

LABOR INJUNCTIONS.

Listen to the Republican bird of freedom yell! How in the name of science can a stuffed eagle make such a noise? Step around behind, and you will detect a Delphic-oracle connection between its mouth and that of a gentleman who proposes to "stand pat."

When Uncle Joe gets weary, the good Mr. Van Cleave will take his place awhile.

Why are these gentlemen so excited?

Reason enough: The country is hovering on the edge of the brink of destruction, and the life preservers are being distributed to the passengers aboard the ship of state.

What is the matter?

The right of employers to forbid workmen to do something that very likely they did not intend to do, is in the gravest peril.

Government by injunction, for which our forefathers charged up and down Bunker Hill; of which Jefferson and Adams, Paine and Franklin spoke with words of burning eloquence; and which is plainly set forth in the Constitution as the bulwark of a free and orderly ruling of the people by and for the Manufacturers' Association, has been assailed.

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If judges could not issue injunctions, workmen on a strike would have liberty to run with bowie knives and dynamite upon the public highway, tear down buildings, fill the streets with blood, block the wheels of commerce, shoot the innocent by-standers for practice and amusement, and make the reputed burning of Rome under Nero appear by comparison as mild as Shakespeare expurgated by Lieutenant Smith.

Are there no laws to prevent murder, riot, arson, and the like? Is it impossible to arrest and imprison those who resort to improper means to win a strike? Alas, we do not have such laws; the framers of the Constitution never thought they would be necessary when they had left us the injunction to protect our liberties.

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Is anyone except the striker ever guilty of destroying the life, liberty and happiness of other folk? Yes. The Illinois Steel plant destroys its workers and the happiness of their families; also the packers of Chicago have been detected putting up meat that would annihilate the happiness of an Angora goat and six lives of an alley cat. Can the courts stop the business of a packer while an investigation of the plant is going on? Great heaven, no; the packer's business would be dam-

aged by radical and dangerous measures of that sort. There was, indeed, some talk of such a proceeding a short time ago, and the loud protest of the packer against this unjust invasion of his rights, rose to the brazen dome of heaven and smote it till it shook. Nothing was heard then about protecting the integrity of the courts.

What is the business of a workman on a strike? It is to get a higher wage.

How will he do this? By persuading other men not to work for the persons against whom the strike is called.

How can he accomplish this if he is forbidden to walk on the same side of the street with those whom the packer has persuaded by his money to work for him, and whom the striker wishes to persuade with his argument to quit the job? He cannot win if peaceful picketing is not allowed.

Then the injunction interferes with his business, but not the packer's business; and the law "makes fair for one and foul for another" after all?

By no means. If the striker does not want to work, what is to prevent his going fishing for a year or so?

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But what will happen if he does not like to fish, and cannot win the strike? He will go back to work for such a wage as he can get.

If this is not a "living wage," will he get out an injunction to prevent the starving of himself and family? Oh, not at all; it is not admissible to get injunctions over the "mere matter of wages" for a workingman.

What, then, will he do? He will die peaceably of malnutrition, I suppose.

How is his right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness protected then? You do not read the Declaration well. It says: Every citizen is entitled to life if he can pay for it, liberty to work for what the employer will give him, and the happiness which comes to those who are content with what they have—even should that chance to be a thirty days' sentence to the rock pile for looking hungry in the public park.

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If it were not for the exalted patriotism of Uncle Joe and the Manufacturers, as successors to, and interpreters of Adams, Paine, et al., how should the common man be able to appreciate these things?

LOUISA DANA HARDING.

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Imperialism is the pleasure of living with one's inferiors.—G. K. Chesterton.