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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 29, 1907.

THE STRIKE.

It is to be deeply regretted that the difficulty between the street car managers and their employees was not settled without recourse to a general strike. The right of the men to quit work peacefully, whenever they believe they can further their interests by so doing is not questioned. Whether the wages are unsatisfactory, or other objectionable conditions prevail, they have a perfect right to withdraw their services. But it is nevertheless deplorable when unity and harmony, so necessary for the well-being of the world of industry, are destroyed. Strike is war, and war is an eminent authority, "hell."

In the first place, the strike does by no means hit the company against which it is directed, hardest. Generally the strikers themselves are the losers, in the long run. And while the trouble is on, the general public is made to suffer. Workmen depending on the cars are liable to lose time and wages; or they must walk—a considerable draft upon their energy, in addition to their daily hard tasks. Children who depend on the cars for attendance at school, will if the trouble continues for any length of time, perhaps lose the chance of advancement. We are told by platters that the public is the "umpire." The fact is that workmen, women, and children, who have no right of their own and no automobiles, are the victims, instead of the "umpires." The strike method of settling disputes is, therefore, the most unsatisfactory and irrational imaginable. It means, practically that when two parties disagree they compromise on knocking a third party down. It is said that the Chinese court provides a substitute to receive the chastisement the heir to the throne merits, while his education is going on. By strikes the public is made the vicarious sufferer for the shortcomings of which employees accuse employers. Is that justice?

In the second place, strikes are too dangerous in this age of unrest. There is too much inflammable material around a spark may prove disastrous. It is a fact that wherever there is trouble, an element congregates that has no regard for law or order, or the rights of other persons. The strikers themselves may be orderly, respectable citizens, but the toughs and the hoodlums will take advantage of the situation and get in their work. Property will be damaged, and the lives of citizens endangered, unless the rough element is kept in awe by the authorities. Violence begets violence. And what can the men hope to gain by the confusion that the lawless element is sure to create? The object of strikes is, we presume, to enlist public sympathy for the striking party, and thus influence the opposite party to concessions. But acts of violence operate in the opposite direction. By them public sympathy is usually forfeited.

Rumors have it that the City will be plunged in darkness and that the wheels of industry generally will be stopped. The result of that would possibly be a combination between business men to fight the matter at issue out, as in some other cities, notably Los Angeles. If it should be decided to stop improvements of every kind, what would the consequences be to all of us who depend on our daily labor for the maintenance and comfort of our families?

These considerations deserve earnest attention. Let the parties interested come together, and reason together, and save the reputation of this city. It is all very well for men who have no interest here and who profit by strife-breeding, to urge war, but the best interests of the community, of the workmen and the employers demand a peaceful and equitable settlement of the questions at issue.

In the meantime lawlessness must be stopped, at any cost. Unfortunately, the public can hope absolutely nothing from the police department. In the way of protection of life or property. But there are other public servants entrusted with power and authority to maintain the law against irresponsible mobs. We shall expect them to do their duty and mete out justice to the brutes that seem to be thirsting for blood.

OFFICIAL INDIFFERENCE.

The absolute unconcern and studied indifference of the "American" party administration in general and the police department in particular, in the unlawful acts committed yesterday and today as a result of the street car strike, furnish the most amazing developments of the trouble thus far. City peace officers without number mingle with and pass through the motley crowds that throw eggs, smash windows, destroy other property and use threatening language, but are conveniently deaf and sightless. They have become so accustomed to winking at public offenses that the evils enumerated are looked upon by them with apparent friendliness, for when acts of violence are committed in the presence of the police and they stand idly by without attempting to check them in the least, it is a notice to the mob that it has official encouragement if not absolute sanction, from the administration to continue its work of obstruction and destruction.

It must have been rather embarrassing for Mayor Thompson and Chief of Police Sheets to listen to the lecture that was read to them by Mr. P. L. Williams, attorney of the company, who not only applied to them for protection

but demanded it at their hands, as the foremost peace officers of the city. He reminded them that to his personal knowledge the police were perfectly passive as to their duty in the premises and cited cases of actual encouragement by patrolmen whose sympathies and influence are against law and order in this, as in many another case. This appeal, this demand, was made yesterday. The mayor and chief promised to see to it that conditions were bettered at once, but today the same adamant indifference was in evidence. Of men who have eyes and see not, ears and hear not, the present police force can furnish a greater number per capita than any other in the country.

Two assaults may be cited for their fierceness and brutality, that upon Detective Jones of the Short Line Company yesterday, and one upon Time-keeper Manning today as told in the news columns of this paper. In each case police were present but made no arrests. Not less than a dozen of Chief Sheets' henchmen stood near the spot where Mr. Manning, a most inoffensive and considerate gentleman, was so viciously set upon this morning, yet not one of them made a move to protect him or to apprehend his assailants. The conduct of the police begins to have a decidedly suspicious look. If their instructions were direct from headquarters to permit lawlessness to run riot they could not succeed more signally in that direction than they are doing.

THE ROLLER SKATE CRAZE.

The launching of a new form of amusement, or more properly speaking, the return of an old one, during the past winter, caused an observant purveyor of public amusements to say, a few weeks ago, that "all Salt Lake is on skates." He might have added that the same was true with reference to the rest of the country, for that is the fact, from Murray to New York, and from Butte to New Orleans. What was an all-sweeping craze a quarter of a century ago has come back as a popular fad, the permanency of which remains to be seen.

Roller skating, no matter how much it is commended or condemned, must be looked upon as an extraordinary development in the world of sport. More particularly is this the case now than twenty-five years ago. At that time there were far fewer forms of sport for the diversion of the people. Golf had not yet come across the Atlantic and lawn tennis had only commenced to claim its followers, while afternoon vaudeville was a diversion unknown. And yet, with all these new occupants of the amusement field, roller skating has sprung up inside of a year and spread over all the cities of the land. Manufacturers are making immense fortunes out of the tremendous demand for skates, and rink owners are getting rich on their gate receipts. Even with the showing made there are those who say that the pastime has not yet assumed anywhere nearly the proportion of the craze of twenty-five years ago.

In this connection it is interesting to know something of the origin of roller skating. It started in Boston in the fall of 1832, when the Mechanics' Pavilion was converted into a rink and the ball bearing skate was introduced for the first time. There had been some little skating before at summer resorts and big country houses, but nothing to speak of. The hard asphalt floor which was used for a time was not as attractive or smooth as the maple floor of today. By 1887 it was estimated that \$2,000,000 had been invested in the business in the United States alone. Meanwhile it had spread to England, through the opening of the Olympia at South Kensington, which had just been vacated by Barnum & Bailey. It was an immense place and accommodated three thousand skaters at one time. By the next year England was skating mad, and the practice had spread to France, Germany and Austria, and had even reached Australia, India and South America. Then Mexico dropped its fandangos for a time and went wild over it.

The most successful rink ever established is said to have been the biggest of all, at Bombay. In America, the fever continued until traveling theatrical troupes were driven out from the profession, and they later combined to rout the craze from their territory. Suddenly the bottom fell out of the whole business, just as it did out of the bicycle mania of more recent date. Whether or not it will remain permanent this time, is what thousands of men who have money in the venture are wondering. Most of them say that the signs for a long relapse of the fad are in evidence and that they have pinned their faith to it with that hope in view.

NOT A FAIR CRITIC.

Maxim Gorky is continuing his assaults upon the city of New York. He never tires of describing it as a place where "people rush, whirl, disappear, as grunts in broth, as splinters in the ocean." To him New York is a devouring monster with an insatiable maw. To quote his hyperbolic expression:

"Nowhere have I met men so tragically self-satisfied as they are in this wild and total stomach of a glutton who has fallen into idleness through greediness and devours brain and nerve with the fierce roar of a wild beast."

And all this because some New York hotel keepers, for business reasons, refused to extend to him and his companion the hand of hospitality.

It is true that New York is a busy city. It is true that numberless crooks assemble there and that people are always on guard against thieves. It is true that many characters of the class to which Thaw and Gimbel belong, congregate there. But when all this, and more, is conceded, the fact remains that New York contains so much that is good, noble, and elevating, that it must be admired by all impartial critics.

To Maxim Gorky the entire world is an inferno. He looks at it through the narrow openings of the wall of Russian prejudices behind which much of his life was spent. He sees only the struggle for existence in which peasants, workmen and city people are the victims of a social order which grinds all alike. He hears only the groans of the toilers. But that is not fair. He is no authority on a subject

of which he has studied only one side, and that the darkest.

Anyone traveling on a railroad for some time, who is looking at the ever changing landscape from his car window, will notice that he must dispel a number of optical illusions by the application of reason. Perpendicular objects seem to assume an inclined position, when the car track is not perfectly level. If the eye is suddenly taken off the seemingly rapidly moving objects by the side of the railroad track and turned upon the carpet on the floor, the figures of the pattern seem to be in a rotary motion, similar to that which appears to take place outside. There all sorts of illusions. Those who like Gorky are looking at the world only from their own little windows as they are speeding from place to place, from country to country, are apt to be the victims of all kinds of errors, owing to their peculiar point of view, unless they are capable of analyzing their impressions. The so-called evidence of the outward senses becomes authoritative only when accompanied by sound judgment. It is possible to have eyes and yet not see; ears, and yet not hear, and it is the case with too many self-constituted critics and judges of their fellowmen.

Stolen jewelry is cheap and bread eaten in secret. Everybody walks but father; he sits around all day. There is talk about restoring Cuba to Cuban rule July 1. Few men are for peace when some one insolently treads on their toes. Happy are they who own automobiles or live within walking distance! The broncho buster and the trust buster are becoming scarcer and scarcer.

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One of the hardest things in the world to get and keep is a chauffeur who is "safe and sane."

The German cities propose to demonstrate their ability to prevent demonstrations on May day.

Boston wants its harbor defenses fitted up with searchlights. Why not utilize its literary lights for that purpose?

The Liberty Bell will be exhibited at the Jamestown exposition. That is one exhibit that is all it is cracked up to be.

In what a masterful manner the police yesterday handled the toughs and the ruffians. "Thank God for the American party!"

John D. Rockefeller plans to give away all his real estate. If he does, he will no longer own the earth, merely the fulness thereof.

Commodore Peary is more hopeful than ever of reaching the north pole. Compared with Commodore Peary, Mark Tapley was a pessimist.

"What has become of the old-fashioned man who wore paper collars?" asks the Atchison Globe. He has become the new man who wears celluloid collars.

The men indicted for sending Honduras lottery tickets through the mails have about as good a chance of acquittal as their dupes have of drawing a prize.

"We must snatch the trident of Neptune from the black hand of war," says Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson. No one knew that Nep had lost his trident; he hasn't said anything about it.

The Florida legislature has voted to annul the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States. One hour of Andrew Jackson would settle the business for these legislators.

"The sugar of the sage is better than the vinegar of the cynic," says the Baltimore American's modern philosopher. Somehow or other that is the case with just the ordinary sugar and vinegar.

Ex-Congressman Blinger Hermann has been acquitted of the charge of destroying public records. The moral of the trial is, Don't destroy any letterbooks that were used in a public office. To follow this rule will in all likelihood save time, expense and many trials.

LIMITING CITY INDEBTEDNESS.

Philadelphia Record. Twenty-two years ago city governments all over the country were trying to see how much debt they could incur. All the city governments of the country tried to outdo each other in their depredations upon future citizens. It was popular to distribute a million dollars, the interest would be only \$50,000 or so, and the men who spent the money would be dead before it would have to be repaid. The municipal indebtedness of the United States grew by leaps and bounds. Then constitutional limitations were imposed upon the extent to which city governments could mortgage the property of their constituents. Chicago can't issue \$75,000,000 of Municipal bonds without exceeding its constitutional debt, therefore the state supreme court enjoins their issue. This is not the sort of expenditure the constitutional limitations were intended to restrain. The street railways would earn their price, which parks and boulevards and municipal buildings will not. But considering what city governments are it is just as well that they should be restrained from incurring unlimited debt even for remunerative properties.

RELIGION THAT COST A PENSION

Iola (Ka.) Record. Whatever one's preconceived notions of a man's faith may be, one cannot help but admire a man or woman who lives up to it to his own hurt. Allen County has a man who for many years drew a pension in the belief that he was injured in the service; that his illness was due to those injuries, long night marches, bivouacs on the cold, open plains, and that he was entitled to a pension. He had been examined by a pension board and it had given his claims A. O. K. and said that he deserved a pension. But there came a day when he became a convert to the Christian Science religion, which taught him that pain was an error, that one never was sick, but that one

was merely ruled by belief of sickness; that mind ruled matter and that those who believed they were well were well. If he followed this belief to the last analysis he knew that he had not been injured in the service; that the lonely vigils of the camp life could not have injured him and that the long marches were really good for his health; that to believe he was in poor health was wrong; and he gave up his pension, saying that he did not deserve it. He was drawing a pension of \$12 a month when he discovered that he was a well, strong man. Congress recently passed a service pension bill which gave a pension of \$12 to those who have passed the age of sixty-two. He is now sixty one and says that when he reaches the proper age he intends to make application again for a pension under this service bill.

GOOD FOR SOMEBODY ELSE.

Chicago Chronicle. "Give us peace," cries one of the peace orators, "and we shall not need to disarm." In other words, let us be harmless as doves, but let us nevertheless keep a good big club handy in case the other fellow is not equally amiable. The disarmament proposition is like an angry bull—it is a good thing for somebody else.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

Portland Oregonian. Farming, in theory, at least, has been taken from the catalogue of plodding drudgery and placed in that of a vocation in which success depends not more upon industry than upon knowledge. The farmers' institute is the outgrowth of this movement—supplemental of the work of the agricultural colleges and the government experiment station. This being true, it is an institution that has an important place in the evolution of the science of agriculture and farmers should make it a part of the advancement of their vocation and interests, to see that the boys and girls of their households attend as well as themselves.

JUST FOR FUN.

A Real Dilemma.

It was a steep grade in a mountain division, and the old lady was a dainty, highly sensitive person. She said to the conductor as he punched her ticket: "Conductor, is it a fact that the locomotive is at the rear of the train?" "Yes, madam," the conductor answered. "We have a locomotive at each end of the train, one to push and one to pull to get us up this grade." "Oh, dear, what shall I do?" moaned the old lady. "I'm always trainsick if I ride with my back to the locomotive!" —Kansas City Times.

Cause for Gratitude.

"Does he really love her?" "How can he help it—she has refused him six times." —Brooklyn Eagle.

Needed It.

They had just extracted one of little Pierre's first front teeth, and as he gazed at the vacancy in the looking glass he suddenly burst into tears. "Don't cry, dear," said his mother, "it will soon grow again." "Yes, but not in time for dinner," sobbed Pierre. —Nes Loisirs.

A Yachting Trip.

Captain—Please, sir, your wife has fallen overboard. Owner—Confound it! Another of those sinking spells of hers!—Harper's Weekly.

Youthful Enthusiasm.

Editor—That new man puts such an unusual amount of fresh stuff into his work. Seasoned Reporter—That's only because he's so green.—Baltimore American.

Make the Best of It.

Dean's growl because sis' won't am not drastically free from sin. His' Joe, de only won't we got Ter make our libin' in. —Philadelphia Press.

After Act Third.

Gerald—I am going out to see a man. Geraldine—You seem to have quite an extensive acquaintance.—New York Times.

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