

In the Greek Archipelago there is an island where the women hold absolute sway—they hold the reins of Government, and the dear men have the privilege of doing all the work on this island. There is no talk of women's rights, for they have it all their own way. If some unfortunate man should happen to want his, the ladies have only to say off with his head, and it is done.

I am not sure, but some day I think there will be a man's rights movement spring up among these people. Of course, it would be very nice if the same conditions prevailed in our country. We might not care to carry out the idea so far as to strike off the masculine head, but there are certain occasions when even this would seem desirable. For instance, it has been the privilege of the ladies, when Leap Year came around, to have the right of popping the question, the gentleman having the right to refuse if he chose to pay the forfeit of a silk dress. Now, if we could change this, and make the penalty of refusal the loss of his head, I don't think we would hear of many refusals. Of course, we would rather he did not refuse, and I think we will again agree that a live man is much more useful than a dead one. And after all the only object we could possibly have in marrying a man is that we may have the opportunity of tenderly loving and caring for him, and spending his money (when he has any).

I could give you many more reasons why, but space will not permit.

I sincerely hope I am not bringing trouble on some union man. On the other hand, I may be doing him good service—if so, I hope he will have the courtesy to write his thanks to the Women's Page of The Tribune.

Toronto, Oct. 3, 1905.

Women's Department, Tribune:

Dear Madam,—Do you not think that the ignorance and indifference of the wives and daughters of union men in regard to trades unionism is largely due to the lack of interest on the part of the union man himself. A great many men appear to think that it is impossible for a woman to understand anything outside of her household duties. There are, no doubt, many women who would be glad to give any assistance in their power to the trades union movement if they had some intelligent idea of how to go about it. I am glad that The Tribune, the mouth-piece of organized labor, has given us women this opportunity of discussing matters of this kind through its pages. I wish the Women's Department all success.

An Interested One.

An Interested One—Unfortunately, I have to agree with you, that the ignorance and indifference of our women on trades union affairs is largely due to lack of education on these lines. It may also be true that this lack of education may be the fault of the union man himself. Indeed, I believe it is. I know that my own experience has not led me to think that trades unionism and its objects has had much prominence in the average home, but I think this condition is changing to a large extent. Organized men are waking up to the fact that women's help is needed in the struggle for better conditions. They know, or rather, they are beginning to recognize, that women can play a most important part in the future tactics of organized labor. Old methods must be discarded and new ones adopted. To my mind, the union label is one of the most important factors in the new order of things. It gives women such a grand opportunity of doing what old methods have failed to do. We women practically hold the balance of power in our hands. It is the women who spend the earnings of labor, and it is for us to see that the money is spent in the best interests of those who earn it, and how can we do this better than in seeing that our purchases bear the stamp of honest, fair production. And, indeed, who is more interested in this work than woman herself. In the past it has always been women and children who have suffered most in economic struggles, and we

should always keep this fact in our mind, that the article bearing the union label is not manufactured by child labor or underpriced women. I have great faith in women's sense of justice, and I believe that as women become more familiar with the principles of trades unionism, and I know that the knowledge of these things is growing, for we see combinations of women on all sides organized for the purpose of helping along the good time, and I think it is not altogether a matter of sentiment, either—it is for self-preservation that we must take our part in the struggle. The opportunities for women to get intelligent ideas in connection with trades union matters are many, and it is up to every woman to avail herself of these opportunities, and she need not be afraid that she will unsex herself by so doing.

I think we women are to be congratulated that Mr. Perry has given us the chance to discuss matters of this kind through The Tribune, and I hope that the women folk belonging to union men will be interested in making the Women's Department a success. I shall be glad to hear from you again.

M. D.

A NEW MUSICAL GAME.

Here is a suggestion for a new musical game which will serve to delight the young people. The hostess announces that a story is going to be told by the aid of the piano, and the person who shall best interpret the tale shall get a prize. All are provided with cards and pencils, and every one listens anxiously to catch the titles of the tunes. A pianist is seated at the instrument, and the hostess asks a series of questions, each of which has to be answered by a tune. If the hostess says, "What was the heroine called?" the pianist strikes up "Annie Laurie," while the hero can be easily symbolized by a few bars of "Robin Adair." The answer to "Where did they meet?" can be "Coming through the Rye," and "When did he propose?" can be answered by "After the Ball was Over." The listeners must write down each question and answer in turn, and sometimes forfeits are given by those who have failed to discover a tune.

Patronize the merchants who advertise with us and think your trade is worth the having.

A LIVING BASKET.

To make a hanging basket remove the inside of a carrot or sweet potato, leaving a wall about three-quarters of an inch thick. Pass cords through holes pierced in the sides, and fill the cavity with water, and the basket is complete. In a few days, upturning sprays of green will sprout from the bottom and cover the outside. Then if a small bunch of violets is put in this quaint little cup, it will make a most charming addition to the room.

A RED-HOT TIME.

One smile makes a flirtation. One flirtation makes two acquainted. Two acquainted makes one kiss. One kiss makes several more. Several kisses make an engagement. One engagement makes two fools. Two fools make one marriage. One marriage makes two mothers-in-law. Two mothers-in-law make a red-hot time.—Labor Clarion.

Union men who wear overalls all the week around an engine or lathe and get grease and smut on their hands are as good as the men who work in a suit of broadcloth with a "biled" shirt on. There are too many classes in labor ranks as well as in the church and in society. Six feet of earth will make them equal.

WAR AND LABOR

BY HENRI RESTELLE

Now that the Russo Japanese war has been brought to a conclusion, one is forced to ask what good it all has been to the man who toils. What advantage will accrue to the Russian peasant from this bloody conflict, and how much better off will be the wage-earner of Japan now than two years ago? What advantage, indeed, accrues to the working class from any war? If poverty and brutalization, if cracked skulls and shattered frames, are advantages, then may the working class shout long and loud for war, for these they get in full measure. If poverty and brutalization, if cracked skulls and shattered frames are not advantages, are things not at all desirable, then it behooves the working class to protest against a monstrosity which brings them naught but woe.

Consider for a moment what war means. Consider it from a business point of view. Never mind the grief and sorrow brought to many a hearth, never mind the savagery of the battlefield, never mind the unutterable horrors of a campaign, but just consider the hard facts, and decide if war is a paying game.

When a nation enters upon a war what happens? Mobilization takes place. Every able-bodied man who can shoulder a musket is hustled into a barracks, decked up in a showy uniform, placed under the will of an officer, and shipped like cattle to Timbuctoo, or just across the channel, as the case may be. These men are taken from the ranks of industry, from the army of producers, and placed where? Where else but in the ranks of destroyers, in the army of non-producers? In their new capacity they cease to create wealth, but do they cease to consume it? Instead of increasing property they destroy it. What does this mean? It means that the best workmen in the community, those endowed with superior brawn and brain, are removed from the farm and the workshop to engage in a business which brings no dividends. And who supports these men? The people at large, of course, but the cost of their maintenance falls most heavily on the working class. The laborer does not pay more than the lawyer or doctor, but he is far less able to bear the increase of taxes imposed upon him. Work while a war is in progress may be plentiful, wages may be fairly good, owing to the withdrawal of a large number of men from the field of industry and the impetus given to certain trades by military requirements, but what prosperity is thus gained is neutralized by excessive taxes. Moreover, good times must only be temporary, for when the war is over and the army disbanded, the labor market is again glutted, industry slackens, and the country is confronted with an army of unemployed seeking in vain for a job, filling the work-houses to overflowing, and adding to the sum total of pauperism and crime.

And not only this; the efficiency of the working class is greatly impaired. It is not from the ranks of the vicious and the immoral, of the incompetent and the n'er do-well, of the diseased and aged that the army is recruited. If this were the case, wars might be a blessing. But no, it is from the ranks of the strong and healthy, of the skilled and the intelligent that the army is recruited. These are marched off only to succumb to disease and powder, or else return home with health and morals undermined, an aversion to work and an inability to resume their former occupation. Thus does war destroy the fittest, and favor the survival of the unfit. It means the degradation of the working class, a thing which organized labor has been fighting against in various ways for the last three quarters of a century. And if organized labor is to ultimately succeed in bettering the condition of its own class, it must rage a strenuous war against militarism and every other such monstrosity.

Militarism is as much a curse to the workingman as is landlordism. Both rob him of the fruits of his labor. The immense debts which burden every nation have been accumulated by costly wars and the increase of armaments. The total debt which burdens the states of Europe to-day can hardly be realized. It is over five billion nine hundred million pounds sterling, or in Canadian money, about thirty billion dollars. Two thirds of the European budgets consists of charges for wars and debts. The total expenditure, direct and indirect, absorbs half the wealth produced by the working classes. This state of affairs does not obtain in Canada, but let the workmen of this country take heed. Sir Frederik Borden, Minister of the Militia and Defence, has been urging upon the Government a large increase of Canadian forces, involving an expenditure very much beyond the three and a half million dollars spent by his department in the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1904. The adequate defence of this country is, of course, necessary, but the dangers threatening Canada are not so great as to demand a lavish increase in our armaments.

Comrades, wake up; wars must cease, militarism must go, armaments must become a thing of the past. Labor has nothing to gain and everything to lose from a perpetuation of wars and war like preparations. It is in the interests of us workmen the world-wide over to secure universal peace. The solidarity of labor is our great ideal, and that solidarity will never be attained as long as we permit our masters to split our forces by international strife. It is up to organized labor in all countries to unite in one great effort to force upon our governments arbitration as the exclusive means of settling international disputes.

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