

Child Labor.

BY MARGARET M. FETTE IN THE LOS ANGELES HERALD.

Child labor was the device of the English mill owner to supply the sudden and enormous demand for help, when the factory system was first introduced.

The poor child-slaves worked, sick or well, often sixteen hours at a time. If they fell asleep at the machine they were awakened by a kick or a blow or a swirl of the cowhide.

Children of three or four years were put to severe labor; babies of six were common in many of the mills.

In spite of avarice and trickery to defeat the passing of bills to limit the suffering, some slight advance was made from time to time.

America has not been put on record in the extreme barbarities enumerated, but with the more advanced state of civilization attained, before the factory system was engrained here.

Some occupations are much more dangerous for children than others. For example, in the making of tinware many children are maimed for life.

I have seen a lad struggling with a foot machine, as he put buttons onto overalls; both hands were occupied holding the cloth and with every pressure of the pedal he was obliged to lift himself half from the seat and then use main strength to force the pedal down.

Phillips Brooks said: "There can be a Christian city or nation, as well as a Christian man."

California is not as yet a manufacturing state, and it is possible to so legislate that the gross cruelties of past time cannot be enacted here.

One great advantage with regard to factory legislation in general lies in the lack of uniformity in laws.

This agent left yesterday, taking with him about twenty-five men, whom he secured here for the purpose. These men will be supplied with rifles and placed in charge of the property where the strike is on, as is the custom in such instances.

The departure of the men from this city is a source of relief to the police department here, as they are about the worst class of people that the police have to deal with.

Most of them are foreigners and manage to eke out an existence by shipping backward and forward from one country to England and other foreign countries, accompanying cattle.

At the Birmingham mills workmen pushed to the limit of their strength. So many yards of cloth a day or no wage. All energy of mind and body goes, loss of sleep and of rest creates false appetites, indigestion, shrinkage of flesh, bent backs and aching hands.

In the rope walk of Tuscaloosa, Ala., guarding 155 spindles, was a man with

his two children, 9 and 10 years of age, doing twelve hours of night work. Together they earned 10 cents a night. Not 1 cent an hour for the children, though their work at the machine was as valuable as that of the adults.

Alabama once had an eight-hour law. The Gadsden Manufacturing Company was planning to build a factory somewhere in the South, but would not in Alabama unless the eight-hour law was repealed.

Such is factory torture in this land, reported as worse than Turkish massacre. Under this system, weakened and overworked and underfed, the mother gives birth to tired, worn-out children, who take their turn at hard labor.

There are a few bright spots which give promise of others to come, yet the broad question still remains: "Should child labor be allowed at all?"

"I am convinced that the only way to deal effectively with the child labor problem is to keep all children at school; to turn all working children into school children. Why have even the much petted newsboys, with their homes and banks, picnics and the like?"

Mrs. Kelly speaks of the child whose hours of work only make him acquainted with the process, who when pushed out from the rank of child-worker, is fitted for no other place.

Inspection has shown a greater number of under-sized children among wage earners than among city school children. Statute is indicative of general development, physically and mentally.

In closing she says: "If we prohibit all employment of children for wage until they are sixteen, except in farming and gardening, which strengthen the worker, in ten years we shall find a long step toward solving the tramp difficulty and the question of delinquency and incompetence of the unemployed."

The Origin of the Pinkerton Scab.

Newport News, Va.—An agent for the Pinkerton detective agency has seen in the city for the past few days for the purpose of securing men to act as guards and officers for the mining owners in Pennsylvania in the region where the strike is now on.

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Cause of Crime.

To explain crime the metaphysician advances the theory of free will, which is based on the supremacy of human consciousness.

This theory alleges that every man is a free agent and the abnormal and anti-social actions of a human being are to be attributed to the capricious and criminal inclination of the individual. The materialist denies this and successfully, by proving that the action of man is determined by his antecedents, and also by showing the influences of pre-natal and hereditary powers in determining and governing the actions of the individual.

After explaining that suicide is more dependent on personal inclination than anything else, he says: "Nevertheless, in this vast metropolis, meaning London, about 440 persons every year make away with themselves, the annual suicides oscillating from the pressure of temporary causes between 266, the highest, and 313, the lowest."

After discussing the regularity in mania, the suicides of London were 266, in 1847 being a slight improvement and they fell to 235, in 1848 they were 247; in 1849 they were 215 and in 1850, 220.

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"Offenses against property which are very numerous contribute most of all to the total of annual crime. So that the maximum of 1880 in Italy as well as in France, Belgium and Austria was due to the great severity of the winter of 79-80, which in Italy coincided with an agricultural crisis, attested by the very high prices of grain. Again, the same crime and offenses against property display an extraordinary increase in the severest winter seasons and diminution in milder winters."

A great deal more can be quoted to prove that crime is not simply an accidental result of a capricious mind or of some normal inclination of an abnormal individual, but that it is the result of certain conditions operating in Society.

What becomes now of the arguments that crime is the result of some capricious and abnormal inclination? That it is nothing but an accident which was unforeseen and unexpected? A parallel may be drawn between this argument and the little story told of a man and his mother.

"Johnny," said the mother, "I see you have a lump on your head; have you been fighting again?" "No, ma'am." But look here, you can't deny that you have that lump on your head; are you aware you did not fight with any of the boys?" "Sure, ma'am."

"Well, then, how did it happen?" "Accident, did you say?" "Explain how." "It happened this way. I was sitting on the head of Tom Brown and forgot to hold his feet."

The account of crime occurs in the same manner. Society, sitting on the heads of so many individuals and forgetting to hold their feet, the inevitable happens.

Hyman Strinsky.

Chase's Report.

St. Louis, Mo., May 29, 1902. Leon Greenbaum.

Dear Comrade: Having completed the six weeks' trip in Illinois, lecturing before the Trade Unions and locals of the Socialist Party, under the management of the Labor Lecture Bureau, I think it well to forward you a report of the trip for publication. Hereafter I shall endeavor to send a report each week, that all interested in this work may be informed of the progress being made.

I have lectured during the six weeks under the auspices of twenty-nine trade unions and eight locals of the Socialist Party. Fifteen of these unions were miners and the balance was divided as follows:

- Trades and Labor Assemblies.....6
Cigarmakers.....2
Sprinkler Fitters.....1
Metal Polishers.....1
Bakers.....1
Coopers.....1
Carpenters.....1
Scandinavian.....1
The towns and cities where I have spoken are as follows: Iowa—Davenport; Illinois—Galesburg, Dixon, Keokuk, Rockford, Bloomington, Canton, Sterling, Tolson, Colchester, Girard, Nilwood, Witt, Taylorville, Sorento, Deatur, Hillary, Peru, Carbon Hill, Alsip, Chicago Heights, Elgin, Morris, Spring Valley, Lincoln, Troy, and seven days in Chicago.

I have gone into these self-sustaining ones. I have one into these self-sustaining ones. I have one into these self-sustaining ones.

Those who are familiar with the history of Socialism in this country know how hard it has been to bring the trade unionists to the belief that Socialism is the only solution of the labor problem and the only means of emancipation of the working class from wage slavery.

I am more convinced of this now than ever before, and I believe that the trade unions of this country are fast coming to see this, and are fast awakening to the fact that they are helpless in their struggle without Socialism.

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Once this system is made clear to and accepted by them there is no difficulty in convincing them that political action on independent working class lines is absolutely necessary.

Once they are brought to understand their class position and realize that they are engaged in a class struggle, they readily do see the need of an uncompromising Socialist Political Party.

If Socialists do their duty and handle this question in the future, evolution demands that it should be handled, Socialism will grow as it has never grown here before in America.

Our duty as Socialists is to bring them into the class struggle politically, and it is my opinion that the Labor Lecture Bureau by sending out speakers who have had experience in the trade union movement and have from that experience gained a knowledge of the limitations of the power of trade unions and can impart that knowledge to trade unionists in a convincing manner, will be a big factor in accomplishing this result.

Get ready, comrades. She's coming. Yours fraternally, John C. Chase.

The International Review.

The Review for this month maintains its high standard. A California populist, J. W. Webster, attacks the position of the Socialist on the farmer question, to which our Comrade, Editor Simons, author of "The American Farmer," replies.

The appearance of two bulletins from the International Socialist Bureau occasions a notice that the Review is the official American journal of the International Socialist Bureau. This is quite proper. These bulletins refer to conditions in Norway and Bulgaria. In both places the outlook is distinctly encouraging.

Raphael Buck, who a short time ago was a pronounced individualist, contributes an excellent paper on "Natural Selection." J. L. Franz begins "A History of the United States." Comrade Simons' editorial on "The Impossibility" is good and timely. We hope he will follow up his discussion of this contest between the two tendencies in the Socialist Party and use the influence of the Review toward the Socialists to the belief that Socialism is the only solution of the labor problem and the only means of emancipation of the working class from wage slavery.

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The Beef Trust Enjoined.

Judge Grosscup who attained notoriety in the A. R. U. trouble again comes into prominence. This time he grants a temporary restraining order against the meat combine. Ordinarily, one would think that here indeed was an upright judge; but unfortunately for the purity of Grosscup's empire, the meat combine desired just such action as it wished to see in contempt of the court.

The restraining order has been issued but the meat combine will be found doing business at the same old stand. They will be tried for contempt and their contempt will be justified for they will be acquitted. Somewhere the lawyers will find some hole which, no matter how big the criminal or small the hole, will afford a means of escape to those who have plundered the poor.

We say the meat trust holds Grosscup in contempt. So do we, but not for the same reason. We do not possess his body and soul, bought through fear or favor. But others besides the owner have a right to feel contempt for a bought or intimidated thing. We remember how well Judge Grosscup served the capitalist before. We expect no change of heart today.

20th ANNUAL PICNIC Amalgamated Wood Workers' Union, No. 15, A. W. I. U.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1st, 1902

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SEE THE UNION CARD. California State Committee. The meeting held May 23d to hear the appeal of Comrade Bersford...

California State Committee. Meeting held May 26th. Present: Comrades Appel, Messer, Johnson, Ober, Hefferin, Reynolds and Bersford.

and printing. All circular letters, leaflets, etc., circulated by the organizers shall be issued by the State Committee.

California Schutzen Park. SAN RAFAEL, CAL. Located in the most picturesque section of Marin County...

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Minutes approved. Communication read from A. F. Smith, R. J. Everett (2), Leon Greenbaum (3), Harold Hengst, John Diener, E. S. Nash, M. V. Langley, H. B. Weaver (2), M. W. Wilkins (2), Geo. Strong, J. Nace Ferlin, D. T. Looftbourrow, Peter Bisson, A. Meyers, L. H. Dawson, P. D. Noel, M. Echenbeck, F. J. Wildanger, G. S. Holmes (2), Geo. Hengst, B. P. Rothford, J. R. Hagan, P. M. Person, E. T. Page, Wm. Messer, M. E. Shore, H. R. Wright, E. B. Helphingstine, T. P. D. Gray.

The general fund of the State Committee shall be reserved for the political, printing and national dues and general obligations of the State organization.

Artistic Tailor. 988 Washington Street, Oakland, Cal. ALL KINDS OF SHOES. TO FIT. ALL KINDS OF FEET.

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A School of Socialism. For Socialist Workers. Walter Thomas Mills, A. M., Principal. Board of Examiners: GEORGE D. HERRON, J. A. WATLAND, CHARLES H. WAIL, JAMES B. SMILEY, A. M. ALMONS, PETER SINSMAN.

Remittances received. From Locals: Porterville \$1.92; Porterville - 25, Westminster \$1.25, Long Beach \$2, San Francisco \$10, Corona, \$14.0, Nevada City \$1.35, Three Rivers \$2.50, San Diego \$4, Riverside \$5, total from locals, \$29.80. Returned by M. W. Wilkins of money advanced to him, \$5.

Moved and carried that a call be issued for nominations for State Organizer for the Northern District. Nominations to close on July 14th. On motion Comrade Geo. S. Holmes was elected organizer pro tem.

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ELCHO HOUSE. 863 1/2 Market St., opp. Powell and Eddy. W. W. WALMLEY, Prop. GEORGE WIELAND. DEALER IN Wood and Coal. 168 1/2 Howard St., S. F., bet. 12th & 13th.

The evening lessons will make a complete course without the day session training classes, but comrades should arrange to take both lessons so far as possible. Those who have not already had the correspondence lessons would do well to begin the work at once.

Received as Campaign Contributions: Wm. Messer, Eureka, \$1; E. T. Page, Pinole, \$1; P. B. Richmond \$2; J. T. Dedlock, Madison, \$4.50; J. N. Ferlin, San Diego, \$1; M. V. Longley \$1; Mrs. J. Boyd Sheridan, \$5; J. C. Weyrigh, Pleasant Valley, \$5; W. W. Wilkins, Arcata, \$5; total contributions, \$26.83.

Organizer's Report. Received: April 21, stamps, \$1; do, 29c, envelopes 20; letter paper 65; do, 36th, rubber stamps 50; do, account book 10; May 7th, stamps 75; May 13th, postal cards 25; do, postal cards, 15; total, \$5.60.

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Comrade Wilkins' resignation of position of Organizer for Northern California was accepted but as his letter of resignation reflected somewhat upon the State Committee it was moved that the resignation be published, together with a full copy of the rules which he objects.

Meeting of Local, S. F. The editor has been unable to make connections with the secretary during the twelve hours from the adjournment of the party meeting to the time of going to press.

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When an organizer devotes only a part of his time to organization work the State Committee may compensate him in proportion to the service. Comparatively little of the organizer's time shall be devoted to writing special personal letters as the party cannot afford to pay organizers while devoting most of their time to writing personal letters.

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