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HALT AND REFLECT!

We see that a strong pressure is being brought to bear upon the motemen and conductors on the street railroad system, to induce them to become members of a national organization known as the Street Car Men's Union, which is to be associated with other societies and related to the American Federation of Labor. In other words, the men who join it will place themselves under the direction of the managers and controllers of those organizations and be subject to their orders under the rules of the Union. They will also have to pay their entrance fees and regular dues and, if deemed necessary by the chiefs, to go out on strike and to further comply with such arbitrary requirements as their rulers may command.

We put the matter plainly, so that our friends who are invited to enroll their names on the list of the proposed Union may understand something of the position they will have to occupy. Of course there will be advantages offered to them; they will probably be very promising and some of them substantial. These should be fairly weighed against the disadvantages that will accrue. Rational men should not permit themselves to be dazzled with "glittering generalities," nor carried away with the glamor of persuasion and hopes that may never be realized.

The position of this paper as to the rights and wrongs of labor organization has been frequently defined. Working people have just as much right to unite for personal and joint benefit, as employers have to combine for their own protection and profit. But it is a mistake to do so in a hostile spirit, as though capital were an essential enemy to labor. And it is a flagrant wrong when Unions are formed for the purpose of compelling people to join them on pain of exclusion from the ranks of the employed. That is so evil and heartless, and oppressive and intolerant, that society should and will arise in its might and stamp it under foot until it is utterly crushed and extirpated.

But is not that one of the ordinary if not essential features of Unionism? It is all very well to say: "We will let the men join or not as they choose," as stated by a paid professional "organizer." But what will be done when a Union is formed and non-Union men seek or obtain employment in the same business? The answer is given in the course pursued in various trades controlled by Union bosses. Here is an instance that occurred but a few days ago: A good workman was engaged at his trade on a building in this city, and while at work with others, a "walking delegate" came along and asked: "Do you belong to the Union?" He replied: "No, not at present." He was informed as to the terms on which he could become a member. A day or two afterward the contractor said to him: "I'm very sorry Mr. — but I shall have to let you go. Your work is entirely satisfactory, but if you stay and don't join the Union the other men will strike, and I am under a time contract and can't afford to resist."

Of course the man could join the Union or not as he pleased. But how much real liberty was there in that? We have not words proper to print to fully express the infernal character of that kind of freedom, nor the detestable, cowardly, flimsy persecution involved therein. One of the gentlemen who is playing his vocation in urging the Union scheme on the car men, remarks:

"It is a great hardship for a man to get his family and household goods into the city, start his children to school and suddenly be discharged or laid off for some trivial thing."

Just so. Apply it to the case described. It is not new or singular. It occurs daily in this alleged free country. It is tyranny of the worst brand. It says, "Join our union or starve! If you stay out you shall not work. Your family may go to the poorhouse, for what the Union cares. Fork over the entrance fee, and pay your dues, and bow to Union edicts, Union bosses,

walking delegates and the rules established, or we will freeze you out!" It dictates to employers whom they shall employ. It not only says, "Our hands will not work for less than such a figure nor more than so many hours, but you shall employ others on different terms." It is this abominable force work to which we object and against which we warn all classes of labor. It is a growing foe to liberty and progress, and if not checked will result in calamity and ruin to the very societies that foster it.

Our opinion is that no real Latter-day Saint will place himself knowingly in such bondage, nor use his influence against a fellow-workman who does not choose to thus resign his freedom. Let laboring men and women unite as closely as they please for mutual benefit, the shortening of working hours, the raising of wages, a proper provision for the future, the protection of their own class or other beneficial purpose, but let them not aid in supporting societies that bind their members with stringent cords, interfere with the liberties of labor or of capital, and cast out from the right to work and live, people who do not see with their eyes or will not bow to the bosses who seek to ruin when they cannot rule!

ALCHEMY AND RADIUM.

A great deal of romance has found its way into public print concerning the wonders of radium. It is now four years since this mysterious substance was discovered in the laboratory of M. Curie, in Paris, but very little more is known about it now than when attention was first called to it by Mme. Curie.

One of the first suggestions made on the strength of the peculiarities observed was that science perhaps had been led into the old beaten paths of the alchemists. It was thought that nature was about to disclose her secret of making gold. This suggestion, naturally, was heard with great reservation, but it will not do now.

It is now claimed that Prof. Crookes, the inventor of the Crookes' tube used in the production of X-rays, has declared for the theory of the transmutability of metals. "We have come, says he, 'to the borderland where force and matter merge into each other,' which is taken to mean that when scientists can lay hold of the primary element, the transformation of one form into another will be easy.

The theory is that when radium is obtained the element gives off rapidly a gas, which, it is believed, is argon, or a number of gases belonging to the argon group. When the radio-activity dies down there is left a quantity of helium.

The possibility of transmutation, it is further explained, has been suggested by the peculiar conduct of another newly discovered element, to which has been given the name of yttrium. This, it is said, has given evidence in the spectroscopic of changing itself into seven different metals, five of which were beyond the reach of the ordinary methods of chemical analysis. So that here, the physicists had under their eye a process by which a single metal was changed into seven different metals, all of them familiar to chemistry. This interesting process was practically, so claimed the experts, a laying bare of nature in the very act of manufacturing in her own laboratory a number of metals which are quite costly when obtained by various methods of reduction from nature herself.

Reasoning from such observations it is contended that there must be a primary element, an "element of elements," out of which all others are built up. This is now called "prolyte." If, it is argued, chemists can lay hold of this primary element, there is no reason why they should not learn to make gold and other "precious" metals. It should be just as easy as to make mortar or plaster or brick, out of the component parts of which these are made.

Mme. Curie who has been accorded the honor of the discovery that has set the scientific world thinking of alchemy again, was a Polish student in the Latin Quarter when M. Curie, then an instructor in the School of Physics in Paris, first met her. She was poor, but possessed extraordinary talents. Her marriage to the young scientist was hailed by the students of the Latin Quarter in Paris as presaging great things.

Some idea of the difficulties overcome in the discovery of radium may be gained from the following data: After M. and Mme. Curie had succeeded in isolating an infinitesimal quantity of radium as a chloride (pure radium would become oxidized at once and disappear), it required two years in works especially built for the purpose to make a quantity of radium that was contained in a glass tube the size of an ordinary parlor match. And this was the residuum of eight tons of ore.

IN ANTARCTIC REGIONS.

The return of the British Antarctic exploring steamer Discovery ends the series of explorations for scientific purposes in those regions, which commenced in 1901 by expeditions from England, Germany and Sweden. By special arrangement the territory to be covered was divided between the three. The Swedish steamer perished in the gulf of Erebus in February, 1903, sinking with all her scientific instruments. The crew and the members of the expedition managed to live on seals until they were rescued in November, last. The German expedition returned to Kiel Nov. 25, 1903, after a successful exploring tour along the coast allotted to it. And now the British party has returned to civilization, having penetrated the ice barriers far to the south, making many geographical discoveries and correcting many errors in the charts of previous explorers, in addition to the gathering of a vast volume of magnetic and meteorological data. Thousands of photographs are included in the collection.

Among the data ascertained was that the great ice plain which the expedition crossed undoubtedly was fed from the ice cap of Victoria Land, and that since Ross's time (1843) the ice has

broken back for thirty miles along the edge of the barrier. Another observation made was that when the expedition to the far western end of Victoria Land crossed the 80th degree for the first time in history the compass pointed exactly the wrong way, indicating that the party had passed to the south of the southern magnetic pole.

The explorers tell of hardships endured during their travels in those regions. The expedition to the far western end of Victoria Land was undertaken under the severest climatic conditions, the explorers' heads and faces being literally cut by the icy blasts, and owing to the scarcity of food and the average march of ten miles a day, each man lost about twenty pounds during the six weeks' trip. This can well be believed. The expedition from the ship proceeded on sledges 276 miles south-west over a vast continental plateau rising to a height of 9,000 feet above the sea.

The chief object of these explorations was to solve certain problems relating to terrestrial magnetism, in the interest of navigation in southern latitudes.

The following observations are made in the National Geographic Magazine:

"That a vast Antarctic continent exists, perhaps twice as large as that of Europe, would seem to be proved by the reports now appearing of the recent explorations in that region. The American Commander Wilkes, returning from the far south in 1841, asserted the existence of a vast South Polar continent, and described his voyage of 1,500 miles in sight of the coast. Ross, however, returning soon after, discredited Wilkes' conclusions, saying that the land seen by Wilkes was merely a great wall of ice. The world has been in doubt which to believe.

"That Ross was wrong and Wilkes right is very evident from the report of Captain Scott, of the British Antarctic Expedition of 1901-1904. Captain Scott shows that the mass of ice seen by Ross is in reality an extensive glacier resting on land and covering the land like the ice cap of Greenland. The glacier is about 700 miles wide and reaches the sea through a plain lying between Victoria Land and Edward VII Land. The German expedition under Von Drygalski, working 80 degrees of longitude further west, also found a somewhat similar expanse of ice-capped land, which limits they were unable to trace, but which is apparently a part of the same Antarctic continent."

LOOKING FOR LIGHT.

A Japanese commission has been sent to this country, to study the workings of the religions that prevail here, and contrast the results with those of Buddhism. The inference is that the commission will recommend the best religion, as judged by results, to their countrymen.

We have a great many things to show this commission. Among these are "French heels," tobacco and whisky, yellow journals, guns, jads, football, drinking clubs, gambling dens, appendicitis, and suicide clubs, problem plays, and dime shows, prize-fights, and religious cranks, lynchings and other curiosities. It will have to be explained to them that all these things are not part of our civilization, but that they exist in spite of it. They may ask why our religion does not eradicate these foreign substances from the body politic. But that is an embarrassing question, to which a satisfactory answer has not been given.

"Out of sight, out of mind," says Togo.

France had her emigres but Colorado has her deportees.

The Russians minded their own business when they mined the Yalu.

Paying a tribute to a candidate is no substitute for a campaign assessment.

"Keep the schools out of politics," says the Chicago Record-Herald. Hear! Hear!

Again the Japanese fleet has appeared off Port Arthur. But then appearances are so deceitful.

The painters have resolved to have a celebration. Is it the intention to "paint the town red?"

A Paterson, N. J., woman is suing for a divorce, because her husband smokes a pipe. If they would smoke the peace pipe, all would be well.

Maj.-Gen. Wood is about to begin a campaign to compel the allegiance of the Sultan of Tarana. Now will the Sultan be good?

Boston ladies have decided that it is time to take decisive action for the relief of their lap dogs. That's right. Too long have these dogs lain in the lap of luxury.

In every city in the Union the directory people always know so much more about the number of inhabitants than the census officials do. They know they know because they say they know they do know.

Two young women of New York visited Redloe's Island in the harbor and went into the statue of Liberty. They were locked in and had to spend the night there. During the night they must off have recalled Madame Roland's famous saying, "O Liberty! how many crimes are committed in thy name!"

A local politician says, "There is no doubt but that Mr. Cleveland was a candidate for the (presidential) nomination until within the past two weeks." This is astounding news, as many months ago Mr. Cleveland distinctly stated that he was not, and would not be a candidate. But then some people know more than there is to be known.

The grand concert in the Thirteenth ward hall on the 13th of April at 8 p. m. will be a fine affair. It is for the benefit of the ward choir, and many first-class musical performers will give their aid. The leader will be our old friend, C. J. Thomas, and that guarantees its excellence. All who attend will enjoy the evening and assist in the work laid out for the choir.

PROPOSED NEW STATES.

San Francisco Chronicle.

It is plain that the appeals of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma for separate admission to statehood will be denied by the present Congress as they were by the last one. The program is to pass a bill which will not be acceptable to either of the applicants for statehood. At the last session of Congress it was proposed to exclude Arizona and New Mexico and create a new state out of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. The proposition was opposed by the friends of Arizona and New Mexico because of the unfair discrimination, and Oklahoma revolted against being united with Indian Territory. At this session the proposition is to create two new states, one out of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, as was suggested last year, and another out of Arizona and New Mexico combined. The house committee on territories has prepared a report favoring this course.

Louisville Herald.

The proposed new state to be formed from New Mexico and Arizona will be the largest state in the Union except Texas, having an area of 235,600 square miles. Texas has an area of 267,780 miles—30,180 more than the new state will have.

THE COTTON CRAZE.

Augusta Chronicle.

Just as the cotton farmers of the south are preparing the ground or sowing the seed for what promises to be a record breaking crop, the boss cotton gambler goes to pieces and the market goes to pieces with him. All going to show that 15 and 16 cent cotton is a delusion and a snare. Undisputable proof that the farmer who pines his fath to the "bull" speculator and plants accordingly is but guilty of "killing the hen that lays the golden egg." The ability of one man, or a clique of men, to temporarily bolster up the market, gave us 15 and 16 cent cotton. The failure or withdrawal of these men from the market caused the price to go down, like an inflated balloon when a hole is torn in it. And this is all there was to the cotton craze that has swept over this country within the past few months.

The Commercial Appeal.

He has done the trade no good. He has simply infused a fever into its veins. It is impossible to know the extent of the demoralization he has wrought throughout the country; for many were doubtless led into the fields of speculation by his example. Some cotton, too, may be sympathetically affected by his fall; but in the end there will be a normal adjustment of values, and do not believe that the man who has raised the cotton, or the man who has conducted his business prudently, will suffer.

Savannah News.

There was one thing he said during his career as a speculator in cotton that may be of benefit to the south, and that is that cotton seed is deteriorating, and hence the yield per acre is declining. The point he made was that the planters do not choose their best seed for planting, but the seed of the second picking, which is distinctly inferior to the seed of the first picking. It may be that in some sections there is such anxiety to sell cotton seed for the best price it will bring that the best seed is sent to the oil mills, but inquiry at mills and among cotton planters doesn't show such to be the fact.

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of Utah."