

THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED. KURTZ, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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CENTRE HALL, PA., THURS. SEP. 15.

STRIKES AND REMEDIES.

In 1890 there was a labor strike in Australia that commanded the attention of the world, just as the Homestead lockout has. It originated in the sheep-raising industry, the principal one of the colony, and started on account of the introduction of non-union workers. The proportions of the strike grew until almost all kinds of productive pursuits were brought in. Trade unions were highly organized, and were represented by a trades and labor council holding together the different trades in a strong federation. Employees, on the other hand, were associated, including almost the entire mass of capital. The struggle was between two powerful and determined bodies, one representing almost the totality of capital concerned in the employment of labor, and the other representing almost the entire body of workmen, skilled and unskilled. The conflict was well nigh as disastrous and paralyzing as a state of civil war. The injury wrought to the peace and prosperity of the colony was so serious the government appointed a commission with large powers to investigate the entire subject of strikes and their remedies. The commission was wisely selected, eight of the members representing labor and eight the employing interests, with a president of high character and disinterested purpose. It held some fifty meetings, examined witnesses and obtained from the principal countries of the world documents of all kinds bearing on the questions to be investigated. A huge volume has been given to the public as the results of the labors of the commission, of which there is an interesting summary in the *Review of Reviews* for September. The report includes details of the principal schemes and laws of all countries dealing with conciliation or arbitration.

It is an important fact, considering the extreme agitation that led to the appointment of the commission, that its report was unanimously adopted by the seventeen members, after a long and careful discussion paragraph by paragraph. It deals with the broad question in no local or temporizing spirit, and its conclusions are in the main as applicable to the United States as to Australia.

We can only summarize the conclusions of the commission in the briefest way. It is recognized that the chief ground of contention between employers and employed is rapidly becoming the employment of non-unionists, and a broad distinction must be made between this and the demands of the wage-getting class which affect their comfort or are put forth in defense of their organizations. Conciliation by friendly conference is deemed to be the best method of dispersing the mists that surround a controversy. The function of conciliation is to get the parties to come to a common agreement voluntarily. Arbitration is distinctively to determine the merits and give a positive decision. It advises a State Board of Conciliation, which is also to perform the duties of Arbitration when Conciliation fails. This board should be a representative one as to its sympathies with the two interests involved—two members for each interest with a disinterested chairman appointed by the governor of the colony. It should not be forced in ever labor controversy but all disputes should, if possible, be settled within the trade itself.

The important point of the report is the way it deals with compulsory arbitration. It holds that disputes that almost assume the character of civil war ought not to lie outside of cognizance of the guardians of the public peace. This extract gives the spirit of the report on this branch of the subject, that is, of compulsory arbitration, which is forcing itself on the attention of thoughtful men.

We are of the opinion that it should not be necessary for parties to call upon the board to interfere, as to adopt this course would be very greatly to limit the usefulness of board. It is true that to allow one party to set the board in motion would be, to a certain extent, to put compulsion on the other party, because it must either appear or run the risk of having an award given in absence. But this degree of compulsion is in the public interest clearly expedient. No quarrel should be allowed to fester if either party were willing to accept a settlement by the State tribunal. Industrial quarrels cannot continue without the risk of their growing to dangerous dimensions, and the State has a right in the public interest to call upon all who are protected by the laws to conform to any provision the law may establish for settling quarrels dangerous to the public peace. We may mention, in support of this view, that we have already some pertinent and valuable experience. The Newcastle (New South Wales) agree-

ment, which represents the matured experience of the colliery proprietors and of a compact body of 5,000 coal miners, provides that differences that cannot be settled out of the court may be submitted to a referee, and that either party may set the court in action. Five cases have hitherto been submitted, the miners having in each case taken the initiative, the masters coming into court to defend their position.

The question whether the arbitrators should have power to enforce their decisions or inflict fines for non-compliance is considered. The commission does not hold compulsion to be necessary, surrounded as it is with great difficulties. The report says:

It has been said that if an arbitration court cannot compel obedience to its decisions it will be useless. The answer to this is that experience is, though not wholly, almost wholly the other way. In England all the trade arbitrations have been outside law, because the three laws passed for the purpose have been inoperative. And yet, though arbitrations have been very numerous, the cases are very few in which the decisions have not been loyally accepted. The reason of this is that the decisions have been reasonably fair, and both parties to the suit have felt that it was better to acquiesce in a decision with which they were not wholly contented than to prolong the strife. Public opinion, too, which counts for a great deal in matters of this kind, is always in favor of acquiescing in a decision given after a fair hearing. There is ever reason to expect that in the very great majority of cases the decisions of arbitrators will settle the dispute, and it is not worth while, therefore, for the sake of making compliance universal to introduce the repugnant element of compulsion.

It may be added that the absence of external compulsion does not prevent the parties from putting compulsion on themselves. All who want compulsion can have it. They can agree to a bond before going to arbitration that would give the right to sue a defaulter.

The *Review of Reviews* applies the commission's plan to the Homestead troubles on the supposition of an amendment to the "Wallace act" empowering one party to secure the intervention of an arbitration court, instead of making it necessary for both parties to consent, and demonstrates, at least to its own satisfaction, that arbitration having been invoked by one of the parties, a hearing had and decision rendered, that decision would have been accepted by the party against whom it was rendered. Public opinion would have forced its acceptance. Thus the bloodshed, money loss, riots, military force and lashing bitterness would have been avoided.

It seems to us there is much in this Australian plan of compulsory arbitration to commend it to the approval of thoughtful men who realize present dangers. Force settles nothing. Least of all military power. Next year the same questions may and probably will arise in mills and mines that have called on the soldiery this year, and so on ever year until a standing army becomes a State institution. We do not believe the American people will tolerate such conditions unless a clear necessity can be shown. They will reach them through the ballot-box. When we can determine great questions of national concern with foreign nations by arbitration we surely ought to have the wisdom to impose a system of arbitration that will adjust dangerous labor questions through a tribunal constituted so as to command and deserve public respect and confidence. Voluntary arbitration seems to be a demonstrated failure. It is not thought of until strong antagonisms have arisen. Compulsory arbitration, to the extent set forth in the Australian plan, appears all that is left in the way of peaceful adjustment.—Pittsburg Post.

Centre county Republicans expect to make the election of some of their nominees. Well, we don't see anything so strong in their ticket to give them such hope, nor any name on the Democratic ticket to render it weak. We will carry the county by 800 majority.

That old, staunch, and able Democratic organ, the *Pittsburg Post*, was fifty years old on Saturday—may it live twice fifty again.

Two straws. Republican Vermont, last week, threw out a straw. Democratic Arkansas, also, last week threw out a straw. Both straws point direct to Cleveland.

WAGES ABROAD.

A persistent inquirer has finally induced an amateur Protection journal to publish a statement of the wages paid in various industries in England, France, Germany, Italy and Austria. This is the only fair comparison to make—between countries of the Old World having similar conditions as to density of population, demand for labor, productiveness, cost of living and the other factors that everywhere control wages. To compare Old World wages with those of the New World is to ignore differences which are as obvious as they are vital. From the figures given it appears, as the World has frequently pointed out

and as every intelligent workman knows, that wages in free trade England are from 30 to more than 100 per cent. higher than in protectionist France, Germany or Italy.

Blacksmiths, for instance, receive \$8.62 per week in England, \$4 in Germany and \$5.31 in France. There is substantially the same difference in the pay of carpenters, masons, painters, machinists, shoemakers and other trades. Common laborers receive \$5.29 per week in England, \$3.11 in Germany and \$3.03 in France.

If the tariff makes wages high in the United States, why does it not have the same effect in Germany and the other protectionist countries of Europe? No protectionist has ventured to answer that question and none will.

Tammany has begun to boom for Cleveland, and last Friday night's gathering with Bourke Cockran's ringing speech, puts aside all doubts as to where New York stands. Her voice will be for Cleveland, and tariff reform. The Empire state is Democratic, whenever our party is harmonious, and Harmony is inscribed on the banner there.

The Pennsylvania farmer is often told that a high tariff is to his interests. Where is the farmer who can substantiate the assertion? His wheat is down to a lower price than any time in twenty years. He is fleeced on all hands by the vendors of everything he buys. We have had high tariffs for twenty-five years and the farmer's testimony is that he never was in a worse plight. We ask the farmer, is not this the truth?

TROUBLESOME IFS.

If the increased tariff has raised wages it must—upon the protection theory—have added to the cost of production.

If it has done this how can prices be lower?

If the increased duty has not added to the price of imported goods it has not given any additional protection to the home manufacturers.

If it has added to the price it has been an extra burden upon consumers.

If the tariff has raised the price of farm products it must have added to the general cost of living.

If the increased duty has not diminished importations, as the Protectionists now claim, it has not secured a home market to manufacturers nor protected wage earners against the competition of pauper labor abroad.

If the foreigner pays the duty why did McKimley leave the Treasury so short of money?

These troublesome ifs are only the beginning of the labyrinth of the lies and paradoxes into which this tariff for bounties leads its defenders.

The Republicans might as well have no candidate on the track for congress against Honorable George F. Kribbs. Mr. Kribbs has been a faithful representative and deserves a re-election, and will get it by a large majority, but it might as well be made as near unanimous as possible.

At a meeting of the Democratic conference of the Eighteenth Congressional district, W. W. Trout, editor of the *Lewisown Free Press*, was nominated for Congress by acclamation. Our friend Trout should be elected—he would be a big fish in congress.

A PERIOD OF OVERPRODUCTION.

The bread and light of the world—wheat and oil—are selling at the lowest prices known for years. The available supply of the former is over 110,000,000 bushels, the largest on record, 24,000,000 bushels more than a year ago and 40,000,000 bushels more than at the same date in 1890. The visible supply of Pennsylvania oil is about 19,000,000 barrels and of Ohio oil 22,000,000 barrels. Cheapness in these two prime necessities of life and comfort is not an unmixed blessing. The laborer is worthy of his hire, but the labor of producing wheat at 73 cents a bushel and oil at 55 cents a barrel, is not worthily paid. The depression in both commodities is due in a large measure to over-production, although the present quarantine restrictions no doubt have some bearing upon market conditions.

The Western wheat raiser and the Pennsylvania oil operator, however, are not the only sufferers in this respect. The Southern cotton planter and the pig iron producer have been compelled to face the problem of over-production and have as yet only partially solved it. There seems to have been a surfeit of good things the past two years, and as sometimes happens to the human system, the commercial system is temporarily clogged. The money lender is just recovering from a similar state of congestion, and the producer has the consolation of knowing that his complaint, though serious, is not necessarily fatal.

Candidate for assembly, Hamilton, has got on the fence question. Now let him define his position also on the United States senator question. Is he Quay or nay? Many Republicans care more about the latter than the former.

sixty Million Bushels of Wheat.—A Bushel for every Inhabitant of the United States. The Kansas Crop of '92.

Never in the history of Kansas has that state had such bountiful crops as this year. The farmers cannot get enough hands to harvest the great crop and the Santa Fe Railroad has made special rates from Kansas City and other Missouri River towns, to induce harvest hands to go into the state. The wheat crop of the state will be from sixty to sixty-five million bushels and the quality is high. The grass crop is made, and is a very large one; the early potatoes, rye barley and oat crops are made and are all large. The weather has been propitious for corn and it is the cleanest, best looking corn to be found in the country to-day. Cheap rates will be made from Chicago St. Louis and all points on the Santa Fe east of the Missouri River, to all Kansas points, on August 30 and September 27, and these excursions will give a chance for eastern farmers to see what the great Sunflower State can do. A good map of Kansas will be mailed free upon application to Jno. J. Byrne, 723 Monadnock Block, Chicago Ill., together with reliable statistics and information about Kansas lands

The only subject President Harrison forgot to touch upon in his letter of acceptance, was bots in horses. Since his party has the disease the omission is to be regretted. He will, no doubt, make up for it by alluding to the subject in his next annual message, as his letter leaves him no other subject to treat upon.

Deserving Praise.

We desire to say to our citizens, that for years we have been selling Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Dr. King's New Life Pills, Bucklen's Arnica Salve and Electric Bitters and have never handled remedies that sell as well, or that have given such universal satisfaction. We do not hesitate to guarantee them every time and we stand ready to refund the purchase price, if satisfactory results do not follow their use. These remedies have won their great popularity purely on their merits J. D. Murray Druggist.

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Frank Cornelius of Purcell, Ind. Ter., says: "I induced Mr. Pinson, whose wife had paralysis in the face, to buy a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. To their great surprise before the bottle had all been used she was a great deal better. Her face had been drawn one side; but the Pain Balm relieved all pain and soreness and the mouth assumed its natural shape." It is also a certain cure for rheumatism, lame back, sprains, swellings and lameness. 50 cents bottles for sale by J. D. Murray Druggist.

Home-seekers' Excursions.

Two Grand Excursions via Union Pacific on August 30th and Sept. 27th, 1892, to points in Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, New Mexico and Montana. This is a great opportunity to see the magnificent tracts of land offered for sale by the Union Pacific at low prices and on ten years time. For this occasion the Union Pacific will sell tickets at the rate of one fare for the round trip. See your nearest ticket agent.

An Elegant Souvenir.

"The Western Resort Book," a finely illustrated publication descriptive of all the western resorts along the lines of the Union Pacific System. Sent free upon receipt of 6c. in stamps. Address

E. L. LOMAX,
Gen. Pass. & Tkt. Agent,
sep. 15 Omaha, Neb.

For many years Mr. B. F. Thompson, of Des Moines, Iowa, was severely afflicted with chronic diarrhoea. He says: "At times it was very severe; so much so that I feared it would end my life. About seven years ago I chanced to procure a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It gave me prompt relief, and I believe cure me permanently, as I now eat or drink without harm anything I please. I have also used it in my family with the best results." For sale by J. D. Murray Druggist.

MUSICAL COLLEGE.—The Fall Term opens Sep. 12 in Vocal and Instrumental Music. For catalogues address Henry B. Moyer, Freeburg, Pa.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—LETTERS of Administration upon the estate of James Grove, dec'd., of Gregg township, having been lawfully granted to the undersigned, they would respectfully request all persons knowing themselves indebted to the estate to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same to present them duly authenticated for settlement. W. F. REARICK, J. F. GROVE, Administrators, Spring Mills, sep. 64

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July 21-2m

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