

# THE TOLLER

Official Organ of the Toronto District Labor Council. Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working Masses.

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## DEVIL WORSHIP

The Pessimism of Jesus Who Are the Optimists—A Great Book—Sermon by Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow.

Lincoln, Dec. 6.—Optimistic Pessimism. At the Vine Street Congregational Church to-day the pastor, Herbert S. Bigelow, borrowed a title from a new book and chose for a text the parable of the mustard seed.

Mr. Bigelow said in part:

"Optimistic Pessimism" is the title of one of the chapters of a book of great merit which has just come from the press. The title of this book is "The Ethics of Democracy," and its author is Louis F. Post, the editor of the Chicago Publicist. I have long regarded Mr. Post as a writer of politico-economic subjects without a peer among American journalists. His book is a treasure.

## THE WAGE QUESTION

By W. B. PRESCOTT, in the Island Printer, Chicago.

Notwithstanding public statements of financial exigency and resolutions of their associations assuring the public that they were unable to pay a dividend, the commercial activity that we are on the eve of a change exists in some quarters. The chief of our State employment bureau reports an increasing number of applicants for positions, and there are unutilized and unutilized statements to the effect that the printing trade has not recovered from the usual summer dullness with that alacrity and enthusiasm which has characterized the summer of autumn in the past few years. The secretary of a large typographical union asserts that the unemployed has increased from two per cent. to ten per cent. during the past month.

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11 lbs. best Corn Meal for.....	25	Best pure White Lard, per lb.....	114
11 lbs. best Rolled Oats for.....	25	Good Compound Lard, per lb.....	94
14 lbs. best Rolled Wheat for.....	25	Best Laundry Starch 5c. or 3 lbs. for.....	25
15c. packages Rolled Oats for.....	74	Best Pink Salmon for.....	25
10c. packages Rolled Oats for.....	74	6 time best Oil Sardines for.....	25
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3 lbs. Green Peas, new goods, for.....	10	New Canned Peas 9c. or 3 for.....	25
3 lbs. Barley, just in, for.....	10	New Canned Corn 9c. or 3 for.....	25
2 lbs. Black Ceylon Tea for.....	19		
40c. Black or Mixed Tea, very best, for.....	25		
40c. Cocoa, very fine, for.....	25		
25c. Co. on, only 15c. or 2 lbs. for.....	25		
25c. Coffee, 1 lb. cans 15c. or 2 lbs. for.....	25		
40c. Coffee, pure and ground fresh, for.....	25		
40c. Coffee, pure and ground fresh, for.....	25		
45c. Coffee, best Java and Mocha, for.....	35		

## NEW FRUIT

Fancy New Seed Raisins, 9c. or 3 for.....	25
Best New Cleaned Currants, 7c. or 4 lbs. for.....	25
New Looking Figs for.....	6
Table Figs from 9c. to.....	17
Other dried fruits at low prices.	
New Jam, 4 lb. tins for.....	30

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Large 30c. 4-String Brooms, 20c.	
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Small Picnic Hams, per lb.....	114
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## STRAY THOUGHTS

By Paul Lincoln.

## INDUSTRIAL LIFE.

Hark! I hear a rumbling murmur in the midst of daily life. Are the sons of toil and plunder Meet in their industrial strife.

## THE PEOPLE SHOULD CONTROL.

There is a great fight on today between the employer and the employe as to who should control this workshop. This problem will not be solved until the people wake up and control our industrial life.

## THE PATH TO GLORY.

The path to endless glory Is not a bloody route; It's by serving God sincerely, And helping your neighbor out.

## WHAT DID JESUS TEACH?

The one great truth that Christ came to teach humanity was unselfishness, and that is why Christ's teaching will not harmonize with the selfish principles that govern our industrial life to-day.

## THIS AWFUL UNCERTAINTY.

Every man's home life rests upon his relationship to our industrial life, and here the lack of guaranteed permanent subsistence which keeps the dark cloud of uncertainty over our home life. We are constantly told that our home life is the foundation of the nation. When we can guarantee to humanity permanent subsistence, then our home life will be safe and our national life will be secure. How many more centuries will pass by before men will try to discover an industrial system that will guarantee permanent subsistence to humanity? This awful uncertainty kills more men, women and children than all the other enemies of mankind combined.

## CHURCH CARPETS.

One of the strongest arguments out forward by the church members against the request of the people to open the doors of our churches during the week is that it would wear out the carpets. The churches that prefer nice clean carpets to helping humanity during the week cannot expect to influence the wretched humanity on Sunday.

## SO HEARTY IN IT.

Our industrial life was governed by brute force, now it is governed by brain force; when it is governed by the brains of men their force will be left out.

It sometimes happens that a man loses his health by drinking too often the drink of his friends.

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## PATENTS

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## MARGARET ANGLIN

A Hint Herbert Davies' Brilliant Comedy

## Cynthia HENRY MILLER

in Frederic Lemaître. SEATS ON SALE NOW.

## STAR THEATRE

Monday, Dec. 14th

## The Kentucky Belles

Big Burlesques—3

The Star of 17 and all Down Where the Blue Grass Grows. The Best Use in Blue

2-Div. Seats 10c. 4-Div. Seats 15c. 7-Div. Seats 20c. 10-Div. Seats 25c.

READ THE TOLLER'S NEW STORY.

READ THE TOLLER'S NEW STORY.

## THE TIMES DESTROYER STARTED.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 15.—Special correspondent. The working people of Southern California and Arizona are going to show in what measure they esteem the fair-minded press; they are going to make a demonstration, the like of which has never before been seen in this country.

Thousands upon thousands of union men on the evening of Saturday, December 12th, the evening before the first publication of the Los Angeles Examiner, will take part in a festival celebration of the advent in this city of that newspaper.

It is not only because a new newspaper has come into this field, it is not because the workingmen expect material gains themselves from the enterprise; these matters are not inquired into, or considered, but the thousands of toilers in the Southwest will come in mass to this city on the Saturday evening to pay their attention to the Los Angeles Examiner of the gratitude of the toilers. They are going to show that organized labor is not lacking in appreciation.

There is another reason for the present outpouring in the celebration of the launching of the Los Angeles Examiner. When the workingmen march the streets it will also be a demonstration of defiance to that gang of unscrupulous, unscrupulous men who are endeavoring to represent the cause of labor organization and vilify its members. This procession of workingmen, who will have gathered from all cities between Tehachan Mountain and the Mexican boundary line, from the deserts, valleys and mountains, will be a manifestation of their protest at the unfriendly attitude of the Los Angeles Times and approved, bitter and resistant hatred of all news where it is their means of winning a livelihood.

There will be no political significance in the demonstration; even of every political creed will be in line, and all will find common cause for rejoicing, and will take a part in making this show of strength before the enemy and of loyalty to the defender.

A contest has been made of the district far to the north as Fresno, and to the south as San Diego, and everywhere working men and women show enthusiasm for the celebration that amounts to importance.

There will be special trains from several points that will carry to this city the great numbers that will swell the crowds of Los Angeles.

It will be a Feast of July Fiesta and Holy Day celebration in the city. The city will be ablaze with red fire from the night to the sunsets. Flags and drum banners will wave over the heads of the marching host. Many of the organizations in line will be in uniform. There will also be bands of music and fireworks in profusion.

From present indications, 20,000 men will be in line. This great demonstration will parade the principal streets of the city to the Examiner's Office, where a gorgeous display of fireworks will be given.

The Los Angeles Times, despised by workers, can now see the handwriting on the wall.

DON'T YOU SEE, that if you continue to Spend All You Make you will be Poor All Your Life.

A Savings Account at the Bank of Toronto, King and Bathurst Streets Branch will help you to Save Money.

## MY COUNTRY

My country is the world; I count not men or men-my fellow men.

Whether the warm-life currents mount And mantle brows like snow, Or red by yellow, brown or black, The facts that into mine looks look.

My native land is Mother Earth, And all men are my kin, Whether of race or gentle birth, My heart is steeped in sin; Or rich or poor or great or small, I count them brothers one and all.

My flag is the sun-spangled sky, Water without a seam, Where slain and sunset colors lie, Fair as an angel's dress; The flag that stands unstained untorn, Flies over all of mortal born.

My party is all human kind, My platform, brotherhood; I count all men of honest mind, And fight for human good, And for the hope that glows afar, My comrades in this holy war.

My heroes are the great and good Of every age and clime, The work of noble understander, And multiplied in their time; But spite of ignorance and hate, I count them all as one.

My country is the world, I scorn no nation, nor no man, But shall own the sign, And love of country, as of clan, Shall yield to world-wide love of man.

—John W. Whitcomb

## OPTIMISTIC PESSIMISM.

In this chapter on "Optimistic Pessimism," Mr. Post objects to the habit of regarding all failures as pessimisms, and all successes as optimistic.

The function of these "happy-go-lucky, lusus-catchi" optimists," says the author, "seems always to have been to bring about accomplished progress while good naturedly obstructing further progress."

It is only the men who have great hope for the world and a profound faith in the power of truth who will throw themselves into the struggle against the forces of unrighteousness. These men, who are optimistic enough to oppose evil, are often derided as pessimists by those spurious and frivolous optimists who do nothing but applaud, and, as the author says, whose applause is always of the best.

## ANTI-MONOPOLY AGITATORS.

The people who dignify their mental and spiritual indolence by the name of optimism, and who denounce as pessimists those who condemn evil, "seem to reflect that it is these that call grumblers and fault-finders, the people who 'grail' as they would put it, at accomplished results—the anti-monopoly Sam Adams and Patrick Henry, the anti-slavery agitators and Beecher, the anti-monopoly agitators of our own time—the might of the world to move upward and forward."

## WAS JESUS A PESSIMIST?

There is no character in history which furnishes a better example than the Nazarene of this optimistic pessimism of which Mr. Post has written. An arrangement of the respectable, pious and ruling elements of society, such as we find recorded in the Gospels, and which Mr. Matthew, must have seemed to the Pharisee class viciously pessimistic. Yet, who of the world's teachers has had so great faith in the divinity of human nature, and the omnipotence of love and the supremacy of truth? Was He a pessimist? If so, He was an optimistic pessimist, one of the most hopeful antagonists of evil that the world has seen.

The parable of the mustard seed recalls to us the philosophy from which Jesus drew his astounding optimism.

Truth was to him like a grain of mustard seed, "which, indeed, is less than all seeds; but when it is sown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of heaven come and lodge in the branches thereof."

Jesus spoke this parable to men who had become imbued with the truth He taught. But they were humble men, and they were only a handful against the world; and they were altogether without honor in their time.

"Yes," said Jesus, "it may seem to you to be a forlorn hope. You despair because you compare your feebleness

## THE MEN WHO HAVE SIDED WITH THE TRUTH

which the power of their day has frowned upon and before which ignorance has trembled; the men who, in advance of their fellows, have stood on the skirmish line, looking with blood-battered faces into open cannon mouths; the men who, with hope deferred, have waited for judgment to melt and passions to subside; the men who have toiled on in patience while year after year the fickle multitude has been thrown into paroxysms of joy over the defeat of that truth which was their only salvation; the men who have made war upon the heavy customs and legal crimes by which the race has been held in bondage; these are the men who must find comfort in the parable. For the parable declares to them that they are not alone; that the truth they plant is sending its roots into the ground even while its misguided foes dance upon what they take to be its grave; that the same power which brings the oak out of the acorn is working its triumph and working mightily for the advance of their just cause.

## THE GOOD TIME COMING.

The true optimist is the man who fights the wrong with good heart, because he knows he is but contending for the recognition of eternal laws, and because the heaven's reward is the oak out of the future grandeur of his humble truth.

What inspires him is the assurance of the good time coming when the thoughts of down-trodden men will soar on high, and the heavens' reward be the mighty shouts of the sons of God, rejoicing in their new-found freedom.

## SPARKLING THOUGHTS.

From J. L. Gordon's Sermons.

Here and there a place, here and there an individual that have stood in spite of the wreck of time.

Sublimities are the hope of republics.

Organizations are becoming a danger far as the individual is concerned to-day.

Bring in the whole neighborhood and tell them how had your boy is, and he will live up to it.

Society is divided into three classes, the large below and the foam above, and the middle-in-between.

I would like to see a death so that humanity would gather round the casket and be thankful that I ever spoke a word to humanity.

It is easier to convince a woman that she is as old as she looks than it is to satisfy a man that he acts as young as he is.

## Union Made Stoves

"The Jewel" Ranges, Stoves, Heaters, and "Jewel" Gas Ranges made by Burrow, Stewart & Milne, of Hamilton.

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The Jewel Stove Store 4 Queen Street East.

## WHY IS THE ADD WHICH WAS IN THIS SPACE IN IT NO MORE?

For the best Answer to this query in an article of 500 words a prize \$5.00 will be paid at this Office.

Contest Closes Feb. 1st, 1904.

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