

WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE,



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AN AGED CANINE

CAN'T GRASP AN UNFAMILIAR SITUATION.

A Competent Authority on Dead Beats—Hon. Don't Mean Honorable Always—A Lick-Spittle Tool of a Political Cabal.

There is a proverb which asserts that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. As is generally the case with proverbs, there is decidedly more truth than poetry in their make-up. This is owing, unquestionably, to the fact that they are the product of horse sense rather than of erudition. To be sure this places erudition in an unenviable position as regards truth, but then we must remember what it lacks in veracity is made up in polish; as a concrete instance of this, we call attention to the recent mugwumpian political circus.

But the particular occasion which called to mind the incapacity of aged canines to grasp unfamiliar situations, was an alleged interview between the Hon. Charles Durand and the correspondent of one of our highly esteemed evening contemporaries. In the course of this interview, the honorable gentleman alluded to the Knights of Labor in a manner which was conclusive proof that the ex-speaker is oppressed by the fatality of the situation. For instance, he ventured the opinion that the Knights of Labor were a lot of "dead beats." Considering the political career of the gentleman, he is undoubtedly qualified to speak with some authority on the aspect of the "dead beats," provided, of course, that he consults his "inner consciousness."

It does not follow by any means, however, that a person who knows a thing or two about himself knows all about so vast an organization as the Knights of Labor. Ordinary people are prone to judge others by themselves, but we expect better things of our Ansonia statesman.

We fear, however, that our expectations will come to nothing; this painful foreboding presses itself upon us when we read that our kind friend of the Derby Silver Co. barely admits the possibility of an honest Knight. He says: "There are some honest men in all organizations." Here, again—it is evident—he draws upon his experience. Mr. Durand has been and is a member of several organizations of capitalists; and hence he is qualified to venture an opinion, the correctness of which no one will question, provided he confines himself within the limits of his experience.

What we would specially call attention to in connection with the adage quoted is the Hon. Charles Durand's utterance: "I don't believe in men dictating how I should conduct my business."

In order to forestall any question as to the propriety of terming a person honorable, when his public conduct does not seem to specially warrant such a distinction, we would say that this appellation does not signify that the quality specified is inherent in the particular individual thus titled; on the contrary, it frequently implies that a person having native lick-spittle propensities, has been the subservient and dishonorable tool of a political cabal. That Mr. Durand is such a person must remain within the realm of conjecture for the present. However that may be, it remains self-evident that the good man is not susceptible of receiving new truths. He and his noble confreres live decidedly in the

past, when it was the rule, whether just or not, for him and his ilk to dictate to the men.

Unfortunately the ossified condition of his brain will prevent him from learning that the tables have been turned a trifle, and the men now have a word to say in the matter.

As to the Derby Silver Co. not flinching for Mr. Hayes or all the Knights of Labor in the world, is a matter of supreme indifference to the public in general; and it was a superfluous piece of "guff" on the part of our friend to mention it. No one cares whether the company in question flinches or not; one thing is sure—there will be a decided shrinkage in that locality before "Mr. Hayes and all the Knights of Labor in the world" get through with this little business. Paste that in your hat, Honorable Charlie.

AT THE CAPITOL.

Last Wednesday afternoon, in one of the garret rooms of the Capitol, sat the first Committee on Labor of the State Legislature. Three bills, favoring a ten-hour work day and prohibiting child-labor, were read and discussed. Among the speakers was an old man of venerable aspect, who, in trembling tones, advised great care in passing such bills. He did not object to a law prohibiting the labor of children under ten years. He said that though small children went in the factories in the eastern part of the State, they were only learners, preparing themselves to work there when they got old enough. The proprietor of the New Haven Union then took the floor and supported the ten-hour bill, and spoke against the employment of children under ten years of age. A former member of the House from New London charged the venerable man from the eastern part of the State with being the hired tool of a manufacturers' clique, and said that this same old man had stolen time from him on a former occasion when discussing a similar bill. He promised to bring to the next hearing figures to show that in England factories that required 56 hours labor a week paid higher wages than were earned by operators in eastern Connecticut, where 72 hours a week are required.

A member of the New Haven Trades Council said that there was but one of the three bills presented that was of any value, namely, Mr. King's; and if the committee wished to show their sympathy for the workers they should recommend that one. "Not that there is any prospect of its becoming law, however. You may recommend, but the bill won't pass. The Senate will settle it. But when labor is ready, the manufacturers can't stop it and the Legislature must pass the bill that is wanted. You can play with your little bills, but you can't pass this now."

The bill introduced by Representative Frederic King, of Naugatuck, was the only one that harmonized with the platform of the Knights of Labor. A bill by Senator Golden, of Meriden, was not much better than the present useless eight-hour law. Certainly, with a Legislature composed of old-party men, with but one straight-out labor man—the Representative from Naugatuck—to hold up the K. of L. platform unequivocally, there is no prospect of favorable legislation, though many of the working people present manifested considerable interest in the proceedings, and seemed to be prepared to be thankful for even small favors.

NOT BOYCOTTED.

A report that was published lately to the effect that D. A. 30, K. of L., had placed a boycott upon cigars made by members of the Cigarmakers' Progressive Union, was false, as we always supposed it was, and as we are now able to state upon authority of the District Secretary.

THE NEWS BOYCOTT

THE JOINT COMMITTEE IS FULLY ENDORSED.

Organized Labor at Work—New Haven Coming to the Front, and Redemring Her Reputation. Facts for the Public. The Boycott.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the enemies of the workingmen of this city to create a division of opinion as to the *News* boycott, the contest is proceeding to the satisfaction of the Knights of Labor, who, while constantly increasing in numbers are also conducting a "wholly" boycott against the notorious rat newspaper, the *News*. As will be seen by the following circular, the Knights have fully endorsed the Joint Committee's work, and the peaceful battle of public opinion against avarice and industrial tyranny goes merrily on. When the battle is over, the same committee will let the public know, officially, therefore let no one be deceived by the statements of the *News* proprietors' hirelings. Here is the official circular issued on Wednesday:

"Let the galled jade wince!"—*Shakspeare*.

FACTS FOR THE PUBLIC.

THE "MORNING NEWS" AND THE REVIVED BOYCOTT!—TRUTH FOR WORKMEN!

In their edition of Tuesday, January 19, the *Morning News* published a pitiful appeal to the public for sympathy and moral support in their affliction consequent upon the cruel war that is being waged against them by the Knights of Labor and other organized workmen of this city and State.

In answer to their statement that 35 cents per 1,000 ems is as much as any morning paper in the State pays, we wish to say that, without going out of the city, we find that the *Register* and the *Union* pay 10 cents per 1,000 ems for the composition upon their Sunday morning editions. If the *News* could not afford to pay the Union scale when it was at the height of its prosperity—demanding and receiving the highest prices for their advertising space—how can they pay any rate now that their circulation is reduced to microscopic proportions, and they are obliged to take such prices for advertising as people are pleased to give them?

They submit that they are willing to pay the Union scale and have their rat compositors taken into the Union, thereby making them a Union office. If they could not pay the Union scale when they were prosperous, it would be too cruel to ask them to do so now that they are in adversity, and the Typographical Union does not want their compositors and probably would not accept them; they cannot afford to have their Union invaded by rats.

We are totally indifferent to the rate for composition in the *News* office, while the establishment is occupied by rats; in fact the lower the rate the better we are pleased. The fraternal affection of the *News* company for their rats challenges our unbounded admiration, when we consider the services they have rendered the company in their efforts to degrade labor, while we entertain the utmost contempt for the scabs who have allowed themselves to be used as tools for such contemptible purposes. We realize there is some excuse for employers to get wages down to the lowest possible point, but for workmen who assist them to enforce their reduction there is none.

New Haven Typographical Union has left the settlement of this matter in the hands of the Knights of Labor, whose committee is now at work managing the boycott. The action of the Joint Committee has been unanimously endorsed, and the committee given full power to act.

Fifteen months ago the labor organizations of this city were comparatively weak and the *Morning News* was comparatively strong and had little or no consideration for us or our organizations, and at every opportunity would misrepresent everything in which labor took part. But the day of reckoning has come. To day the circumstances are reversed, and we are willing to carry on this warfare indefinitely, trusting that in the end the fittest will survive.

We mean no conflict with legitimate enterprise, but we betide the firm that shuns us, insults us and spits upon us without giving us a fair chance of a hearing.

It is an understood fact that when the printers of the *Observer* (now the *Morning News*) sold out their interest in the paper to the proprietors of the *News* it was to remain a Union office for all time.

The *Morning News* again tries to gain public sympathy. Under an article headed "Their Amazing Demand," they say the committee asked that they should discharge their seats and take in men appointed by the Typographical Union. The *News* asked for terms to settle. The committee formulated the terms as previously published. Typographical Union was simply to see that the office would not be left in the lurch. As to the demand for pecuniary indemnity, there is no compulsion. They sought to settle; they have the opportunity to do so. Meantime the expense of the boycott increases and must eventually be paid for. The agents of the *News* are circulating reports to the effect that everything has been settled amicably with the Knights of Labor. This is false. The committee will give the public due notice at the proper time of the raising of the boycott. All we now request our friends to do is to make a final charge and victory will perch upon our banners. Let the word be "Up, Knights, and at them!"

JOINT COMMITTEE.

BRIDGEPORT.

Labor's Mecca—A "Puritan" Socialist—Away with Competition.

The Labor Lyceum has become the favorite Sunday resort of our working people. I believe an earthquake would not prevent their attendance. In spite of the "respectable" press which warned them against these terrible socialist agitators, in spite of the condemnation of sanctimonious-looking dyspeptics (who would arrest, if they could, the birds in the air for singing on Sunday, in spite of rain and snow, the working people have, Sunday after Sunday, from far and near, flocked to their Mecca, the Labor Lyceum, to listen to the Rev. Socialist, Mr. Warner, the Agnostic Socialist, Edward King, the Atheist Socialist, Dr. Burbank, and last but not least, to the "Puritan" Socialist, Herbert Eaton. I say "Puritan" because brother Eaton was cruel enough to inform the attending reporters who were probably contemplating a new yarn about "another foreign" Socialist to frighten their gullible public, that although his messengers landed in the Mayflower and participated in the enactment of the blue laws, he, Herbert Eaton, had evolved into a Socialist agitator.

Neither time nor space will permit a reiteration in detail of the speaker's masterly oration.

He agreed with Herbert Spencer that the misery of the poor was in a great measure due to themselves, not as the champions of the "let alone theory" would have us believe, to the depravity of the poor, but to their credulity and indifference. The wage-workers have but to reach out their hands and the world is theirs. Discontent is the first step to progress. Thanks to Socialist agitators, the workers of the world are opening their eyes; they proclaim their rights in unmistakable tones; they will soon act. The Socialist Labor Party does not urge them to join. It well knows that the spreading light of the Labor Press, assisted by the capitalistic starvation whip, will soon make every worker a Socialist. In order to enable the worker to study his condition and to seek for relief by organized, united action, we must enforce the eight hour normal work-day. Do we believe in violence? No! But we will fight capitalistic tyranny to the bitter end. The dynamite scams, as periodically reported by the Associated Press, are silly fabrications, invented by scheming knaves to mislead the workers and to frighten old ladies. They are getting so stale that even the capitalists don't believe them any more. The minute Organized Labor in America obtains political control of this country, a bloodless victory is theirs. Step by step they will work of their industrial reforms until the accursed competitive system is wiped off this fair land, and every "man's a man for a' that."

The speaker was frequently interrupted by bursts of applause. General Noble, with a consistency peculiar to that gentleman, praised the honesty of the American working people in glowing terms, and a few moments later ridiculed Socialism because it forgets the "natural propensity for wickedness which exists to-day and ever will exist." If the General will continue his apparent interest in the Social questions he will get more.

K. of L.

CARPENTERS.

The Carpenters and Joiners of this city are cordially invited to meet their friends of the Brotherhood of American Carpenters and Joiners at Trades Council Hall on Tuesday evening, February 9, at 8 o'clock, for a plain matter-of-fact conference.

A "three-year-old" discovered the neighbor's hens in her yard scratching. In a most indignant tone she reported to her mother that Mrs. Smith's hens were "wiping their feet on our grass."

HOLYOKE.

A Workingmen's Mass Meeting on a Rainy Night.

The meeting at city hall Wednesday night under the auspices of the Holyoke Trades and Labor Assembly was attended by about 400 persons. P. J. Moore presided and made a brief speech and then introduced a member of the Trades Council of New Haven, who said that the creator of all wealth and of the State is labor, and to the State we owe our being. The State is the people. Wealth created by the workingmen is, by juggling law, transferred to the pockets of the men who own the machinery and the land. It is because of this system that the competition between man and man exists. To counteract the evils of the capitalistic system entails more labor upon the already overworked people. A long pull and a strong pull under organization will free us without a doubt. We have been divided against ourselves for years; we have been democrats and republicans, but the bosses are always capitalists. We must organize and free ourselves from bossism; not as an unorganized mob, but through the Knights of Labor, trade organizations and the socialistic labor party. We in New Haven have been organized for some years, and are now advancing rapidly. I learn to my regret that there are many of you in Holyoke who work twelve and thirteen hours a day. But men who work twelve or thirteen hours a day learn slowly about labor organizations, and the bosses know it. We want more time in which to organize. I am glad to hear that the citizens of Holyoke, workingmen, have elected a representative to the Legislature. We have not progressed so far in our town because the working people are not so numerous in proportion to the population as in Holyoke. There is a movement on foot in this country to reduce the working hours to eight per day, and you must be ready when the time comes to demand your rights. If you are told that it will reduce your wages, don't you believe it. Experience has taught us that the shorter the hours of labor the higher the pay, and the longer the hours, the lower the wages. For every good that the workman receives from the capitalist, he returns its equivalent more than four fold, or else compels the surrender by force. You must not believe all that you read in the capitalistic newspapers; the reporters are honest, but an honest reporter now and then loses his place for telling the truth.

Frederick King of Naugatuck, a member of the Connecticut Legislature, was then introduced. He said that, owing to the short notice which he had received, he was wholly unprepared to speak. He would try to answer a question which he saw on the bills announcing the meeting: "What is capital, and has labor rights?" Capital is the product of toil. Labor has rights, most decidedly. We read in the papers of the situation in Ireland, but, thank God, a movement is on foot to assist that down-trodden country; thorough organization is bringing this about. When any country gets thoroughly awake and demands its rights, they will be forthcoming. The time has come to organize, but as sure as you try it, the capitalists will try to crush it out. But they cannot hurt you in the least. Let them shut down their mills if they choose, and if forced to remain idle some one else will build factories and give you work. The time has come to demand our rights. Just so long as you are kept in ignorance, just so long you will be robbed of what belongs to you. Where has the product of your labor gone? It has gone to enrich these capitalists. You will never have your rights under the present unfair wage system. Therefore I beseech you, organize, organize.

"Good Wages for the Workman means Prosperity for the Merchant."

ENGLISH JUSTICE

"THE HUSKS THAT THE SWINE DO EAT."

One Month's Hard Labor for Stealing Swill—The Prodigal Son Starved at Last—The Latest Addition to "Holy Property."

At the Aldershot police court, on Thursday, Henry Smith, laborer, was charged with stealing refuse food, value 3d., the property of William Newland, George Squires, provost corporal of the medical staff corps, stated that he saw the prisoner taking food off the men's dishes as they were taking it to swill tubs for the contractor. In cross examination the witness said that no soldier had any right to give any portion of his food away, whether he paid for it or not, as all broken food was sold to the contractor. Smith, for his defense, stated that he was hungry, and that a soldier asked him to take a little food off his dish. The accused was sentenced to a month's hard labor.—*Daily Telegraph*, December 12.

The Prodigal Son is starved out, then; "the husks that the swine do eat" are to have their full share in the apotheosis of property; they are become holy things, which no privileged person must touch. Ghost of William Cobbett! here is another "vast improvement" for you on the Scandinavian law that decreed 1,000 years ago that he who stole from necessity or hunger was to go scot free. The whole case seems like a cruel practical joke, and it may be hoped that the home secretary will at least carry the jest on by pardoning Henry Smith for the crime of eating when he was hungry.

But when Henry Smith comes out with his prospects brightened by his having been in jail, if he has any leisure to think amidst the pangs of hunger, he might ponder on the meaning of the words free, freedom, enfranchisement, as they are used in political language of to-day. He may have the leisure, if it be true that at one period in the process of death by starvation it is possible to think, or at least to dream.

Apart from the question of what punishment was given to a Roman slave at the worst period, or a plantation "nigger" for "stealing" three pence worth of hogswash, I feel a curiosity on the following questions: How much hogswash Henry Smith ate? How it agreed with his digestion? What is in scientific accuracy the amount of nourishment (to a man, not a hog) in three pence worth of hogswash? What weight of hogswash one can buy for three pence?

It seems, though, this matter of hogswash for men is becoming a burning question; for I have noticed in the papers charitable suggestions that collections of that article shall be made and sold to our "poor brethren;" sold, if you please, not given, lest pauperization should result.

Two more questions yet: How much worse—or better—is Aldershot hogswash than the ordinary food of Henry Smith and of the many thousands that he represents? And lastly, how long is it to be borne?—*London Commonwealth*.

O. K. ONCE MORE.

The "Walking Delegate" authorizes the statement that Mr. Blackman, the Grand street druggist, misunderstood the meaning of his mission, and requests the friends of Organized Labor to act as friendly towards him and his business as if nothing unpleasant had occurred.

Man in a carriage (to farmer in the field): "That corn doesn't look as though you'd get more'n half a crop." Farmer in the field (to man in a carriage): "Don't expect to—I'm working it on shares." "I mean you won't get much to the acre." "Don't expect to—only got half an acre."—*Harper's Bazar*.