

Tom Atkinson

Tom Atkinson was just a crank,
So all the people said,
He had so many strange ideas
A-seething in his head.
They looked on him with pitying smiles
Because he was so queer,
And tapped their foreheads, and de-
clared:
"There's something lacking here."

Well, Thomas nursed his strange ideas,
And studied night and day,
Until by constant, active thought
At last he found the way.
He got his patent, safe and strong,
To make the thing his own.
And then one fine day he announced
"The seeing telephone."

Nobody laughs at Thomas now,
He's richer than a bank,
And none admit they ever thought
That he was just a crank.
But they were strictly accurate
When, seeing him so queer,
They tapped their foreheads, and de-
clared:

"There's something lacking here!"
—Somerville Journal.

LABOR FABLES

**Originated by Aesop, Modern-
by M. Dash, in Baltimore
Labor Leader**

A Dog, seeing an Oyster, thought it
was an egg and swallowed it. Soon
after, suffering great pain, he said: "I
deserve this torment for my greedy
haste."

He who acts in haste will repent at
leisure, and that is just what happens
when a labor union foolishly rushes
headlong into a strike which wiser heads
would not have thought of and cooler
brains would have avoided.

A Doe, blind of an eye, was accus-
tomed to graze as near to the edge of
the cliff as she possibly could to secure
greater safety. She turned her eye to-
ward the land, that she might perceive
the approach of a hunter or hound, and
her injured eye toward the sea, from
which she entertained no anticipation of
danger. Some boatmen sailing by saw
her, and taking a successful aim, mor-
tally wounded her. Said she: "O wretch-
ed creature that I am! to take such
precaution against the land, and after
all to find this seashore, to which I had
come for safety so much more peri-
ous."

Danger sometimes comes from a source
that is least suspected. Therefore, the
trades unionist should be guarded on all
sides, lest the enemy strike from the
side which seems safest. Thunderbolts
have been known to descend from clear
skies, and eternal vigilance is the price
of safety.

A Dog used to run up quietly to the
heels of those he met and to bite them
without notice. His master sometimes
suspended a bell about his neck and a
chain about his neck to which was at-
tached a heavy elog.

The Dog grew proud of his bell and
elog, and went with them all over the
market-place. An old hound said to
him: "Why do you make such an exhibi-
tion of yourself? That bell and elog
that you carry are not, believe me, or-
ders of merit, but on the contrary, marks
of disgrace, a public notice to all men
to avoid you as an ill-mannered dog."

Notoriety is often mistaken for fame,
and there are many in this world who
would feel proud, even if their names
were in the Police Court news, just so
long as they were in the papers. Fame
at its best is empty, and notoriety is
but a cheap imitation of it.

A Wolf, passing by, saw some shep-
herds in a hut eating for their dinner
a haunch of mutton. Approaching them
he said: "What a clamor you would raise
if I were to do as you are doing!"

Men are too apt to condemn in others
the very things they practice them-
selves. This is particularly true of em-
ployers who are ever ready to find fault

with their employees, and who are never
satisfied even when those who work for
them are doing their best and rendering
far more service than they are being
paid for.

The Ass and the Fox, having entered
into a partnership together, went out
into the forest to hunt. They had not
proceeded far when they met a Lion.
The Fox approached the Lion and prom-
ised to contrive for him the capture of
the Ass if he would pledge his word that
his own life would be spared. On his
assuring him that he would not injure
him, the Fox led the Ass to a deep pit
and contrived that he should fall into
it. The Lion, seeing that the Ass was
secured, immediately clutched the Fox,
and then attacked the Ass at his leisure.

Traitors must expect treachery, and
those who are always trying to crush
and oppress others are in the end in-
variably crushed themselves. The pitfall
is generally for him who digs it, and
those who plot against others are in turn
plotted against.

Strange But True

The manufacturer insists upon set-
ting the price on the labor he buys
and the goods he sells.

Manufacturers combine to raise the
price by limiting the supply of goods
manufactured.

That is called "high finance."

A trust is forced to buy up small and
independent factories and close them
down for the purpose of controlling the
supply.

That is called "business enterprise."
A financier steals a million entrusted
to his care.

He is hailed as a "Napoleon of
finance."

A band of rich men combine to pre-
vent changes in administration that
might injure their schemes.

They are called "conservatives."

A Rockefeller social function costs
\$35,000 and \$3,000,000 worth of dia-
monds are on display.

That is called "evidence of pros-
perity."

A workingman asks the privilege of
having a voice in setting the price of his
commodity, labor, and wants to be pro-
tected against the rapacity of trusts and
combines.

That is called "anarchy."

Workingmen organize unions to pre-
vent injustice and to elevate the stand-
ard of labor.

That is called "interfering with free
and independent labor."

Labor unions seek to control the ap-
prentice system to the end that labor
be not reduced to a starvation basis.—
Rochester Labor Journal.

Organized Labor Necessary

Organized labor is necessary to man.
It is necessary to peace and the pros-
perity of the country. Labor is a com-
modity. In its merchandise that will
not keep. In its individual capacity it
is helpless and must take what it can
get. It cannot go to another market, for
when it leaves home the wife and the
children are in need.

Why is that workingmen toil and slave
all their lives, and when old age incapa-
citates them for further work they have
no resources but the charity of friends,
the poorhouse or suicide?

The Progress of Labor

Speaking at Derby early in October,
Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., said that the
next election would witness the appear-
ance for the first time in history of a
distinctly organized Labor party. Sixty
or 70 Labor candidates would go to
the poll, not as isolated units, but as
members of a compact organization.



Tile Layers Int. U. 37

Henry's Canundrum

"Helen," said Mr. Whykins, who
somehow never gets hold of an idea un-
til it is old, "I have a good one for
you. I think you'll appreciate it, only
you must not let it make you angry."

"What is it, Henry?"

"What's the difference between a wo-
man and an umbrella?"

"The difference," she answered
serenely, "is that a man isn't afraid
to take an umbrella with him wherever
he goes and that he doesn't try to con-
ceal the fact that it's above him when
a real emergency arrives. That's the
principal difference, Henry."

Bakers' strike still on.

**Toronto District Labor
Council Label
Committee.**

GREETING.

At the last meeting of the
District Labor Council the fol-
lowing recommendation of the
Label Committee was adopted:

"Your Committee find that
dense ignorance prevails as to
what the different labels are
like. To overcome this ignor-
ance your Committee discussed
the possibility of publishing a
label directory. We find that
now we have a medium in THE
TRIBUNE, by which we can
familiarize the public with all
labels. Your Committee recom-
mends that all crafts having a
label be asked to publish a cut
of their label in THE TRIBUNE
every week, as we feel that this
is more practical than a label
directory."

The Label Committee feel that
this method of advertising your
label will have good result, as it
will be brought before the people
continually, whereas a label
directory would not be so effec-
tive. The Label Committee are
continuously met with the objec-

tion "we do not know the label
when we see it." If this method
of advertising your label is fol-
lowed this objection can no
longer exist.

We therefore ask your co-
operation in this matter, feeling
confident that an impetus will
be given to the demand for
labeled goods. Fraternally yours,
T. C. VODDEN, Chairman of Com-
mittee, MAY DARWIN, Secretary.



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