

SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS

JOHN MITCHELL SAYS IS THE LEAST THE POOREST WORKMAN SHOULD HAVE EVERY YEAR.

The Laboring Man's Daily Needs—The Ideal Working Day—Ten Hours and Drunkenness—How to Have Industrial Peace—Profit Sharing No Good—The United Steel Company's Plan—Uncle Sam and Organized Labor—Trades Unions for the Regular Army—The Abuses of The Non-Unionist.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)
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WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 15.—I met John Mitchell, the president of the United Mine Workers, by appointment in his rooms at the Ebbitt house. I say by appointment, for Mr. Mitchell is one of the busy men of the United States. He is the head of the largest labor union in the world. The Association of United Mine Workers has more than 200,000 members, and it keeps \$1,000,000 in its treasury to fight its battles with capital. Mr. Mitchell is also one of the chief officers of the American Federation of Labor, which has more than 2,000,000 members, and as such he has to do with Congress and with all sorts of labor disputes. He is on the road about as much as the average commercial traveler. He comes to Washington once a month, and the remainder of his time is spent in Indianapolis or in traveling from place to place settling labor troubles. Now he is in New York consulting with the building men, now at Cripple Creek advocating the rights of the gold and silver miners, and now on the advisory board of a great strike like that of the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania.

LABOR'S YOUNG LEADER.

It takes a strong man and a cool man to manage a business like this—a man with a good physique, iron nerves and a temper well in hand. There are among the characteristics of Mitchell. His cheeks shine with health, and his muscles are iron. He has a clear brown eye which laughs or grows serious as he talks, and a jaw which shows determination. Mitchell is a young man. We call President Roosevelt young. John Mitchell is 10 years younger. He is only 31, and with his splendid physique is a good type of the best of the working men he represents. As we chatted together he gave me a word or so about his early life. He is the son of a miner, and at 13 went into the mines and worked there until he was 23. That was only eight years ago, so that only two presidential terms have elapsed since the John Mitchell of today was actually handling coal.

MITCHELL, THE MINER.

I asked him what he did in the mines. He replied: "Everything. I began my work in a coal mine at the age of 13. I started at the bottom at 75 cents a day. Then I became a driver at \$1.10 a day, and from that I went on through the various gradations of mining work until I think I can truly say, I have done about everything connected with mining." "When did you first join a trades union?" "When I was 16," was the reply. "And

I have been connected with organized labor from that time until now." "But how about your education, Mr. Mitchell?" "That came from a short course in the public schools, for I began work very early in my life. All that I got afterward came from night study and reading."

"When did you become president of the United Mine Workers?" "In 1898, and I have been its president ever since."

TRUSTS AND THE WORKING MAN.
The conversation turned to the influence of trusts upon the labor unions, and I asked Mr. Mitchell whether the great syndicates had strengthened or organized labor. He replied: "I think they have. They have shown the men the necessity for organization. The unions have grown rapidly since the beginning of the great trust era, and they are growing rapidly today."

"Do you think they will some time reach all branches of labor?" "I have no doubt of it," replied Mr. Mitchell.

"How about the store clerks?" "The retail clerks are already well organized," was the reply. "They have unions in nearly all of the cities, and their membership numbers about 60,000."

"What do you propose to do, increase their wages?" I asked. "No," replied Mr. Mitchell. "At present the clerks are working for a better arrangement of time. They want shorter hours, and fixed ones for opening and closing. The union includes women clerks as well as the men."

THE AMERICAN WOMAN AS A UNION MAN.
"How about the women and organized labor, Mr. Mitchell? Do many of them belong to the trade unions?" "Yes," replied the president of the mine workers. "Most of our unions admit women as members. Many belong to them, and we hope to have more. I think the men should induce them to come in. There are also unions composed entirely of women. In England about one-twentieth of the members of the trades unions are women."

"What kind of a union man does a woman make?" "She makes a very good one," said Mr. Mitchell. "She will endure more and suffer more for what she believes to be right than the man."

"What class of men belong to the unions?" "The very best workmen in the United States," was the reply. "And men of all classes. In the United Mine Workers we admit men of all nationalities and races. We have men of 20 different nations and 20 different languages. We have colored men as well as whites, and every class of mining labor from the boy who picks slate to the best of the skilled workmen."

"Which element controls in such unions—the foreign or the American?" "The American element always con-



JOHN MITCHELL.

trois," said Mr. Mitchell. "It is the most intelligent element, and intelligence rules."

HOW TO HAVE INDUSTRIAL PEACE.
"What do you think of the employers forming associations to deal with organized labor?" "I think it is only through the concerted action of such associations and of the labor unions that we can have industrial peace," said John Mitchell. "Let the employers' representatives meet with the representatives of labor and discuss their differences, and if each is willing to do the fair thing there may be few labor troubles. Such associations do great good."

"Yes, Mr. Mitchell, but do they not combine against the interests of the public, I mean the consumers?" "No," was the reply. "The public will not permit itself to be deceived, and any improper combination or agreement would be at once exposed."

"How about the coal dealers and coal teamsters of Chicago?" "There is a proof of what I have just said. The coal dealers and coal teamsters had an unrighteous combination against the public. They combined to

overcharge them. How long did their success last? Only a few days. When it was exposed the combination was broken, and it will be so with any combination that may be formed. Besides there is competition. You can't have big profits without it. I don't care how large your capital is. It is the same with wages. If you put them up here in Washington, the Baltimore workmen will rush in and competition will bring them down."

\$600 A YEAR.

"Speaking of wages, Mr. Mitchell, what should be the lowest pay for an ordinary workman?"

"Every man should have enough to keep his family, educate his children and lay a little aside for the future. Six hundred dollars a year is the least that should be paid to unskilled common laborers. As the class of labor rises the man should receive more, and the pay should vary according to his location. The ordinary man should have more than \$600 in New York or Chicago. Every man should have enough to supply the necessities of life, and in the latter cities the necessities cost more."

"What would you call the necessities of the ordinary workingman, Mr. Mitchell?" I asked. "He should have a bath room, a parlor, dining room, kitchen and enough bedrooms for decency and comfort. He should have carpets, pictures, books and sufficient furniture to make his home bright and comfortable. He should have food and should keep his children in school until they are 16, and at the same time should be able to lay away something for old age and sickness. The unskilled workman might have these things for \$600 a year in cities of from 5,000 to 100,000 inhabitants, but in larger places he needs more. This is only for the common laborer. As the skill of the man rises his wages increase and his necessities grow."

ties of the ordinary workingman, Mr. Mitchell?" I asked.

"I think every man should have a house with at least six rooms," was the reply. "He should have a bath room, a parlor, dining room, kitchen and enough bedrooms for decency and comfort. He should have carpets, pictures, books and sufficient furniture to make his home bright and comfortable. He should have food and should keep his children in school until they are 16, and at the same time should be able to lay away something for old age and sickness. The unskilled workman might have these things for \$600 a year in cities of from 5,000 to 100,000 inhabitants, but in larger places he needs more. This is only for the common laborer. As the skill of the man rises his wages increase and his necessities grow."

THE IDEAL WORKING DAY.

"How about the eight-hour day, Mr. Mitchell? Can the United States be run that way?"

"Yes," was the reply. "We should do more and better work everywhere if we had eight hours only. Such matters must be considered as a long time proposition. There is so much work in every man and if you take too much one day you will have so much less for the day to come. One of the college professors puts it this way. If you want to get all you can out of a man for one day only, work him the whole twenty-four hours. If you want to get all you can out of him for a week only, work him twenty hours a day; if for a month, give him eighteen hours; and if for a year, work him fifteen hours and keep him at it. If you want to work him several years let him have the ten-hour day. But if you want to get the most out of him for his whole working life time you must cut his hours of labor to eight per day. The fact is that a man can do and does more work in eight hours than in ten."

"How do you know that, Mr. Mitchell?" I asked. "Has it ever been tested?"

"Yes," was the reply. "In the Illinois coal mines the time was cut from ten hours to eight. After that the product was measured and the eight-hour time produced as much as the ten-hour time."

"But was that due to the freshness of the men or to the fact that the bosses had to get more work and rushed them harder?"

"It was largely due to the freshness of the men," said Mr. Mitchell, "although I will say that the operators knowing that they must have a greater output per hour brought better machinery and thereby improved the facilities of rapid mining."

TEN HOURS AND DRUNKENNESS.
"There is no doubt but that the eight-hour day reduces drunkenness," Mr. Mitchell went on. "In those towns in Illinois where it has been adopted there is now a higher standard of living and at the same time less drunkenness and fewer saloons. This is so notwithstanding wages have risen. The man who works ten hours comes home tired out.

He is in no condition for rational enjoyment and he wants to go either to the saloon or to bed."

"But will not less hours be demanded if eight hours are given?" I asked. "I think not," was the reply. "I do not expect to see less than an eight-hour day in my lifetime. We may have forty-four-hour weeks—that is, eight hours for five days of the week and a half holiday Saturday. That is not unreasonable. Indeed, it prevails already in some branches of work in certain parts of the country."

PROFIT-SHARING NOT GOOD.
"Speaking of wages, Mr. Mitchell, what do you think of the wage system with capital and one of profit-sharing will take its place?"

"I don't think it is practical," replied Mr. Mitchell. "It would be difficult to make an equitable profit-sharing arrangement. I think that wages will rise as time goes on, and in that way labor will get more of its share of the profits, but as to a direct partnership with capital, I don't think it advisable."

"Why not?" I asked. "We should have to have a different scale of profits for every factory, and this scale would rise and fall with the business. Labor would not be content with its share and capital would not be satisfied. The two elements must always be to a certain extent antagonistic, although they are associated together."

"Do you think workmen ought to have stock in the factories where they work?"

"I doubt it. The little stock they hold cannot have weight in matters relating to the business. It hampers their action. The laboring man's greatest capital is his own muscle and brain. He relies upon them for daily dividends. They are his best investment and the one he should take most care of. Any interest he has in the establishment to which he is selling his muscle and brain will be often vitally opposed to this side. In other words, he has to work against himself. I think he ought to keep out of all business connections with those who pay his wages."

THE UNITED STEEL COMPANY.
"How about the United Steel Company's plan?"

"I think it has been a failure," said Mr. Mitchell. "The managers of the company acted very generously and intended to benefit the men when they gave them the right to buy a certain amount of their preferred stock at \$25.00 a share. They thought, and the men who invested thought too, that the stock would increase in value and would pay good dividends right along. Since then it has gone down more than \$25 per share. I think the steel company has acted very fairly with the men. They will get their dividends, but it will be a long time before they can be paid back what they have put in."

UNCLE SAM AND THE UNIONS.
"How about unions in the government service, Mr. Mitchell?" I asked. "I see no reason against them," replied Mr. Mitchell. "I mean among all

classes of governmental clerks whose duties are not of a confidential nature. Men and women who are working for the government in the ordinary way have a perfect right to combine."

"Take the government printers, for instance," said I.

"Yes," replied Mr. Mitchell. "They ought to have a union and manage their affairs on union lines just the same as though they were working for an individual."

"How about the mail clerks?" "The same," was the reply.

"How about the army?" "The army as we view it," said Mr. Mitchell, "does not demand skilled labor. I see no reason why it should have unions and yet I see no reason why the soldiers should not combine to ask the government for more wages and other privileges."

"How about politics; will we ever have a labor president?" "I don't know about that," said Mr. Mitchell. "If the times come and the man, it may be, but if so it will be by fair and legitimate means. Abraham Lincoln was a laboring man. He stood for all that we stand for and he might have been our candidate."

THE RIGHTS OF THE NON-UNION MAN.
"Just one question more, Mr. Mitchell," said I. "What are the rights of the non-union man?"

"But the unions will not permit him to exercise them," said I.

"I do not think you are right," replied the president of the United Mine Workers. "The unions do not molest the non-union worker in any illegal way. There are cases now and then, it is true, where individuals have been ill-treated, but it has been by individuals and not by the unions as such. A great deal has been said about such things. There have not been as many such deaths in 20 years as ordinarily occur in New York city in three months—not as much of such disorder in 20 years as is caused by other things in New York city in one month. No, the older of the unions, and indeed all of the unions, regret such actions. We claim our right to persuade the non-union man not to work and to argue with him by word of mouth, but not to force him in any way. We claim the right not to work with him if we so desire, and not to recognize him or fraternize with him."

A NIGHT ALARM.
Worse than an alarm of fire at night is the brassy cough of crump, which sounds like the children's death knell and it means death unless something is done quickly. Foley's Honey and Tar never fails to give instant relief and quickly cures the worst forms of crump. Mrs. F. L. Cordier, of Manassas, Ky., says: "My three-year-old girl had a severe cold and I got a bottle of Foley's Honey and Tar, the first dose gave quick relief and saved her life." Sole agent, F. J. Hill Drug Co.

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SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The scientific culture of potatoes is nowhere practised as in Germany. In that country, states Consul-General Mason, agents of skilled and experienced growers give their whole time and energy to the propagation of improved varieties, and the conditions of soil, exposure or purpose for which each is best suited are well understood. Certain varieties excel for food, others for starch and domestic uses, others for alcohol, and yet others for stock feeding. Many of the best sorts are new, but not more than 20 varieties are included in the crop of practical growers, although about 100 are listed by dealers, and as many as 500 were catalogued as long ago as 1863.

In India the town of Karachi and its suburb of Clifton, two or three miles distant, are curiously threatened with separation by the growth of sand-hills. Mr. E. H. Clifton traces the growth of these dunes from small oval patches of sand on the stony surface, and shows that even a slight deposit may gradually deflect the air currents and produce a calm space, and an eddy of slowly increasing size, with steady enlargement of the sand accumulation. Planting the windbreaks is among the remedies to be tried.

The crushing strength of rocks indicates that there must be a limit to the possible height of mountains. Mr. E. H. L. Schwartz calculates that the lower layer would be crushed in a column of wet sandstone from two-thirds of a mile to five miles high, one of granite from four to seven and a half miles, and one of felsite from seven to nine miles.

The greatest authentic flight of a carter-pigeon is given by Maurice Dusoleur as 130 miles, the greatest long distance speed, as 35 miles an hour for 615 miles.

The biological treatment of sewage has been studied for a number of years at Hamburg by Dr. Dunbar. The various processes of this kind depend upon the removal from solution of the putrefactive matters through absorption by porous material, and upon subsequent oxidation by micro-organisms. Without the activity of the organisms, absorption soon ceases. The absorption, which increases with the fineness of the material and usually attains the maximum effect in four to six hours, proves to be a purely surface action independent of chemical attraction, and so powerful is it that sterile cinders in contact beds withdraw from the liquid not only coloring matters but also the complex nitrogenous substances found in sewage. An interesting example of absorption is furnished by Dr. Dunbar's percolating filter, in which one-half of the purification takes place in the sixth layer of fine material on the surface.

An alarm clock for the deaf is an interesting bit of work by Tommy Stringer, a blind, deaf and dumb scientific student.



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Human power and machine power are found by Prof. Schmoller of Berlin university, to have been equal in Germany in 1850, when the population was 18,000,000, one-half being laborers. In 1880, with a population of 25,000,000, and the same proportion of laborers, the machine power had reached six times the manual, according to some authorities, ten times.

Only 54 per cent of Germany's young men are fit for military service. Dr. Stricker finds that heart disease has increased 50 per cent in a decade.

While strong plants destroy weaker ones by crowding, or by depriving them of air, light or food, it is rather surprising to hear that a plant may poison another. In a recent case reported in England, the plant called *Humea elegans*, which exhalates a powerful odor of kumiss, was placed in a greenhouse near a peach vine, when the nearest leaves of the latter began to wither and fall off. The influence was felt even at considerable distance, the result being that at last the young leaves were all stripped from the peach.

The new saccharine plant discovered in South America contains a considerable quantity of saccharine matter, is not fermentable, and is unusually sweet. This plant is herbaceous, growing to a height of 8 to 12 inches, and its scientific name is *Asparticolum rebaudianum*. It is expected to prove of much industrial value. It was discovered by the director of the agricultural institute at Assunção, and his experiments indicate that the sugar yielded is from 20 to 30 times as sweet as ordinary cane or beet sugar.

The hour of death has been recorded by a leading European physician for 2,500 persons of all ages. Deaths are most numerous between 5 and 6 o'clock in the morning, and fewest between 9 and 11 in the morning. The death rate is not large between 10 a. m. and 3 p. m., the fatal hours being from 5 to 6 a. m.

The radium industry is rapidly developing in France and Germany, and even at nearly \$2,000 per gramme, orders are at hand for several hundred grammes. In medicine the effects are most extraordinary. A small glass tube, containing a little more than a thousandth of a gramme, takes the place of a powerful electric apparatus, and in cancer treatment gives results surpassing those of Roentgen rays.

HAD TO COME TO IT.

"What's that watch worth," asked Mr. Klose, pointing to one in the show case. "Ten dollars," replied the jeweler.

"I'll take it," said the customer, and after paying for it he went out. The next day he came around again. "This watch doesn't exactly suit me," he said. "What's that one worth?" pointing to another.

"Fifteen dollars." "I'll take that instead of this one, if you don't mind."

"Certainly." A day or two later he came again. "How good a watch have you got for \$25?" he inquired.

"Well, \$25 will get a pretty good time-piece," said the jeweler, handing one out. "There's one with a gold-filled case, and full jeweled. The movement is warranted. I'll take it."

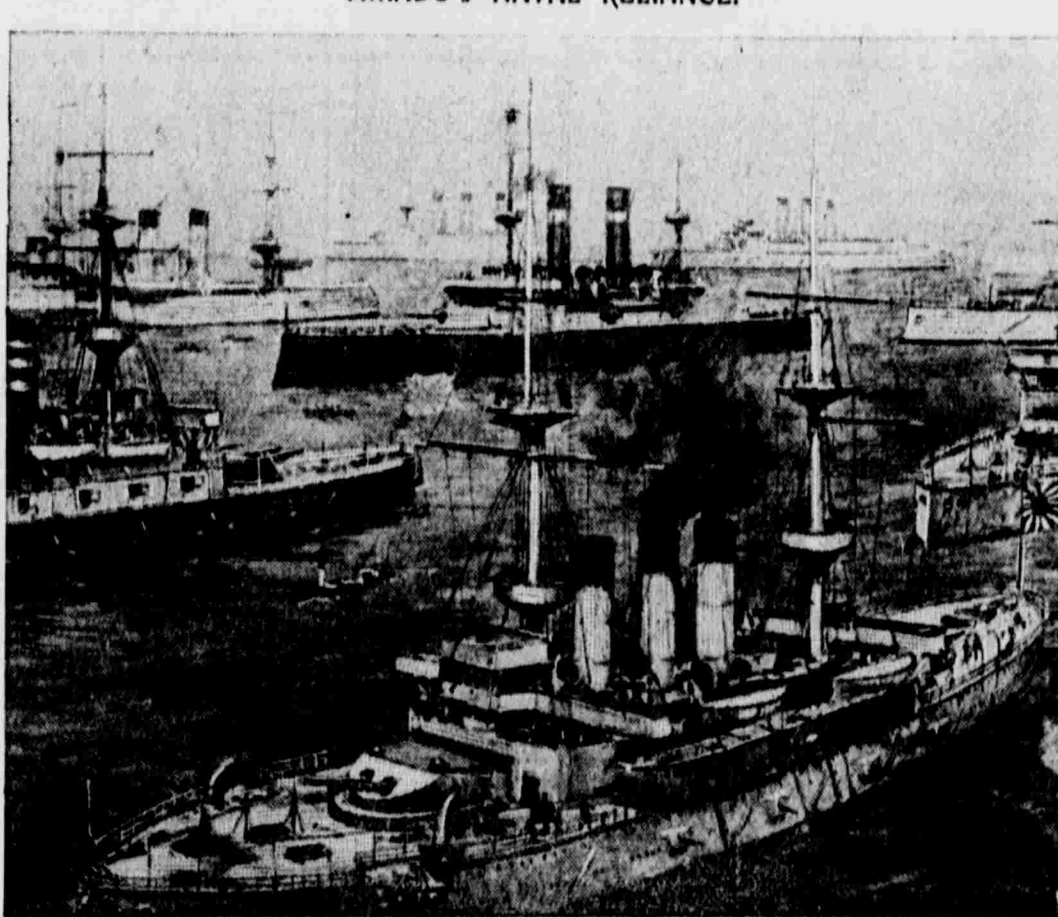
He paid the difference, took the watch and went away. After a lapse of a few days he made his appearance once more. "Have you got a first-class watch, with a solid-gold case that you can sell for \$50?" he asked.

"Yes, here it is." "Well, I'll take it," said Mr. Klose. "Here's the other watch and \$25. That's the one I really wanted at first, but I hated to pay out all that money at once."—Youth's Companion.

A neglected cough or cold may lead to serious bronchitis or lung troubles. Don't take chances when Foley's Honey and Tar affords perfect security from serious effects of a cold. Sole agents, F. J. Hill Drug Co.

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The danger of a Russian descent upon Japan's coasts—thereby necessitating a diversion of her land forces from the seat of war in Korea and correspondingly weakening her strength—can only be averted by her ability to intercept Russian transports with her fleet. Here are some of the principal ships that will try to do the work.

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