

THE TOILER

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

TORONTO, AUGUST 19, 1904

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INDUSTRIAL EUROPE SEEN THROUGH AMERICAN EYES

Lessons to be Learned from the Patient Toilers in the Black Forest of Baden, Germany.

By JAMES O'CONNOR.
Copyright, 1904, by James O'Connor.

Prinzberg, Baden, Aug. 12. I express a doubt in my last letter as to whether Germany was or was not an industrial nation, and quoted a couple of learned Freiburg professors, the word "industrial" having reference to manufacturing. Taking its exports of industrial products as a guide, particularly the export of steel, Germany looks to be an important factor in the trade of the world, and on the whole it is well to consider the nation in that light. But Germany's agricultural interests are also very large, and a visit to one section of the province of Baden, which is situated in the "Black Forest," shows what a strong grip the methods of industrial Europe have on the people, especially since from any circumstances a community is withdrawn, and does not fully share in the advances of the industrial means of raising a livelihood.

Prinzberg Toilers are continually advising the people to get back to the land. He believes there is a real happiness and contentment to be obtained in cultivating the soil and living simple lives than in seeking amid the excitements and turmoils of the cities to pursue fame and fortune. However this may be the peasants of the Black Forest are endeavoring in their own way to live simple lives, and are succeeding in getting out of life about as much happiness as falls to the lot of mankind.

What the Black Forest is. "Black Forest" has an ominous sound. It conjures up vast tracts of woods, with virgin soil and hills of swamp land. Disburse your mind of all this. The name has reference to the color of the foliage, it being generally of a dark hue. In fact, the Black Forest is one of the best kept agricultural districts in the world. But also its wooded sections are in greater proportion than in any other part of Germany. What makes the Black Forest of interest, industrially as well as in many other ways, is the fact that, besides being under strict government supervision in respect to its wealth of timber, its inhabitants have continued to exist after the manner of their forefathers for many generations, living well within themselves, following simple trades in connection with agriculture, and declining, as far as possible, to take "advantage" of the new methods civilization insists on elsewhere.

Not a tree can be cut in the Black Forest without permission of the Government, and when a section is depleted of timber, a commission decides what to do with the land, whether to replant it with trees or to give it up to agriculture. Thus the proportion between forest and land is maintained, whole sections being set out in trees as regularly planted as are hills of corn. Along the highways are publicly auctioned fruit trees. The crops are sold by auction at harvest time to the highest bidder.

Nothing escapes the eyes of officials; nothing is permitted to go to waste. The faggots that, as limbs of trees, are tumbled into brush heaps in the United States and burned, are here assorted and tied into bundles and sold for fuel. The smallest twig has a value, the very leaves are collected and used for fertilizing purposes.

So much for the natural products of the soil. The one thing is in both small and large holdings. The rich land-owners divide their possessions into small parcels and live off rents. But there are, I am told, a large number of small freeholders. However, I should judge that the land-ownership greatly preponderates in respect to the quantity of land held.

Primitive Ways of the People. The inhabitants of the Black Forest are of various origins, and as I tramped over the well-kept roads of a day or two ago, I was unable to tell the "color" from the "new" or one district from another, except by the styles of head-dresses worn by the women. Women cling to customs older than men, and today they take pride in showing their loyalty to their particular district by the way in which they dress. Hence the picturesque.

Though it was having time, the hum of no paper reached my ears, but I saw men with scythes, and some with sickles, cutting the grass, while in the villages, entering the "heating" of hammers on steel tubs of the "sharpening" process going on. This is done by sharpening the

cutting edge of the scythe, making it look something like a saw.

The scythe maker desires to build a wagon to order. He goes to the forest, selects a tree, and gets a neighbor to help him cut it down. Of course he has taken only such a tree as the official decides is ripe to cut. Brought at last to his door, he commences the manipulation that results the log into boards, and axes and felles, and all the other parts that go to make a completed wagon. Every part of that vehicle, except the iron, will come out of that one tree.

When a farmer kills his beef, he takes the hide to the local tanner, who will keep it for two years before he considers it fit for the shoemaker. But the time comes when the hide is leather, and the shoemaker is informed of the fact.

Then come morning the shoemaker comes to the farmer's home with his kit of tools, and for the time being is one of the family. Every Kasper and every Johann is marched before him and measured, and the work of making shoes for the family begins. It may take a month more or less, but he sticks to his job until everyone is properly shod, when he is away to the next customer needing his services. It can be easily seen that the primitive shoemaker's prices are higher than those for shoes turned out at a city factory, but the satisfaction found in doing honest work to count for nothing.

Through the entire range of work in the Black Forest these primitive methods of manufacture prevail, though, as I said, roads pierce this district, and tourists, reckless of expense, invade the precincts.

For many years the people of the Black Forest have been exporters of watches and toys. These activities are carried on in great part when harvests are banded and they hang heavily on the farmers' hands, and when the numerous children, for the families are generally large, must be given some employment to keep them out of mischief. Many a Noob's ark which has filled with delight the heart of an American boy saw its birth amidst the dark foliage of this district. And as you cannot sell unless one buys for commerce it is simply an exchange of commodities for commodities—these primitive people have, in the of themselves, enjoyed the blessings following commerce. However, their purchases have heretofore been more than new, in the direction of things they could not themselves make. Yet I doubt not if they were relieved of the burden of land-ownership—the payment of rent for the use of the soil (something so land-hold, created—and as with a paternalism in the shape of a great standing army and a horde of useless officials, this exchange of things useful and ornamental with the rest of the world, even if at times it did disorganize a home industry not so economically carried on

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there as elsewhere, would be for the best, interests of all, and would result in increasing the sum-total of human happiness.

My experience in the Black Forest was very limited, but I had with me Edward Ramsey, an American boy, of La Porte, Ind., a student in the Freiburg University, who had many a time tramped over the district and is thoroughly familiar with the people.

"In my years I always take a magnet," said Mr. Ramsey, "as it affords infinite delight and surprise for the children. To go through the simple experiments with which all Americans are acquainted, and finally to magnetize their knives, so that they, too, can pick up ticks and needles through paper, opens the way for conditions that cannot otherwise be easily obtained. When you interest the children of the family, you make friends of the parents."

Mr. Ramsey is much more observing than the ordinary student, and from one of the rising young men who will be heard from in the future. He is studying medicine, but his actual mental horizon is a much wider one.

In some districts in the Black Forest, Mr. Ramsey told me, sugar is unknown. The honey of the wild bees is the chief source of sweetness. A Black Forest apothecary is a most primitive physician. His herbs are gathered in the woods by some mother in Israel who knows one plant from another, and these are prescribed by the simple rule of giving the sick person a decoction of herbs gathered from the locality in which the patient resides. The supposition is that only such herbs are effective. Naturally both apothecary and patients are suspicious of foreign doctors who prescribe drugs gathered from any and every where.

The Lesson to be Learned. But this letter must have an ending, interesting as the subject is. One could spend months in the Black Forest, and find without number every day interesting customs and superstitions and legends of which to write. If industrial Switzerland plays only a minor part in the commerce of the world, then the people of the Black Forest can have little effect in making or diverting trade; yet their patient and plodding workers are, after all, one of the pillars of the industrial machinery of the age, and as such they should not be ignored. We can learn from their patience and faithfulness, and they can learn from us the conserving of energy, and from this flux of knowledge should some day come more perfect industrial conditions.

In my next letter I shall have a word to say about industrial conditions in Holland.

INDUSTRIAL REFORM
(By a Workingman.)

Our slogan is, The products of the labor of the toilers for the toilers—Christian economy.

ANOTHER SLOGAN
The products of the labor of the toilers for the capitalists, and as small a wage as possible for the toilers—Political economy.

BEFORE
Before the toilers get the products of the labor of the toilers for the toilers, they will have to change their present method of voting.

ALIEN LABOR
If the Labor Congress does not vote for a straight Labor party after the

THE GREATEST SECURITY
The Greatest Security—any person possessing a Deposit Account in a Sound Bank. If you have not such an account now call on Mr. Cuthbertson, Manager of the Bank of Toronto, King and Bathurst Street Branch and ask him to open one for you. The Security is Absolute, the treatment courteous. Interest compounded half-yearly. Begin to Save Now if you have not already done so.

WE HAVE
We have, as Anglo-Saxons, given a man a voice in his own country's affairs because he is a man.

A VOICE
We have also given him a voice in the church, because he is a man.

EDUCATION
We have also as a people given a man a voice in our schools because he is a man.

INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS
In our industrial affairs manhood is not the standard; it is property and cash.

FAST PASSING AWAY
Credit used to be a great standard in our industrial affairs, but today it is cash that is becoming the standard.

SOME
There are some of our large industrial institutions that would not trust a millionnaire with a dollar's worth of goods, not because his credit would not be good, but because cash is their standard, and cash only.

A DIFFERENCE
This has made a difference to the toiler because it has placed him on the same equality as the rich.

CASH
In these large industrial institutions where cash is made the standard, the toiler's ten cents is just as good as the rich man's ten cents; it is quality of

CLASS DISTINCTIONS
The toilers must also see that the time is fast approaching when they must forsake class distinctions for brotherhood.

WE ARE APT TO FORGET
That we were all children once. That politeness costs nothing. That we should live and let live. That we will be dead a long time. That we should live within our means. That our lives are what we make them. That there is no royal road to knowledge. That capital cannot exist without labor. That the devil works while preachers sleep. That life was made for enjoyment—not suffering. That others have feelings as well as ourselves. That a kind word, even to a dog, is never lost. That God helps those who hustle for themselves. That a toiler is the most deplorable creature on earth. That every skilled workman was once an apprentice. That we owe a duty to our fellowman as well as ourselves. That we are judged by our acts and the company we keep. That labor has just as much right to organize as capital has. That man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn. That child labor is a blot on humanity and a disgrace to civilization. That minding one's own business is the most profitable employment. That it is our sacred duty to buy only such goods as bear the union label. That while the world goes on as a living we have got to get out and collect it. That when we expect good from the union we should do something for the union in return.

THE TOILERS' GOSPEL
The toilers' gospel is co-operative labor, to own their co-operative wealth of products, and brotherhood of man; in other words, the products of the labor of the toiler for the toiler. This is Christ's golden rule in action.

THE MINISTERS
If the ministers that talk so much about the gospel of Christ would place art in our industrial affairs, the standard in our industrial affairs, church and school to be run on, it cannot be good enough for the workshop, factory store or farm.

MANHOOD
The toilers will never see industrial peace until manhood is made the standard in our industrial affairs, church and school. When all men share in the products of their labor, men will be brother men and class distinctions will go on the scrap heap.

THE CLASS DISTINCTIONS
The shingle is the thing for the seven-year-old boy who wants to wear fashionable clothes. Ambition is a pipe dream—ruined by a horrible nightmare and followed by a ruin, awakening when the pipe goes out. During the courtship the young couple are apt to sit around and hold hands in silence, but after marriage—well, that's another story.

ALEX. ROSS
Merchant Tailor
UNION LABEL ON ALL GARMENTS.
1124 Queen Street W. Toronto

Munro Park
The one place where you are always able to see a good Show and enjoy yourself thoroughly.

E. W. CHARD
324 College St.
HAPPY THOUGHT RANGES
All parts for repairs.

"JEWEL" STOVES and Gas RANGES

MOST MODERN FUEL SAVING DESIGNS
Before buying call on us. Inspection of our lines will be to your advantage.
Our goods are Union Made—meaning fair conditions and Best Workmanship.
Repairs, Hot Water Connections and Gas Fitting promptly attended to.

JEWEL STOVE CO., 4 Queen St. E.

UNION MEN Chew the BEST

BRITISH NAVY

STRICTLY UNION MADE
McALPIN CONSUMERS' TOBACCO CO. LIMITED

THEY LEAD THE RACE

The Classic Range
The most complete cooking apparatus made, will last for years, and is always ready for quick Cooking and Baking.

The Handsomest Range You Ever Saw
Special arrangements for the month of August.
Made by the Moffatt Stove Company
Lowest possible prices always at
CENTRAL STOVE DEPOT, 319 Yonge St.
TELEPHONE, MAIN 4319

A cat will not look at a king if there is a mouse in sight.
Girls are partial to pleasure hats, but they draw the line at print gowns.
A woman's idea of a wise man is one who makes a fool of himself over her.
A preferred creditor is one who is willing to wait until you get ready to settle.
Many a man and woman are married and live happily even after securing a divorce.
The shingle is the thing for the seven-year-old boy who wants to wear fashionable clothes.
Ambition is a pipe dream—ruined by a horrible nightmare and followed by a ruin, awakening when the pipe goes out.
During the courtship the young couple are apt to sit around and hold hands in silence, but after marriage—well, that's another story.
The man who sat in a street car while a heavy tired woman stood was thought a model of politeness by a girl he knew as he offered his place to her when she entered.

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Meetings

UNION, No. 10, 101 St. George St. Monday, 8 p.m. ...

TRADES

CHAS. CLARK, 101 St. George St. Monday, 8 p.m. ...

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Current Comment

down to work every Friday evening. The lady there is being regarded as all the prizes have been bought...

the strike of the Builders' Laborers will continue at this writing. Several men have given in and about 200 of the men are at work...

the men have elected three delegates to the Montreal session of the Congress, which will be in September...

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The Dominion Brewery Company Limited, Brewers and Malsters, Toronto, Ont. ALES and PORTS. White Label Brand. E. D. Brown, Manager.

THE GOUGH BROTHERS. 6 and 8 Queen Street West, 180 Yonge Street. Clothing, Hats and Caps, Gents' Furnishings, Boots and Shoes.

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THE TOILER

It is, I think, an exaggeration to say that the Federal Parliament has had a historic legislative day in the world...

The Dominion Brewery Company Limited, Brewers and Malsters, Toronto, Ont. ALES and PORTS. White Label Brand. E. D. Brown, Manager.

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UNION BROOM MAKERS. This Label appears on all Union made brooms and guarantees that it was not made by convicts in a prison factory.

WE DELIVER THE GOODS. Gold Seal Ale (Black Label), XXX Old Brown Stout, Gold Seal Export Lager.

T. H. DUNN. 418 Queen West. Up-to-date Gents' Furnishings. BIG 4 OVERALLS. MADE TO ORDER. And Trade Supplied.

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Finster's Patent Safety Pocket. This clothing will be only better than the old-fashioned pocket which are rapidly becoming popular.

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Sun Oil Refining Co., Hamilton. HIGH-GRADE ILLUMINATING AND LUBRICATING OILS. Insist on your dealers giving you Sun Oils as they are the best, and are free from monopoly.

Ontario Trades Disputes Amendment Act, 1907. BOARDS: TO RAILWAY DISPUTES, TO RAILWAY DISPUTES, TO RAILWAY DISPUTES.

Union Men and Friends. of Organized Labor see that this label is on all the bread you buy. International Brotherhood of Bakers and Confectioners.

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THE WILDING INSTINCTS OF THE RACE SATISFIED IN EASY WAYS. Out of Door Rooms a Center of Social Life For the Family in Summer.

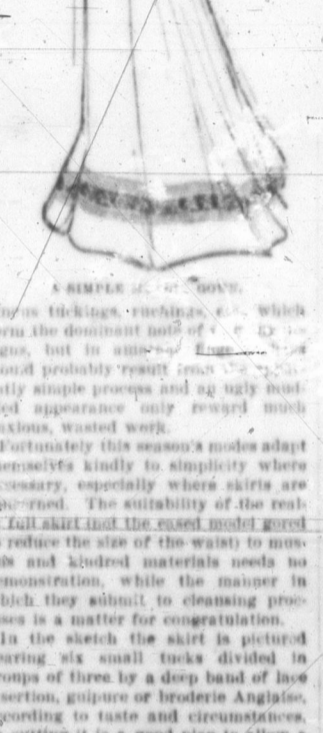


A VERANDA SWING SEAT. more appropriate for the veranda of a house strictly colonial in architecture than rustic chairs and tables, and green, white or uncolored rattan than the more vivid colors that might be used against a background of stone or stained wood such as a Queen Anne cottage would have.

THE MUSLIN GOWN. A Pleasing Design of Interest to the Amateur Modiste. The fashion of a muslin gown is a matter well worth careful consideration.

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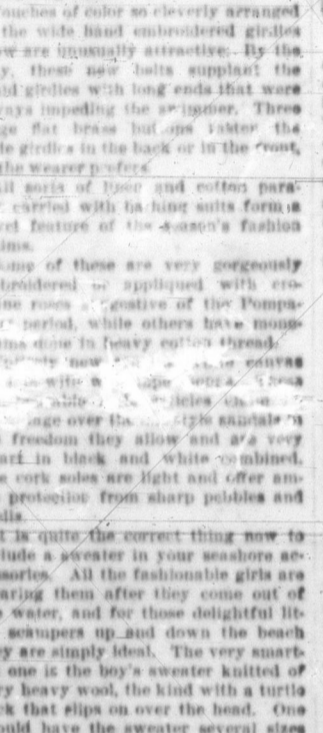


WHEN WE GO BATHING. Smart Caps, Stocks, Girdles, Parasols, Sandals and Other Items. Among bathing accessories the most important feature is by far the most important feature of the season.

THE TOILER. Speaking of the safety that a silver spoon imparts to the process of filling glass jars with hot fruit, a good house-keeping correspondent says she has found the spoon very much in the way.

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RIBBON FLOWERS.

Not Difficult to Make and Useful to Hat and Gown Decoration. Ribbon is being used extensively this season, and there is such a variety of colors to choose from that it is not a difficult matter to copy any simple flower.



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One of the Oldest Chartered Banks in Canada. INCORPORATED 1855. CAPITAL AUTHORIZED \$5,000,000. CAPITAL PAID-UP \$3,000,000. RESERVE FUND \$2,850,000. TOTAL ASSETS \$27,000,000.

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