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LABOR DAY.

Monday was "labor day." It was generally observed with parades, social gatherings and such other enjoyments as generally go with a holiday. Labor day was instituted as a result of the expressed desires of laborers, and it is a testimony to the high regard in which labor and laborers are held in this country. The day also furnishes a grand object lesson regarding the intelligence and power labor has attained under free institutions. No country in the Old World can show such parades of laborers as can this country. That is one of the lessons of "labor day."

It is sad to contemplate, however, that at this time, labor is menaced in the highest privilege attainable—its freedom. In Chicago, for instance, the most deplorable conditions prevail in consequence of the conflict between labor and capital. According to all accounts women and children are starving there, because their husbands are being forced to remain idle, against their own better judgment. When labor is thus enfeebled, labor day has lost much of its real meaning. Festive parades and joyful strains of music seem almost out of place, until the war is over and victory won for justice.

According to Chicago dispatches, only the other day a woman invaded the headquarters of the union at Forty-seventh street, Chicago, and told her story of despair. "You must let my man work," she said. "You must. I have three children and they are starving. They are dying. Do you hear? My three little children are dying of hunger," she shrieked, "and you will not let him go to work. He would go to work if the union would let him. I came to have you fix it so he can go back to work." The only reply was: "He'll have to take his chances with the rest." The fact was that the food distributed was not sufficient to keep body and soul together. The "communist" had been closed for several days, and was to remain closed for several more days. Rent was also due, and landlords were pressing for payment under the threat of eviction. The consequence is suffering and despair among the families of many laborers who would gladly go to work, were they permitted to do so.

The insanity of the conflict between capital and labor appears in the conditions prevailing. We are living in a land of plenty, where food and clothing and all the necessities of life are abundant, and where the opportunity to work at high wages, comparatively speaking, is almost unlimited. And yet women and children, dependent on laborers, are brought to the verge of starvation, simply because a dispute, perhaps about a trifling matter, has arisen between the employer and his men. Is that not an insane way of meeting a difficulty? Why do not the laborers of the country as one man demand legislation in favor of compulsory arbitration and no strike? Why not? Is it because some chieftain agitators are making a profit out of the sweat and blood, the agony and despair of the women and children of laborers, by keeping up strife to the utmost point of public endurance? If that is not the secret of the failure to meet the labor situation by civilized methods, what is it? Let the intelligent laborer consider the matter, and strike for the liberty of labor under the sufficient protection of just and equitable laws.

IT IS ABSURD.

A correspondent takes exception to the comments of the "News" on the absurdity of having godfathers or sponsors, of a different faith from that in which the child is to be educated, as in the case of the Russian heir to the throne. He says godfathers do not accept any faith for the child. He has noted in that capacity himself, and all he did was to promise "to take care of the child if misfortune should overtake it, in case the parents die and it has no near relatives; to have it educated to the best of my ability, and keep it out of the porchouse, if in my power to prevent it." If those are the duties of a godfather, there was absolutely no need of any at the Russian court, for the education of the prince will be taken care of, and he is in absolutely no danger of the porchouse, whether his parents live or die. But the fact remains that the chief duty of a sponsor is to pledge himself for the acceptance by the child of the faith into which it is baptized, and it is therefore self-evident that unless the godfather believes in the faith to which the child is committed, his position is absurd. Equally absurd is the statement of our correspondent that the Lutheran church does not regard Catholicism as heresy. Anyone familiar with Luther's work and writings knows his uncompromising position towards those who opposed him. Modern Lutherans, in this country particularly, are, of course, liberal minded, as a result of the general tendency of the times; but that does not

change the fact that a church necessarily requires sponsors to be in full fellowship.

The idea that "godfathers" and "godmothers" in the Protestant church, of which it is claimed the Lutheran church is a part, are not required to do more than "take care of the child" for which they are sponsors, and that they enter into no obligations concerning its religious faith, is totally in opposition to the Protestant ritual as well as the spirit and meaning of those obligations. Our correspondent boasts of his knowledge of the teachings of that church on this subject, but it is evident to us that his information is but limited and superficial. We here append part of the ceremony for "The Baptism of Infants," as found in the book of common prayer of the Protestant Episcopal church, the substance of which is used in other denominations called Protestant.

"The Minister shall then demand of the Sponsors as follows: the questions being considered as addressed to them severally, and the answers to be made accordingly.

"I demand therefore,
"Dost thou, in the name of this child, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?"

"Answer. I renounce them all; and, by God's help, will endeavor not to follow, nor be led by them.

"Minister. Dost thou believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith, as contained in the Apostles' Creed?"

"Answer. I do.
"Minister. Will thou be baptized in this Faith?"

"Answer. That is my desire.
"Minister. Will thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?"

"Answer. I will, by God's help."

"Then, all standing up, the Minister shall say to the godfathers and godmothers this exhortation following:
"Forasmuch as this child hath promised by you his sureties to renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to serve him; ye must remember, that it is your parts and duties to see that this infant be taught, so soon as he shall be able to learn, what a solemn vow, promise, and profession, he hath here made by you. And that he may know these things the better, ye shall call upon him to hear sermons; and chiefly ye shall provide that he may learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know; and believe in his soul's health; and that this child may be virtuously brought up to lead a godly and a Christian life; remembering always, that baptism doth represent unto us our profession; which is, to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto Him; that, as He died, and rose again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die from sin, and rise again unto righteousness; continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living.

"Then shall he add, and say,
"Ye are to take care that this child be brought to the Baptism to be confirmed by him, so soon as he can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and is sufficiently instructed in the other parts of the church-catechism set forth for that purpose."

OFFICERS AS SPIES.

The stubbornness with which the Russians have been fighting at Liaoyang is phenomenal. Both sides have performed wonders in valor and endurance. Of the Japanese this is expected, for their patriotism and intelligence are well known. But the result obtained by the Russian officers in that direction is remarkable as showing the power of autocracy to sacrifice human blood to the fiery Moloch of war. For the Russian privates are not in this war voluntarily, as the Japanese are there. Many of them know very little of the real issue between the two countries, and what is more, some of the soldiers are not even loyal.

This appears in an order issued by a Russian commander in March, and which the Berlin Tageblatt has come into possession of. The order was issued, to "combat revolutionary tendencies among the troops." It commands that all letters received by soldiers must be supervised with unremitting vigilance. Particular care is to be exercised in the case of Jewish soldiers, who are forbidden to receive letters written in Hebrew. If any such letters are received they are not to be delivered, but are to be sent at once to the division staffs. All letters written in the Polish language are to be read by the officers especially selected for that duty before being delivered. Letters written in other languages are to be similarly treated, and if anything forbidden is found in any correspondence the documents are to be turned over to the gendarmes. Jewish soldiers must be especially punished when caught with Hebrew letters. To make sure that none such are received, battalion and company officers must from time to time search all private property, such as clothes, bags and trunks, and under pretence of inspecting the cleanliness of the troops, must overhaul the pockets, underclothing, and boots of the soldiers. In every case officers are warned to be "particularly severe" with Jews, even in the matter of leaves of absence.

Is it not marvelous that the soldiers fight as well as they have done, while treated in this manner? What would the effect of such espionage be on American soldiers? It is also remarkable that the Russian officers can find time to do anything else than "supervising" the letters of the soldiers, and search their pockets.

One of the most promising individuals is the chronic borrower.

A good suit for damages is the schoolboy's new clothes.

The war in Manchuria seems to have developed into a foot race.

Nick Haworth says he is not guilty, which is an innocent remark.

Daniel was about the only man who was not spoiled by being lionized.

A legal lariat might stop some of these wild Salt Lake automobiles.

If you want to make a tall man appear short try to borrow from him.

A woman in New York aimed at a

policeman, and hit him. Another fallacy exploded.

The market row merchants are doing a big legal business in green goods.

The Japanese army is chasing Kuro-patkin. It's all "part of the plan."

It takes more than a derriek to raise a laugh in the Farmington oil fields.

The San Pedro construction gang on the Nevada desert are well-wishers.

Politicians are now feeling for the handle that will enable them to pump you.

The prospective good harvest of sugar beets in Utah is sweet tidings to the railroad companies.

That double wedding at the county clerk's office was not of necessity a four-in-hand tie.

With the approach of the football season Salt Lake barbers report a falling off in haircuts.

The Columbia river fishermen are now figuring up their net profits for the salmon season.

More people have lost their lives through corkscrews than have been saved by cork jackets.

These political spellbinders are not of necessity thieves because they are fond of taking the floor.

While the woman yearns, the man generally earns and she eventually gets the sealskin sackage.

Miss Choate is not the only American girl indulging in "fly" fishing over in England this summer.

Now that the New Orleans teamsters have gone back to work, let us hope they will all pull together.

Judging from police court returns Salt Lake resembles a piano—it has plenty of sharps and flats.

It is as easy to get wool from a hydraulic ram as to get legitimate news from some railroad magnate.

When a bookkeeper says he cannot possibly find time to take a vacation, it's time to call in an auditing committee.

The packers on strike threatened to bring about a meat famine. They apparently have done so—in their own families.

If the California editors had explored some of Utah's mines they would have indulged in some deep thinking.

In West Virginia they collect bills at the point of a gun. This is a civilized country, and not belligerent Turkey, or Morocco.

If this thing keeps up much longer it will become necessary to re-stereotype that heading "Rumored Fall of Port Arthur."

If those Austrians on the San Pedro work train had studied English proverbs, there would not now be eight in the hospital at Callente. Moral: Look before you leap.

The Novos Vremya says that when Gen. Kuropatkin left Liaoyang it was a mere shell surrounded by fortifications. The paper forgets to mention that the Japanese provided the shell.

Something seems to be doing in Turkey, too. Armenians are reported to be in revolt. The Armenians have in vain implored "Christian" powers for aid. Some day they may turn to Japan for help. Who knows?

The Florida negroes are said to have formed a kind of Mafia, or Black Hand society, with the gruesome object of assassinating white persons. The information is given out by an assassin. But it would be no wonder, if the numerous lynchings are commencing to bear just that kind of fruit.

Colorado Methodists have been edifying themselves by "denouncing Mormonism." Pharisees and hypocrites at one time found great satisfaction in denouncing Methodists, but that did not prevent John Wesley's enthusiastic followers from accomplishing a great work. Why will religious people never learn sense?

It seems to be beyond doubt now, that the defeat of Kuropatkin at Liaoyang was much more serious than hitherto supposed. The question seems to be whether his entire army will not be scattered and annihilated. Much depends on the outcome of the race to Mukden. The Japanese this time are swiftly following up the advantage gained, and it looks as if they, not the Russians, were to go into comfortable winter-quarters at the capital of Manchuria.

A London war critic notes that this is the first time in centuries that Europe has gone down before Asia, and Oriental troops have vanquished in fair fighting, a western army. But are the Russian serfs fair representatives of occidental fighting strength? Europe went down before Asia when the Goths and other Asiatics overran the Roman empire and broke it to pieces; and again when Saracenes and Turks swept southern Europe like a tidal wave. Is it possible that another national upheaval is coming, of which the present drama is but a forerunner?

LIAOYANG BATTLE.

New York World.

The great battle at Liaoyang which yesterday "celebrated" in an effusion of blood the birthday of the Japanese emperor was apparently for the Russians a rear-guard action covering a contemplated or at least a possible "change of base" to Mukden. That Kuropatkin has been concentrating his stores there is admitted in St. Petersburg, but he is naturally abandoning no good defensive position without a struggle. Mukden is politically as well as strategically important. It is a busy distribution point for the produce of Manchuria, of

which it is the nominal capital. It is also the ancestral home and burial place of the present imperial dynasty of China. Its possession by Japan would be of such political effect upon China that Kuropatkin, once there, may be expected to fight desperately to maintain himself.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The slaughter in the nine or ten days' battle has been enormous. According to the dispatches, the fighting and the casualties have been the fiercest and most numerous since the Franco-Prussian war. The Tokio authorities admit that the Japanese casualties in killed and wounded exceed 15,000. The Russians claim that they have only lost 5,000 in killed and wounded during two days; but they do not specify which two days, nor account for the losses of the other seven or eight days the battle has been raging. It is fair to presume that they have at least suffered as much punishment as their enemies. Such has been the case in all previous engagements throughout the campaign.

Pueblo Chieftain.

It should be remembered also that both the Russians and the Japanese armies are fast approaching the limits of human endurance. According to the European critics the soldiers on both sides in the past week have accomplished miracles, but there is a limit beyond which human strength cannot go. If either army retains vigor enough to make such a movement as would have been easy to either a week ago, such a movement would mean undoubted victory. But if both are equally exhausted the time must be rapidly approaching, if it has not come already, when fighting must cease temporarily by the utter inability of human bodies for further action.

Portland Oregonian.

The stress of battle at Liaoyang is terrific. The loss of human life is enormous; the suffering, even when contemplated from afar, is appalling. The only consolation is that it cannot last long. The limit to the available forces of the fierce combatants will in a short time be reached, when each side dead numbers many thousands. Humanity looks on with hated breath at the terrible execution of the modern machinery of war, and hopes each day that the conflict of the next will be decisive. Whether or not the enormous loss of life will prove a waste will be determined by the results that grow out of the war.

Springfield Republican.

Liao Yang does not appear to be an accidental battle. In any sense; nor does it seem to have been forced upon Gen. Kuropatkin at a place and time unfavorable to his plans and contrary to his desires. Rather does it have the appearance of being a premeditated battle—premeditated and prepared for by both sides. The Russian general displayed so much caution in avoiding a great and decisive engagement in the various collisions of June, July and August, and he retreated so steadily and skillfully while maintaining a perfect morale among his forces, that it cannot be believed that he would have made this stand at Liaoyang unless he had decided that he could at last safely fight with his whole strength. Kuropatkin could have fallen back from Liaoyang to Mukden as easily as he fell back from Hai Cheng to Liaoyang, for he had full control of the railroad. The fact that he has fought at Liaoyang is prima facie evidence that he preferred to fight there.

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