

JUSTICE, AND NOT POLITICS.

A Trade Union View of Courts and "Grand Old Parties."

On Tuesday, the 6th inst., the house of representatives passed the McGann resolution, authorizing an inquiry into the recent actions of Judge Jenkins at Milwaukee, in issuing the sweeping injunction against the employes on the Northern Pacific railway. The resolution as introduced by Representative McGann had a number of preambles; these were left off and the committee on judiciary reported as a substitute the order for an investigation. The vote for an investigation was almost unanimous and those who voted against the resolution should be heralded throughout the district from which they are chosen, branded in the future as enemies of workingmen and not willing to grant the laborers any rights, but over zealous in currying favor with the monopolies. The quicker the laboring class realize the needs of legislation for the poor as well as the rich, and support those who accord justice to the weak as well as to the strong, the quicker will the time come, when they will not be over-stepping the bounds of the rights of mankind, and capitalists can be respected, yet not step out of their places to down the poorer classes. When we go to the ballot box in the future we should go with the determination to support the man who is the friend of the laboring class, and not support the agent of the corporation, simply because he belongs to and is on the ticket of one of the "grand old parties." The time has passed for us to be driven up to the polls like so many sheep, and cast a straight ticket. It has almost become necessary for the organization of a laboringman's party and it will soon be started unless there is some assurance that the rights of labor will be respected. The last straw has been added and labor demands some recognition. The investigation of Judge Jenkins is only a starter of the reform which must come through congress. We demand legislation for the protection of our rights, and must have it. The legislator who votes additional power to monopoly must be marked as an enemy and boodler, and when election time comes, regardless of his sensive power and promises, pass him by. Vote for the friend who will try to free us from our pond of slavery. Representative McGann has the thanks of the labor world for successfully carrying the resolution through congress. Now, if he will see that there is no whitewashing by the committee and that the investigation is carried to a finish, he will continue to receive praise and will not be forgotten by those whom he has befriended in time of need. Politics cuts no figure in this case. "All men are born equal." If the Union is to be continued, then the constitution must be protected. Duty to country and not duty to party should be placed on every banner of the workingman. McGann and Jenkins are of the same political faith, but the former is the friend of labor and the latter its enemy.

Congressmen, we thank those of you who supported the resolution for an investigation; follow that up with some beneficial laws. We do not ask it to be one-sided and in our favor, but we do ask for equal protection. The resolution is very satisfactory, as it commences an investigation. Jenkins is under legal suspicion, he can never recover his standing in the legal profession even should the committee decide that he should not be brought before the senate for impeachment. It is serious for him, and the resolution that has placed him in an exposed position directs the committee to investigate and

report "whether J. G. Jenkins has exceeded his jurisdiction in granting writs of injunctions; abused the powers of process of said court or oppressively exercised the same; or has used his office as judge to intimidate or restrain the employes of the Northern Pacific Railroad company, or the officers of the labor organizations with which said employes or any of them were affiliated, in the exercise of their rights and privileges under the laws of the United States, and if so, what action should be taken by this house or by congress." The committee is empowered to summon persons and papers and to spend \$500 for expenses.

Every effort was made by Judge Jenkins' friends to prevent the judiciary committee from reporting the resolution, and Senator Vilas even went before the committee and argued against it. This failed, and then Representative Somers, of Milwaukee, introduced a resolution extending the inquiry to other United States judges who had passed upon the questions of the relations between the receivers of railroads and their employes. The judiciary committee refused to report this resolution and it was pigeon-holed. — The Railroad Telegrapher, March 15.

Prosperity in Lynn, Massachusetts.

LYNN, MASS., March 12.— How are things in Lynn? This question was asked me in Boston last Tuesday. Answer: "Not a whit worse than anywhere else." Since then I have thought it would interest our comrades elsewhere to read an answer to the above question.

We have elegant churches in Lynn, about twenty-five in number; we have some elegant private residences; we have a population of about 60,000; we have the most beautiful and extensive public park in the state; we have factories containing more miles of floor space in the aggregate than any other city of its size in the United States; we have a system of associated charities whose miraculous method of feeding the hungry is second only to the historical multiplication of the loaves and fishes; and finally we have a citizens' relief committee that has originated a plan that has practically "solved" the financial problem, and clearly demonstrates that we do not want any more "per capita" money circulation. Their plan has been approved from the state of Maine to the Gulf of Mexico. By this wonderful plan all unemployed men with families were employed from October last to the present time, that is all unemployed men who could get registered among the fortunate ones. The city furnished shovels, and picks, and hatchets and the scene of operation was the public parks, formerly Lynn woods. Under able directorship it was found that they were doing great work; moving snow, making roads, etc., but alas! It was discovered that the little hatchets were doing mischief besides which Washington's historical hatchet action paled into insignificance. The park commissioners discovered that trees of tender age that had been transplanted by them had been ruthlessly hewed down by the army of shoemakers, bookkeepers, electricians, etc., who were valiantly endeavoring to earn the weekly subsistence sum provided by the great citizens' relief committee! This army reported for work one morning when the thermometer registered 20 degrees below zero. The great editor of the republican daily paper here commented on this fact as positive proof that the unemployed were willing to work. Great heavens! the "brain" would "do more!" Now it is a remarkable fact that business with the un-

der-takers is extremely dull and there has been no case of final starvation here. This is entirely due to the great efforts of the associated charities and the citizens' relief committee. The former have adopted the economical plan peculiar to Lynn of collecting the remains of cooked food not masticated by the families of affluent citizens and distributing them in divided portions to those who are unable to procure work from the citizens' relief committee, and they are many. The grocers and other retail traders "are in the consomme" because the relief committee can only employ married men, and is not now able to pay them their usual weekly sum of \$3 each. Now there are seven days in the week, so if a man with four in family provides a meal for them at cost, "per capita" as the Populists say, of 5 cents each, it would be 25 cents per meal for the family of five, or \$5.25 per week. The result of trying to purchase food to the amount of \$5.25 with \$3, knocks out even the advertising grocer who sells "below cost."

The whole middle class of Lynn are going to the wall; sheriff's sales and mortgagees' sales have been the daily program; property in which I was interested that cost \$6,000 sold two weeks ago for \$3,000, and even then it was sold to the only bidder at the public sale. Evictions have begun; two families were evicted last week, and more are to follow. The condition of the almshouse is, according to the city physician's report, a disgrace to any civilized community; the roof leaks; sexes intermingle; vice and immorality prevails there and cannot be remedied until it is improved or a new one built. All this is known to the city government, but they do not live there, and do not care for those who do.

An enormous bastille or state armory is now nearing completion in the center of the city, where it is surrounded by church spires and other results of paradoxical civilization.

The relief committee sent out 8,000 stamped envelopes with a circular begging even the smallest sum in order to keep the army employed at \$3 per week; now that responses to them have not come in they desire that the cost of sending them, i. e., \$320 may be secured by each one contributing 4 cents. All this may seem wonderful, but abler pens than mine can fully prove that I have not exaggerated the poverty of our situation. — M. D. Fitz Gerald, in The People, March 18.

The Nebraska farmers who hung a stuffed suit of clothes and christened it "J. Sterling Morton," in order to show their contempt for that pompous nobody, were promptly tried and convicted of libel by Cleveland's irate hayseed secretary. This is probably the first case on record where a man in Morton's position ever noticed such a thing. Cartoons and effigies usually come so far from the mark that the original doesn't care. But Morton knew that stuffed and brainless dummy was a perfect copy of him. — Railway Times.

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