

## EMPLOYERS OF LABOR BENEFACTORS OF RACE

### A Remarkable Sermon

Preached by the Rev. Dr. Luke Callaghan

At Last Year's Labor Day Services  
in Notre Dame Church, Montreal

THE English sermon on Labor Day, 1904, was delivered by Rev. Dr. Luke Callaghan, from the pulpit of Notre Dame Church, in Montreal.

Father Callaghan took for his text: "Labor like a good soldier of Christ Jesus."—Timothy chap. 2 v. 2.

and preached the following remarkable discourse:

Jesus Christ, the Founder of the Church, whose loyal warm-hearted sons you are, and claim to be, is the carpenter's son who is proposed to your admiration and invitation, as the ideal workingman, your model, your sole hope and consolation in life and in death.

The Roman Catholic Church has been at all times and in all places the fearless champion of the workingman in particular and of the laboring classes in general. To her, after her Divine Founder, is the world indebted for the honor in which manual labor is held. Had the principles which she has always inculcated been more strictly adhered to, had her heaven-inspired counsels and directions been more scrupulously followed, there would be no necessity for any struggle between capital and labor, between the employer and his employee, none of those scenes of strife, turmoil and hardship which we are called upon also, to witness, too often, on this and the other continents of the globe.

### RIGHTS OF WORKERS.

The workingman has his rights and obligations. The capitalist, the master, have theirs. Unless their mutual rights be respected, unless their mutual obligations be strictly discharged, the solution of the momentous question of the hour, "The Labor Question," will never be righted. The employer, whoever he may be, has rights, which must be respected. His capital is involved. He is, in a sense, a benefactor of the human race. Consequently, he is entitled to gratitude and consideration, and to ample compensation for his enormous outlay of money which he invests and risks in the wants of trade and commerce. Still he must necessarily treat his subordinates with like consideration, not as white slaves, and pay them fair wages to enable them to provide for the necessities and the ordinary comforts of life for themselves and their families and to reward them for their services in his behalf. Nor should the hours of labor be too prolonged.

### DUTY OF EMPLOYEES.

The employee must act fairly and squarely by his employer, take a deep interest in his concerns, and even remember the motto that "Honesty is the best Policy." If more economy and less extravagance, more sobriety and less intemperance were practised, if the atmosphere of the homestead were more redolent of the home of Nazareth, there would be sufficient resources to meet all actual wants, and to provide for the rainy day, for the daytime of sickness, adversity and death. Strikes violent or peaceful, should be avoided at all costs. Daily experience teaches that for the few advantages derived thereby, if ever derived, they tend to impoverish the working man and his family, to sink them in debt and open up avenues to the most deplorable excesses.

### DEPLORES STRIKES.

In a recent pastoral letter, written expressly for you my dear friends, His Grace the Archbishop begs you for the sake of God, for the sake of yourselves and your families, not to have recourse to strikes. He urges you to employ every means of conciliation, to use the influence of your best friends, impartial and true, his influence, if you wish, to bring about an amiable solution of your difficulties and grievances, so that the scenes of other days may never be revived. You are all free men. Do not accept a galling yoke which means slavery. You have many friends of your own class to espouse your cause and fight your battles. But when the voice of your chief pastors is raised to warn you do not be influenced by demagogues who, under the cloak of friendship, are but too anxious to propagate their socialistic ideas, to

undermine your respect for authority in church or state, and dechristianize the world by preaching the necessity of a godless education, divorce, and other pernicious evils whose trend is to rob you of what you hold most dear and most sacred, yea, to sap the very foundations of the social fabric.

"Love your work. Glory in being hardy toilers. Manual labor has been always held in honor by the Church of Jesus Christ, who came upon earth to raise man to his proper level and dignity, dignified labor; yea, He defied it. He Himself earned His bread by the sweat of his brow. The Apostles commissioned by Him to evangelize the world and to continue His mission till the end of time were chosen by Him from the laboring class. St. Paul was not ashamed to declare that he was a tentmaker. The founders of the great Monastic Orders inculcated the necessity of manual labor and enforced it.

### CHURCH NOT OPPOSED TO UNIONS.

"The Catholic Church does not oppose your unions. Those unions are for the mutual assistance and support of the members, and in union there is strength. However, a spirit of Christian faith and charity must ever characterize them. Unless they be grounded in such solid bases, those associations may thrive for a time, but eventually they will dwindle into insignificance and end in being a menace to the commonwealth. A few days ago at the Episcopal Consecration of one of his most distinguished sons at Joliette, his Grace the Archbishop, when bidding adieu to his former colleagues and diocesan, bade them to remember three things if they wished the blessing of heaven upon their new diocese and upon their labors. 'Keep the Lord's Day holy,' he said 'avoid intemperance, and give your children a thorough Christian education.'

"When listening to the farewell address, I bethought myself of the saying of His Grace's illustrious namesake, the great apostle of the Gentiles, St. Paul. 'We should live soberly, justly and piously in this world, looking for the blessed hope and coming of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.'

### A POWER FOR GOOD.

"Dear friends, you form a most important factor in our community. You are a power for good or for evil. Upon you in a great measure depends the rise or fall of our Dominion. Our age, our country, will be what you and we make them. They will be Christian in so much as by our lives we make them Christian. If you wish to take up manfully, as I am confident you do, your share of this great responsibility, if you wish your fellow citizens to vie with you in promoting the prosperity and the best interests of the community at large, if you wish your children to grow up and be a credit to you, their families, their nationality, their Church, their God, then be men of God. Let prayer, the frequentation of the Sacraments, assistance at Holy Mass, sanctify your labors. Be loyal to the Holy Mother Church, her teachings, her directions, true to all your duties as members of society. Your compliance will afford you all true happiness you may expect to enjoy in this life, and merit for you the grace of an imperishable Crown in Heaven, your future home. Labour like good soldiers of Christ Jesus."

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