JEREMIAH SIMPSON.

THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF THE "SOCKLESS STATESMAN"

How the Term Originated. Born in Poverty He Acquires an Education and Becomes a Great Popular Leader.

PROBABLY one of the most unique characters in America politics of life to-day, is Jeremiah Simpson. He was born the son of a farmer in New Brunswick, March 31, 1842, and with his father, at the age of ten, located in the State of Michigan. His boyhood was passed in the way the boyhood of thousands of farmers' sons are spent—a maximum of work, to a modicum of amusement or chance for improvement, often a dangerous preparation for the excitements and temptations of life in the outside world. When quite young, Jeremiah became a sailor on the great lakes and followed this dangerous calling "longerous to life and more dangerous alth and mortality, as anyone familiar with the life of an ordinary sailor ows—for twenty-three years, and came out of it without a dissipated habit and with modest savings to his credit.

With this same sterling good sense which seems ingrained in his character and which impresses every one who comes into contact with him, he saw clearly what a terrible handicap to a man is the want of an education. The early and formative period of his life in that time when young men more fortunately situated are generally devoting to study and to the obtaining of a college education, he was battling with the elements as a common sailor on the inland ocean. But in winter, Simpson devoted his time to the assistance of his father on the family farm at Corunna, and as soon as his savings would allow he entered the Detroit Business University at the age of twenty-three and took the ordinary business course, including commercial law—so that while his poverty was too great to acquire a complete college education or even an ordinary education, he absorbed with characteristic energy the principles of a business education, which, combined with his extraordinary good sense, has to-day made him a statesman and a man of influence, and one far from the clown that the accidental term of "Sockless Jerry," or even the occasional lack of "literary style" of his utterances and his writings might imply.

MOVES TO KANSAS.

After his long period of service on the lakes and the accumulation of some modest savings, Jerry Simpson, in 1870 moved to Kansas and went into farming, taking up a section of land with moderate success, until he embarked in stock raising, which proved a failure, and after losing nearly all his former gains, he once more became a farmer, at which he is still engaged.

Everyone knows the trials and work involved in reclaiming a farm from the wilds of nature. With indomitable perseverance, Simpson had done this twice. His life had always been one of hard work and he never had had more than moderate means, but his sterling worth had attracted the attention of his fellow citizens and when the town of Medicine Lodge, a place notoriously lawless and full of salient and vicious resorts, wanted a City Marshall to enforce the law closing such places, Jeremiah Simpson seemed to be the man for the place, and when he got it, he did enforce the law and in such a manner that after only two months of official career, he was prevailed to accept a nominal on to Congress.

HIS POLITICAL CAREER

is the most remarkable part of his life. The farmers of Kansas arguing that they were misrepresented in Congress by the politicians, and actuated by other causes, wanted a farmer to represent them there. In this land of the free, we are accustomed somewhat too justly by foreign critics with making the almighty dollar too much the standard of excellence. The query is too apt to be "What's he worth?" instead of "What does he know?" There were some disposition to treat the nomination of Jeremiah Simpson as a joke. He was known to be poor. "What had he" was asked, "to commend him?" "Where was the money to come to defray the election expenses?" The Kansas farmer is not a bloated fond holder, then, besides, they did not know Jerry Simpson. But they were soon to know him and know him well. In many particulars the career of Simpson has great features of similarity to that of Lincoln. He seemed to grow in mental stature as he became better known. His district was a remarkable one. It covered 240 miles long by 60 miles wide, and numbered thirty-seven counties. Twice this was the ground chosen for defeat to Simpson, and he was powerful to the backbone, and he had to work for his election, both of doing it, and with out money, too. He rode with farmers, he stayed at their houses, he found excellent food and he had his fares sometimes paid by his constituents, but he accomplished his work, and spent only $240 in doing it. He canvassed every portion of his immense district and made speeches to the people from one end of it to the other.

Poverty is generally considered a bar to political advancement, in this country, and then it is no wonder that the candidature of this poor farmer was considered somewhat of a joke.

HIS OPPONENT

was a different sort of a man. His name was John R. Hallowell. A lawyer, a college bred man, a former United States District Attorney, and considered one of the most eloquent orators in Kansas. What a contrast. He challenged Simpson to a joint debate. This, it was thought would afford no end of fun, and that it would result in literally wiping the earth with the farmer—that is, if he were foolish enough to accept the challenge. But a man who had sailed twenty-three years on the lakes and had come out of it without a bad habit and with money enough saved and with the ambition to get a business education and to buy a farm, was not the man to refuse such a challenge for an instant. He surprised everybody by accepting, and then there was all the fun anticipated by it, but it was at the expense of Hallowell, so much so that he never affored Simpson another chance. The sound sense, he quick wit, the homely smile of the farmer, was too much for the rounded periods and the glittering generalities of the politician.

It was during this campaign that the unfast term of "Sockless Jerry" originated from the peers and jibes of his opponents at his poverty, and his masterful retort in frankly acknowledging his own poverty and that of the Kansas farmer generally, and in contrasting the stockinged condition of his aristocratic opponent with them. And through these means the imbecile became spread through the east that Jerry Simpson

"WORE NO SOCKS,"

mortifying to him only so far as it conveyed the idea of his illiteracy, but only so far. It is utterly pointless, even if true, when one stops to think that most of our great statesmen were undoubtedly sockless during the early periods of their lives. Abraham Lincoln passed his youth and early manhood sockless. Ulysses S. Grant was a sockless boy and a poor farmer when the great civil war awoke the sleeping giant to startle the nations of the world, to live and die an honored man as few among c men have been honored. James A. Garfield was a poor farmer's boy. Would it vilify any of them to say they were once sockless?

It is these same kind of sockless men who are now making our history, it is these sockless men who have become our great statesmen and generals. It's from among these sockless men who, thousands of them, are now tilling the field of this broad land as farmer boys, from whom we may expect many more Lincolns, Grants and Garfields.

BRITISH TRADES UNIONISM

THE NEWCASTLE CONGRESS. THE OLD AND NEW UNIONISTS. A BIG FIGHT OVER THE EIGHT HOUR QUESTION.

THE proceedings of the British Trades' Union Congress, held at Newcastle-on Tyne, disclosed that the new trades unions and the newer members of the old trades unions are deeply imbued with socialism and kindred doctrines.

Tillett, Burns and other leaders are opposed to the old unionists led by Mr Thomas Burt, M.P., president of the present Congress, and to Mr Charles Fenwick, Member of Parliament for the Northern division of Northumberland, and other Members of Parliament who are leaders of the labor forces.

NEW IDEAS VICTORIOUS.

The first test of the strength of these two parties was in the vote taken on the 8th inst upon the question of an international eight hour law. Although this vote was taken on the system of a proportional money vote—that is, the unions represented at the Congress were required *to pay a tax of £1 per thousand members* before they were allowed to vote a proposition strongly opposed by the London trades unions—it gave the new union men a decisive victory, and if there had been a show of hands their majority would have been greater. The new men thereupon declared that all subsequent voting should be by show of hands.

The delegates representing the Northern miners trade unions led the opposition to the proposition to place the Congress on record as being in favor of an international eight hour law. They contended that a universal law fixing uniform hours of work would seriously injure the workmen outside of certain favored districts.

Delegate Knight, representing a boiler makers' union, declared that he could see in foreign governments' interference in labor problems the reason why it is proposed to ask the British Government to regulate the hours of labor in Great Britain. This, according to the speaker, was to go back a hundred years.

PERMISSIVE PLAN WINS AT FIRST

At the resumption of business on the 9th, by a vote of 242 to 156, a motion to the effect that a bill reducing or fixing the hours of labor ought to be of a permissive or optional character was carried after considerable discussion. This amendment in substance permits that the eight hours law, when passed, shall not be enforced without the consent of two-thirds of the organized members of the trade concerned.

Several of the delegates protested against the acceptance of the amendment on the ground that by so doing the direct vote would nullify the resolution passed in 1889, in favor of a compulsory eight hour law.

Ben Tillett, speaking against the amendment, urged that the vast majority of workmen were not able to fight out an issue for themselves, and that the introduction of permissive principles would greatly increase their difficulties in getting a reduction of their hours of labor.

Delegate Coote, on behalf of the Miners Federation, representing 100,000 miners, said that he approved of the permissive principle in reference to the proposed eight hour law, and advocated the adoption of the amendment.

Delegate Maudsley, an operative cotton spinner, a prominent trade union leader and a member of the Royal Labor Commission, supported the permissive amendment.

NOT ARE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

Mr Curran, of Belfast, said that past experience proved that though unions were rich they were quite incapable of securing a permanent eight hour day by voluntary effort. They would be the laughing stock of Europe and America if they rescinded last year's resolutions.

Many speakers gave opinions characterized by the utmost difference, even in the same trades. Mr Knight, of Newcastle, caused laughter by asking if the bill should apply to editors, cotton workers, commercial travellers, domestic servants, and secretaries of labor organizations.

Mr Wilson said that the Sailors and Firemen's Union wanted a compulsory eight hour law.

PERMISSIVE FEATURE PRACTICALLY KILLED.

Mr Hardie, of the Ayrshire Miners' Organization, moved an amendment declaring that the eight hours law shall be enforced in all trades and occupations except where a majority of the organized members in any trade or occupation protest by a ballot vote against the proposal.

Mr Burt characterized the amendment as solely designed merely to stultify the resolution already carried.

The amendment was carried, 253 to 184, amid prolonged cheers, and, becoming a substantive resolution by the withdrawal of the other amendments, it was adopted by a vote of 341 to 73. A scene of great enthusiasm followed.

On a ballot being taken for the Trades Union Parliamentary Committee, Mr John Wilson, M.P. for the Govan division of Lanarkshire, head of the firm of Messrs Wilson & Co., iron tube manufacturers, and a large employer of labor, an old unionist of the moderate class, headed the list. A majority of the other members are new unionists.

Resolutions were approved in favor of an increased representation of the labor classes in Parliament, and advocating the appointment of railway workmen as railway inspectors. A motion favoring a State Board of Arbitration was negatived by a vote of 129 to 107.

NEW STANDARDS OF VALUE.

Rev J. Lee Mitchell in the course of an eloquent sermon in the Grand Avenue Congregational Church New Haven, Ct, said: "A telegram printed in one of the papers the other day told of a great explosion of some gun powder in Rome, which resulted in the loss of two score of lives and the destruction of some splendid stained glass windows and valuable paintings. In the telegram the loss of human life was told in a line; the destruction of stained glass windows and painting occupied paragraphs. If the recording angel had sent that message to heaven he would have emphasized it differently. He would have spoken only of the loss of life, and of the records of all the lives, and of the condition of their souls. Perhaps he might have mentioned incidentally at the bottom that a few stained glass windows had been broken."

"NO ONE COMPELLED HIM"

In the last issue of the *New Earth*, Miss Altona A. Chapman has a very clever article entitled, "No one Compelled Him." The burden of it was the unjust discrimination against woman's industry and the consequent effects of cheap female labor in lowering the wages of men. Her interlocutor, with the opinion common to narrow men, advanced the usual unreasonable argument that "no one compels women to work for less wages than men." Some time after this the gentleman was a passenger on a car which met with an accident, in which he was seriously hurt, and when he recovered consciousness he found himself pinned fast in the wreck of the demolished car. He struggled to free himself until exhausted, and then determined, struggling and pausing with the effort to free himself, to remain in darkness with what patience he could until help could come to his relief. Soon after, a man came sauntering along the tunnel, his hands in his pockets and a cigar in his mouth, and contemplated the wreck with an eye of curiosity. At sight of him our friend cried out frantically for help. The saunterer called out, "What's up?" (for friend told of his condition) and said he wanted to get out, and quick too, and the man told him to come out that "nobody compelled him to stay there". All of which was true, although it was some what heartless to say so at such a time. But the point that Miss Chapman makes is, was it more heartless for the man in the tunnel to tell the man who was pinned in the wreck that he was not compelled to stay there than it was for the latter individual to tell Miss Chapman that women were *not compelled to work for less* wages than men? The situation was to a certain extent the same, although women continue to be compelled to do as they do, against their will, while this man was probably delivered from his troubles

CORRESPONDENCE.

WEST END SINGLE TAX ASSOCIATION.

Editor Labor Advocate:

A weekly meeting has been held for about a year in the West Association Hall, for the consideration of the single tax. The leaders in the movement began to doubt that the tax, if put into force, would yield, that a land tax could be collected without levying on the products of labor, that land values would be found anywhere, save for the governmental restrictions that cause a land scarcity, and that if we are to tamely look on while the government parts the land among its favorites, it is idle to rail at the private owner of land values. We finally, and with much chagrin, realized that the single tax doctrine was most plausible when looked at from the outside, but most ludicrous nonsense when probed. We have, therefore, decided to drop it. We would like to co-operate with others in the consideration of the social and industrial problem, if a basis could be agreed on. Communications to the Secretary, 1168 Queen West, or to my self will be promptly answered.

D. S. MACDONALD.

FARM LABORERS.

Editor Labor Advocate:

A strong young farm laborer, who recently returned to Ontario, informs me that he was induced, by glowing accounts of British Columbia, to migrate to that working man's imaginary paradise. He says he was unable to procure more than three months' work during the eight months he stayed there; that hundreds are living in enforced idleness in all the cities, and that Chinamen do most of the farm work for low wages. *He saw scores* of unfortunate harvest hands who had wasted about the railway stations several days, vainly expecting that farmers were coming to hire them. Some were destitute, bought railway tickets and hastened home. Others with or money, and with empty stomachs, talked of tramping and beating their way on freight trains to Ontario. It is said that every evil works its own cure, and that apathetic or tyrannical governments always get their deserts. Wherever a nation's flag waves, citizens should have equal rights and justice, and be able to procure the necessaries of life while food and clothes are plentiful. The workers have been oppressed many years, and forced to become paupers and thieves. The meanest worm, when trampled on, will endeavor to recoil and strike back, and I believe that before another century dawns, the scoundrels who make this fair Canada a hell for thousands and a hell for millions if they do not amend their ways) will be calling on the rocks and hills to hide them from the fury indignation of the downtrodden masses.

AMEY.

A NOTABLE BETTERMENT.

The house builders' strike in Pittsburg this year was as firmly conducted as was any of the strikes of these crafts in other cities in the eight hour struggle of 1890-91. This is saying a good deal, for the building trades have been notably determined in their contests. An important outcome at Pittsburg is the taking of contracts by strikers. In this they have been successful that a large number have established themselves in business, and now contemplate the organization of a Builders' Exchange. It is understood that there are rather more than less than 250 new contractors as a result of the contest this year, of which about 200 are carpenters, thirty bricklayers, and thirty of other crafts of the house building trades. This is a success in itself of no small moment. Had it not been for organization and the agitation of the betterment of this class of labor, more than likely a very small proportion of these contractors would have advanced their individual interests beyond the wages stage.

Of course all workmen cannot become employers, but the more employers there are the more competition there will be for labor, and the better the wage-workers will fare. This may go on in the builders crafts until this class of capital and labor *will be an example of what is possible* in the reasonable division of wealth produced by joint efforts of labor and capital. The trades in which it is possible for a contractor to employ few or many workmen are especially adapted to the change that the builders' crafts are now bringing about, and we wish to all of them an early beginning and successful career in this method of improving the relations of capital and labor. There are other crafts that are not susceptable of improvement precisely in this way, owing to the fact that they require a large number of workmen in each manufacturing establishment. But we can see in the dim distance the betterment of these men by means of the corporation method. When that time comes the workmen will be stockholders in smaller or larger amounts in the employing companies. The corporation principle was intended to admit of just such opportunity, but the law has been perverted and its bottom principle very largely lost sight of in the practice of manufacturing corporations. *Pittsburg Labor Tribune*

ACCORDING to a Japanese belief the mikados descended from the gods, being one hundred and twenty first in direct line of descent.

At Waltham a single pound of steel costing fifty cents, is manufactured into torsion springs, which are worth $11. Just look about the iron billings, and it needs a microscope to distinguish them as screws.

WORKINGMEN'S WIVES AND DAUGHTERS--READ THIS!!

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