

America's Labor Day—Its Origin and Rationale; A Holiday That No Man Would Like to Abolish

MONDAY, Sept. 4, will be the eleventh return of Labor day as a national holiday. The first celebration of the day occurred in New York city twenty-three years ago. The general assembly of the Knights of Labor was holding a session at the time, and it was proposed by P. J. McGuire, a prominent labor leader, that all the trade organizations in the city should go in procession through the principal streets. Such a demonstration, he contended, would be a valuable object lesson, giving a more definite idea of the actual power of the labor forces than all the statistics that could be compiled. The suggestion met with favor among the delegates to the assembly and was acted upon. The parade came off as advertised and was a notable success, although many of the organizations were not yet sufficiently enthusiastic over the idea to honor the occasion with their presence. The general public was attracted by the exhibition and did not hesitate to express its approval. The newspapers reported well of it and no one seemed to regard it as an extravagance.

That is the way in which, without realizing it at the time, the paraders and the spectators as well laid the foundations for the great legal holiday, which is observed today from one end of the Union to the other. Every state and territory, with the exception of Nevada, North Dakota and Wyoming, has recognized its legal existence, Louisiana observing it in New Orleans last only.

The original demonstration occurred on the first Monday in September, which has been followed by nearly all parts



THE AMERICAN WORKINGMAN AND HIS DIVERSIONS.

of the country. Florida's celebration came later in the month, California selected October as a more convenient time and Louisiana postponed the festivities until November. From the

time of the first parade the question of adopting a labor holiday for New York was agitated vigorously, but it was not until 1887 that a bill providing for such an anniversary was intro-

duced into the assembly. This was the pioneer effort in the matter of legalizing the observance, but while it was awaiting action the new state of Colorado took the initiative and passed a

bill making Labor day a legal holiday within its borders. New Jersey followed quickly, and New York, Massachusetts and most of the others came along in rapid succession.

Then there began to be mooted the question of securing national legislation in the matter. It was urged by the advocates of the observance that such action would add greatly to the stability and dignity of the holiday. A bill was prepared, and it was introduced into the lower house on Sept. 6, 1893, by the late Amos J. Cummings of New York. Senator Kyle of South Dakota became sponsor for a bill of the same nature in the senate. No real opposition developed, but the matter was delayed until the following season, when it was passed and signed by the president the same day.

The real significance of the day lies in the fact that its observance is a recognition of the dignity of labor. All questions of local importance, all controversies arising from the varying interpretations of trade principles and all industrial disputes are alien to its true meaning. Its practically unimportant sanction by the governing bodies of the separate states and its final adoption by the general government are sufficient evidence of the national agreement as to its usefulness as a public expression of respect for all that the term labor implies. This open legal recognition marks the evolution of the workingman from his ancient condition of bondage and servitude into a higher civil and industrial atmosphere.

But for the moral force inherent in American democratic institutions a festival like Labor day would have no place in the calendar. Advancing civilization and the general industrial progress of the United States associated in its development. In every state bodies of organized workingmen helped to bring about the enactment by its influencing public opinion in their respective localities. When the time for action came there was no one to dissent from the common willingness to

regard labor as an ever present force worthy of consideration. Legislatures which had been chary of adopting other labor measures showed no hesitancy to combat this unmistakably popular demand for a brand new holiday.

It is true also that much previous legislation had paved the way toward the legal consecration of one day each year to labor in fact. Something akin to the principle that the government has the right to prescribe in certain directions the conditions under which men and women toil and to secure them time and opportunity for rest and even for recreation had already been established in many states by the adoption of factory laws and factory inspection. The ten-hour working day for women and children had been obtained. The employment of young children in mills and workshops had been restricted and their education had been made a subject of legislative solicitude. Machinery had been made safer by guards and frequent inspection. Wages were paid less infrequently, and the company store was less prominent in the matter of settlement. In some favored localities legal observance of the Saturday half holiday had begun. Municipalities had established industrial schools and convalescent labor had been withdrawn from the competition in the labor market. Bureaus of labor statistics had been founded to investigate the industrial situation.

In line with all this industrial progress was the setting apart of Labor day. The trade unions, which were instrumental in securing the beneficial codes governing the times and methods of labor, were also very prominent in the matter of the September holiday. All differences and animosities between the great labor organizations were laid aside and the day was a singular singleness of purpose observed.

ELLIS J. SHAW.

Louis of Battenberg, Britain's Hessian Rear Admiral

THE visit of Prince Louis of Battenberg to America is responsible for the public interest which this German prince long domiciled in England has recently inspired. The time has not yet arrived when the coming of a European royalty of any description will remain an unheralded and comparatively tame event. In the case of Louis of Battenberg, however, there seems to be a more genuine claim upon popular attention than that due solely to the fact of his royal lineage. He has demonstrated conclusively, to the British nation at least, that he is a man of parts.

In spite of his Hessian birth Prince Louis is interesting to Americans as the commander of the most formidable British squadron that has anchored in the waters of the United States for a long time. Although a Hessian, he was born in Austria and was a British subject long before his brother Henry

much to admire in the young Battenbergs. They were not regarded in royal circles as legitimate princes of the Hesse-Darmstadt strain, their father, Alexander of Hesse, having formed a morganatic union with a certain Pauline Hauke, an inmate of the imperial school of medicine of lower St. Petersburg, whom he abducted and married as soon as they had crossed the Russian border. Pauline Hauke was a charming and estimable young woman, the daughter of a distinguished Hebrew convert to the orthodox church who had been secretary of state to the grand duke Constantine when he was viceroy of Poland. Fortunately for Alexander, he was exceedingly popular and had many powerful friends. His escape was reckoned as far as it was possible, and his young wife was enabled by Prince Joseph of Austria and given the title of Countess of Battenberg. After the birth of Louis she was raised to the dignity of princess, and her sons were christened princes of Battenberg.

Thus it happened that at the time of her marriage the Princess Alice of Hesse, who was actually an important personage, was accredited with an independent taste in the matter of the selection of a husband. The prince had little besides his good looks to recommend him. With no estate beyond an unimportant schloss in Hesse and no money except his royal pay, Prince Louis began housekeeping with his charming cousin, and there is no evidence that the princess has ever had cause to repent her choice, or more accurately speaking, the choice of her grandmother. The Battenbergs seem to have extracted actual more enjoyment out of life than is usually the case in royal alliances, and the princess has availed herself of her comparative freedom from affairs of state to make the most of life as she finds it.



PRINCE LOUIS OF BATTENBERG.

Had Prince Louis never married the Princess Alice it is not at all likely that he would now be a British rear admiral with one of the best commands in the English navy for his flagship.

Nevertheless, it is a fact admitted by all that he has shown himself worthy of his good fortune and has won his position by actual hard work and proved ability. Influence may have

been of some assistance to him, but it is true also that he has mastered his profession in the most thorough fashion and has shown much ability in every duty intrusted to him.

During his boyhood at Gratz, the Austrian town in which the Battenbergs were residing, Prince Louis spent many happy hours in reading Marryat's sea tales, which inspired him

with a desire to follow the profession of a sailor. He was so much in earnest about it that his parents sent him to England, where he was given a cadetship in the royal navy. He was only fourteen years of age, but he seemed to be both plucky and conscious of the fact that he must make his own way. No special attention was given him; he had to be content with a very modest amount of pocket money and faced severely his early midshipman's life. He was an officer of the watch on the old frigate Inconstant, which went around the globe under sail.

Prince Louis was made a sublieutenant in 1871, when he was twenty years of age. Ten years later he became lieutenant, and that was still his rank in 1884, when he wedded the queen's granddaughter. Contrary to the general expectation and to the great disgust of his Hessian relatives, his subsequent promotion was not as rapid as a royal alliance would seem to have made possible. He was made commander the year after his marriage, but six years elapsed before he became a captain. For the six years previous to his recent appointment as rear admiral he was director of the bureau of naval intelligence, a post of great importance, demanding close attention to all that makes for progress in naval construction and equipment.

Prince Louis is now in his fifty-first year and is tall, handsome, active and a model sailor in every respect. He is in no sense a martinet, but he will tolerate no slackness. His nickname, "Battie," somewhat contemptuous, was given him when he entered the service, owing to his still, but it has long since ceased to be an epithet of reproach.

OSCAR LEEDS.

William Travers Jerome, a Unique District Attorney; One of the Most Original Politicians in America

THE recent announcement of William Travers Jerome, district attorney of New York county, that he will be a candidate for reelection without reference to any party or any ticket is equivalent to a declaration of independence. By convincing his friend and foe to the former because it confirms the oft-repeated assertion that he is not a politician in the ordinary acceptance of the term, and to the latter because it is fresh evidence that his methods are unchanged. It has taken New York some time to understand Mr. Jerome, even as well as he is understood today. He has been eccentric, undeniably, and it is well understood that one cannot tell what he is going to do next. That of itself has been more or less disquieting to those who have been accustomed to look for uniformity in political methods.

Those who have abundant and material reasons for doing so are not the only ones who set their faces against his ways of doing. There are many persons, some of them quite as conscientious and public spirited as Mr. Jerome could possibly be, who cannot attribute themselves to his rather spectacular fashion of gaining his end. They are so accustomed to deal with shifty political bosses, cunning business men and reformers of lethargic energies that they fail to recognize that in Mr. Jerome they may find the powerful recrudescence of some old time political virtuoso which had become almost obsolete.

Be that as it may, Mr. Jerome is one of the most interesting personalities of the age. He is able. There are many others who vie with him in that respect. He is full of energy and tenacity of purpose. Those virtues, even when they are really so, are by no means peculiar to him. The quality that distinguishes Mr. Jerome and makes him what he is, is audacity, a sort of reckless audacity that dominates him when other men in his place would be constrained to move quietly.

His guiding principle seems to be that of the Caliph Ali: "Thy lot or portion in life is seeking after thee; cease therefore from seeking after it."

Mr. Jerome became district attorney of New York county Jan. 1, 1902, after a campaign the like of which had never before been experienced in that section of the country. It was undeniably spectacular, but it was also char-

acterized by an amazing frankness. His election gave him the immediate control of the largest criminal law practice in the world—about 12,000 cases a year come into the office. To attend to this enormous business there are besides himself, thirty lawyers and an executive staff of a hundred men. The central spot in which this immense amount of labor has its focus

the district attorney's private office, is simplicity itself. It is big, light and airy. A covered green carpet, a commodious desk in the middle of the floor, a large safe, a bottle of filtered water in a corner, a newspaper rack, and on the walls the photographs of half a dozen of his predecessors—this is a complete inventory of the room's contents. Here Mr. Jerome distributes

the cases among his associates, advises them on knotty points, and it is also in this room that by appeal or threat he has secured many important confessions from unwilling penitents.

If he is one of Mr. Jerome's pet investigators that a public man should not be limited to the zone of mere duty, that he should permit himself to be derelict much more than is expected

of him. His constant theme during the campaign had been the evils which prevailing administrations had allowed to creep into the tenement districts of New York, and one of the first acts of the new district attorney was to take up his residence in the tenement east side quarter of the city and to establish there a branch office for the benefit of poor complainants whose work would not permit them to come during the day to the criminal courts building. The announcement was made public that thereafter the branch office would be open every night and that no matter how late the hour any person seeking justice had but to ring the bell. At first few came. The east side looked with suspicion on this gratuitous provision for its benefit. After a few daring experiments had visited the new office, however, and had had their grievances looked into there was such an influx of seekers after justice that the force on duty had to be doubled and trebled.

Such a procedure on the part of a district attorney was not duly noted, but it was also far in excess of his actual duty. When he supplemented it by providing a residence for himself and his family in the same tenement, at 8 Rutgers street, that contained the branch office, even his friends are afraid that he had been too audacious. The Jerome were in easy circumstances, and the lower east side of New York is not a favorite residential section for those who can live elsewhere. Since April 2, 1902, it has been Mr. Jerome's legal residence, although his wife and son prefer the more congenial neighborhood of the Washington Heights city home or the rural seclusion of their country place at Lakeville, Conn.

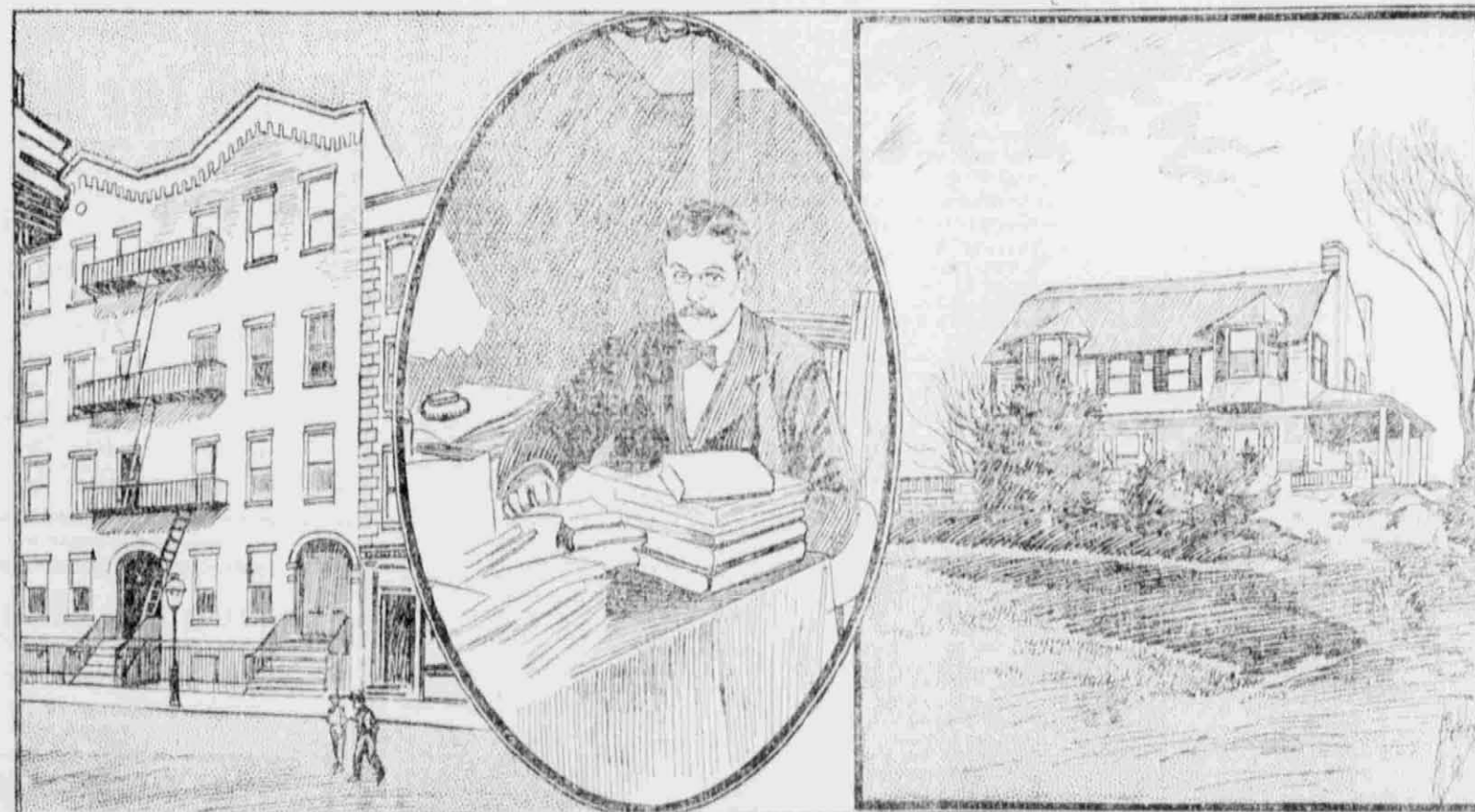
William Travers Jerome, according to the logic of environment and tradition, is entirely out of his element at Rutgers street. In New York's most typical "submerged" district, it is the son and nephew, respectively, of two of New York's most noted citizens. His father was Lawrence W. Jerome, broker, banker, promoter, politician, patron of sports, after dinner speaker,

practical joker, friend of art and literature, millionaire, prince of good fellows, and Larry to his numerous acquaintances. His uncle, Leonard Jerome, was one of the first men to make a great fortune in Wall Street. He also was a generous patron of the sports of gentlemen and built the famous Jerome park race course. His youngest daughter, Jennie, a first cousin of the district attorney, became Lady Randolph Churchill and is now Mrs. Cornwallis West, one of the best and most favorably known of the American colony in England. Gladstone once said of her that she was unique as a campaigner.

Although his present robustness and vigor make the assertion seem incredible, Mr. Jerome was an extremely delicate boy and it was not thought prudent to expose him to the rough and tumble methods of boys' preparatory schools. He was taught at home by tutors until he was able to enter Amherst college. He remained there until the close of his junior year, but was compelled by failing health to abandon the idea of graduation. He was endowed with indomitable pluck, and he at once abandoned all other pursuits and began to cultivate physical strength and muscular development. As soon as he was able he entered the Columbia Law school and was graduated in 1884, after which he spent some time in European travel. In 1888, four years after his admission to the bar, Mr. Jerome was appointed to his first public office, assistant district attorney.

Mr. Jerome does not look the part of the militant politician. He is thirty-seven years of age (and seems younger) and of good height, but slender. His face is rather thin and narrow, being the face of the student, the man of intellect, rather than that of the fighter, but true physical courage is apparent in the firm chin, thin lips and the flash of the keen gray eyes. The man of good blood and gentle breeding is marked in every line of his face, and his manner is that of one who has made a study of his fellows and knows them well.

JAMES R. BENTLEY.



HIS HOME IN RUTGERS STREET, NEW YORK.

WILLIAM T. JEROME IN HIS STUDY.

HIS SUMMER RESIDENCE, LAKEVILLE, CONN.