

Whereas, Since the year 1894 the citizens have been enabled, by public sentiment, to prevent the recurrence of strikes and labor union disturbances which have been prevalent elsewhere; and,

Whereas, The employers of this city have steadfastly refused to place the management of their business under the control of labor unions, but have maintained the highest standard of wages paid under like conditions anywhere in the United States, and hereby unanimously declared their intent to continue such policy; and the employes of this city, a large percentage of whom own homes and have families reared and educated under conditions of peace and the well-earned prosperity of steady employment, have steadfastly maintained their right as free American citizens to work without the dictation and tyranny of labor union leaders, the bitter experience of the past offering sufficient reason for a determined stand for freedom; and,

Whereas, The attitude of the citizens on this subject has been the means of preserving peaceful conditions and continuous prosperity, in marked contrast to the conditions existing in other cities suffering from the dictation of trades unionism; it is therefore

Resolved, That the continuance of peace and prosperity in Battle Creek can be maintained, and the destructive work of outside interference avoided under the combined effort and action of all our people, by the formation of a Citizens' Association.

## CONSTITUTION.

### Article 1.—Name.

### Article 2.—Objects.

First—To insure, so far as possible, a permanent condition of peace, prosperity and steady employment to the people of Battle Creek.

Second—To energetically assist in maintaining law and order at all times and under all conditions.

Third—To protect its members in their rights to manage their property and to dispose of their labor in a legal, lawful manner without restraint or interference.

Fourth—To insure and permanently maintain fair, just treatment, one with another, in all the relations of life.

Fifth—To preserve the existing right of any capable person to obtain employment and sell his labor, without being obliged to join any particular church, secret society, labor union or any other organization, and to support all such persons in their efforts to resist compulsory methods on the part of any organized body whatsoever.

Sixth—To promote among employes a spirit of fairness, friendship and desire for the best interests of their employes, and to promote among workmen the spirit of industry, thrift, faithfulness to their employers and good citizenship.

Seventh—To so amalgamate the public sentiment of all of the best citizens of Battle Creek, that a guarantee can be given to the world of a continuance of peaceful conditions, and that under such guarantee and protection manufacturers and capital-

ists can be induced to locate their business enterprises in Battle Creek.

Then follows articles relating to membership, officers, duties, etc., etc., etc.

This constitution has been signed by the great majority of representative citizens, including our workpeople.

A number of manufacturers from other cities, where they have been suffering all sorts of indignities, inconvenience and losses from the general hell of labor union strikes, picketing, assaults and other interference, proposed to move, providing they could be guaranteed protection.

The subject grew in importance until it has reached a place where absolute protection can be guaranteed by the citizens of Battle Creek on the following broad and evenly balanced terms which guarantees to the workman and to the manufacturer fairness, justice, steady work and regularity of output.

The newcoming manufacturer agrees to maintain the standard rate of wage paid elsewhere for like service, under similar conditions, the rate to be determined from time to time from well authenticated reports from competing cities. The tabulated wage reports issued by the Government Department of Commerce and Labor can also be used to show the standard rate, and it is expected later on that this government bureau will furnish weekly reports of the labor market from different centers, so that the workman when he is ready to sell his labor and the employer when he is ready to buy, may each have reliable information as to the market or ruling price.

The newcoming manufacturer also agrees to maintain the sanitary and hygienic conditions provided for by the state laws and to refrain from any lockouts to reduce wages below the standard, reserving to himself the right to discharge any employe for cause.

The Citizens' Association on its part agrees to furnish, in such numbers as it is possible to obtain, first-class workmen who will contract to sell their labor at the standard price for such period as may be fixed upon, agreeing not to strike, picket, assault other workmen, destroy property, or do any of the criminal acts common to labor unionism. Each workman reserving to himself the right to quit work for cause, and the Citizens' Association further pledges its members to use its associated power to enforce the contracts between employer and employe, and to act en masse to uphold the law at all times.

The new industries locating in Battle Creek will not start under any sort of labor union domination whatsoever, but will make individual contracts with each employe, those contracts being fair and equitable and guaranteed on both sides.

Thus from the abuses of labor unions and their insane efforts to ruin everyone who does not "obey" has evolved this plan which replaces the old conditions of injustice, lockouts, strikes, violence, loss of money and property, and inaugurates an era of perfect balance and fairness between employer and employe, a steady continuance of industry and consequent prosperity. The entire community pledged by public sentiment and private act to restore to each man his ancient right to "peace, freedom and the pursuit of happiness."

Other cities will be driven to protect their workpeople, merchants and citizens as well as their industries from the blight of strikes, violence and the losses brought on by labor unionism run amuck, by adopting the "Battle Creek plan," but this city offers industrial peace now, with cheap coal and good water, first-class railroad

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