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THE CHICAGO SOCIALIST

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NO. 326.

The Truest Patriotism Consists in Being Loyal to the Working Class.

THE TEAMSTERS' UNION.

No labor organization in Chicago has ever occupied so much attention from the public press as has the teamsters' union during the past three or four years. Although the nucleus of the team drivers' union has been in existence since 1872, when the hack drivers, who were in many cases hack owners, formed the first drivers' union, it has only been during the past five years that the teamsters' union, as it is known to-day, has been in existence.

It was the reading of a passage from Prof. Laughlin's article on the subject of "getting more pay," printed in the Daily News of March 25, where he described the ideal teamster in the following language, that suggested this sketch of the teamsters' union: "If he is a teamster," writes Prof. Laughlin, "he can improve in sobriety, punctuality, knowledge of horses, skill in driving, improved loading and unloading, avoiding of delays and making work, and in scrupulous honesty. The proved possession of these qualities will make him more valuable to his employer, and if he in addition studies his employer's business and consults his interest, he still further increases his productivity."

"Such men naturally are able to command better wages than those who regard their employers as fair prey, who neglect the care of their property and who use all possible means of worrying and disabling their business in a time of emergency."

Prof. Laughlin has, no doubt, in the above paragraphs, described the ideal teamster from the employer's point of view.

After reading Prof. Laughlin's article describing what, in his opinion, a workman should do to increase his wages, and better his living conditions, a reporter for the Chicago Socialist called at the headquarters of the teamsters' union and interviewed Mr. Gibbons, president of the Teamsters' Joint Council.

President Gibbons was asked for a brief statement as to what benefits the unionization of the teamsters in Chicago had secured for them.

Hack Drivers First Organized.
Mr. Gibbons is president of the Hack Drivers' Local, also of the Teamsters' General Union of Chicago. He first gave an outline of the conditions that prevailed before the unions were organized. He first related the experience of the hack and carriage drivers. He said: "Before we organized there was no limit to the length of our working hours, except the limit of physical endurance. We were on duty eighteen hours per day, seven days a week. I am not joking when I say we hardly knew our families. And as for wages, for all these long hours of toll we received on an average of about thirty-five dollars per month, out of which we had to furnish our own uniform."

Organization Improved Conditions.
"Have these conditions been greatly improved through the efforts of the union since it was organized? If so, to what extent have they been improved?" was the next question put President Gibbons.

"Well," he replied, "speaking of the hack and carriage drivers, I can state positively that the general conditions have improved 50 per cent."

HOURS OF WORK REDUCED.
"From an indefinite number of hours' work we have secured a definite working day of 12 hours, with extra charge for all overtime, and wages have increased from \$35 per month for unlimited working hours to \$12 per week for a 12-hour day, with extra pay for all overtime. Uniforms are now also furnished by the em-

ployers, where formerly the employees were compelled to pay for them out of their meager wages.

"Besides the great reduction of working hours and increase in wages, the hack drivers have a sick and death benefit, which is of great importance to our members. We have paid out over \$1,000 a month in sick and death benefits to our members and their families for the past six months."

All Drivers' Conditions Improve.
"How does the improvement in the working conditions and wages of the teamsters in the other locals compare with what you have stated of the Hack and Carriage Drivers, Mr. Gibbons?"

"Very favorably. I can state that the general improvement in condition and wages of all drivers connected with our various locals has improved fully 33 per cent."

"Before the unions were organized the teamster arrived at the barns at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning and sometimes did not leave until 10 or 11 at night, ranging from 80 to 100 hours per week."

"Now, by cutting out Sunday work and charging for overtime between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m., the hours have been reduced to 66 per week. Wages have increased from \$10 to \$18 for six days' work of 11 hours."

The things President Gibbons pointed out that had been accomplished by the teamsters' organizations were: First, the reduction of working hours so that the teamsters have a little time to get acquainted with their families. Second, the increase in wages averaging all around fully 35 per cent. Third, the abolition of barn and Sunday work and the recognition of holidays. Fourth, a better general understanding and more fraternal spirit has been developed among the drivers on the streets and at the depots.

"Organization," said President Gibbons in conclusion, "has lifted the forty thousand men engaged in the teaming business from being the hardest worked and most brutally treated group of the working class, receiving even less consideration from the employers than their horses did, to a position of self-respect and influence in the community."

The statements made by President Gibbons were corroborated by many other members of the teamsters' union.

In view of the foregoing facts we are not surprised that the Employers' Association and the capitalist press never lose an opportunity to take a smash at the teamsters' union.

No wonder the exploiters and their lackeys are unanimous in their denunciation of the teamsters' organization and their methods.

The power of partial working class solidarity on the economic field is no mean antagonist for the capitalist class. What, in the line of reason and the range of possibility, will it not be able to accomplish when labor intelligently unites both on the economic and the political field?

The teamster as an isolated individual was helpless and at the absolute mercy of the employer. That the employing class took every advantage of their power to exploit to the limit, the horrible conditions which have been shown prevailed before the existence of the teamsters' union, proves beyond the shadow of doubt. We would suggest to Prof. Laughlin that before he writes any more articles on the subject of "getting more pay" that he spend a day or so at the headquarters of the teamsters' union and investigate the practical side of the wage and hour question.

proved conditions for its members, and strikes if they are refused. Hence, every time there is a strike the union on strike is a bad union. Does any worker ever remember a strike of any union that the capitalist press was not on the side of the employers, representing the particular union on strike as an organized band of plug-uglies, "led by irresponsible demagogues?"

Just now the daily papers are praising the conservatism of the typographical union, but just wait until they go on strike for the eight-hour day next January. Then the capitalist press will not be able to find epithets strong enough in the English language to denounce them.

How is it that the clerks and office employees who are the poorest paid, most dependent and hardest worked



Our cartoonist evidently understands that one of the principal reasons for the hostile attitude of the daily newspapers toward the Teamsters exists in the business offices of these establishments. Their editorial utterances have from the beginning been determined by their greed for "pie." They have almost every day made it appear to the outside world that the streets of Chicago were red with

carnage, when there were no disturbances justifying their "howl." They have ignored or defended every insolent act of the employers, knowing full well that the latter are the great lawless class in this community. One of them, which, at all times when its revenues are unimpaired loudly protests its friendship for organized labor, says "this strike is bad, it ruins business," and that is the trouble with them all—it ruins "their" business.

victims of the capitalist system, as a rule, see things from the employers' standpoint and side with them during labor struggles? How often we hear this question asked. We can hardly imagine a less desirable life than being a retail clerk or office employe of a big store. Their hours are long, they must smile and pander to the whims of all sorts of people when inwardly they feel like cussing. Yet most of them seem to be in love with the system which enslaves them. It is from this class that the State militiamen are mostly recruited, who are willing to shoot their fellow workers, who are attempting to improve their working conditions. They appeared to feel honored when their bosses had them appointed deputy sheriffs and sent them out to protect the traitors to the working class, who were acting as strike-breaker. Will some clerk give the cause for the slavish state of mind of this group of workers?

"The World To-Day" is about the only magazine that recognizes just what the fight now raging between capital and labor in Chicago signifies. It says: "Its importance very largely lies in the fact that it is a deliberate fight for mastery between the labor unions and the Employers' Association. It is this fact that explains the bitterness of the struggle. It has ceased to be a matter of rights and wrongs of any particular set of workers, and become a part of the larger strategy of the Employers' Association."

With all the public powers in the control of the capitalist class, labor stands a slim chance of gaining "supremacy" just at present, but their bitter struggle and possible defeat is sure to teach them the futility of fighting so stupidly, and will enable them to see the necessity of securing control of the "legal" powers of physical force inherent in the control of the police, sheriffs, militia and United States regulars. It is astonishing that the working class has been so stupid as not to see the advantage of controlling this power before.

Workingmen who have been dictated to all their lives by the walking bosses of organized capital are only amused when they hear the capitalist press denouncing labor unions because they are attempting to "dictate to their employers" some of the conditions under which they will continue to work. Capital, in the past,

has been able to dictate because it has been organized. It is perfectly natural that organized labor, when it finds it has the power, is doing a little "dictating." It will not be long until what dictating is done will be done by the intelligent organized workers. Of course, the only dictating we will do to the present individuals who go to make up the capitalist class will be to tell them to get down off our backs and go to work if they want any share in the good things that co-operative labor is producing. "If any man work not (if able), neither shall he eat." is one of the little texts that will be posted around the "institutions" that the co-operative commonwealth will build.

The capitalist papers keep on reiterating the statement that public opinion is against the teamsters in their struggle to preserve their union. The resolutions unanimously adopted by delegates from three hundred unions present at the Chicago Federation of Labor last Sunday pledging their financial and moral support to the teamsters, shows what the capitalist press means by public opinion. The opinion of the workers doesn't count. The sympathies of the proprietor of the newspapers are against the strikers, but 90 per cent of the men whose labor makes a modern newspaper possible are voting money to support the men in their struggle. Yet the opinion of this 90 is not public opinion. Public opinion is the opinion of the few capitalists who advertise in the papers and are interested in breaking up the unions.

Prof. Laughlin, head of the department of political economy at the Chicago University, took up four columns of space in two articles in the Chicago Evening News to show the workers how they could better their conditions. His plan, in a nut shell is: Work early and late, for your employers' interest; do more work than any man on the job. Never kick or think of your own interests, then your boss will see that you are the most docile and profitable wage slave he can get and he will give you steady employment when times are slack, and part of the force has to be laid off. It seems to us that we have heard that plan spoken of before, somewhere by someone.

Suppose Collins had been elected Mayor and he had used the police force to assist the teamsters as pickets, etc., as Mayor Dunne is now

PROGRESS OF THE STRIKE.

There has been little change in the strike situation during the past week. A few hundred more teamsters have been forced out of their jobs by the Lumber Dealers' Association because they refused to deliver goods to houses that are attempting to crush the Teamsters' Union.

All serious talk of peace negotiations has ceased and both sides appear to have settled down to a long drawn-out war. Organized labor has unanimously voted to render the teamsters every assistance possible in their desperate struggle against the forces of organized capital in its attempt to destroy the Teamsters' Union.

The employers demand the open shop. The open shop is what they had before the Teamsters' Unions were organized. The open shop means unlimited working hours; it means sweatshop conditions with all that term implies. None know better than do the teamsters who drove teams in Chicago before the unions were organized what the open shop for which the employers are contending means. In another column the story of what the life of a teamster was when the open shop prevailed is told by one who speaks from experience. It is not surprising that men will fight, even unto death, rather than return to such a life.

No amount of misrepresentation and sophistry, or technical hair splitting about legal rights and constitutional quibbling will ever prevail in again forcing such beastly, inhuman conditions of existence on 40,000 men who have once tasted of something better.

Despite the fact that the Employers' Association control wealth untold, and are backed by the whole system of exploitation, they are rushing, Czar-like, on to their own destruction. The combination of levee negro and police strike breakers has opened the eyes of tens of thousands of the workers of this and other cities to the absolute necessity of working class control of the police powers. When once this truth gets thoroughly soaked into the minds of the workers, the power of the little clique of millionaires who meet behind the doors of the Union League Club, and from there securely issue their orders to servile Mayors, Sheriffs, Governors and Judges will be gone forever.

The source of the capitalist's power is the political stupidity of the workers, which causes them to divide their power on election day. That the capitalists know this well is evident from the care they take in controlling the nominations of all old party candidates and turning campaign funds to fight the sham battles before election.

Labor must fight out the present battle at great disadvantage, but if it can learn anything by experience, the capitalist will never again control the police force of Chicago and use the policemen as strike breakers.

Workers of Chicago, we are united in our desire to improve our living conditions. At the very next opportunity that is offered let us unite at the ballot box and possess ourselves of the political powers. Once we get sense enough to do this we will have formed a union that will defy the puny cunning of the exploiters who now club us, laugh at us, and through their subsidized, servile press constantly misrepresent and hold us up to ridicule. Union men, don't scab on election day.

using them as strike breakers on the wagons of the Employers' Association? What kind of a howl do you suppose the capitalist press would be making about this time?

"The battle now on in Chicago is but the fragment of a world-wide contest that is fraught with far greater consequence to the human race than was any battle that was ever fought on land or sea with ironclads or armadas."—Allen Benson.

Our capitalist contemporaries are each claiming the honor of being the first and only newspaper to print the news of the Japanese great naval victory direct from their own correspondents. An individual who is constantly boasting of his own achievements is put down as an egotistical ass, but it seems proper for a newspaper to proclaim in large letters that it is the only thing that ever happened in newspaperdom.

IT ALL DEPENDS.

If workmen happen to have misunderstandings with their employers and hurt a few of the men who turn traitors to their class, they are denounced by the capitalist press with every vile and opprobrious epithet that the language contains. But if the men who are doing the fighting are only obeying the commands of some tool of organized capital, these same sheets never tire of singing their praise. Let us hope that fighting and war will soon be a thing of the past. But if we must fight and war, why should not the workers fight for their own interests? Thousands of Japanese workmen under the command of professional assassins have just succeeded, by the use of the latest scientific devices, in murdering thousands of Russian workmen, who were attempting to murder them. It is not that a few men have been killing each other that makes the spectacle so sad, but that the working people are killing each other to no purpose. Let us hope that the wars of the future, if we must have them, will be wars in which the producing class of the nations will be fighting the parasite class in attempting to secure the opportunity to live a full life for every child born of woman. How long will the workers be stupid enough to kill each other at the command of the robber class? Fellow workers the world over, if we must fight, why not unite and fight for our own emancipation? Our class has fought all the wars that were ever fought in the world, but they have all been fought in the interests of the exploiting class. Signs are not wanting that the final great war—the war of the united working class of the world for their own emancipation—is not so very far in the future.

The class war is not a pleasant thing to contemplate, but it is on, and until it is fought to a bitter finish there can be no lasting peace.

Under Socialism no one will be compelled to prostitute his ability or character in order to make a living.

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The Economics, Ethics and Politics of Socialism

BY OUR STAFF OF CONTRIBUTORS

BEN HURD'S JOLTS.

While comparisons may be obvious to some. It is by comparisons that we make standards in the material world, in ethics and in politics.

Under a Republican form of government the people are supposed to rule and make or have made the laws in their own interests; but as yet the world has never known a government that was truly in the interests of the people or a true democracy.

The public sentiment of a nation and the ideals of a people change the same as in an individual. It may take centuries to bring about the changes or it may be done in a comparatively short time.

The proposition of Andrew Carnegie to combine the American and British flags to have on one side the stars and stripes and on the other the standard of Great Britain, is just about as sensible or patriotic as to have Uncle Sam's soldiers clothed in British uniform with Johnny Bull breeches and leggings a la Roosevelt.

HUMPY-DUMPTY UP TO DATE.

BY KATE RICHARDS O'HARE.

Ex-President Cleveland's attack on women's clubs serves not only to call down upon his head a flood of wrath from all thinking women, but demonstrates the fact that a man does his political, religious, economic and domestic thinking with the same brain, and you can usually judge pretty accurately what his opinion will be on all of these subjects by hearing his opinion on one.

Poor old Grover! His 1850 mind seems incapable of comprehending the fact that the evolution of industry has brought new problems and new conditions which 1905 people must meet.

The trusts are not the creation of the brain of any man or group of men, but are the gradual outgrowth

has a right to bear is the black flag of piracy and robbery.

That there must be a radical change in our judicial system is a fact cognizant to all, and that our judiciary have usurped functions and powers that were never intended that they should exercise.

This usurpation has sprung up largely within recent times at the behests of capitalistic influence, and as capitalism waxes stronger and stronger the cause of the common people becomes weaker.

The people are becoming disgusted with the Roosevelt investigations and reforms and their results. They are empty, stale, flat and unprofitable, barren of good results.

While the report of Commissioner Garfield in relation to the beef trust may be highly satisfactory to some, to the average American it sounds fakey. In reality it is an insult to the intelligence of the people.

That grand old heroine, Mother Jones, was billed to speak in Sheridan, Wyo., May 21. Like another Joan d'Arc, she passes up and down the land organizing the toilers for the great struggle to come.

Socialism belongs to the women as much as to the men, and the women of America must become interested or it is doomed to failure.

of our system of production. Women did not leave the home because she liked the sweatshop and the factory better, but because she had to go into the factory to earn enough to make the kitchen of use; neither did she trade the baby for a sewing machine or a loom because she liked them, but because at the loom she could earn a living, and the baby made this impossible.

It is just as idle to talk of curbing the trusts as to think of changing a green apple back into a blossom. They are here in answer to the same law of nature as that which makes a green apple out of an apple blossom, and the woman is out of her home shell by the working of the same natural law that causes a chick to forsake his.

Grover and all the rest of the fossils whose brains are cast in the same mold are wasting a lot of good breath

wailing; they can't turn the wheels of race progress backward, so they had better get to work and help the nation own to the trusts; and thereby are they shorn of their power for harm.

A LETTER FROM PHILOS.

Chicago, May 29, 1905.

Dear Kraehwinkel: In your last letter you speak about the dull times in your town and that you would leave, if it were not for your expecting an increase in the family within a few days.

Well, if you are looking for excitement you come to Chicago. This is the gayest and most exciting town in the United States.

Shea had a technical error in his petition and therefore escaped punishment. The newspapers have been enjoined from publishing the financial losses caused by the strike, which you know is usually done for the information of the public.

The "Humane Society" has been ordered to give exclusive attention to dives and brothels, as all horses have been put under police protection. The souls of the persons killed at grade crossings have been ordered to wander into dogs and these dogs must bite the aldermen's legs until all railroad tracks are elevated.

It has been decreed that all saloons be kept open during the trouble so that the policemen will not order a strike.

The statue of liberty representing Chicago "I Will" has disappeared. No one knows what has become of it. That disreputable gangster and political boss of New York, "Platt," has been made president of the business interests of Chicago, and everybody not calling him "The Honorable" will be incarcerated.

Levy Mayer, chief attorney for the employers of Chicago, is now conferring with him about an armistice and at the same time he is exploring the East to learn about Shea's past life. Levy, who is a good Republican, disavows having supported Tanner, when he was elected governor of the State of Illinois, because some bad people claimed that Tanner was a murderer.

Tanner got elected in spite of all rumors, and therefore did not have cause for a suit of damages. Uncle Sam is going to do his own sailing to the Panama canal, because the ship combine has failed and the steel trust has been ordered to make "English" prices for all material used in connection with the Panama canal.

In my next letter I will tell you more about our town. I cannot do it to-night because my wife is turning out the light.

I am, as ever, your friend, PHILOS.

FUN AND PHILOSOPHY.

Before accepting the inevitable we should be certain of its identity.

Judging a man by the amount of gold he possesses is hardly what is known as the Golden Rule.

Before the average man gets his name written on the scroll of fame somebody or something jogs his elbow and spoils his signature.

The world is divided into two classes—those that spend their time riding in motor cars and those that spend their time dodging them.

On the edge of a certain creek in Ireland there is—or used to be, so

Dr. MacArthur Says It:

"I have taken pains to make careful inquiry regarding certain business transactions which have been the subject of fierce denunciation on the part of some of Mr. Rockefeller's critics, and I do not hesitate to declare, on the basis of such knowledge, that these transactions, when fully understood and fairly judged, are IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF COMMERCIAL MORALITY. My examination has shown me that many charges are based upon half-truths, and that when the full truth was ascertained these very transactions rounded out to Mr. Rockefeller's honor as a leader in business and as a professor of the Christian faith."

And We All Know It's True.

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gossip says—a little stone with this inscription carved on it as a help to travelers:

"When this stone is out of sight it is not safe to ford the river."

Clergyman (visiting prison)—Why are you here, my misguided friend? Prisoner—I'm the victim of the unlucky No. 13.

Clergyman—Indeed! How's that? Prisoner (nonchalantly)—Twelve jurors and one judge.

A little Yorkshire girl had been looking at pictures and angels, and she turned to her mother and asked, "Mother, why are there no men in heaven?"

"But there are men in heaven," replied the mother. "Then, why is it," asked the child, "that we never see any pictures of angels with whiskers and moustaches?"

"True; but there are men in heaven," was the reply, "only they get in by a close shave."

On entering a shop where everything was sold by the yard, an Irishman thought he would play a joke, and asked for a yard of milk. The shopman was taken aback, but he dipped his finger into a bowl of milk and drew a line a yard long on the counter.

Pat was surprised at this, and not wishing to be caught in his own trap, asked the price. "Sixpence," said the shopman. Said Pat, "All right, sor. Roll it up, I'll take it!"

Two farmers, while riding along together, encountered a large number of clergymen; and one of them said to the other:

"Where be all these parsons coming from?" To this his friend replied: "They've been at a visitation."

"What's a visitation?" "The answer he received was: "Why, it's where all the parsons goes once a year and swops their sermons."

His friend, on being thus enlightened, quietly remarked: "Hang it, but our chap mun get the worst of it every time."



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