

The Firemen's Union

For years the firemen of Chicago have been asking for better pay and more humane conditions of work. Delegations have visited the city hall; petitions have been circulated, "pull" exercised, but all in vain. Then, having tired of asking other people to help them, they decided to help themselves.

Your Branch Can Do This

There is not a branch in the city of Chicago that cannot add a hundred names to the subscription list of the Daily Socialist in the next two weeks. ALL THAT IS NECESSARY IS A LITTLE SYSTEMATIC WORK. Divide up the precincts so that every house will be visited.

Lest We Forget

Do not forget, as the Christmas time comes round, that in an Idaho jail there are three men whose only crime is that they loved their fellow men and fought to make them free. Whenever you hear of lawlessness charged to unions remember that Justice McKenna of the Supreme Court says that the States of Idaho and Colorado were guilty of illegally kidnaping these men.

Professional Sluggers in Uniform

A tremendous wave of righteous indignation is being carefully waved across the country by the hot air of capitalist newspaper writers concerning the slugging by union laborers during the Shea trial. Nothing is being said in these papers about the five thousand professional slugger kept constantly employed under the name of "private police" by the employers of this city.

Just Like Finding Money

If you had a franchise that had practically expired, and a lot of old junk that was on somebody else's property, and someone should come along and offer you fifty million dollars for it, and show you how to make it bring you in a few million dollars a year for a generation to come—say, wouldn't it make you have a "Merry Christmas?"

The Merchants' Club and the Commercial Club of Chicago having settled their jurisdiction controversies and combined, it will be up to them to make it hot for "scabs" attempting to work along those lines.

While reading about the Lincoln Bank failure please remember that the Socialist party of Illinois demands that the state shall conduct savings banks so long as such institutions are necessary.



THIMBLE-RIGGING BY THE SAFE, SANE AND CONSERVATIVE TRUST NEWSPAPERS OF CHICAGO.

Bill the link: "I works my sandbag proper and quiet, an' I takes a sportin' pride in a sportin' gentlemen's perfeshun; but I'm blowed if I likes this here hocussin' o' kiddles out o' their school money."

FLASH LIGHTS ON CHILD LABOR By NICHOLAS KLEIN

The following extracts from speeches delivered at the National Child Labor convention assembled at Cincinnati December 13, 14, 15, gathered by Nicholas Klein, special representative of the Daily Socialist, most strikingly illustrate the attitude of thinkers on this subject. Maiming and Poisoning Children. "The purpose of this republic is to produce a better type of manhood and womanhood, and that he or she shall develop such manhood or womanhood is the absolute right of every boy and girl beneath the flag; and any industrial system that robs the American children of that right is a crime against humanity and treason against liberty itself."

Modern industrialism has produced modern individualism. It has developed a parenthood that is prone to raise children as human commodities for the factory, the mills, the mines and other places. The result has been the growth of a child labor evil that is the shame of modern civilization.—Edgar T. Davies, Chief Factory Inspector of Illinois. Capitalists the Enemy. "When we in the South worked for a child labor bill, we were hit by the capitalists on every side. The legislature of Georgia had before it stacks of proof from doctors to prove that the cotton mills of Georgia were regular health resorts.—Rev. Dr. Wilmer of Atlanta, Ga., Secretary of the Georgia Child Labor Committee.

A Laugh or A Smile By F. B.

His Experience. "I have come to ask you to give me your daughter for a Christmas present," said the nervy young man. "Very well, sir, but I am afraid you will find the present rather costly." There is a coal famine on in the northwest. The people should be able to keep warm cursing the railroads. The German reichstag treated the kaiser very badly, considering the fact that he never tried to reform the spelling of the German language. While other European rulers sicken and die, the nominal "sick man of Europe," the sultan of Turkey, lingers on and grows tougher and tougher.

All Share in the Crime. "There is hardly a person in even a moderate sized city who does not have incorporated in their clothing by some means or other the work of child laborers. For no articles of clothing except cut stones and spectacles are immune from the curse of child labor and the sweat shop.—Mrs. Florence Kelley, Secretary of the National Consumers League. Kind Master Enemy of Freedom. "The kind mill man is the greatest enemy of the children just as the kind master was the greatest hindrance to the movement to emancipate the black slaves. "The long haired men, the short haired women and the labor agitators spread the truths that cause agitation against child slavery.—Dr. A. J. McKelway, Asst. Secretary National Child Labor Committee.

The point of view of the workers in this movement is that an industrial progress that is built on child labor is a false progress.—Dr. Felix Adler, President National Child Labor Committee. Children Human Commodities. "We should say unto capital: Do not permit the competitive life to build up our industrial institutions upon the vitality of little children or permit the factory to rob the school of that rising generation upon whose shoulders rests the future and the fate of this republic."

Detectives and Strikes

Thomas Beet, American representative of Scotland Yard, has the following to say about the system of private police which are so familiar in American industrial life: "There is another phase of the private detective evil which has worked untold damage in America. This is the private constabulary system, by which armed forces are employed during labor troubles. It is a condition akin to the feudal system of warfare, when private interests can employ troops of mercenaries to wage war at their command. "Obviously these armed private detectives are hurried to the scene of the trouble to maintain order and prevent destruction of property, although his work should always be left to the official guardians of the peace. That there is a sinister motive back of the employment of these men has been shown time and again. Have you ever followed the episodes of a great strike and noticed that most of the disorderly outbreaks were so guided as to work harm to the interests of the strikers? It is not going too far to state that many of the great strikes have been lost to the workers because after a time public sympathy and support were withdrawn. And this change of public sentiment invariably follows the alleged lawless and violent acts of the strikers. Therefore, instead of preventing these acts, it is to the interest of the employers that they should occur."

YE THAT LABOR

Inspired by the Great Speech of Nicholas Murray Butler, delivered at banquet given by the Merchants' Club at the Auditorium, Chicago, Ill., December 8, 1906. From the heights of Fedant learning, From my throne among the great, Touching shoulders with the magnates, Feeding at their trough of state. Lo! to ye so sore benighted! Ye, the humble, born to toil, And in shackles, "union" branded, List unto my wild turmoil. We have formed for your detection, Joined by hands of gold and steel, And your future lot of learning, We will hand you off the reel. We, the mighty brain force turning, To the end that gold may feel, While the multi-million toilers Shall be cogs within the wheel. 'Tis but meet that we should guide you, We, that know your needs so well, We, whom God, "divinely" gifted, Just to show our magic spell. And the Teachers' Federation Has been weighed and wanting found; For they've dared to tax the "doggers" For the using of the ground. THOMAS SMYTH HAYES, 1433 Jackson Blvd.

THE STORY OF THE CHICAGO SCHOOL FIGHT By MAY WOOD SIMONS

The Teachers' Federation has been denounced by every representative of capitalism. The fear of solidarity among public servants has taken possession of the ruling powers. Employees of corporations and private concerns for years have found that they can only deal with employers by dealing as a union of men. These unions are the expression of the struggle of the classes. A considerable part of the people occupy places as public servants. These are the police, the soldiers, the post office employees and the teachers. It was fondly hoped by the capitalist class that these men and women would not discover that it is the same exploiting power that controls the governmental and public positions and that is crushing the working man. It was hoped that these men and women would stay with the ruling powers in their sympathies and help to shape public opinion in the interest of vested power, and that they could be used as pliant tools to do the work of the corporate interests.

The struggle of the teachers in Chicago is not an isolated one. It is a part of the class struggle that is making itself felt around the world. The teachers of Chicago will go on record as the first body of men and women from that class of workers to declare their recognition of this struggle. It is this consciousness of the unity of labor's interests that the ruling powers fear.

The Teachers' Federation of Chicago was organized in March, 1897. It was the direct result of the attempt of the supervising force to break down the Teachers' Pension Law. This law was passed by the legislature in 1895 and went into effect in January, 1896. The fund for the teachers' pensions was to be created by deducting 1 per cent from the salaries of all teachers and principals.

The principals objected to having this tax laid on their wages. They did not feel any need of a pension for themselves as their salaries were sufficient to enable them to live and save. In early March, 1897, a mass meeting of teachers was called at Central Music Hall. It resulted in the organization of the Teachers' Federation.

The Federation recognized from the first that the crying need of the schools was to better the material condition of the grade teachers. In twenty years the salaries of the supervising force and officials had increased from 14 to 100 per cent, but the wages of teachers had risen less than 7 per cent.

The object of the Federation was stated in its platform. It was formed to secure for teachers all the rights and privileges to which they are entitled; to support the pension law, and for the consideration of such other objects as the Federation might deem advisable, such as the number of children in a room and the professional training of teachers.

The results of the "business administration" of the School Fund Lands was beginning to make itself felt. Chicago population was increasing, and an increase in the teaching force was needed, but the money to pay salaries was not forthcoming. Already wages were at the bare living point. The first move of the Teachers' Federation was to ask for a raise in wages. Through the representation of this Federation, early in 1898, the Board of Education adopted a new salary schedule, giving each teacher of more than seven years' experience a \$75 rise that year and promising a further rise in 1899 and 1900.

Business interests decided that the supervising power must be put in the hand of a man who could handle this Federation. Benjamin Andrews was brought here to do this work, in 1898. At this time the Teachers' Federation contained 4,000 members and Mr. Andrews said that the only thing he feared was this Federation.

In order to carry on the work of disciplining the teachers properly it was necessary to have the control of the entire school system turned over to the superintendent. For this purpose a commission was appointed by Harrison, known as the Harrison Educational Commission. On this commission were Dr. W. R. Harper and Messrs. Duddelston, W. Wacker, the brewer; Simon McPherson, J. Stolz and Bernard Rogers of the Board of Education.

This committee prepared the Harper Bill that was passed by the legislature and that turned the supervision of the schools entirely over to the superintendent.

It has been objected that the Teachers' Federation never went on record as opposed to the Harper Bill. That they did not was due to the fact that so skillfully had Mr. Andrews done his work that the officers of the Federation would not allow the ranks of the teachers to be heard. The Teachers' Federation was in the curious condition of possessing an organization but was unable to state its position because its officers were no longer in sympathy with the body of the teachers. Miss Elizabeth Burdick, president of the Federation at the time, was replaced in the spring of 1899 and immediately left the Federation. Miss Catherine Goggen became the new president.

The promised raise in salary of the teachers in 1898 was paid. The raise promised for 1899 was not made, and in 1900 the salaries were cut. In 1902 there was another cut and the schedule of 1898 was abolished. The reason for this reduction of wages was given as lack of funds.

This led the Teachers' Federation to investigate the sources of public revenue. The investigation revealed a wholesale evasion of taxes on the part of the public utility corporations, that hold franchises.

The famous tax suit began. The three corporations, against whom action was taken, were the street car companies, the electric light company and the People's Gas Co. It was found that property to the extent of \$235,000,000 avoided taxation in 1899. This partially explained why the value of assessed property in Chicago had not increased materially since 1870. The result of the suit was to add \$598,000 back taxes for 1900 which was paid into the treasury in 1902 and almost the same amount every year since. The Board of Education received \$249,000 of these back taxes.

This showed the corporations of Chicago the power of workers organized intelligently. It met with the disapproval of the business interests that controlled the school board. Mr. Andrews had proven himself incapable of grappling with the situation and had not succeeded in disrupting the teachers' organization. Business men cast about them for some one who could do the work. Mr. Cooley was discovered. Out of the nowhere he came into the somewhere. The schools passed into his control in July, 1900.

OUR STATISTICIAN. A cartoon illustration of a man sitting at a desk with a large pie chart. Below the illustration is a table showing immigration statistics for the last eight years.

Year	Total Arrived	Total Departed	Total Immigration	Net Increase	Per Cent Increase
1898	343,963	225,411	118,552	218,552	51.8
1899	429,776	256,009	173,767	392,319	82.0
1900	594,478	292,404	302,074	694,393	175.5
1901	615,025	306,726	308,299	1,002,692	253.3
1902	620,963	328,749	292,214	1,294,906	322.3
1903	1,025,654	375,281	650,373	1,945,279	487.9
1904	998,686	548,294	450,392	2,395,671	601.4
1905	1,229,415	576,151	653,264	3,048,935	763.4