

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
LABOR

Does what all federations of labor unions do, attempts to give solidarity to the labor movement by getting the various sections of the labor army into touch with each other. It refuses to admit that occupation can be a barrier to the community of interest running through the wage-earning masses. From its inception it has taken the stand that while unions of miners, sailors, slicemakers, cigarmakers and printers, must each and all be left entirely free to govern themselves within their own borders, yet, that between the members of all these unions there should be a bond as great as that between the members of the same union. The great aim and object of the Federation is to strengthen that bond, and its method is, by organization, education and inculcation, to place the labor movement upon a higher and more effective plane. The strength of a chain is in its weakest link, and the Federation, therefore, endeavors to organize all labor, recognizing that while many non-unionists may be sympathetic with unionism, yet that the unorganized are far more exposed to the pressure of unjust conditions than are the organized, and being thus necessarily weaker in maintaining wages, keeping down hours, and resisting other encroachments, are the source of constant danger to the organized as well as to themselves. And there is this that the American Federation of Labor has already done: It has largely swept away the old and foolish jealousy that existed between the skilled and unskilled workmen; it has taught the great lesson that a man is a man, no matter whether he sets type or scales the ladder, whether he sews the garment together or sells it behind the counter, whether he makes the machine that spins the cotton or gathers the cotton in the field. Whatever a man may be, so long as he works honestly and seeks to wrong no other man, or to advantage himself at the cost of another, he is a man. The Federation maintains this and seeks to swing all into line regardless of how they may happen to be employed.

The Federation is opposed to strikes, as are all peaceful institutions; but when struck, it will strike back as best it can. Strikes are barbaric in the act, but highly moral and absolutely necessary when forced by aggressive employers who would curtail the liberties of a portion of the community for the advancement of another, who refuse fair and open conference and adopt arrogance and forceful measures. Though strikes do not always win, even those that are lost at least induce the employers to forbear in the future and teach them a lesson they do not readily forget, that labor is the most important factor in production, entitled to consultation on the wages, hours and conditions under which labor shall be performed. Strikes pave the way to voluntary arbitration, but that such arbitration shall not be one-sided, labor must be possessed of determination, steadfastness, business methods and perfected organization, the highest form of which is had in Federation.

LABOR IN POLITICS.

We find in the letter page of last week's issue considerable exception taken to a recent article re lessons at the elections. This is no more than we expected, owing to the fact that upon all former occasions where a member endeavored to show a tangible plan of utilizing the labor vote to advantage he met with the same opposition.

A certain policy was adopted by the labor unions of the Dominion of Canada a great many years ago, which has always been a rank failure, and it has been demonstrated time and again that that policy cannot be successfully worked out, but it seems impossible for us to deviate from it.

We have always heard so much about what labor could do if they would only stand together. This we consider a great mistake, for we are perfectly assured that labor has stood more together than they have been given credit for, and the main reason of our failures is because we have always undertaken what we should know to be an impossibility, for if we just take the time to figure the thing out we will find that out of 15,000 union men there are not more than 11,000 voters; this divided into six wards, will give us 1,833 votes in each ward, provided that every union man voted and voted right, while it requires in the neighborhood of 2,200 votes to elect an alderman in any ward in the city.

In the case of the Board of Education, we must deduct from the 11,000 4,000 Roman Catholics, thus leaving but 7,000 votes all told. Now, in view of the fact that Mr. Tweed in the last election got 4201 votes, we think we are perfectly safe in saying that labor stood far more loyal than they have been given credit for, and that the recent failures have not been the fault of the voters, but the fault of the policy.

Mr. Gardiner, in his letter last week, claimed that we should nominate nobody but a trades unionist. This, we claim, would be all right, provided we had votes enough to elect him, but this we have not, and we therefore must be governed by the circumstances.

By confining our nominations to members of trades unions we not only turn down our friends in the Council by running men against them, but we isolate ourselves so that we get no support only from trades unionists, and as there are not enough of them to elect we are up against an impossibility.

We therefore claim that we should adopt a policy by which the members of the Council or Government who have shown themselves to be our friends

could be given our support, irrespective of what their politics might be.

We would like to ask what encouragement is there for any member of the Council to defend the principles of labor and stand for our rights, if at election time he is to find us putting up a man to run against him and defeat him if possible.

Mr. Stewart, in his letter of last week, defines a policy and says that he has no use for a politician in labor. We would like to point out to him that by that policy in the recent elections in Ward 6 the labor man was turned down, and one of the greatest union-haters in Toronto was elected to office. Still he would advise us to continue in the same old way, but we are not surprised at and have always found opposition from members who nominate themselves and use labor for the purpose of putting themselves before the public.

In the recent elections four men claimed to be labor men, brought out by labor. We would like to ask who asked them to run, or how many of them would have retired if the District Labor Council had refused to endorse them. They were self-nominated men, and labor had no more to do with nominating them than they had with any man running outside the ranks of labor. And just because we have members who aspire to be aldermen we must be dragged in the mire of ridicule and hauled to the trough and slaughtered, when by adopting the proper policy and being willing to be controlled by the majority, we could always be on top, and have nothing but the friends of labor in Council.

Mr. Stewart says, "Do not sell us that because we have to work for a living that we are any less honest than the millionaire." That is the rotten sentiment that has killed so many good arguments in the labor movement, and by telling us that the Canada Foundry Company or any other corporation cannot bribe him, he is playing to the gallery, and putting in one for labor and six for himself.

We are free to admit that it would be very nice to have labor men in Council, but when it can be clearly shown by practical figures that we cannot, then

we must do the next best thing, which to our mind is watch closely the conduct of every man in Council. If he deals squarely and honestly with labor, keep him there; if he refuses to do the right thing put him out and put some one in that will. And determine who we should vote for by a convention consisting of delegates from every union in the city, and if every union man is willing to vote for labor and be controlled by the majority there will be no failures.

In case some readers might argue that labor can elect members in the old country, we wish to say that in the elections now taking place in the British Isles, we hope and expect to see a great many labor men elected, but wish to point out that in some single constituencies there are more labor votes than in the whole Province of Ontario, in other words they have the votes to carry an election while we have not.

Let labor vote for labor's friends. We cannot carry a candidate of our own, but we can elect which we choose of the other fellows, and so long as we get what we want what does it matter who we get it from.

TOLD ABOARD

We were sitting down in the tick, a bunch of us fellows, of the steamer Emerald Isle, telling of some of the worst tubs we had ever sailed in on the Upper Lakes. Nipper had begun by telling what a beggar the now defunct William Tell was to roll.

"Honor bright, fellows," he said for the fifth time, "in rough weather she would top right over and lay on her side, then gradually right herself again and lay down on her other side. The only time we got any sleep was while in port. Get down into your bunk and try to sleep, you couldn't do it. Every half minute you'd find yourself standing on your head, lying level on your back and standing on your feet again."

"That's nothing," said Jack, slowly taking a cigarette out of his mouth. "The old Niome, on which I sailed last season, used to roll right round like a

log, her decks dipping in the lake on the starboard and emerging on the port side.

"The Lilly Belle, which went down not long ago off Black Rock, wasn't much of a boat to roll, but she was a beggar to shake. In a heavy sea she used to shake like the very devil. The first time I sailed on her I became entirely bald. Every time a big wave hit her she shook a few hairs out of my head, so that when I got to port I had to get a lot of Syrian hair restorer."

"I've seen some good fishing in my day," related Bill, "but the best I've ever seen was done by the old Columbia. I never was on a ship which pitched so heavily as she did, and I never saw her pitch so finely as on her first trip on Lake Superior. Not long after we had cleared the Soo we got some pretty nasty weather. The Columbia mounted the waves in fine style, and took some very pretty dives. Her bowsprit plunged every now and then right under the water, and nearly every time speared a couple of fish. When things quieted down a bit Spunky, the cook's kid, climbed out and cut off thirteen, including a large sturgeon."

"Pshaw!" put in Mike, "I've been on the old Minorea when we've caught

fish in the smoke-stack, and had 'em roasted in the furnace."

Just then the vessel lurched, and our mates met simultaneously at the same point.

All together—boom the label.

A general impression prevails that a Creole must be a colored person. As a matter of fact, anyone born in a West Indian colony is a Creole of that colony, whether he or she be English, Scotch, Irish, Chinese, Hindoo or Portuguese in blood. If a Chinese boy, born in Trinidad or British Guiana, were asked if he was a Chinaman, he would promptly reply that he was a Creole of that colony.

"To the bitter end," is a phrase of nautical origin. Admiral Smyth's "Sailor's Word Book" says that the "bitter end" is that part of the cable which is abaft the bitts, and, therefore, within board when the ship rides at anchor. And when a chain or rope is paid out to the bitter end, no more remains to be let go."

Bakers' strike still on.

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STRICTLY UNION-MADE AND AS GOOD AS THE BEST

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after school, 4 magnificent cards in every set, and only 10c a set. Canada's most beautiful scenery and Public Buildings. Comic Cards and Xmas Cards. A few minutes' easy work after school will earn for you any of these beautiful presents or dozens of others that we haven't room to show here. Thousands of Picture Cards are sold in Toronto every day, and ours are far more beautiful and far cheaper than the majority of stores are offering, and consequently are meeting with an astonishing sale. Our Xmas Cards are particularly fine and people are glad to buy them. They make such attractive presents and cost so little—only 2-2c each; the best and cheapest Xmas Cards ever sold. Come in and see them and have a look at our prizes, any one of which you can easily earn in a few minutes.

EXTRA PRIZES—We give presents of Stick Pins, Brooches, Cuff Links, and Watch Chains for promptness in selling the cards; also other presents for distributing Circulars for us.

Two weeks more till Christmas. You have time to earn a Present for everyone in the family and yourself as well. Call for the Cards as soon as you can. We're open from 8.00 a.m. until 6 p.m. every day except Sunday.

If it's not convenient for you to call, write us and we'll mail the Cards, postpaid. Don't forget the address.

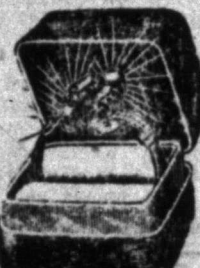
The Colonial Art Co.

191, YONGE STREET (Upstairs)

Opposite Eaton's Yonge Street Entrance.



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Lady's Solid Silver Watch



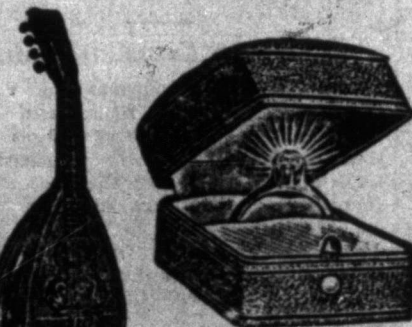
Lady's Solid Gold Watch



KICK! KICK! GET INTO THE GAME!



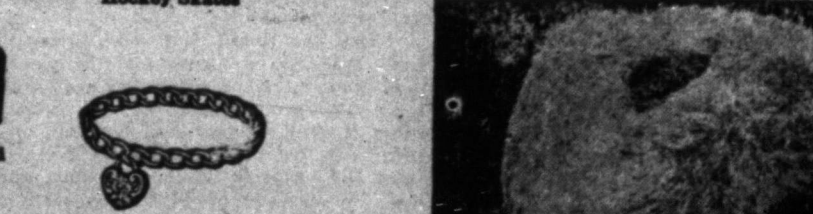
DOLL FOLDING BED



Solid Gold Diamond Ring and Imitation Diamond Ring



Henry Baker's Nickel-plated Hockey Skate



Boy's Hand some Watch



Death to Rats, Cats, Sparrows



Complete Printing Press



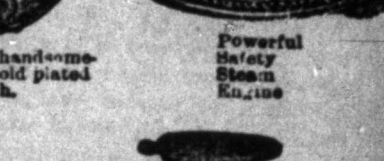
Punching Bag and Boxing Gloves



Large Magic Lantern and Slides



Sing, Talks, and Plays



Boy's or Man's Hand some Watch



Powerful Safety Razor



Fine Imitation Blue Fox Ruff