

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSION LAWS.

In the Commonwealth House of Representatives Mr. Deakin, the Australian Premier, introduced the amended Immigration Bill.

One bill provides that immigrants under contract may land in the Commonwealth if the terms are approved by the Minister, if the employer be unable to obtain within the Commonwealth a worker equally skilled, and if the immigrant's remuneration be the same as is current among workers of a similar class in Australia. The second bill deals with alien immigrants, and amends technical difficulties brought to light in the courts.

Mr. Deakin, in explanation of the bills, said: "While crying out the White Australia policy, we are not called on to cast a slur on any other people. Two races have peculiar claims on our respect and admiration. Hindus are entitled to special consideration as forming a part of the empire. There is also a new people who are in alliance with the empire. It is desired so to amend the law as to avoid hurting their susceptibilities."

The Standard Oil Company has declared a dividend of 40 per cent. for the year. Mr. Rockefeller's share comes to \$4,000,000. It is computed that his income totals \$8,000,000.

CHINESE INVASION OF ENGLAND.

The Yellow Peril is a popular theme with politicians just now, and the latest form it has taken is the invasion of this country by Chinese laundries. The largest "yellow" colonies are in Liverpool and Birkenhead, each of which cities is the home of between one and two thousand Chinamen. John Chinaman, over here, proves to be a law-abiding fellow, and the police authorities give them an excellent name. Whether the "invasion" is likely to assume large proportions is very doubtful, though, of course, there always is a large migratory population of Chinamen in all our seaports. Personally, I should be very pleased to see the Chinese laundries extending their operations to London, for the average London washerwoman leaves a good deal to be desired.

FAMINE IN JAPAN.

A great famine prevails among the farmers in the three prefectures of Fukushima, Miyagi, and Iwate, in the eastern part of the main island. The agricultural population, numbering over one million, are practically starving, and the weather is intensely cold. The Government is taking relief measures. The Tokio Journal, Jiji Shimpo, which raised a successful fund for the relief of the distress caused by the recent Indian earthquake, has now started a fund for its own people, and will be pleased to receive subscriptions from British sympathizers.

MAORIS RUINED BY BILLIARDS.

"The Maori children are often kept up all night billiard marking, and are therefore utterly unfit to come to school." This remarkable statement is made by Mr. W. Bird, inspector of native schools in New Zealand, in his annual report, which throws light on the extraordinary gambling propensities of the natives.

Billiard tables, Mr. Bird declares, are to be seen in the gum-fields, in the native settlements, and even on the roadside.

VIEWING THE PROCESSION.

The policeman is probably learned by this time in the device of the short lady who carries a brick done up like a brown paper parcel, and lets it down by a piece of string to act as a footstool just as the royal procession is approaching. But even the policeman is sometimes too sharp. "You must get off that box, please, sir," said the constable in the Strand. The man addressed preserved a complete silence. The crowd around him tittered. The chance of a row always cheers a waiting crowd. "Boxes aren't allowed, if you please," persisted the policeman, edging nearer. The immediate neighbors of the offender, who towered head and shoulders above the rest, laughed aloud. It was not until the policeman had elbowed his way through that the young giant took the trouble to speak. "Can't get off my own legs, can I?" he remarked, with a grin.—London Chronicle.

Am. Federation of Labor Convention Notes

A. C. Sanders, of the Amalgamated Carpenters, who has just returned from the American Federation of Labor at Pittsburg, reports that quite a large amount of the time at same was taken up on the jurisdiction question of the different trades, and he believes this is one of the main items that is going to lead to serious controversy between some organizations, and will have to be carefully handled to keep all unions solid with the American Federation of Labor. Another matter that came up that gave him satisfaction was that there was quite a feeling expressed that different organizations must so change their constitution and go in for high dues and give benefits the same as his organization does, as those unions that are on this basis in time of depression give their members a good return for the high dues so paid, and therefore retain a larger per cent. of their members in time of trouble.

A sumptuous banquet was tendered to the fraternal delegates by the Executive of the A. F. of L., at which each of the fraternal delegates were presented with a handsomely inscribed solid gold watch and an equally handsome inscribed gold badge.

(All join in.)

Chorus:
Everybody works but Gompers,
And he sits around all day
Feet in front of the fire
Smoking his Henry Clay—PIPE
The members of his Council
They say work day and night,
Everybody works but Gompers,
But he's all right.

G-O-M-P-E-R-S-Gompers!!!

Hee Haw! Hee Haw!
Rutabaga! Rutabaga!
Raw! Raw! Raw!
S-T-A-N-W-I-X-Stanwix!!!

SO LONG AS RIGHT MUST BE UPHOLD AND BUTTRESSED BY MIGHT, SO LONG WILL OUR CIVILIZATION REMAIN A MERE SET OF PROMISES WITH THE FORCES OF SIN AND EVIL.

See that you get the bakers' union label on each and every loaf of bread you buy.

NOTES AND NOTELETS.

A number of manufacturers, many of them very wealthy, waited on the Tariff Commission, all with the same request: "Will you kindly increase the tax on my neighbor, so that it will make me more wealthy? We have to pay higher wages than the manufacturer in the Old World, and therefore we want protection against their competition."

These gentlemen never seemed to think that this kind of argument would apply both ways. The workmen would have just as good a right to go to the commission and state: "We have to pay more for our clothing and tools than the Old Countryman, therefore we should have protection, so as to be able to pay these high prices."

It is marvellous how the manufacturers look at the question of wages. Never for a moment do they imply that workmen receive more than they produce, and yet they keep all sorts of agencies of the most subtle character to squeeze the workers down to the smallest pittance. At the same time they are apparently utterly oblivious to the existence of another man, to whom they should give the first attention, namely, the owner of the land, especially the man who holds land for nothing but extortion.

The workers are an essential part of the industry. They produce the goods in great abundance, but they receive only a small share of this abundance. The owners of the ground rents and the speculators do nothing whatever to the production of the goods; but they carry off a very large share of the product. Fifty thousand dollars yearly per acre for ground rent is not bad pay as wages go at the present time. What does the owner of the ground do for this enormous tribute? What part does he play in the industries of the country. He is all the time driving industry towards bankruptcy, crowding it down to the smallest profits. With every increase of the population the owner of the land comes to the industries with a larger and larger demand for tribute, and time and again with this increased obligation has he brought on those commercial depressions which have closed up a host of factories. And yet the manufacturers never whispered a word against this increasing oppression. All their complaint was against the man who gave them every assistance to gain their fortunes; but never a word against the men who are driving many of them towards bankruptcy.

Is it not marvellous that they cannot see the difference between the men who help and the men who hinder and impoverish. The toilers build the factories, fill them with machinery, and stock them with goods. The toilers are the bees that store the honey in the hive. Then come the speculators and the collectors of ground rents, who have not laid a brick or made a pound of goods, and demand a fortune yearly. Then the manufacturers come to the commission and complain of high wages, but are silent as oysters as to the extortion of the owners of the land.

Wages do not grow as the city grows, but the ground rents have gone up with leaps and bounds. Where the ground rent was practically nothing a hundred years ago, it is a hundred thousand dollars yearly per acre. Whence comes the blindness of the manufacturers, which leads them to fight for a system of taxation which brings paralysis to business every ten years, which places many of them under a burden which crushes their lives, while it protects non-production into perpetual fortune. Who receives

the advantage of the protective duties, the man who without spending a single hour in the year can collect a ground rental of fifty thousand dollars yearly, or the man who struggles to keep going a business in which he must give the best energies of his life to meet his obligations to his creditors? Unconsciously many a manufacturer is digging the grave of his fortune and dooming his children and children's children to an inevitable poverty. They may be glorying on the top of the wheel of fortune to-day, but crushed beneath its lower turn to-morrow.

Is it not an extraordinary sight to see some of these men talk of the struggle they have to compete with their neighbors, and yet every few years they make additions to their establishments, go on trips to Europe, and build mansions of glory and beauty. Then they come to ask relief against the men who give them these fortunes, and are silent as to the men who are trying to place them under greater obligation. They talk most eloquently about the high wages they have to pay, but they take great pains that the immigration policy shall keep wages down to the lowest figures.

What a blessing it would be to the world if more of our preachers, instead of spending their time among dead men's books, ferreting out doctrines that have only the most remote application to practical life, were to turn their attention to the manner in which the grandest principles of religion are trampled under foot and all the equities of brotherhood are set at defiance. They preach with wonderful eloquence against covetousness and the worldliness of the present day, but they give no heed to the forces that they themselves support, which must produce all these evil results. They themselves scatter the seeds, and then they deplore the weeds. They went to the City Council in great force to ask for a reduction of the liquor licenses, but very few ever call attention to the iniquities which deprive men of their homes, crush them into poor surroundings, and tempt them to resort to the evil environment of the bar rooms.

Was the controllership of the Council made as a reward for aldermen who have served two years in Council? Does this not pack the Board of Control with ward politicians instead of good, sound business men, who might be persuaded to apply to people as an honor.

The demand of the union label on all your purchases proclaims the fact that you are a principled unionist.

Dear Sir,—As you are aware, last January a vote was taken on the \$700 exemption and was carried by a majority of 8,000, but was later defeated by the City Council.

In the meantime there has been nothing done to relieve the home famine and exorbitant rents, and the \$700 exemption still remains in the field as the only remedy.

We tax dogs and we lessen their numbers. We tax peddlers and there are fewer of them. We tax whisky and it makes it harder to get. Then we tax houses and that helps to lessen their number, and consequently to raise the rents.

The \$700 exemption proposes to exempt from assessment all dwelling houses to the extent of \$700, and this will be an encouragement to build houses. Many of our manufacturers are exempt, and the result was to bring them to Toronto. THE KING EDWARD HOTEL IS EXEMPTED FROM ASSESSMENT TO THE EXTENT OF NEARLY \$2,000,000, with the object to encourage the erection of this building. This is our precedent, and we ask for a partial exemption of dwellings, FOR THERE IS FAR GREATER NEED OF DWELLING HOUSES IN TORONTO THAN THERE IS OF HOTELS LIKE THE KING EDWARD.

The \$700 exemption yields two losses. It will lessen the tax on dwellings, thereby encouraging their erection, and it will, by increasing the rate, put a slightly heavier tax upon vacant land; but it may be said, the heavier tax on land, that the Toronto assessment has increased in the last year by \$20,000,000, so it will be but a slight increase.

We appeal to the good sense of the union and middle-class men of Toronto to help to obtain this desired reform, and it is imperative that we should see the \$700 exemption passed by the City Council. AND THE EXPRESSED MANDATE OF THE ELECTORS OBEYED.

We trust that you will help us in the future as you have done heretofore, and I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, Fred H. Lake.

Mr. Editor:

Can the city really afford a monopoly in the hotel business? It looks funny to me, as the courts just now are full of this combine and monopoly business they are trying to break up, and without a doubt they are right or they would not waste the money trying it.

Subscriber.

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