

gon is fortunate in being well supplied with public spirited citizens of that stamp. May they have that abundant measure of success which they so well deserve, and may their example be widely followed.

ROBERT TYSON.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

RAYMOND ROBINS IN BOSTON.

Boston, April 13.—Mr. Robins spoke six times in his three days' stay in Boston. His first address was on the subject of women's part in social and industrial betterment. Among his hearers were many veteran workers in the cause of the emancipation of women, and when he had finished his splendid plea for the legal right of women to a direct voice in the affairs of the state for the protection of themselves and their children and for the general welfare of the community, the verdict of these workers was that Mr. Robins had made the best statement of the case for equal rights they had ever heard.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. Robins spoke before the Twentieth Century Club on Education and the Workers, and in the evening on the Trades Unionists' Opportunity.

Sunday morning at the First Church in Cambridge he held his audience spellbound in his recital of the methods by which simple-hearted country boys and untutored men are made into thieves and jallbirds in our boasted Christian civilization.

Sunday afternoon at the New Voters' Festival in Faneuil Hall, his address, Civic Corruption and the Way Out, was enthusiastically received by a crowded audience, largely young men just entering upon their full privileges as citizens.

Monday morning before the Congregational ministers Mr. Robins gave his address on The Social Conscience of Christ. With the possible exception of his Sunday morning address this was perhaps the most moving of Mr. Robins's six genuinely remarkable lectures. We have long looked upon Jesus' message as almost purely a personal one, but illuminated by Mr. Robins's wonderful insight and by his years of experience among "the least of these my brethren," Jesus' teaching as a social gospel is convincingly revealed, and the call to the service of one's fellows becomes a compelling force.

In his eight years' work among the human driftwood of a great city Mr. Robins has traced back step by step the careers of scores of individuals who from simple, ignorant, well-intentioned folk, have become thieves and outcasts, enemies of society and a shame and menace to our civilization. His revelation of the causes that combine to produce these wrecks is calculated to make the smug and self-righteous sit up and take notice, but neither the prophets of old nor the Master himself softened the condemnation because it fell in unexpected places, and Mr. Robins, worthy follower of these, and of the preachers of social righteousness in all times, speaks the truth as he has found it, let the blows fall where they will.

MARGARET E. CHASE.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, April 21, 1908.

Organized Labor in Politics.

A systematic movement under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor for concerted political action (vol. x, p. 1231) was begun in thousands of meetings, held on the 19th in every city and town where the influence of the American Federation of Labor extends. Samuel Gompers spoke at a large mass meeting in Grand Central Palace, New York. In referring to recent Supreme Court decisions, Mr. Gompers is reported to have said:

I will not tolerate, nay, I will resent, any imputations that our highest court has been prompted by any dishonest or sordid motive. But it remains a fact that men who have been successes as lawyers and jurists, what the world of our time regards as successful lawyers and jurists, are men whose very rearing, education and environment are not in accord with the spirit of the times. They are but human, like you and me. Like you and me they are liable to err, and they must not forget that they are subject, like you and me, to the criticism of their fellow citizens. We ask from Congress that the rights that have been taken from us be restored. We ask this, and in our sovereign rights as citizens of this country we purpose to send to industrial and political oblivion those who stand in the way of the toiler now and in the days to come. It is the most momentous question that the working people of this country have been called upon to face since the civil war. It is our duty to demand of Congress the passage of laws which shall give us the right to labor unmolested, and we demand those laws, not next year or some date remote in the future, but at the present session of Congress.

The resolutions protested against the recent decisions of the Supreme Court which were adverse to labor interests. Not only did they demand legislation at this session of Congress, but declared that they would send to political oblivion all who opposed them. Appeal was made to all workers to stand by their friends and elect them, and oppose those indifferent and hostile to their cause and defeat them at the coming election.

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The most notable proceeding before central labor bodies occurred at the meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor. Raymond Robins addressed this body upon invitation, and roused the delegates to a high pitch of enthusiasm in a remark-

able speech of two hours' duration, in which he never for an instant lost his hold upon the sympathetic attention of his hearers. His theme was the recent Danbury labor decision of the Supreme Court. His address, in which he cited Lincoln in support of the right of labor to strike and the right of the people through political action to overrule the Supreme Court, may be summarized by this quotation from one of the newspaper reports:

Every law-abiding man will bow to the Supreme Court decision until it is reversed by political action; but every free man should work to see it reversed. If it is anarchy to criticize the Supreme Court I will not do it, because I am not an anarchist. But the Supreme Court was criticised by Lincoln, and he has been dead long enough not to be classed to-day as an anarchist. Permit this decision to go unreversed at the next election and you will find yourselves facing the next decision, which will declare your labor unions unlawful conspiracies. That is the logical sequence to the last decision.

In the preamble the resolutions declared that recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court, especially in the Danbury hatters' case, injuriously affect the rights of the workers; that in the hatters' case the anti-trust act was so interpreted as to make it apply to labor unions, a purpose wholly foreign to its original purpose; and that immediate Congressional action is necessary to remedy this and other periodical abuses. The resolutions then proceed:

Resolved, That, though protesting against the construction of the law by the decisions of the Supreme Court applying laws to the workers never intended by Congress for that purpose, we yet accept and obey them, demonstrating incontestably our patriotism, our law-abiding purpose and our faith in the institutions of our country; yet we must and do insist that Congress exercise its power and perform its plain duty, granting the relief and remedy from the injustice of which we complain; and be it further

Resolved, That we express our firm conviction that it lies within the power of the present Congress to enact such laws that the rights and liberties of the toilers shall be restored and safeguarded, and we solemnly aver that under no circumstances will the workers surrender their right to and their faith in their voluntary organizations, which have done so much to protect them from tyranny and rapacity and which have raised the American standard of life of the workers, their wives and their little ones, and instilled the highest ideals of American manhood, character, intelligence and independence among the toilers of our country; the organizations of labor which have proven themselves not only the great means whereby the material, moral, social and political standard has been advanced, but have also shown themselves the greatest conservators of the public good and of the public peace; that we shall stand by our unions of labor and carry on our normal activities, whether as individuals or through our associated effort; and be it further

Resolved, That the working people and their

friends in meeting assembled insist that the Congress of the United States cease its indifference or hostility and enact the legislation in these resolutions set forth, so that we may exercise our fullest, normal, natural and industrial rights, and to attain them we will exercise our industrial and political power; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon the Congress now in session to enact before adjournment the amendment to the Sherman anti-trust law, known as the Wilson Bill H. R. No. 20584; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon the present session of the present Congress to enact the Pearre Bill H. R. 94, to so define the injunction power and restrain its abuse that neither directly nor indirectly shall there be held to be any property or property right in the labor or labor power of any person; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon Congress at this session to enact an adequate, just and clearly defined general employers' liability law; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon this session of Congress to enact labor's eight-hour bill for the extension of the present eight-hour law to all government employes and to all employes engaged upon work done for the government, whether by contractors or sub-contractors; and be it further

Resolved, that we hereby declare our determination to hold each and every Representative and Senator strictly accountable upon his record upon these measures during the present session of the present Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That we stand unqualifiedly committed to the measures and the Congressional relief set forth in these preambles and resolutions and the grievances set forth in the protest to Congress published in the Congressional Record, and the plan of campaign outlined in the address to workers, prepared and presented by the great Labor Conference, held at Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor. And we pledge ourselves individually and collectively to the exercise of our fullest political and industrial activities now and in the future, to the end that we may aid in the election of such candidates for President of the United States, Representatives or Senators in Congress, and such other executive, legislative or judicial candidates for office as will safeguard and protect the common interests of the wage-workers, as well as the people of our common country; and be it finally

Resolved, That the toilers and their friends, fully aroused, will not be lulled into a fancied or false security by promises, however plausible, protestations, however masked by friendship, and that we call upon all our fellow workers, our friends and sympathizers, and enlightened public citizens generally, without regard to party affiliation, to stand by our friends and elect them; oppose the indifferent and hostile to our cause and defeat them.

In this movement for our common protection we are moved by a high sense of duty and a profoundly conscientious purpose to serve not only the workers of our time, but all the people of our great country for their industrial, political, social and moral progress and uplift.