

# LABOR VOTE POLITICS' BOGEY

### Lures Many Aspirants to Success or Defeat.

By ERNEST MCGAFFEY

WHEN I was quite a little boy on my grandfather's farm in Ohio I was startled one night by a fearsome apparition. The cows had delayed coming home until after dark, and I had been sent for them. Coming home through the lane with them I was confronted with a grewsome appearance in the shape of a large round head staring at me, with wide-open mouth and shining eyes, silent, menacing, and awe-inspiring. I left the cows to their fate and ran home terror-stricken. And afterward, I was told that what I had seen was only a hollowed-out pumpkin, with holes cut for eyes and mouth, and a lighted candle set in it to give the impression of a flaming hobgoblin. The name given to this "scare-head" was "monkey-moonshine."

Ballot Cast by Toiler Is the One Most Sought by the Schemer—Expert Calls It "Monkey-Moonshine."

Well, that's what the labor vote is in politics. I am with the labor end of it, because from the days of the pyramids to now, the men who work mainly with their hands have had to hold up "the heaviest end of the log." As a boy I worked at a factory bench with factory boys; and my playmates and companions for years in baseball, football, hunting, fishing, fighting, skating, and other sports were boys who were very poor. Boys who are my friends to-day. I learned what poverty really meant by my association with them, and my welcome in their homes. The poverty of the middle classes is often extremely mortifying to pride and comfort, but the poverty of the very poor is hell.

And yet I say seriously, and without any possible prejudice, that the labor vote in politics, with rare exceptions, is nothing more nor less than "monkey-moonshine." True, this vote occasionally elects a mayor in some of the cities, but these exceptions only prove the rule. And I will show you by the logic and reason of the situation, in America, that this is a fact. Politicians who will attempt to "demonstrate" that a candidate is either "strong" or "weak" by reason of the support or antagonism of this element in politics are either knaves, or men who cannot see further than their own noses. It is idle to call attention to what has been done in Europe by the leverage of the labor vote, for the conditions there are vitally different. The question of what "is" the labor vote, how it will be cast, and how far it can be depended on, has been a will-o-the-wisp which has lured many an aspiring politician into the quagmire of disappointment and defeat. It is, in its last analysis, a negligible quantity in the voting strength; that is, a quantity to be disregarded, as it stands at present.

During the period of my active participation in politics I lived in a "la-



I Met the Labor Element at Every Meeting.

bor" ward, and, although drawing a good salary as a city official, was not credited with being one of the "predatory capital" class. During my term on the board of local improvements, when a dispute arose between the city and a branch of the labor union, and the dispute was referred to arbitration, my name as a third arbitrator was chosen by the labor men themselves, after the city had picked out one man, and the union another; although the dispute was directly one in which the board was concerned.

What is this labor vote of which so much is current in the newspapers, and in the speeches of the politicians? Very well, then! The labor vote, you will grant, is largely a vote of the cities and towns, particularly the manufacturing towns; and the votes of the miners. Here you have a voting strength which includes the well-informed and the ignorant; the high and the low in the ranks of manual labor; the native-born American whose forefathers fought at Bunker Hill, and the newly-arrived immigrant with his first papers taken out, and who does not yet know the language. Now then, are you going to solidify all these conflicting elements into a harmonious

and compact body of voting strength? You are, are you? How are you going to do it? The prejudices of the European emigrants date back further than the times of Romulus and Remus. Racial and religious differences, strengthened and cemented by wars of conquest and subjugation, have been drunk in with their mother's milk. Slav, Celt, Frank, Teuton, the Latin and Saxon, how sheer the wall which divides, how deadly bitter the old grudges which still exist. Do you think to bring such conflicting opposite natures into a "happy family" of unified voters without taking into account all the ancient jealousies and racial and spiritual prejudices? As well attempt to "swim with fins of lead, or hew down oaks with rushes."

My experience regarding the labor vote began early in the game. I met the labor element at every meeting I attended in my city. They attended political meetings where the "business" men regularly "side-stepped" such affairs. They naturally looked on a speaker who addressed such meetings, if a salaried politician, as a man who was there for the purpose of "holding his job;" and they took very little, if any, stock in his protestations. If the man whom he was talking for was one who had "made good" in their estimation, so far as fairness to labor was concerned, they agreed with the speaker in his commendations of such a man. But they did not believe that a well-dressed professional man could really have any intimate knowledge of their lives or their ambitions, nor entertain any genuine sympathy with them in their struggles; so that any views of the speaker in that line generally fell on barren ground.

And that suggests, as a corollary, the proposition that the "uplift" of the labor element must come from the ranks of the laboring man himself. Men like Ruskin and Edward Morris in England, men like Phelps-Stokes and Ernest Crosby in America—have endeavored honestly to better conditions for the laboring man, and have failed because of a chasm-like difference in environment which precluded the possibility of an intelligent and sympathetic joining of forces.

The labor vote in the cities is industriously angled for, and is not seldom made the means of an advancement to office, as far as the labor vote happens to apply, of some demagogue whose sympathy for labor is wholly fictitious. The labor element is also preyed upon by treacherous members of its own class, who use their official positions in the union for their own selfish personal aims. And yet at last this element, and whatever political cohesion it can ultimately command, must depend on its own people for advancement. Labor's chief hope must lie in national enactments of laws, and yet labor cuts the least figure in the election of the men who go to Washington. Concerted opposition of labor to men who have been against it, has almost always resulted disastrously. The men who seek congressional honors are not yet afraid of the labor vote, except in possible instances in some large city where the district is largely a labor district. But ordinarily, as has been shown in several late instances, the labor fights on members of congress have been failures.

And right here I wish to call attention to a subtle undercurrent of politics which comes in when these "labor" fights are inaugurated. The timid and conservative voters of a party which may have the support of labor against an opposition candidate are very apt to shift their votes and "plump" them for the opposition candidate just because they fear the effect of a possible labor victory; or a victory where labor might claim to have been the means of winning. Curious, isn't it? But this has been proved so often that it is almost axiomatic. Labor has not yet gained the confidence of the conservative or the timid business element, and they would rather have its enmity than its support.

The future of the labor vote would seem to be most advantageous where it attached itself to the "right party," where it stood no show of electing its own representative. Which party? Either of the two dominant parties that puts up a candidate who represents honestly a "square deal" to all men. Sometimes this may be one party, sometimes another. "Principles, not men," used to be the old war-whoop. It isn't worth its salt as a maxim. The best set of principles in the world can be ignored by any man who wishes to disregard them. The worst platform a political party ever wrote can be shelved by a man who has the nerve to do it. Men, not principles, should be the bugle-call.

And things are trending that way. The labor vote in the cities is popularly supposed to favor the Democratic party. Well, at a recent presidential election, every ward in my city except possibly one, went one way; the most awful landslide in the city's political history. Wards which were counted on for thousands in favor of the Democratic ticket went the other way. And labor wards "didn't do a thing" to the Democratic ticket. And after the election our town-union organization held a meeting. And "Billy" Brennan, shrewd politician and brainy, opened the ball with some such remarks as these: "I'm glad to see so many smiling faces here to-day. I want to congratulate this organization and the country on the victory we have won. The Republicans put up a Democrat, and the Democrats put up a Republican, and the Democrat won." Applause.

Intelligent labor wants nothing more than a "square deal." Convince them that a man is for them, and they will vote for him. But ignorant and prejudiced labor, like ignorant and prejudiced human nature in whatever

groove, cannot be brought to see its own interests against its prejudices. Ignorance is a force which cannot be intelligently applied. The leverage of the labor vote will not be a vital force in this country until the bulk of its forces get nearer together in the way of a dismissal of racial, religious and social differences. An engineer getting a salary of \$200 or \$250 a month—does he consider the "section-hand" or "track-walker" who gets out of his way as his equal? A man who gets maybe \$30 or \$40 a month, and handles a pick or shovel! I don't say that he doesn't, but does he? Is that average human nature?

Another thing that helps suppress the strength of the labor vote as to a free expression is the bread-and-butter question, the "full-dinner-pail" argument. Can you blame men for giving in to this cry? I don't! Suppose the head of a factory or plant says he will have to "shut down" if a certain man isn't elected. The employe may reason to himself: "It doesn't



Ran Home Terror-Stricken.

make any difference to me who's elected, but if this plant shuts down I lose my job. If I lose my job I'm on the street." To expect him to "assert the God-given right of the franchise," as some orators put it, is to expect him to ignore the rule that "self-preservation is the first law of nature." You can't hand that "poppycock" to a man with a wife and family depending on him for their existence. I don't mean for their comfort, I mean literally for their existence.

A certain judge in our city was up for re-election. He had his laborer's head every time it appeared before him. He had earned the title of the "Injunction Judge." He was a respected and reputable citizen, a man of blameless private life. But he did not decide in favor of labor unions. I am not impugning his motives nor his integrity. And the supreme court affirmed his decisions.

Our party made extraordinary efforts to beat this man. Circulars calling attention to his decisions were circulated among the laboring element. The labor unions had representatives among every class and race calling attention to these decisions, and his attitude toward the labor unions. Good speakers, wit out in any way stooping to abuse or unfairness, showed the labor element that this particular jurist, if re-elected, could reasonably be expected to drive a nail into labor's coffin every time he had an opportunity. There was no difficulty in the way of labor "plumping" its solid vote against this particular candidate, for all that was necessary was to put a cross in the ring in front of the opposition candidate.

Day in and day out, week in and week out the campaign was steadily waged against this man. It was not simply because of his party; nor because his decisions had sent men to cells for what they believed was exercising the right to privileges guaranteed them by the state constitution and the constitution of the United States. These men may have exceeded their rights. The supreme court of the state said they did. Let it go at that! But he was a candidate we wanted to beat, and his adversary was an entirely reputable lawyer, standing as high in the estimation of the community as our antagonist.

The day of election came and the judge we were trying to defeat, with the aid of the labor vote in addition to our own strength, was triumphantly elected. The "labor" vote did not materialize. It was voted, all right, for the registration did not disclose any great array of "stay-at-homes." But the labor vote did not throw its strength against the man who had so often decided against it in his courtroom. If labor had gone solidly against him, no possible defection from our side party ranks would have saved him, for the labor vote, so far as numbers was concerned, would have overwhelmed him.

There are two sides to this granting of injunctions, you know. Both great parties are now getting out state platforms protesting against the abuse of this power. But suppose we say, for the sake of argument purely, that this judge was absolutely right in every decision that he made. Even if this were admitted (which I deny) he was a judge whom labor had every reason in the world to wish to retire to private life.

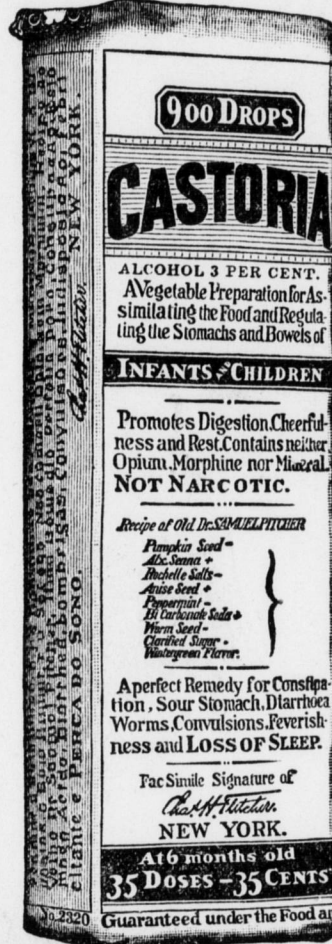
Take it from me, with my sympathy always with the labor element as an entirety (because it has the hardest row to hoe), that the "labor vote" and all this piffle about the "labor vote" is the merest "monkey-moonshine."

ERNEST MCGAFFEY. (Copyright, 1908, by Joseph E. Bowles.)

# What is Castoria.

CASTORIA is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher, and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.



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## Letters from Prominent Physicians addressed to Chas. H. Fletcher.

Dr. F. Gerald Blattner, of Buffalo, N. Y., says: "Your Castoria is good for children and I frequently prescribe it, always obtaining the desired results."

Dr. Gustave A. Eisengraeber, of St. Paul, Minn., says: "I have used your Castoria repeatedly in my practice with good results, and can recommend it as an excellent, mild and harmless remedy for children."

Dr. E. J. Dennis, of St. Louis, Mo., says: "I have used and prescribed your Castoria in my sanitarium and outside practice for a number of years and find it to be an excellent remedy for children."

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Dr. J. E. Simpson, of Chicago, Ill., says: "I have used your Castoria in cases of colic in children and have found it the best medicine of its kind on the market."

Dr. R. E. Eskildson, of Omaha, Neb., says: "I find your Castoria to be a standard family remedy. It is the best thing for infants and children I have ever known and I recommend it."

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Dr. Edwin F. Pardee, of New York City, says: "For several years I have recommended your Castoria and shall always continue to do so, as it has invariably produced beneficial results."

Dr. N. B. Sizer, of Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "I object to what are called patent medicines, where maker alone knows what ingredients are put in them, but I know the formula of your Castoria and advise its use."

**GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS**  
Bears the Signature of

*Chas. H. Fletcher.*  
**The Kind You Have Always Bought**

In Use For Over 30 Years.

### LOOKED FOR OTHER TWO.

Little One Had But One Idea of Term "Fore-Handed."

Little Catherine has been boarding on a farm this summer, and many of the rural expressions are wholly unfamiliar to her. One day she chanced to hear her country hostess praising the good qualities of a certain thrifty neighbor.

"He really ain't got much, compared to some folks," said the farmer's wife, "but he makes out wonderful well; he's so fore-handed."

"That evening the man thus lauded happened to drop in, and Katherine immediately sidled up to him, with curious eyes. Slowly she revolved about the chair in which he sat, and so persistently did she gaze at him that the farmer's wife finally noticed it.

"Well, Katherine," she said, "you seem to find a good deal to look at in Mr. B—; don't you?"

"Why," replied the child, her little forehead wrinkled in perplexity. "I did want to see his two uvver hands, but I can't. Is he sittin' on 'em?"

Absorbing. Silas—Ha! Ha! Reuben got bunked again. Cyrus—Do tell! What was it this time? Silas—Why, Reuben saw an ad that stated that for one dollar they would send him some of the most absorbing literature he ever read.

Cyrus—And what did they send him? Silas—Why, they sent him a pamphlet entitled "How Blotters Are Made" and another entitled "Points on Turkish Towels."

None for Him. "Well, what does the hat bill come to this summer?" inquired Mr. Juggins.

"Let me see," said Mrs. Juggins, producing the long paper. "My Merry Widow, Lottie's pink Merry Widow, Ella's green and Mamie's mauve Merry Widow—total \$99.90."

"Gee!" said Mr. Juggins. "Nearly a hundred! Well, with the ten cents remaining, I guess I'd better have my old straw done up again."

Cure for Earache. Take the heart of an onion and heat and insert in the ear and it will cure earache.

Those Tired, Aching Feet of Yours need Allen's Foot-Paste. See at your Druggist's. Write A. S. Gimsted, Le Roy, N. Y., for sample.

Habit has more force in forming our characters than opinions have.—R. Hall.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c bottle.

### OF COURSE HE WOULDN'T.



"You certainly wouldn't marry a girl for her money, would you, Tom?"

"Of course not; neither would I have the heart to let her become an old maid because she happened to be well off."

In Your Youth. And then there was the time you took her to the county fair. You wore that new \$9.98 suit; had Dewey Mungler's best roadster and rubber-tired rig and a new whip with a red ribbon tied around it. She wore a white dress with a blue sash, and a string of blue glass beads about her neck. Mind those entries in your "daily expense" book—candy, 10 cents; peanuts, 5 cents; merry-go-round tickets, 25 cents; side show, 20 cents; weiner-wurst sandwiches, 20 cents; lemonade, 10 cents; ice cream, 20 cents; shooting gallery, 10 cents; tintypes—you've got 'em yet, you sitting and she standing with her hand on your shoulder—50 cents. Gee, but you thought you "blew yourself" that day, didn't you? Los Angeles Express.

"Ladies First." In this age of leveling up and leveling down, and of attempting to place women on the same plane as men in everything, chivalry is nearly a dead letter. Many wish it were altogether so, regarding it as a bar to the full emancipation of women. There can be no traffic here with such wrong-headed and wrong hearted notions. In the healthy atmosphere of sport such notions wither and fade like exotics in an alien soil.

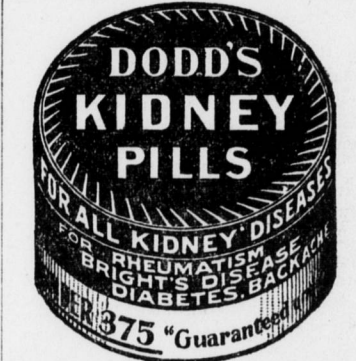
"Ladies first!" is an abiding principle with all who are sportsmen.—Frye's Magazine.

A Play on Words. Scott—They dramatize everything nowadays. I'll bet they'll soon be dramatizing the ad. columns.

Mott—Well, why not; aren't the ad. columns just the place for striking situations?

Why He Felt Sad. "Young man," said the stern old broker, "I find that you slipped off yesterday afternoon and went to the ball game. Don't you feel bad about it?"

"Indeed I do, boss," confessed Tommy. "Ah! That's one consolation." "Yes, I felt bad 'cause the home team lost."



## SICK HEADACHE

**CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.** Positively cured by these Little Pills. They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Biliary Disorders, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable. SMALL PILL. SMALL DOSE. SMALL PRICE.

**CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.** Genuinely Must Bear Fac-Simile Signature. *Brewer's Food* REFUSE SUBSTITUTES.

KNOWN SINCE 1836 AS RELIABLE. **PLANTEN'S C & C OR BLACK CAPSULES** SUPERIOR REMEDY FOR URINARY DISCHARGES ETC. DRUGGISTS OR BY MAIL ON RECEIPT OF 50c. H. PLANTEN & SON 95 HENRY ST. BROOKLYN, N.Y.

**PARKER'S HAIR BALM** Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Falls to Restores Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases & hair falling. 50c. and \$1.00 at Druggists.

**SCALDS** or burns, cuts, lacerated joints, scald head, salt rheum; new, old or scrofulous sores all cured by the wonderful remedy, **Boyd's Ointment**. Your druggist or see by mail. **BOYD OINTMENT COMPANY**, Kittingham, Pa.

If afflicted with sore eyes, use **Thompson's Eye Water**. A. N. K.—C (1908—34) 2244.