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New York Times

MAR 7 1916

Hours

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Conquering Time.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

That editorial of yours, "Conquering the Hours," is quite a perfect thing. The simplicity of your logic seems complete. You call the attention of your readers to the utterance of Frank Hayes, Vice President of the United Mine Workers, relating to the intention of that organization to secure the eight-hour day for the anthracite miners as it has already secured it for the bituminous, and its intention in the future to secure the four-hour day for all. Your comment is, "The irreducible minimum is in sight. Time will be conquered. Why work at all? 'No hours of labor' is the final and perfect platform."

I would like to say, not, I assure you, in a corrective spirit, but, if you will grant me the courtesy, for the information of your readers who may have overlooked the fact, that the conquering of time is not an illusion but the supreme achievement of this enterprising age. The irreducible minimum has been realized—by a few. Those who have experienced it hold it to be the highest state of earthly existence, the state to be desired. "Why work at all when others will do it for you," is the essence of their silken creed. "No hours of labor" is the distinguishing mark of our perfect gentleman.

The ultimate question is not whether time can be conquered. The great sport of the century is the capture of hours set free. The rule of the game has been that the men who have conceived, built, stoked, and guided the time-conquering dynamos and engines shall not enter the ring. It was a wise provision of those inside, for when labor does enter the ring the irreducible minimum will disappear and conquered time will be controlled by those who conquer it.

HELEN MAROT.

New York, March 1, 1916.

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