

Notice that, after years of experiment, a prominent employer has arrived at the conviction that diligence and faithfulness on the part of laborers are indispensable for the success of an enterprise, and that these good qualities are worth a substantial reward beyond the daily wages. It is no less interesting to observe how the appreciation of the efforts of the wage earners results in mutual benefit because it furnishes a motive for faithful service, infinitely higher than that based on self-interest alone. Probably most labor troubles are due to the total absence of affection between employers and their hands. The former look upon the latter merely as human machines, from which the utmost amount of work must be extracted with the least possible expense; these, on the other hand, endeavor to obtain the highest possible wages for the least amount of work practicable. There is a constant war, each party seeking to gain some advantage over the other, both by individual and combined effort. This at least seems to be the tendency of the times, much of this state of affairs being due to the fact that the laborer now-a-days generally has to deal with large, soulless and conscienceless corporations instead of responsible individuals.

In the co-operative system adopted at Elkhart a hint is given as to the true direction reform, to be successful, must take. We imagine it would be impossible to induce Mr. Conn's hands to join in any movement for the purpose of injuring their employer; and still more, if it should be necessary for them to take some part of possible losses the institution may have to bear, they would undoubtedly gladly do so, knowing that their misfortune was not made the means of enriching others better prepared to carry the burden. When laborers are treated as they deserve—and there are many ways in which they can be, and often are sinned against—there is no danger of labor troubles, whether the times be prosperous or otherwise.

Local interest in the establishment and the experiment above referred to will be increased by the knowledge that Bishop Frederick Kessler of the Sixteenth ward of this city is a personal acquaintance of Mr. Conn, the philanthropic proprietor, and received a warm invitation to be present on the anniversary occasion just celebrated. He was unable to accept, but he conveyed his acknowledgements and sentiments in a letter, which, with others, appears in the issue of the paper which we have mentioned.

THAT PAYING REBATE.

The NEWS confesses itself unable to understand the logic by which the City Council reaches the conclusion that the money in excess of the cost of paving, paid by abutting property owners, shall not be refunded to them. The basis for the refusal to refund this money is found in the extraordinary argument that the street railway company has refused to pay its portion of the tax; and the conclusion, we presume, is that in view of this latter fact, the city has not received any more money than the paving has cost, and

hence will keep what it has received, no matter who paid it. If this process of reasoning is to be allowed, those who do not want to pay taxes at all should be listed, along with an estimate of probable public expenses; then the latter sum should be apportioned among those of the citizens who are willing to pay, and the matter of receipt and disbursement could thus be readily equalized. We know hundreds of people who would be pleased to have other people pay their debts for them; but we were not before aware that there was any way of compelling such generosity unless in pursuance of a contract or guarantee.

Perhaps we are doing the Council an injustice in these comments; if so, we shall be pleased to receive more light. But we are quoting from the proceedings of last evening's session as reported, and must repeat that to compel a store-owner on First South street to pay the paving tax of the street railway company does not look to be just, whatever the intricacies or technicalities of the case may be; on the face of the thing it would look to be exactly as fair to compel one property owner to pay the tax for his neighbor on the other side of the street as to compel him to pay it for a neighbor who rolls along the middle of the street.

THE WILLIAMS PARDON CASE.

Nearly three weeks ago the NEWS published a communication over the signature of Willis Knapp, in which the effort to secure a pardon for Thomas Williams, now in the penitentiary for killing J. E. Hutchings, at Tintic, twelve years ago, was sharply antagonized. Some caustic remarks by Mr. Knapp regarding Williams and his parents have elicited a denial from W. H. Halladay, of Tropic, Garfield county, who served a term in the penitentiary during Williams's incarceration. Mr. Halladay contradicts the assertion that Williams's parents "have offered large amounts of money to obtain his freedom," and says they are not financially situated to make such a tender.

There were several statements in Mr. Knapp's letter about Williams's conduct in the penitentiary, one of which was that he tried to poison the guards there, made numerous attempts to escape, and had to be placed in irons for bad conduct. Mr. Halladay, who was in prison at the time, contradicts this, and says that Williams was one of the leading spirits that unearthed the poisoning scheme, finding the drug beneath Fred. Hopt's seat, while "Hopt was taken care of and deprived of the opportunity of accomplishing his wholesale poisoning scheme to get those witnesses out of the way to whom he had confessed the murder of John Turner Jr." Mr. Halladay states that the ironing of Williams is shown on the prison record to be due to the false testimony of a fellow prisoner, and refers to Geo. N. Dow, ex-warden, and to E. A. Franks, L. Cottrell and E. Janney, guards, in support of the statement. He also names Chief of Police Pratt and a number of others who have been or are penitentiary officers to prove that the offenses

charged by Mr. Knapp against Williams actually were committed by the murderer Hopt.

We published Mr. Knapp's letter on the subject. We have given here the substance of Mr. Halladay's communication, which deals at some length with the accusations in the first letter, and contradicts every one of them that affects Williams's conduct in prison. Here we let the matter rest so far as the NEWS is concerned, as for the present at least we have no inclination to take one side or the other in the controversy. Those who are directly interested should present their view of the issues involved to the Governor, who holds the pardoning power and is capable of disposing of the case without unnecessary public discussion. We have full confidence that he will do so with fairness and consideration to all concerned, after a thorough investigation; therefore to that source we refer the contending interests.

A NEEDED MOVE.

The action of the Chamber of Commerce last evening in relation to a transportation committee will receive the hearty support of the people. President Bacon has named energetic and capable men, and the public will expect of them some good work in correcting the evils of discriminating railway rates which afflict business interests here. The committee has a magnificent opportunity of distinguishing itself in this service, and we anticipate that its members will not neglect it. There is no occasion or desire for a needless controversy with the railways, but if a grave injustice is being practiced toward this community, as a great many people firmly believe, the fact should be presented to the railways in a manner that will effect a reformation. The NEWS gives its endorsement to the step taken, and believes those named on the committee will prove the right men in the right place.

THE FRUIT TREE LAW.

In a letter that appears in another column, Mr. P. A. Dix, president of the state board of horticulture, calls attention to an apparent neglect on the part of many if not all the county courts of this Territory in the issuing of proclamations and the appointment of inspectors in pursuance of the law of the recent Legislature pertaining to fruit trees and fruit. We commend his criticisms and his suggestions to the immediate and careful notice of all concerned. Whatever may be the imperfections in the law referred to—and perhaps as we gain experience these imperfections will be found to be numerous—the fact remains that it is the expression of a worthy motive and has in view a most excellent object. If it shall receive the credit and observance it deserves on these grounds, we shall the sooner find out what amendments are necessary to make (what everybody should sincerely desire it to be) a perfect statute and one that can be rigidly enforced because of the approval and esteem it shall have in the minds of all intelligent citizens.