

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by
the Boarders.

"The Street Railway Company, like all corporations or contractors who enjoy a monopoly, has things pretty much its own way," said Brown. "The City Council, which is supposed to look after the interests of the public, delegates its powers to run street cars to a private corporation, and then when the increase of traffic or the necessity of the people demand a faster service or an extension of the line, the members of the Council find themselves in the ridiculous position which they were forced to occupy last Monday in their conference with Mr. Lusher. That gentleman knows that his company holds the handle end of the whip, and by this time the members of that special committee will probably have found this out as well. Not only is the company not going to stick to its bargain in reference to running its cars on time, but the committee has actually agreed to lay the tracks for them if they would only condescend to so far accommodate the public as to run the cars through the subway to Napoleon Road. If this don't prove a lesson to our Aldermen their skulls must be even thicker than they are currently reported to be. The appointing of this special committee was regarded as useless by most men who know anything about the Street Railway Company, but no one expected it would degenerate into the screaming farce it did. Alderman Kennedy evidently was under the impression that something might happen to him if he stiffened up a little, and Maloe and Tansey didn't exactly seem to know what they really did want, while Conroy acted upon the principle that 'the least said the soonest mended.' Considering everything, Thompson and Prefontaine, who did what little fighting there really was done, may consider themselves lucky that they escaped at all, for the representative of the company was on his metal and told them plainly that he didn't come there to be insulted. The insult evidently consisted in both of these gentlemen telling him that the company did not live up to its agreement with the city."

"The fact of the whole matter is," said Phil, "the company has got the Council by the throat and is going to do as it pleases until its contract expires. If it chooses to run cars to Napoleon Road it will run them without asking anybody's permission, and if it don't it won't, and nobody has a right to ask for explanations. The company is a 'private affair' like all other monopolies and will be administered in the interests of its shareholders and not of the public, and the sooner you and others understand this the better; and if those soreheads who continually growl about the street car service don't stop their howling the chances are that no cars will be run at all, and the what will you do? With a Council which hasn't grit enough to take the bull by the horns and run its own cars, and a people who haven't sense enough to see that they would have a better and a cheaper service of this were done, the city would be in a nice fix. No, be thankful for small favors, for obligations the Street Railway Company evidently has none."

"The same applies to our scavengers," said Gaskill. "We pay the contractor handsomely for cleaning our streets and lanes and burning the ashes and garbage. The man is getting rich on it, but our ash barrels are full and our lanes are almost impassable. Not only does he not burn all the ashes but it now transpires that he don't even burn all the garbage, but dumps most of it in rear of the crematory, yet he is paid his full price. Not satisfied with their work, the Council now propose to make the householders clean the lanes themselves, so that the contractor may do even less than at present for

his money. The next thing will be that every family must burn its own garbage and pay for the carting away of its ashes, while the contractor will have control of the dumps and charge you ten cents a load for every load you send. As the contract price will remain the same whether the citizens or the contractor does the work, Mr. Mann will make a handsome profit. Whose cousin can he possibly be? In the larger cities of England the local boards of health do the scavenging, and as a result it is done well and cheap, but here every two-penny half-penny politician has a regiment of friends who must be fed at the public manger, and the result is that our public works are not only wretchedly done but come outrageously dear. What we want is paid Commissioners at the head of our civic departments who should do all the city's work which is now done by contractors and private corporations."

BILL BLADES.

POLICY VS. PRINCIPLE.

A careful perusal of the following article, taken from the current number of the Inland Printer, is recommended. It is from the pen of Mr. M. Stanislaus Murphy. To a great many in this city the article has a direct application, and those whom the cap fits will find themselves reflected true to nature and they will know just exactly how honest and true-principled men regard them:—

There is a common substance, whose component ingredients are formed principally for the purpose of putting a new surface upon sooty walls and ceilings which have become blackened and begrimed by time and neglect, and which is commonly known as white wash. Time and again this substance is brought into requisition and, after a thorough application, the old walls become whitened, shining with a new luster, and for the time being all blemishes seem entirely obliterated. But the effect is only temporary, for in a short time the preparation wears off, spots and imperfections once more come to the surface, and the white wash is again applied with the same effect. Surely, this must be a very useful article, and for the purpose described it certainly is.

But its use (or I might say abuse) is applied in other instances, where blackened walls give way to violated obligations, where soot-begrimed ceilings are supplanted by treachery and sacrificed principles, and it is here where the use of whitewash is being outrageously abused. Too much whitewash is being used in the typographical union to-day, and not a small amount of it is being injudiciously wasted. Its application in a great many cases is utterly ineffective, and unfruitful of any good whatsoever.

Who are the ones who appeal to us from time to time to have their obligations renewed, their records whitened and made clean, and what motive have they in doing so? Are they sincere and honorable in their intentions, or are their desires selfish and conscienceless? The ones who are forced to undergo the process of renovation before they can be received back into the fold were once members of the same organization to which they are again appealing for protection. They promised by a sacred obligation to abide by its laws, to uphold its principles, to defend its constitution, and thus affirming upon their honor as men were cordially welcomed and received into the union by their fellow-craftsmen who had preceded them.

For a time all went well, and they remained true to their obligations and to principle. But the test came, and they turned their backs upon the organization whose protective influences had sheltered them, and violated, without any compunction whatever, the sacred obligations which they but a short time since had solemnly affirmed. In the face of circumstances disastrous to the union and the cause of unionism,

when their fidelity and assistance were most needed, they treacherously enrolled themselves in the enemy's ranks, and for selfish reasons and a lack of manhood arrayed themselves with the oppressors of honest, organized labor. Many of their fellow-craftsmen, unshaken in their principles, and with a sacred regard for the obligations they had taken, with that sense of right and justice which every true union man possesses, were obliged to sacrifice their position, and many of them forced to leave happy homes to seek employment elsewhere. The sacrifice was great, but to remain honorable there was no alternative.

But circumstances often change as suddenly one way as another. Influences are brought to bear, and there appears a possibility of an office being redeemed. Then it is that the craftiness of the deserters becomes apparent. They at once begin to play policy. The wind begins blowing the other way and they are anxious to blow with it, and ten chances to one, after being given another opportunity, with a returning wind the majority of them will blow back. Like whitewash upon the blackened walls, the effect soon wears away, and the blemishes in their records once more come to the surface. They are union or non-union, according to circumstances. Their motto is policy first, principle a secondary consideration.

This is the class of men on whom whitewash is being foolishly lavished from time to time, in futile endeavors to cover up defects in records contaminated by falsehood and treachery, and in a great many instances we are rewarded by nothing but renewed exhibitions of cowardice and deceit on the part of the ones so favored. No thought of whitewash should ever be entertained in regard to some men. There is less danger in keeping them out of a union than there would be in admitting them. Outside their position is known, and we know what they are capable of doing. Inside our entire time would be spent in watching them. With a great many it is, "once a traitor, always a traitor," and the sooner we begin to realize this fact the less use there will be for whitewash in the typographical union. Men who join unions for policy's sake are dangerous. They are unreliable, and are with us only to better their conditions. We want men of principle, with a sense of honor and manhood so keen that, whatever influences may be brought to bear, their records shall forever remain unimpeachable, and their obligations stand as a barrier against which nothing can ever successfully prevail.

ENGLAND'S LABOR ENSLAVING SYSTEM.

That large quantities of produce are received in England and that very little is given in return is a fact that does not admit of a doubt; and it is one the conviction of whose existence must sooner or later force itself upon the agricultural communities of the world. Were these latter now to arrive at the conclusion that they might as well mine and smelt their own ore, twist and weave their own cotton and make their own earthenware, and were they to say to the people engaged in doing this work for them in England: "Come among us and mine ore, make iron, spin thread and weave cloth," thus having the work performed at home, the effect would be that instead of feeding several millions of foreigners they would have but half a million of their own people to feed; and that instead of giving such prodigious masses of cotton, sugar, coffee, tea, lumber, dye stuffs and other raw products in exchange for a little coarse cloth and a very little iron, they would have nearly the whole of that immense quantity to apply to the purchase of improved machinery or to that of the comforts and luxuries of life. What, however, would be the condition of the people of England? Where would be the commodities to pay for the supplies which they would still need? Nowhere! For Great Britain has now nothing of her own to sell. All her accumulations and the major part of the supplies required for her own people and for the support of Government are derived from profits—from buying cotton, wool, corn and other raw products at low prices and selling them as cloth and iron at high ones; and from the moment those profits ceased to be made she would cease to have the power to

feed or clothe her people without a total change of system. Such a change would look to elevating the workman instead of depressing him, to developing his faculties instead of crushing him, to making him a man instead of a mere machine. Such a change, however, would require time, the tendency of the system for so long a period having been towards the brutification of the laborer and towards reducing him to a condition near akin to slavery.—Carey's "Social Science."

Amusing Science.

Take two glass jars, A and B, and a third, C, double the size. Fill A with fresh water. If you attempt to float an egg on the surface of the water in this jar you attempt an impossibility, for the egg will instantly drop to the bottom as the density of the fresh water is less than that of the fresh egg. On the other hand, float an egg in the jar B, filled with water strongly impregnated with salt, and endeavor to make it sink to the bottom! This is an impossibility, as the egg, in spite of every effort, will rise to the surface. Here the density of the salt water is greater than that of the egg. This experiment demonstrates how much more easily it is to float in salt than

in fresh water. Aided by the tests of the two glass jars, pour a certain quantity of the water in jar A and of the water in jar B into jar C, and after a little adjustment, you will obtain by this mixture a liquid having the exact density of the egg. The egg now will not be compelled to descend to the bottom, as in pure water, or float on the surface, as in the water strongly salted, but will remain suspended half way, and you can make it rise or fall by either a pinch of salt or by introducing a little fresh water.

All the Pittsburg lodges of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers have voted in favor of asking an advance of fifty cents a ton in the price of puddling for the next scale year, dating from July 1. The request for the increase will be resisted by the manufacturers, who claim that the continued depression in trade will not permit of an advance in wages. On the other hand, the Amalgamated people assert that the enormous demand for iron and steel consequent upon the Columbian Exposition will not only push the mills to their fullest capacity, but naturally create an advance in prices, in which the workers have a right to share. The Amalgamated convention, before which the matter will come, will open on June 1.

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