

A Story With a Moral

GERALD O'CONNEL DESMOND

"Mr. Smith," said the editor of the Morning,—"I want you to cover that strike's meeting."

Billy Smith, the young reporter, looked surprised. Strike's meetings were not on his list. As a general rule he "did" police courts, fires, etc., things of that kind.

The editor noticed his look and deigned a word of explanation. "Mr. Jones has other work," he said, "and Mr. Anderson had to go out on that murder case in 10th Street, so I have to put you on to the meeting. We want about a column and a half, and get in as soon as you can."

Billy Smith sat at the reporter's table writing busily. The big strike was at its height; just at the critical point indeed. Billy was a son of the common people and his sympathies were with the men.

But Billy knew that officially he couldn't sympathize with the men. He was there without bias, without fear or favor as he considered.

And so Billy simply reported the meeting from a neutral standpoint, fairly and impartially.

When the meeting was over he hurried to the office, polished up his stuff a little and sent it in.

Half an hour after Billy was in the editor's room again.

"Mr. Smith," said the editor, "This won't do. We can't publish it as it is. Go and rewrite it at once."

Billy's eyebrows raised. As a general thing his copy went without comment.

"May I ask where the fault is?" he questioned.

"It's unsuitable right through," was the rather angry response.

"It doesn't fit in with our policy—When you do this kind of work you've got to consider the policy of the paper. This isn't a labor paper. We don't want reports favorable to these people in any way."

"I don't consider the report favorable," said Billy a little annoyed. "It is simply a correct report, simply fair and impartial, no more."

The editor reddened up.

"It won't do anyhow," he snapped. "I don't want it. What do I care about fair and impartial. It doesn't fit in with our policy in this matter. We're not helping this lot of strikers. We're against them, and we want a report that will tell against them."

"Your business is to write in accord with our policy—to write what we want—not what you think or see or hear. That's what you're paid for. A reporter takes his policies and his opinions from his paper."

"If he doesn't like that he takes his cheque."

Billy had made up his mind. He took up his copy from the reporter's desk, looked at it a second, then deliberately tore it in two and threw it into the editorial waste paper basket.

"I can take my cheque any old time you like," he said between his teeth, "but I'll be hanged if I write a lying report of that meeting for your rotten rag."

And Billy slammed the door after him and went down the stairs in three jumps. He felt mad.

Next day's paper had a report of the strike's meeting. It was an extremely biased report and one calculated to turn public sympathy from the strikers.

Billy Smith is alive and kicking. He still writes a little but mostly for labor and socialist papers which are not afraid to print the truth. The moral of the story is "Let the workers support their own press if they want a square deal at all times." The capitalist press will never give the workers a square deal.

AGAINST THE CHURCH

Anti-Clericalism Growing as Result of Recent Italian Elections

The prevailing impression in Italy is fear for the so-called Vatican peril. Pope Pius X., who evidently wished to prevent a repetition of the anti-clerical riots of two years ago in Rome, when priests and nuns were beaten and insulted and the pilgrimages had to be suspended for a long time, thought that if the Italian Catholics were allowed to vote in the recent elections, so many Socialists, Republican, Radical and anti-Clerical delegates would not be returned to Parliament, and that consequently the relations of Church and State could be improved. For this reason the Holy Father removed the non-expedit and thus hoped to be in co-operation with the State in combating the enemies of monarchy. The result has been quite the opposite of what he expected. The anti-Socialists and anti-

Clericals have triumphed, and furthermore, the intervention of the Vatican in the internal politics of the States had been interpreted as an attempt at the formation of a Catholic party, which has for its object the ultimate restoration of Rome to the Holy See. This is what constitutes the so-called "Vatican Peril." The anti-Clericals, who, until now, were considered the enemies of the present form of government, have become the defenders of national institutions against the "intrigues" of the Vatican, and before long the Conservatives will join hands with them for the overthrow of the common enemy—the priest. This may seem a paradox, but it is a fact which is proved by the following incident:—The King has already praised the work of the present anti-Clerical municipal administration of Rome, "undertaken," he said "with a modern conscience," and during the recent elections he afforded another proof of his anti-Clerical feelings by advising the members of the court and the servants in the household to vote for a Socialist candidate, and thus contribute towards the defeat of a Catholic Conservative, supported not only by the Vatican, but by his mother, the Dowager Queen Margherita. It is not unlikely that when Parliament is opened Victor Emmanuel in his speech from the throne will make some allusion to Rome. The new Parliament, which counts among its members some unfrocked priests, will probably institute divorce laws, the abolition of religious instruction, the suppression of religious institutions and other measures hostile to the Vatican. Anti-Clericalism will undoubtedly increase and the anti-Clerical riots which the Pope hoped to prevent, may be repeated.

The second ballots for the members of the Chamber of Deputies were held Sunday. The results do not alter the Government's position, but emphasize the increased strength of the Socialists and Radicals, who have won about thirty more seats in the new Parliament. The Extreme Left, thus reinforced, will practically take the place of the old constitutional opposition, foreshadowing the event of a Socialist and Radical ministry, probably at no great distance of time.

WHY IS IT?

Did you ever ask why it is that there are people out of work, especially people who wanted work. Is it their fault? They are willing to work if they had opportunity. Is it because they are unable to do good work? In the very closest of times there is always enough idle labor to produce plenty for all within a year; if it was employed. Why is it not employed? Ask some of the idle men and they will tell you that they would work if they could, that they are seeking a job. That tells it—capitalists are keeping them from work. Capitalists are responsible for the hard times, for unemployment. How does that come? Because they own the tools with which man must work, and man cannot work until he is connected with the tools. The idle man has it in him to build houses, to make cloth, to produce the things that would benefit society, but he cannot do so because, as scripture says, "no man hath hired him." Yet, at the same time, when he would like to work and produce things, but cannot because others who own the tools will not permit it, there are people who would like very much to have shoes, clothing, houses and the good things that the unemployed have the ability to produce.

Indeed, there is never a time when people feel more strongly the need of the things which labor can make than when many laborers are unemployed. But there is only one conclusion possible, and that is that the capitalists, instead of "giving" men work, keep many of them from work and permit only such as they choose to labor. One might ask why they do this? It is that they may continue the game, and so be masters of the situation. If every man had free access to raw material and the tools of production, there need never be any idle and never any poor. Socialism will provide this access to the needs of life.

EAST FARNHAM

Miss Cora Buck of Brigham, spent the week end with Mrs. McClay. Mrs. Welch is much improved from her serious illness. Mr. Alphonzo Boright of the "News" is home again, preparing for sugaring. The Parlor meeting held last week was not well attended, owing to the inclemency of the weather. Miss Grace Shufelt has undergone an operation, having had her tonsils removed by Dr. Rogers and Dr. Yeats.

Repeat it:—"Shiloh's Cure" will always cure my coughs and colds."

From Our Contemporaries

Happy is the man or woman who can take a childish delight in simple joys and pleasures.

Just at present it would seem that eviction proceedings are breaking up considerably more homes than Socialism.

One way to make your wife's biscuits taste like mother's did, is to buy a buck-saw and saw wood an hour before breakfast.

If you are tired waiting for the return of prosperity you can spend the time more profitably by working for the coming of Socialism.

A protest was made some time ago against the poor timbering in a Colorado coal mine. "What do I care," said the boss, "Dagos are cheaper than props."

Mr. Carnegie's assertion that the steel industry no longer needs protection is most probably his peculiar method of announcing that the Steel Trust has become an international affair.

What did Jesus mean by bidding us pray, "Lead us not into temptation?" if He did not mean that his Church was to work to remove temptation from the lives of His children? Sam Jones in pleading for prohibition (and that means in one direction, get the environment right) used this illustration: "A rabbit was once making a gallant race from a dog. 'Go it, little rabbit,' cried the spectators, 'you have our best wishes for your escape. Good for you! You are doing well.' But the rabbit cried out, 'I thank you for your kind encouragement, but for God's sake shoot the dog!'"

Good-by, Mr. Theodore Roosevelt: A glad good-by! It is said you go soon to the jungles of Africa. We are glad you are going—but honestly sorry for the jungles. By the way, are you going to deliver a lecture on race suicide to the first little fluffy baby lion you catch? And tell him to be a good grateful lion when it grows up and have some little baby lions for you to sell to a museum? If you do, be very sure the lion is very small and ignorant when you talk to it. Else it might scrunch, and there goes what was once a President.—Grace Potter

The Dickey Bird and Law

The Dickey Bird went after the Wren pugnaciously and drove him from the nest. Then he settled his mate in the newly acquired property and proceeded to make himself at home. The Wren felt hurt. He brought suit before the Owl, alleging that the action of the Dickey Bird had been illegal. The Owl learned his law from the Dickey Bird, but the Wren did not know this. The Owl heard the testimony in the case and then rendered his decision as follows: "It appears that the Wren had got the materials for her nest off the property of the Dickey Bird and accordingly is not entitled to possession of the property. On the contrary the Wren owes rental for the time the nest was unlawfully occupied. Besides, the Wren

is liable to damages for having resisted the action of the Dickey Bird." This all sounded learned and very legal, but the Wren was not satisfied. It said, mildly and in a soft voice: "But where and how did the Dickey Bird get possession of the raw material from which I build my house?" The Owl was shocked. He declared it was contempt of court, and as a punishment, in a perfectly legal manner, ate the Wren all up, which, of course, fully disposed of the suit.—The Appeal.

Liquor Men Hit Rockefeller

The charge which has previously been made by men engaged in the liquor traffic that John D. Rockefeller is financing the anti-saloon movement was repeated last week by William F. Maines, President of the Rhode Island Retail Liquor Dealers' Association, in a circular addressed to all retail liquor dealers in New England. The circular invites the dealers to attend a meeting in Providence, R. I., on Sunday next for the purpose of discussing ways and means of meeting the public opposition to the saloons. Mr. Maines says:

"The anti-saloon agitation is largely artificial and is financed by John D. Rockefeller for the purpose of giving the public something to think about that will take its mind off the anti-trust agitation."

At Sunday's meeting it is planned to arrange for the establishment in every New England State of a weekly publication in which the arguments of the temperance people may be answered.

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SHERIFF'S NOTICE

FIERI FACIAS DE TERRIS

Circuit Court—District of Bedford. Province of Quebec. D. C. HORN, District of Bedford. D. C. HORN, No. 6660. Plaintiffs; against the lands and tenements of J. ARTHUR FONTAINE, Defendant.

That certain piece of land forming part of the first range of the east part of the township of Farnham, in the district of Bedford, and now known on the official plan and book of reference of the said east part of the township of Farnham, as number two hundred and sixteen (216)—with all buildings and improvements thereon erected.

To be sold at the church door of the parish of Saint Vincent, at Adamsville so called, in the county of Brome and district of Bedford, on the SIXTH day of APRIL next, at the hour of TEN of the clock in the forenoon.

CHAS. S. COTTON, Sheriff. Sheriff's Office, Sherbrooke, 23rd February, 1909.

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New Suits

We are commencing to sell some New Suits for spring. Do not forget that we have a very large variety to choose from and will do our best to suit you.

Overalls and Frocks

We have just received a large stock of Overalls and Frocks, in all sizes and prices to suit.

NEW DRESS GOODS

Our spring stock of Dress Goods are just in and are right up-to-date. We can show the best line outside the city with the smallest profit.

Crockery and China Ware

A large lot of Dinner and Tea Plates, Cups and Saucers, to be sold separately. If you need any you can get them now.

Boots and Shoes

We've no need to mention our line of Shoes as you all know we always have a very large line on hand, and always lots of jobs we can sell you cheap.

Trunks

We have several large Trunks which we would like to dispose of and the price is very low. If you need anything of this kind come one and all to the store where you will get satisfaction.

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QUARTERLY DIVIDEND NO. 105

Notice is hereby given that a Dividend at the rate of eight per cent. per annum upon the Paid-up Capital Stock of this Bank has been declared for the quarter ending 31st March, 1909, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office and Branches on and after first day of April next.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 31st March, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board,
J. MACKINNON,
General Manager
Sherbrooke, March 1st, 1909.