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MISCHIEVOUS INTERFERENCE

The annual meeting of the American Federation of Labor, which takes place in Canada, has shown something of the comprehensive attitude of that important body toward all aspects of government. Resolutions have been adopted at Denver in relation to trade policies, the administration of public utilities, the ownership of railways, immigration, shipping, banking, housing, taxation and practically everything else affecting organized national life. These resolutions have not erred on the side of mildness. They have been strong, positive and almost mandatory. To all this no exception can be taken. Organized labor has as much right to express judgment in these matters as has a gathering of bankers.

But, as the Ottawa Journal points out, it is quite another matter when the American Federation of Labor gives consideration to matters wholly outside its jurisdiction, and which impinge on the political policy of a foreign nation. In that category must be classified the resolution which has been discussed at Denver in relation to the Irish question. It was seriously and definitely proposed that the organization should boycott in the United States all British goods until Great Britain gave effect to the demands of the Irish Republicans, or Sinn Féiners. The speeches in support of this resolution were such as might have come from Mr. De Valera himself or any other rabid and uncompromising enemy of Great Britain. Organized labor will always be respected while it concentrates its attention on matters coming clearly and definitely within its province. That would give ample scope for its sagacity and legitimate aims. But when a body of Americans, be it composed of artisans or "princes of finance," undertakes to interfere in questions, which are essentially domestic to a foreign country it goes too far. It would be a very grave thing indeed to involve the United States in a hostile attitude toward Great Britain, which would leave it in the possibilities of war—a war which a great statesman recently said would be the end of civilization. Nor could such interference be of the slightest assistance to the Sinn Féine cause.

The Americans are a patient people. They permit liberty to run its course in the notion that they are thereby giving democracy plenty of air. But there are ample signs that the patience of the thinking and independent classes, who really predominate, is reaching the snapping point in respect to Irish agitation. Admiral Sims' outspoken exposure of Sinn Féin operations in the United States has let loose a flood of commendation and pent-up feeling. If we in Canada had uttered some of the strong statements which have appeared in leading American newspapers of late regarding the real state of public sentiment toward Sinn Féin filibustering, it would probably have been attributed to prejudice; but coming from long-suffering Americans it must be understood as voicing a determination to have people stick strictly to their own business.

THE END OF THE COAL STRIKE

The end of the British coal strike on terms that represent defeat for the Union, is the beginning of Britain's industrial reconstruction. The nationalization project has been abandoned. The pooling of profits is restricted to districts with similar conditions. Wages are reduced to a standard that is about 20 per cent. above pre-war levels. The miners obtained the highest percentage of increase during the war, and when coal was selling on the Continent for \$25 and \$30 a ton, they were paid like princes. On top of that, the British treasury had profits of hundreds of millions. But the renewal of German competition has made all the difference in the world, and now coal mining has to take the lead.

As coal is the basis of about 95 per cent. of heavy industry in Britain, costs that compare fairly with Continental prices are imperative. France has a handsome surplus of coal, does not modify from German reparations, and is distributing it freely to Italy, Sweden, Spain and other countries that formerly looked to British coal. It is not only that Britain has been losing an immense quantity of Continental trade through the coal shortage, but also in the manufacture

ing field have been kept prohibitively high. Steel prices have been reduced by about \$15 a ton in the last day or two, but are still much higher than American or German steel prices at British ports. Deflation has been slower in British industry than in the United States, and in Germany prices have always been low. The German workman receives from 76 cents to \$1.25 a day, valued on a dollar basis, while the average of British industry is \$4 or \$5 a day, and in some lines is much higher. If the British expect to hold the Continental market as well as their overseas trade, they cannot ignore Germany's campaign of cheapness. The Safeguarding of Industries Bill is passing Parliament, and no doubt home key industry will be protected, but in the foreign field the intense competition predicted during the war is about to make itself really felt.

It is a healthy sign that the supreme effort of the radical Labor leaders has signally failed. The British people may tolerate bad conditions for a long time, but finally come to a dead stop. The big cotton strike has ended in the last day or two, and the engineering break may be averted. When the economy of the country is at stake, the only possible course is to take heroic measures to ensure safety.

GERMAN COMPETITION

Long before the Great War was in full swing the toy trade—the modern monopoly of which has been Germany's and Austria's boast—was taken over by the United States and Japan. Toy factories doubled and trebled in the United States. In Japan they were of mushroom growth. Over night, as it were, Japan was dotted with picturesque, one-story toy-making shops. What the observing and industrious Japanese had learned from the Germans about European toy manufacture in pre-war days they belatedly to an enormous degree along certain lines. Their deft fingers, concentration and adaptability fitted them to be the world's best toy-makers. If they had not yielded to a sense of cupidity the toys made by them would have won a world renown which would have stood them in good stead in the present testing time. Unfortunately, by to use a long phrase they often failed to "deliver the goods," as far as material was concerned. So that having captured the trade they jeopardized their power to hold it.

In Germany, the unfavorable end of the war, for that country, soon brought the price of wages down at a terrifying rate, and today, the German works at a scale that is much lower than anything that labor would for a moment consider a living wage. Japan included. The result is the expected one: Japan and the United States find it impossible to get labor at a scale that permits of competition in price with Germany. So the toy trade gradually is drifting back to the country that had controlled it before the war.

Early in the winter the toy manufacturers of the United States petitioned their Government to aid them by restrictive duties to be put upon toys, but even with such aid the battle is a losing one. As for Japan she is in a still worse position, as she hurt her reputation by using methods not up to standard.

One of the largest toy manufacturing centers of Japan, Nagoya, recently has suffered such "serious diminution in demand" that employees by the hundreds have been "let out."

The re-monopoly of the toy trade is but one instance of how Germany on her pitifully reduced wage scale is able to begin again to carry on another kind of war.

Counter-competition, aided by the buying of home goods is the only way to save the situation for the toy-makers, and, even more, for other industries. A competition which has for its motto: "Buy at home and again buy at home."

"Knowledge," once remarked Mr. J. J. Carter, "may be acquired while young, but wisdom comes only from experience." If there is any truth in the late Adonir K. C.'s dictum, there must be quite a large number of gentlemen in St. John just now who are richer in wisdom as a result of the experiences of the past few days.

Leaders of the striking English miners now understand how the Hohenzollerns feel. Other strike leaders may yet learn also.

When you're sitting on the twig called "prosperity" there is no sense in cutting off the branch.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Why Say Irish?
Add Admiral Sims' name to the list of those who will never become Irish saints. Greenboro, N. C. Record.

Lenine Getting Illumination
In his campaign to lick the world Lenine is beginning to show a commendable disposition to begin with the boots. Baltimore Sun.

Headlight Offence Still Exists
Blinding headlights still infest the roadways. The provincial government must assure us that 1921 licensees would not be issued to anyone whose car was not equipped with non-glaring lenses. A strict enforcement of the law is required in the interest of public safety. Kingston Whig.

A Western Job
Toronto wants to be the headquarters of the Canadian National Railway. The Globe, of that city, advocating this, argues that Toronto is the geographical and commercial hub of Canada. It is neither the one nor the other. If being the commercial hub of Canada should bring the head offices of the national lines, they should go to Montreal. Otherwise, being the geographical hub, Winnipeg would get them. Calgary Herald.

Not So Small
Northern Ireland is a small country. But someone points out that it has a population larger than that of New Zealand, larger than the white population of the Union of South Africa, and four times that of Newfoundland. These have been recognized as important self-governing communities, and their leaders who appear today as members of the conference of prime ministers, would not join in any suggestion that an insignificant group of people. Vancouver Province.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN.

I wish that there were some wonderful places
Called the Land of Beginning Again.
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches,
And all our poor selfish grief,
Could be dropped like a shabby coat
And never be put on again.

I wish we could come on it all unaware,
Like the hunter who finds a lost trail.
And I wish that the one woman our blindness had done
The greatest injustice of all.

Could be at the gates, like an old man
Waiting for the train to pass.
For the comrade he's gladdest to hail,
The day for one less fortunate.

We would find all the things we intended to do,
But forgot and remembered too late.
Little praises unspoken, little promises broken,
And all the thousand and one little duties neglected that might have perfected
The day for one less fortunate.

It wouldn't be possible not to be kind
In the Land of Beginning Again;
And the ones we misjudged and the one whom we victory here,
Their moments of grief here.
Would find the grasp of our loving hand clasp
More than penitent lips could explain.

For what had been hardest we'd know had been best,
And what had seemed lost would be gained;
For there isn't a sting that will not be taken,
When we've faced it and laughed it away;
And I think that the laughter is most what we're after
In the Land of Beginning Again.

THE LAUGH LINE

Only Two Exceptions.
That Gotham Girl says a woman will never love a man who is a stenographer.

Little? For Today.
Why do they always put the big berries on the top row?

The Daily Don't.
Charity begins at home—but don't keep it locked up there.

Like Some People.
So, Portland Sage says the steam-callopie makes more noise than the circus band but they don't speak to each other now.

That's Not Strange.
"Is that play 'The Hole in the Wall' much of a mystery play?"
"No, I saw right through it."

Serchez La Femme.
"Percy and Harold used to be the best of friends, but they don't speak to each other now."
"Who's the girl?"

When do They Work?
"Every time I see a movie play I always wonder—"
"Wonder what?"
"How it is that the men in it never seem to have anything to do in the world except pursue the heroine."

Oh to be a Rotarian!
George A. Townsend wants to share his stenographer with some Rotarian who can use her mornings or afternoon. Call him Central, 544—China City Rotary Club Gyrator.

Some Preparation.
It was reported that Chas. of Police Samuel had hung himself, but it is not correct. He was standing in a gear tree painting his home with a

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I wasn't supposed to be late for supper again this week, and yesterday while I was going home I looked late as anything, me thinking, Gosh, I bet supper is all over, I bet they're passing their plates for more by now, I bet they're talking about me not being there, I bet pop will give me holy heck.

And I started to start running, thinking, G, I better think up a pretty good excuse.

Wich I tried to do, only I couldn't think of any except old bum ones like not knowing what time it was and forgetting all about supper and having to wait on a corner on account of a funnel going past and going an errand with one of the fellows to do him a favor.

And I got all the way home without thinking of a good one, and I opened the front door easy and looked in and nobody was out back in the dining room, me thinking, G, is supper all over, no it ain't over started yet. And I yelled as loud as I could, Hurray, hooray, hooray, and me and pop called down stairs, Wats the big idea, has skool burnt down?

No sir in early for supper, I sed.

Will miracles never cease? sed pop.

Meaning he couldn't hardly believe it, and I ran out in the street again feeling grate, and 2 fire engines went pas to beat the band and I ran about 6 blocks without finding out wats the fire was, and then I watched 2 men tawking deer and dum to each other with their fingers and shoulders, and then I helped some kid to get his kite down out of a tree by advising him how, and by the time I got home supper was half over and pop gave me holy heck after all.

ON THE HOSPITAL BILL-OF-FARE

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Queer Birds.
The cockroach is a funny bird. And in his ways somewhat absurd. He runs about, now here, now there; But somehow seems to get nowhere.
(Pats and Knocks.)
The lightning-bug is a queer bird. One thing about him is absurd; Apparently he has no mind, For his headlight he puts behind.

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