
********* "Merlin" writes as follows in the Lon-

The trade union congress which has been sitting at Swansea has recognized the fact that the principle in support of which its members are mainly interested has received a serious blow. Mr. Bowerman in his presidential address was outspoken in despondency. He described the present condition of affairs as "intolerable," and the legal decision which it is the oucome as being "intended to secure the legal pauperization of workmen." The Daily Chronicle, comed to extinction as a fighting force."

The pronouncement of the house of which has carried consternation into the trades union ranks, relates to a question so simple that the intellect of a child mightbe relied on to solve it. The point is this: Should a society be held responsible for the acts of its authorized agents? The answer is obvious and inescapable, if the matter is posed as a problem in equity. Until a few weeks ago the point of law as it affected trade unions was uncertain. It is now settled, and settled in accordance with plain comon sense and justice. It is understood that if the officials and agents of a trade union sanction illegal acts to the injury of others, the funds of the union can be made liable in damages

There would not at first sight seem to be any ground for despondency in respect to this decision, for it does not propose in any way to penalise the legal action of the unions. It simply makes them responsible for any illegal moviswhich may have a detremintal effect upon the interests of others. But the very fact that it does excite some thing akin to dismay proves at once that the leaders of the unions have hitherto not been careful to scrutinize too closely legality of their own proceedings It is only the galled jade who wince under a pinch of this sort. A corporate body which has always kept scrupulously within the limits of the law is not dis-turbed on being told that it will be held financially responsible for the conseillegal acts. The recent decison of the highest court of judicature in the realm tells the unions neither more nor less than that, and straightway "the position is intolerable," and the question of the extinction of trades uniosn fighting force is guessed at by one supporters. If you tell an indicate supporters, "If you break you pay," and if citizen, "If you break you pay," and if that citizen begins to cry out that he is in sight of ruin, you suspect him of having, at least, been careless about break-The attitude and temper of the

and to resist aggression would be out trade he chose, and if he were taught of date. Such a right is everywhere adthat they have never been able wholly to distinguish the limits between mora suasion and a suasion which is very far They have always thought it a part of their right to terrorize, and there never was a strike or a lock-out since trade combination had its beginnings in which no attempt was made to intimidate the non-unionist who made to intimidate the non-unionist who dared to take up the work the unionist had laid down. The fact is human natural, and the man who looked for any-

thing else would be over-sanguine.

Trade combinations, whether of men
or masters, are in their essence tyranor masters, are in their essence tyrannies, and their final argument is an appeal to force. Even in conflicts which are so peaceful on the surface that it is caractly worth while to count overt acts of anger, the aim on either side is to distinguished women who, in obedience distinguished women who, in obedience distinguished women who, in obedience of health. I will alway instinct of mercy and beof anger, the aim on either side is to starve the other out, to reduce its resources to so low an ebb that surrender shall become inevitable. Put it how you like, it is war, and war is not to be carried on without an awkening of the natural passions of wrath and betred. The ural passions of wrath and hatred. The fact that those passions are inevitably excited makes it necessary that the legal position and the legal responsibilities shall be definitely marked and understood on both sides, and it is because the late decision of the House of Lords has made one firm step in this direction that it will be approved by the common sense of the nation.

For a generation or two there has been so general a consensus of opinion in fa-vor of free trade that the doctrine may almost be said to have been held by almost be said to have been held by them universally. But they have never for an instant recognized free trade in labor. Not even the nonunionists have ever risen to the conception of the idea. A Jack-of-all-trades, in proverbial philosophy, is a master of none. The guilds which had their rise in the twelfth ceneury, and rigidly bound every man to the craft to which he was born, whatever that might be, have sent down their legacy of fetters through eight hundred years. The Apprentice Act of Queen Elizabeth, long sinde repealed, made it impossible for a man to engage in "any craft or mystery" to which he had not been bound apprentice for seven years. seven years. It is a clear affront to naturally reposes a littile faith in him—seven years to master the art of brick-laying on the art of sticking up type on end, or any one of a hundred crafts

which are now employed, not to devel-op, but to restrict, and cripple the genral usefulness of the man who is set to learn them. There is nothing in nature to prevent a man from being a condition of the complete master of a round half-dozen tically hopeless. ear cannot learn to forge a horseshoe house-painter, tailor, compositor, shoe-ing smith, sawmill hand and bricklayer wage at it.

The cardinal error which lies at the root of trade-unionism is that it bends all its powers and formulates all its laws, not to produce the best and most energy, to minimize the force of excep-tional capacity, to make the thumb-fingered fool the equal of the agile-handed man of brains, not by quickening the fool's wits but by throttling his capable rival. They have not the simple sense to recognize the fact that fluids present ess resistance than solids, and strive to make the social machine run smooth by the blind expedient of screwing down every bearing until it scorches the working. If every well-found working man had half a dozen simple trades at his finger ends—as at the very least he ought to have—and if he were free, as he ought to be, to prosecute any one of them as occasion served, the difficultiees of those tyrant leagues of com-merce which make it their aim to keep labor in subservience to capital would be increased beyond calculation. The hide-bound—steel-bound—rules of the unions make it impossible for a man to earn his livelihood at more than one trade, or, as it sometimes happens, more than one fraction of a trade. That commercial ogre of a modern trust has him

at its mercy. But, suppose the conditions of labor fluid. Suppose the locked-out men able to disperse to a hundred different occupations, the power to squeeze the life out of them is gone. I have never seen this idea "ventilated" as the phrase goes, anywhere, but it is the work man's natural reply to oppression. has always chosen its exact opposite. He of their most powerful and consistent has deliberately, by law and by conventual supporters. If you tell an individual citizen, "If you break you pay," and if natural faculties. He has made it as crime to work after hours in order that the industrious may have no profit in which the idle do not share. He has ages. The attitude and temper of the trade unionists is curiously illuminative. No mere argument could convict them one-half as conclusively as their own outcry.

An argument as to the moral right of any body of men to combine together to secure and confer common advantages and to resist aggregation would be attituded.

If every man were free to practice any made penal laws to prevent a man from

mitted, but it is obviously essential that it should be safeguarded. Unionists are still angry with Lord Salisbury for his race of workmen too slippery for squeezphrase about "cruel combinations," but ing. But the trade-unions tie both the hands of human faculty behind the back Lord Salisbury is an elderly gentleman hands of human faculty behind the back nowadays, and it cannot seem a very long time to him since the combinations wind, in the serene belief that they are were not only cruel but were marked by circumstances of atroc ty. The union able position. Let labor unite by all placing their own champion in a favor able position. of today is widely different from the means, but let it unite intelligently, not union of a little over 30 years ago, but the man who forgets history is not wise. It is the plain truth that, since they ditions which were in the highest degree ditions which were in the highest degree ditions which were in the highest degree provocative of hatred and violence, the provocative vear by year grown milder cles, and it will prosper in exact proporties, and it will prosper in exact proporties, and it will prosper in exact proporties. unions have year by year grown miner in their methods and more just in their appreciation of their own rights and those of others. They have kept a fairly equal pace in the general progress, and it will prosper in exact proportion with the degree in which it comes into step with liberty. So long as it continues to believe that its true course is to stiffe human powers and to make the possible least instead of the possible best of the human material at its command, it must needs suffer for its folly. The unions have money enough and power enough to start a guild of general proficiency in the crafts of life. They could raise the standard of efficiency out of knowledge in a generation.

The ignorance with which they graptheir claims. These characteristics are displayed not only by the labor unions mbinations which but by those trade combinations which are conducted by the learned profes-sions. My whole argument against these combinations—by whatever class they are promoted—is that they seek to reshire potteries district. I am told that in the very large area covered by its ef-forts the Crippled Children's League may find no fewed than 600 and probably more than 700 candidates for help. The present condition of these sorrowful atoms of humanity is traceable to the usual causes. Rickets, syphilis, scrofula, struma, and some of the for a generation or two there has been of leprosy may answer for 50 or even onest the working men of this country of leprosy may answer for 50 or even onest the working men of this country of leprosy may answer for 50 or even onest a company of them. have to blame careless nursing, and a

pled children whom she designs to help. He looks, and he affirms that he can cure one in three, that he can an condition of another third, and that the condition of the remaining third is prac-

of the simpler and more straightforward arts of civilization. The lad who in a is the official organ of the British Medical cal Association, I read that, as a conshoe a horse with it is born with-sequence of this act on the part of the aptitude for skilled hand labor, and Duchess of Sutherland, the whole body out aptitude for skilled hand labor, and so is the man who, in the same space of time, cannot master the mystery of plain house-painting and paper-hanging. Take an intelligent dexteroushanded boy of 14, who has had seven years' rational tuition at school, and if years' rational tuition at school, and if the time he comes of age he is not that until the Duchess of Sutherland by the time he comes of age in the carried the equal of any average carpenter, can "clear up" the imputation of having introduced an unqualified person to look can "clear up" the imputation of having ing smith, sawmill hand and bricklayer at her crippled protegees it is the duty of every qualified person to retire and to leave the cripples to take care of themtold that bricklaying is not good train-ing for a compositor or a tailor, but a smart man may make himself master of challenge offered in respect to the numenting on the president's speech, is found asking if trade unionism is "doomed to extinction as a fighting force."

In a speech, is all the occupations I have named, and found asking if trade unionism is "doomed to extinction as a fighting force."

In a speech, is all the occupations I have named, and merous cures which are certified by men and women of high social standing to extinct the profession of a dozen others to boot, in the time men and women of high social standing he is now compelled to expend upon a fewer by members of the profession. he is now compensus to care a living of surgery. That is not the point at all ways at it.

The whole question is that Mr. Atkin son is not a member of a guild, and the mere fact of his having "looked at" a number of subjects has sent that guild into a hysteria of insolence towards a capable citizen, but to limit individual lady whose one object was to perform an act of charity. Until the fact that the Duchess of Sutherland invited the unprofessional man was known, the prosional men were all at her service Her grace brings in somebody who pre tends-let us put it in that way-to know something that they do not kn and to do something they cannot do Now, if Mr. Atkinson is a charlatan, what better chance could they have of probing him? And if he be a true man, why in the name of common sense de they run away from one who may give them instruction in their own art? It is the Guild-the Guild-th

Guild! It is the old absurd and crue theory that no man shall enter on any field of effort or inquiry to which he has not pledged himself at the time of his nonage. Are there not a hundre medical practitioner,, fully qualified, be-tween Newcastle and Trentham, and in the region round about, who could have laid bare pretense triumphantly? Is i not an essential thing that quackery should be exposed? Would not the united testimony of all the professiona medicos of the potteries have killed a humbug? Mr. Atkinson has offered to treat the potteries cripples gratis. he is a humbug let the British Medic ciation show him up and have don with him. If he can effect a single cure which is outside the power of the rent practitioner to bring about, let the Association watch and learn his methds. An insolent isolation can do nothing either to expose charlatanism or to promote the cause of science. The dignity which will not learn is the dignity of the dullard, and that is the mark of the trade-union everywhere.

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other sufferers, feeling sure they will prove quite as efficacious as they did in my daughter's case.

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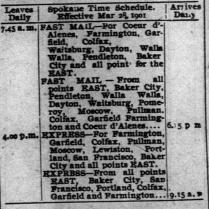


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COUNTING THE I TION-NEAR VATIO

The Ven. Archdeac census commissioner was accompanied by zie, George Vincent returned to Winnipeg having taken the ce They started on their journey on June 6th, taking occupied abou archdeacon, a rapid a ler, in his early days sionary work at Alba Bay coast, walked to in mid-winter, a distr miles, Both in walking has quite a reputation wilds of Northeasten red Indian is the o be met in hundreds After reaching Din adian Pacific railway Mr. McKenzie start two canoes, and bef Norway House to ta Lake Winnipeg, had

rivers, creeks and by miles Speaking to a re Winnipeg Free Pre stated that the resu been very satisfactor cent and Mr. Blue c between Norway Ho and Churchill, while and Mr. McKenzie ple living on the A different lakes on th along the sea coast and also along to Tr

After proceeding to St. Joseph, Lac Ser bodies of water, way the Indians reached Fort Hope ting over without rapids on that part After completing t Falls, and going 150 the river, Mr. McK lish river to Matta of 120 miles, while to Albany, which he Mr. McKenzie follo On the 17th they st Bay coast and weather, small ca coast they covered miles between the and the Equan rive days. Next they asc for over 200 miles river, although the Albany, whi two outlets to the

"Next," said

crossed by portage into the Wenisk, a

er, and again afte eached the sea bay. Here we end weather, and were eral occasions. At to camp, as it was getting dusk we sa we met. My rifle or I would have m It blew a perfect and it was impo oes, which were filled with water away, and the sea tents before we were getting low had moderated a reached Fort Sev gust. This point making a somewh cending the Sever Trout lake, which Having complete lake we pushed country to Island of water filled w lands From that way House, and green lake, where Vincent and Mr. had parted on Ji gether by the ste Lake Winnipeg a city. We ascended dreds of rapids, tages, crossed lan and even 70 miles ney without any

> is no truth in a number have die are a good class efforts of the proportion of read and characters. They and between th to live. Mr. George travelled an ent them was asign of the vast a trance was effect

about. The journ 3,000 miles, and

rise to sunset in

We found the vast territory fa

House, where n in enumerating, to obtain provis No eatables of way House, an word arrived t was to bring st decidedly limite House, some next stopping p son's Bay Com provisions so th could not be re situated on th headwaters of t the next object miles of river over, the post food was unatte good Indian hu ing excessive of post of its sto party had to