

## THEODORE J. SHAFFER,

The New Pennsylvania Labor Leader, a Bundle of Contradictions.

A man very much in the public eye just at present, says an Eastern writer, is Thomas J. Shaffer, president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, who was the chief representative of the labor interests in the recent trouble at McKeesport. Shaffer is not so well known to the country at large as is Mitchell of the United Mine Workers.

He is a peculiar character, and if the public becomes well acquainted with him it will find him a bundle of contradictions. He is strong and weak, unswerving and full of moods, a spectacular declaimer and an earnest worker, appearing many things as seen by many observers, for among those who know him well there are as many characterizations of him as there are characters.

He was reared in the Monongahela coal district, and began to earn his living as a mine boy. He got into a mill, and by and by became a sheet roller. It was not his plan to remain a roller, for, like young men who are found now and then in the humblest conditions, he was born with a thirst for learning, and books interested him more than machines. He studied at his work. His schooling was scant, but he carried his books to the mill and studied as he labored. His bent was literary, and finally shrewd.

Shaffer saved a little money, and became a student in the Western University of Pennsylvania, at Pittsburgh. He was a bright scholar, and undoubtedly earned, but his funds ran out and he was unable to graduate. He was forced back to the mill, but continued to study, and was ordained to the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church in the Pittsburgh conference. For nearly three years he was pastor of the little church in Brownsville, where Philander C. Knox was an attendant in his early days.

Shaffer was of nervous temperament and of delicate health, and acquired certain habits which are not consistent with the Methodist discipline. He was accused of intemperance, and was forced to quit the ministry. At the same time it was true that the preacher's vocation did not suit him. He needed more exercise than it gave him, and he went back cheerfully into the sheet mills. He was employed fifteen years ago as a roller in the Apollo sheet mill, and there took the leading part in the organization of a lodge of the Amalgamated association.

He was a scholar and student among the workers, and became easily a leader. He appeared in the district and national meetings of the association as a delegate, and his forceful speeches attracted attention among the leaders of the union. Some six or seven years ago he became an assistant president of the Amalgamated, and in 1897, when President M. G. Garland was appointed by President McKinley surveyor of the port of Pittsburgh, Shaffer was elected by the association to the chief executive office. He has been three times re-elected, though once by the skin of his teeth.

Shaffer holds his place because he is

the best educated and most thoughtful man in the union. He is not "populist" among the ordinary run of workmen, for he is not clumsy. His health is miserable, and for a long time two years ago he was confined to a hospital. It was just before that breakdown that he had the long contest with the tinplate trust. He carefully concealed his failing condition from the trust representatives, fearing that if they knew it they would prolong the fight until he could no longer hold up his head. He brought them to their knees the next day, and went into the hands of the surgeons.

This is an illustration of the man's earnestness and determination. He is a stubborn man, but liable to change his attitude suddenly, not because of outer influences, but because he changes his own mind during meditation. He thinks and broods, which are two different things. He has spells of deep gloom. Sometimes he loses himself for a fortnight, and his closest friends cannot find him. He retires within himself, and at all times he is reserved. Few know him well. Occasionally he talks freely to an intimate, and unfolds all his aims and hopes. All the time he is a student, delving into economic problems.

Some say Shaffer is in the labor work for money and fame. The facts show otherwise. His salary is but \$1,500 and expenses. Perhaps that is better than he ever would have done in the pulpit, but the chief advantage he finds in his present office is the opportunity to move about a great deal and to get interested in what he is fondly attached to.

During the long tin plate tie-up he divided his small salary with a brother, who was one of the locked-out workmen, and while thus supporting two families, and knowing it to be to his financial and physical interests to yield the contest, he stuck to it under painful affliction until he won what most persons considered a hopeless fight.

As an orator, Shaffer is easy and convincing. He is a glib talker, but his style on the platform is stagey. He poses—perhaps it is the result of earnestness, perhaps to impress his auditors, who are not always of the most intelligent sort. Still it is true that the Amalgamated association includes many of the highest class of workmen in the United States.

Shaffer has not been strikingly successful as an organizer. He does not enthrall his hearers. He only convinces those who think while he talks. The association has grown rapidly during his presidency, and now has more than 50,000 members, but the organizer of the order is John Williams, the national secretary. Williams is a tin plate worker, and the strength of the association lies among the men in the tin plate mills.

The president of the Amalgamated is a dictator in his own law. He is the buffer, the negotiator between the order and the employers. The national board is the authority wherein lies the power to decide. Shaffer is its representative and must obey its behests.

President Shaffer is now about fifty years old. He is married, but has no children. He has a comfortable little home and a large library.

## SENATOR HOAR'S SACRIFICE.

By Which He Has Gained Infinitely More Than He Has Lost.

Senator Hoar finds himself at the age of 75 with his law practice gone and with but a meager bank account, says the Chicago Tribune. In retrospective moments he is inclined to mourn over the loss of the comfortable fortune which he might have accumulated if he had chosen to give his life to the law rather than to statesmanship. In speaking of his early hopes and ambitions the other day he said that before he entered Congress he had an annual income of \$20,000, with every prospect of seeing his practice grow to \$50,000. He had saved \$100,000 and believed he could keep his practice and still attend to his duties in Congress. He soon learned that this was impossible. His savings were gradually dissipated. His thirty years of public service have left him a comparatively poor man.

It is by no means clear that Senator Hoar has any reason to regret his choice of a career, even from the view point of his own self-interest. He has forfeited the opportunity to accumulate riches, but he has won a name which many a rich man would give all his wealth to possess, and which no amount of money could buy. Probably every man comes to a place in his career where he wishes he had sought a different goal. Humanity is so constituted that it longs for the prize which it does

not possess, and is inclined to esteem lightly that which it has won.

The man who has spent his life in piling up wealth wishes for fame and public honors, but by the time his fortune is made it is too late to succeed in the career field. In the same way the man who has spent his best years in handling great questions of state can no longer turn back and add wealth to fame. Only in a few rare instances, like that of Senator Sherman, do men possess the double qualifications enabling them to build up an honorable name and a comfortable fortune at the same time. Most men must choose between the two, and Senator Hoar chose wisely.

The Massachusetts senator has written his name indelibly in the political history of the United States during his generation. He could neither have done such far-reaching service for his country nor have protected his own life-time if he had continued his law practice. The fame of a great lawyer, like his work, is more or less temporary and transient. The lawyers who have been making \$50,000 a year during Senator Hoar's period in Congress will be forgotten and their fortunes dissipated by their descendants long before the Massachusetts senator's fame shall have ceased to be a valuable and cherished possession of his commonwealth and country. He would not choose differently if he had the chance to do so.

## Bostonian Writes of Eastern Women and Utah.

Special Correspondence.

Boston, April 18.—While visiting the public library in this city I found among the rest of the leading newspapers of our country the Desert News of March 30th. Glancing over its pages I came across your editorial in which you call attention to the fact that the International Council of Women were going to meet at 150th Fifth Ave., New York city, on April 1st, to start a new crusade against polygamy in Utah. I read the notice of the meeting, which you reprint from the New York papers, and also your comments on the same and while doing so I felt that "somebody" should do a little to suppose by this time the dear ladies have met, have fixed up the necessary plans for the crusade, will soon pass around the subscription paper for the necessary funds and then you "Mormons" will have to look out, or in, as the case may be, or there will not be a grease spot left of you, and your beautiful Temple will be laid in ruins "and not one stone be left upon another," so well will the said crusade be planned and executed. Be this as it may, one cannot help but think while reflecting upon the meeting aforesaid and the dear ladies who composed it that the latter could find plenty of work to do right around their own doorways, and a good deal more of it than they can possibly find to do in far-off Utah. If they will start in at the Battery and sweep both sides of Broadway to Harlem river bridge, so that when they get

through it will be morally clean, they will have more than they can possibly do in their natural lives, and they can then leave Brooklyn and Jersey City to be cleaned by future generations. The ladies in question met, it is said, at 156 Fifth Ave., if instead of looking to far-off Utah they had looked to Third Ave. and 68th street, they would have found a Foundling Home kept by our Catholic friends, where illegitimate and abandoned children can be taken in and cared for. The home is all that one could wish for in an institution of that kind. It is clean, cozy and comfortable and at the same time palatial in its appointments and thorough in its details. It is presided over by a corps of devoted women who never tire in doing all they can for the little unfortunate who are thrust upon them, so to speak, by the inhumanity of men to women. This institution is doing a good work and we all can wish it God-speed in saving helpless humanity from being murdered. The home was founded thirty-one years ago by a Catholic sister, or nun, and she had the munificent sum of \$5 to start it with. Under these conditions it did not do much for the first few years. Later on, extended its scope for usefulness. Notwithstanding its humble beginnings, from the 11th day of October, 1869, to March 2nd, 1901, it took in 32,549 illegitimate and abandoned children, thousands of them born during the few days when abandoned by their helpless mothers. To show you that this is absolutely true, Mr. Editor, I send you under separate cover the last report of the institution, by consulting which, you will see that on the last day of 1900,

32,549 babies had been taken in. I was there on March 2nd, 1901, and saw a little negro baby about four days old who had just been tagged with number and name. They tag them all when received. He had received the name of Arthur and his number was 32,533; four more babies were then waiting to be tagged, named and numbered, making a total of 32,537 therefore in two months and two days of this year this institution had taken in 1,473 of these poor helpless creatures.

It would, no doubt, be interesting to your readers to have a description given of this institution in all its details, but it is not my purpose to do this. I do, however, want to call the attention of the before mentioned council of ladies to the fact that such an institution exists right under their noses; that while, perhaps, it is the largest in the city it is only one of several of the kind there; that a very large percentage of the children begotten out of wedlock do not find their way there at all, but are murdered, and if it was not for these institutions more would be.

I want to call the attention of these ladies of the International Council to the fact that large families in the American home are getting to be a thing of the past. Some homes have a boy and a girl, while many homes have no children at all. I want to tell them that if they wish to pay for their children that abortion, footicide, infanticide and premature murder is on the increase everywhere, but especially in the section in which they are holding their council. I would like to suggest to the ladies who are so anxious about Utah to roll up their sleeves and go in on New York and when they get through they might come over here to Boston and clean us up. We need it. Ladies be consistent and turn yourselves loose in your own doorways, for pity sake, give Utah and the "Mormons" a rest. Perhaps ladies, as you decided to call your meeting for April 1st, you are not in earnest, but mean the whole thing to be an April Fool joke. I hope so. I want to say to you, how-

ever, that the conditions that exist in "Dear New York" are no joke at all, and they call for your immediate attention. BOSTONIAN.

## MAKING JAM FOR ENGLAND.

Roast beef has long been considered the national dish of England, but jam is not far behind. America has beat the world in supplying the former to Great Britain, and now bids fair to repeat her success with preserves. School children in England are brought up on a slice of bread thickly spread with jam, and more is thought of this preserve over there than even in America. There are Americans who say that better American beef can be bought in London and Liverpool than in New York and Chicago. Whether true or not, there is no doubt that American packers are exceedingly particular about the quality of the beef they supply for British consumption, and there is every reason to believe that, with equal care, America can send to England all the beloved jam that is eaten in that country. England is the heaviest consumer of jam in the world, and her trade in this line is well worth the effort of capturing. A typical English breakfast is composed of marmalade and tea. The prosperous Englishman is willing to pay a good price for good articles, and he doesn't care where the things come from. A great revolution is going on in supplying the English table, more especially among the middle and working classes. What were a few years ago expensive delicacies, found only on the tables of the well to do, are now, to a great extent, articles of daily consumption by the masses.

American manufacturers of preserves are striving to win the English market are experimenting with a process of working their pulp with the due proportions of sugar into practically jam bricks. When a single order from one noted London firm alone amounts to twenty-eight tons of apricot pulp from California it will convey some idea of the

magnitude the system is attaining. Fruits, pineapples, guineas, apples and peaches are also largely utilized in this way, and the latest triumph in this direction is that of being able to send into England strawberry pulp.

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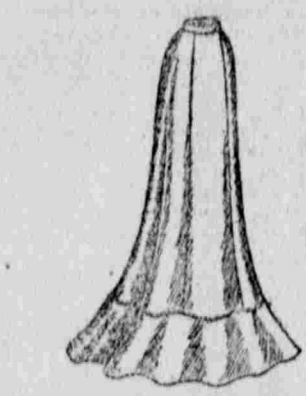
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