

WHAT A TEAMSTER DID.

As an example of what can be done by the most humble citizen for their community, the following story from the columns of the "Survey," of what a teamster has done in Cincinnati is worth repeating.—(Editor.)

Heberle was a Dutchman, born in the old country and accustomed to his beer. He had become aroused, however, against the crookedness and oppression involved in the exactness of saloon-keepers throughout the town, who had installed watering-troughs in front of their saloons and got city water free of charge, but who made it uncomfortable, not to say intolerable, for teamsters to water their horses at these troughs without patronizing the bar.

He registered his protest in no uncertain words, and began to agitate for "free public drinking fountains for man and beast," to be erected at convenient points throughout the congested business districts. But, to use his own expression, he was "nothing but a common Dutchman," and nobody paid much, if any, attention to what he said. The indifference only inflamed him the more, and he started out on a personal canvass among clergymen, labor leaders, social workers, and influential men and women, urging them to see in person or write to the Board of Public Affairs, and to get their friends to do likewise, demanding a city appropriation for free public drinking fountains.

It was not long before the Board of Public Affairs was flooded with letters and petitions, and it seemed as if suddenly and for some inexplicable reason the entire city of Cincinnati had gone mad on the subject of drinking fountains and would hear of nothing else. I have often wondered whether the board ever found out that only one man was back of all the hubbub, and he "only a common Dutchman."

Heberle had come to my home to enlist me in this fight. We were in the midst of an earnest discussion of the plan of campaign, the persons to be seen, the points to be argued, and all the rest, when into the room there toddled a baby girl. Instantly the man of one idea forgot me, forgot drinking fountains, forgot everything except the child. He crooned over her, fondled her, talked baby talk to her.

"Heberle," I finally interrupted, "why don't you get married?"

I ought to have known better. The man's face fell; he turned upon me almost fiercely, and, with eyes flashing, fairly hissed at me: "I'm nothing but a teamster. I earn only ten dollars a week. The most I can ever hope to earn is eleven dollars. And I'll never ask any woman to share that income with me and undertake the responsibilities of a family."

I awoke to the fact that I was looking into the face of a middle-aged man of warm domestic nature, who, rather than subject a wife and children to the privation and slow torture of less than a living wage, was subjecting himself to involuntary bachelorhood and suffering in his own domestic soul a daily martyrdom.

This explains what was in later years puzzling to some Cincinnatians, to whom Heberle was a fanatic and more or less of a nuisance—his consuming zeal in the child-labor movement. Himself unlettered if not illiterate—I have letters from him the deciphering of which would do credit to a post-office expert, almost uncouth, and in every way handicapped, nevertheless he founded, financed, managed, and edited "The Child Labor Record," the first publication of the kind in Cincinnati and Ohio, and one of the first in America. He was at it early and late, week days and Sundays, year in and year out, with never a vacation. He literally wore himself out and went down into a premature grave.

The tactics which he had successfully followed in the campaign for free public drinking fountains (I forgot to say that the Board of Public Affairs actually appropriated \$2,500 or thereabouts for this purpose, thereby making a beginning at placing the city, so to speak, "on the water wagon") he pursued with equal success for a Child-Labor Law. I believe that the National Child-Labor Committee will not accuse me of exaggeration if I say that to this unlettered Dutchman, the driver of an express wagon and president of the teamsters' union, more than to any or all other persons, is due the credit for having placed the first Child-Labor Law on the statute books of Ohio.

When I told a part of this story at the section meeting of the committee on standards of living and labor at the National Conference of Charities and Correction, and closed by saying that if ever there was a man who deserved a monument to his memory it was Joseph Heberle, the chairman of the meeting, greatly to my surprise and gratification announced: "A monument is being erected to his memory. It is a free public drinking fountain."

WHEN WILL THE WAR END?

On October 20, Mr. W. D. Lighthall, K.C., Hon. Secretary of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, addressed the following letter to the Daily Press, and as it would seem that part of his predictions are working out correctly, there is every reason that the end of the war might be as the writer thinks.—At least that is our hope.—Editor.

"The most important, pressing and public question for our commercial and many other interests is,—When will the war end?"

"I have put this question to many of our leading men, and evoked many classes and kinds of opinions, and have also carefully analyzed the statements of statistical authorities upon the same question. I think the results should be given to the public. They are briefly as follows:—

"Some authorities view the question from the point of view of finance, others that of provisions and ammunition, others the loss of men, and still others the possibility of a revolution or internal disaster of our enemies. There seems to be general opinion both in Europe and America that from all these points of view, our side has immensely the advantage, and that the real question to consider is,—how soon the exhaustion or practical exhaustion of Germany and Austria will arrive?

"1.—From the finance point of view, LeRoy Beaulieu, the most distinguished expert in the world, considers the end of the war should arrive about seven months from the 1st of August, in other words, about the beginning of March.

"2.—This agrees substantially with the opinion of the London "Economist" in August last, that the resources of Germany would probably become practically exhausted in about six months.

"3.—The loss of Germany in men, including her casualty list, and the losses from other causes than those included in the casualty list, are admitted in Berlin to be over 700,000, and are calculated by a number of the world's military experts to approach 1,000,000. As these are her first line troops, of which she has about 4,000,000 available for fighting, and as this is her real effective army, that army would be reduced to half in about six months from the beginning. It is true that there may be less losses from fighting in the winter, but the losses from disease and privation, will probably more than make up the difference. With only 2,000,000 available first line troops, she could not hope to carry on the war against the overwhelming numbers on both sides.

"4.—As for the corresponding losses of the allies, they are practically negligible, because Germany is bleeding at both ends, while each of them are at the present time, both England, France and Russia, far more powerful in their resources, and their combination is therefore overwhelming. Austria is left out of the question, because it is useless on the Western line and paralyzed on the Eastern.

"5.—It will be noticed that all these estimates based on the opinions of the leading statisticians of the world, point to the close of the war before next Spring, if not during the winter. Other important causes may enter to shorten the date, such as the overthrow of the Militaristic party from within, in which event, peace will be comparatively easy, or particular exhaustion in some necessity, like horses, the life of which is very short, and of which it does not appear that Germany has or can obtain a sufficient supply. The possibility of revolution or discontent, or the break up of the Austrian Alliance may also form features, but these would only accelerate the date. On the other hand it may be somewhat delayed by some very remarkable German victory, or by some extreme stiffness on the part of the allies concerning terms of possible peace.

"6.—The opinions of purely military men have fixed much longer dates, but these are scarcely of the same value of those of statistical experts.

On account of the great importance of the question, perhaps some of your leaders will also contribute their views or studies of the question.

Montreal, October 20th, 1914.

W. D. LIGHTHALL.

A HARD CASE.

"My father has no money, we have no coal, and the house is as cold as out-of-doors, please give me some coal or we'll all die," pleaded little Tony Ferrara recently, of Capt. Letourneau of the Montreal Police. The captain was susceptible to this appeal and sent two of his men off with the boy, each carrying a bucket of coal for the little home of the boy. That the family was in hard straits was evident.—And this in prosperous Canada.