

# IMPORTANT NOTICE!

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### ACROSS THE SEAS

#### UNIONS CONTROL AUSTRALIA.

A very interesting account is given in the Cleveland Citizen of October 14, by Hugh O'Neil, late of Australia, as to how the unions lost their battle with the shipping trust through a strike over trivial personal matter, but, learning from experience, went into politics and now have full control.

They attacked municipal councils first and enforced the minimum wage and eight-hour days on all of them. They attacked the State parliaments next and gained factory legislation and old age pensions and compulsory arbitration. No factory in the country can now employ child labor, or work its people more than eight hours per day, or pay less than the minimum wage fixed by the wage boards.

The only party of prominence now in Australia is the labor party, the leaders of which are descendants of poor but honest parentage and of account.

It has been arranged that on May 1, 1906, every French trade unionist will at the conclusion of the eight hours of his day's work "quietly and peaceably leave the factory."

One of the oldest of the English trade unions—the Steam Engine Makers' Society—has just celebrated its eightieth anniversary.

#### DECREASE OF DRINKING IN ENGLAND.

It is well known that the climate of the British Isles is more favorable to the consumption of alcoholic stimulants than our climate. We expect the British to drink more per gallon than we do, and they have always lived handsomely up to our expectations. We have liked the statistics of British drinking because they make us seem temperate by contrast. They are falling off a little in this particular. This year's report, like that of several years immediately preceding it, tells of decreased consumption of wine, spirits, and beer. Either our cousins are feebler than they were and cannot carry so much rum, or they are wiser than they were, and do not want so much, or they are poorer and cannot buy so much. At any rate, they drink less of most things. There is an increasing demand for port wine of a modern sort, considerably lighter than the port that in the last century gave most solvent Englishmen the gout, and, among spirits, brandy is as much drunk as ever. In that there seems to be evidence of a disposition to substitute grape products for grain products, which is a gain to sentiment and very likely to health.—Harper's Weekly.

London, Nov. 24.—The Salvation Army announces that the publicity given to Gen. Booth's emigration scheme has had an extraordinary effect on the number of applicants at the Salvation Army emigration offices. At a low estimate, this year's total applications will represent families totaling 70,000 souls. Gen. Booth is convinced that he could transfer 200,000 persons yearly for the next ten years to the colonies without disturbing the labor market at home.

London, Nov. 25.—It is reported that the question of the selection of the Australian Federal Capital is regarded in colonial circles in London as beginning to enter upon a somewhat delicate phase in view of the recent statement of Mr. Carruthers, the New South Wales Premier, in a letter to Mr. Deakin, the Federal Premier, that if the Federal Government persisted in its present attitude it would become his duty to invite the Legislature and people of New South Wales to consider the situation, with a view of definite action for the maintenance of an unquestionable right.

#### WORLD'S WORKERS.

The Sydney (Australia) Labor Council has decided to urge upon the State Government the necessity of filling the vacancy in the second Arbitration Court, caused by Judge Gibson's time of office expiring.

At the last meeting of the West Australian Coastal Trades and Labor Council it was decided that a petition be prepared, asking for the removal of Justice Parker from the presidency of the Arbitration Court.

New South Wales joined the federation on the distinct understanding that the Federal capital should be in that State, and an expert commission, under the presidency of Sir George Turner, recommended that the town of Dalgety, in New South Wales, should be chosen. Following up that proposal the Federal Government has asked the State of New South Wales to consider this point and to allot a site of one thousand square miles for the purpose of the capital. The question at issue between the Federal and New South Wales is a clear one, and from the plain spoken words of the New South Wales Premier the inference is drawn that the State is not prepared to give way.

The Perth (West Australian) Building Trades Vigilance Committee has succeeded in organizing the local electrical engineers, fitters, and wiremen into a good union, forty of these craftsmen joining as members at the initial meeting.

Sixty disputes (including one lockout) were reported to the Italian Labor Department as having begun in August, compared with 90 in the previous month. The number of workpeople taking part in 50 of these was 11,129, as compared with 18,592 who took part in 79 of the July disputes.

The Gympie (Queensland) Mineowners' Association has promised to give every consideration to the request of the local Miners' Union for the granting of a half-holiday on Saturdays to mine employees, so that they can indulge in football, cricket, or other forms of recreation on that day instead of on Sundays, as at present.

Preference to unionists is granted in the last four awards given by the New Zealand Arbitration Court. In every case the usual provision for incompetent workmen to work at less than the minimum rates is also included. The awards apply to the carpenters and joiners and operative bakers in the Auckland district, and the Gibborne district carpenters and joiners, painters, and decorators.

In moving the second reading of the Shearers and Sugar Workers' Accommodation Bill in the Queensland Legislative Council recently, Minister Barlow said that in this world there was such a thing as hatred of expense, which led to sweating and misery. When things were reasonable and right, he added, the little extra which would bring about better conditions should be fastened on those who derived the benefit of the fruits of labor.

The High Courts of Victoria, Australia, have knocked a hole in another State Labor Law. A Melbourne firm was charged under the Factories Act with having let out the work of making aprons to a woman at such low rates that her employees could not earn the average rate of 4d per hour fixed by the Wage Board. On appeal, the High Court ruled that the Melbourne firm was not responsible for the low rate of wages paid by the sub-contractor.

The changes in hours of British labor reported during September, 1905, affected 4,400 workpeople, of whom 1,100 had their working time increased by 198 hours per week, and 3,300 had their working time decreased by 857 hours per week. During the nine months, January to September, the total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labor was 11,504. The net reduction in their working time being 16,150 hours per week.

#### A JUDGMENT FOR ONE PENNY A MONTH.

In the City of London Court on Tuesday, Myer Freedman, a registered moneylender, trading under the name of J. Roland, at 101 Edgware Road, London, applied for the enforcement of payment on £10 8s 10d due from G. D. Walker.

The defendant said he had been very badly treated by the plaintiff. He borrowed £35 of the plaintiff in August, last year, and although he had paid 247 17s 6d, he still owed £10 8s 10d. He only had 35s a week. Plaintiff's solicitor said he could not go into that, as he had a High Court judgment.

Judge Rensoul remarked that the Moneylenders' Act required him to go

into all the details. He was not inclined to be hard on moneylenders, but the case before him was a very bad one. His hands were tied, and he was compelled to make an order. The order he would make was for payment of the amount claimed and due, £10 8s 10d, at the rate of one penny a month.

At this rate, it may be noted, it will take 208 years and 10 months to pay off the debt.

In another case where a creditor was seeking to compel payment of a friendly loan without interest, and it was said that the defendant had been living at a West End hotel paying £16 a week, Judge Rensoul said that was the sort of debt that he would do his best to get paid. He ordered payment within a month, with committal for thirty days in default.

The net effect of all the changes in British wages, reported in September, was an increase of £69 per week, as compared with a decrease of £966 per week in August, 1905, and a decrease of £245 per week in September, 1904. The number of workpeople affected was 24,323, of whom 13,895 received advances amounting to £593 per week, and 10,435 sustained decreases amounting to £524 per week. The total number affected in August was 247,473, and in September, 1904, 21,032.

#### EXCLUSION OF JAPANESE.

San Francisco, Cal., May 7, 1905. Will J. French, President of the San Francisco Labor Council:

I desire it to be understood that we have assembled here to-day not as trades unionists, as employers, nor as improvement clubs; we have come here as Americans, and as Americans we object, and most emphatically, to the influx of an inferior race. It is no longer a question whether the Japanese intrude upon one field of industry or another. We find that they are encroaching on every trade, and imitate the white man in his work, be it in the machine shop, the shoe trade, factory or farm.

The fruit growers, who formerly welcomed the Japanese, now say that the Jap is unsatisfactory. It is characteristic of the Mikado's subjects that they care not for the employers' interests. When the Japanese bell rings the Japs quit work, no matter if the crop goes to ruin. Whoever has had the opportunity to watch the Japanese on our waterfront must realize the growing danger arising from unrestricted Japanese immigration. We are told that they come to our country merely to learn, and then return to their own country. But that is not true. They come here to stay, to imitate our mechanics and wage-earners, make all they can, live on a mere pittance, and send their savings to Japan. They are a barnacle upon our community.

The Legislatures of California and Nevada have spoken in no uncertain tone concerning the evil of that immigration of an unassimilative element. It is necessary for us to awaken the interest of the people in the East and Middle West to the great peril which threatened the whole country.

#### NOT AN INFERIOR RACE.

We have been accustomed to regard the Japanese as an inferior race, but are now suddenly aroused to our danger. They are not window-cleaners and house-servants. The Japanese can think, can learn, can invent. We have suddenly awakened to the fact that they are gaining a foothold in every skilled industry in our country. They are our equals in intellect; their ability to labor is equal to ours. They are proud, valiant, and courageous, but they can underlive us. They have no families here to support; their manner of living and their ideas of civilization are different from ours, and we cannot hope to compete with them in the matter of wages for this reason, and we certainly do not desire to.

We are here to-day to prevent that very competition. We want no people here that cannot come and mix with us, become blood of our blood, and bone of our bone without degrading and debasing us. In the offspring of a marriage between a Mongol and a Caucasian, the Mongolian characteristics always predominate.

This question is far greater than the race problem in the South; far greater than the race problem in the Philippines, where we lately have taken a

country containing 20,000,000 of people. We cannot, we must not, we will not, permit the free entry of a race that will cheapen and lower our standard of living.

There is a distinctive phase of the Russian revolution that seems to have escaped notice outside of Russia. More has been accomplished by a railway strike than by all the riots and massacres. Russia lost in the war with Japan because of inadequate railway service and her autocratic form of government was destroyed by a strike of railway workmen. The importance of the railway appears to be as great in revolution as in war. Rapid transit has made absolutism impossible. As soon as the Russian workmen discovered this secret they liberated an enslaved people. It is true that the time was ripe for the revolution, but it is no less true that a revolution could not have succeeded had the government been permitted to transport troops and munitions of war without hindrance.

In our days a revolution can shatter an empire into a thousand pieces by means of a complete and successful strike of railway employees. Vast empires like Russia are made possible by rapid transit and can be destroyed by the blocking of transit. The Czar could not recruit an army large enough to put down insurrections in a hundred rebellious provinces unless the railway employees remained faithful to the government. The power of confederated railway workmen carrying on a revolution is terrifying to contemplate. They could, if they were so disposed, starve the people in any section of the empire, or they could feed the people and starve the soldiery. The army could not operate the railways and even if it tried to accomplish such a colossal task the revolutionists could tear up the tracks and blow up the bridges at strategic points.—Nebraska Independent.

#### A REFORMER'S APPRECIATION OF JUDAISM.

To this day there is fresh inspiration, there is living power in the story of Moses, because his career was a perfect embodiment of that great truth, that man's social welfare is religion's chief concern.

Moses made himself the benefactor of all ages when he taught that the land problem is the fundamental problem. He set an instructive example to our modern statesmen when he instituted his measures to prevent land monopoly.

No religion can do its full duty to society without teaching as Moses did that the land of a nation should be treated as the gift of God, and that its tenure should be so guarded as to give full protection to the rights of all God's children.

Moses' way of solving the land problem was to cause a redistribution of the land every fifty years. That might do in a primitive agricultural community. For a highly complex society like ours it would be out of the question. The greatest economic problem of to-day is to carry out the spirit of Moses' land legislation by methods that shall be just and practicable and consonant with modern conditions.

#### PRINCELY POSSESSIONS.

One man in Oregon owns and controls between fourteen and fifteen million square acres of the big territory of the West. His holdings are three times as large as the State of New Jersey. Yet 2,400,000 of the people of New York City are huddled together in tenement houses. One man owning lands larger than all Greece, and millions who have not where to lay their heads! These are conditions which call for Isaiah's indignant protest:

"Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field till there be no room and ye be made to dwell alone in the midst of the land."

The pure land values of New York City amount to three and a half billions. Mr. Louis F. Post has translated these values into terms of agricultural lands. Take, as a typical farm a hundred acres worth fifty dollars an acre. It would take a strip of these five thousand dollar farms, one mile wide, and reaching four times around the globe, to equal the land values of New York City.

But the point is, these values are not created by their owners. They are dif-

ferent from other values. They are what economists call "the unearned increment." They are the product of the community, and should be taken by the community in lieu of all forms of taxation.

#### STATESMANSHIP OF MOSES ADAPTED TO MODERN CONDITIONS.

Henry George was the Newton of Political Science. He proposed to use the present taxing machinery to gradually abolish all taxation of personal property and improvements, and to raise public revenues by a single tax upon the value of land.

I believe this programme is just, and more practicable than our present method of raising revenues. I believe the economic effect would be eventually the socialize the unearned increment of land value and increase the freedom and hope and joy of every child of the republic.

Moreover, it involves no attack upon the right of private property, and no dreaded extension of the functions of government, and not the least disturbance to our present social organization.

This programme is the practical application to modern conditions of the statesmanship of Moses. My faith in this programme has taught me to honor and revere those great Jews of history who were the forerunners of Henry George, and whose words and deeds consecrate the spirit and sanction the measures of the land reformers of our time.

#### HERBERT S. BIGELOW.

Pastor Vine Street Congregational Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 26, 1905.

#### KNIGHT O'LABOR PHILOSOPHY.

From Topeka Labor Champion:

A pair of scab shoes never leads a union man straight.

Ye'll soon be wantin' union underwear; moind they are union-made.

Sapkin ov schnaps, wot's th' matter wid life insurance for aisy money?

Attind th' sessions ov yer local at all times; If ye don't yer a week-knee.

Ye never know how varry lucky ye are tillye discover th' other felly's bad pinta.

Th' printhers would be in the middle ov a bad fix if th' Eyetalian could take their jobs.

Th' min wot have th' money take up the most ov th' space in a daily paper nowadays.

Ye see th' union button an' th' union pin on min who use a scab coat fer to hook it into.

Now 'tis th' farmers as have begun to organize unions. Look out fer a harvest hand strok!

"If ye'll out loose from th' union," says th' good har-rat employer, "I'll fix ya." An' he does, just that.

Ye foind min in th' union iver ready to yell "scab!" at a felly whin a strok is on but they be "stroik breakers" whin buyin' tobacco.

Thirty-seven per cent more is what it costs ye to live than what it did seven years ago. How much ov an increase in yer wages did ye git?

An' now tis said Vice-President Kendrick ov th' Santafay is about fer to quit entirely. 'T was told in March last that 'twas him ne was lokin' fer another sit.

To the carpenter—Be square.  
To the lather—Hit the nail on the head.

To the plumber—Look out for a lead-pipe cinch.

To the farmer—Sow no wild oats.

To the blacksmith—Never have too many irons in the fire.

To the conductor—Be courteous to the fare.

To his passenger—Everything comes to him who waits.

To the doctor—Have patience.

To the lawyer—First see if a cause is feasible.

To the hodcarrier—Make your life sublime.

To the undertaker—Let your countenance be grave.

To the poddler—The mill is not the only place where bosh is found.

To the sign-writer—Study the signs of the times.

To the printer—Make your life justify to the Golden Rule.

To the editors—There is nothing new under the sun, but you are supposed to dig up many new things each day.