



T-Bone Slim

There can be no peace in the industrial world so long as the boss has such high blood-pressure. (When the devil was sick the devil a saint would be, but just as soon as his tonsils quit hurting him he was the old boy himself: Pale and determined he would step out and block all attempts to board the pie-wagon; acting altogether as a person bereft of his senses.)

Once for all, let me tell you, he is irresponsible—he wants to row the boat before the bottom is in place. (Please don't anybody hit him with an oar.) We cannot much longer go on as he have been going. Sporadic strikes already dot the land, omen of the greater protest to come. And, in this connection, wish to say man's political faith is no hindrance whatsoever in the prosecution of his yen to strike. I have seen republicans strike with the same soulfelt vigor practiced by democrats and I have even seen circumspect socialists strike with the full force of the offended energies, akin to the dyed-in-wool reds.

Political faith is not a factor in this question because it is a bread and butter matter. The "General Strike" of certain elements in the clothing industry which at this time is going on in several of the mayor cities is an example of the necessity for action and that action requisitions other and several actions else the contour of our economic fabric shall go squee-gee. The big necessity is to be decried, true enough, but that does not alter the driving force of the condition—Wisdom must be forced upon the country; there seems no other way out. I have heretofore hinted at remedies for our economic evils but it seems powerful interests are disinclined to listen to my humble music. Take for instance the Thew Automatic Steam Shovel, hardly bigger than a coffee pot: Placed alongside of a stockpile of iron ore it does the work of 120 men and is operated including help by three men. 117 men are displaced, (their buying power destroyed) and sent into scuplines as public charges.

Suppose the same percentage of help was displaced in every industry by very automatic machinery—to each one mar kept, thirty-nine are laid off? Our employed workers would number one-million men; our unemployed workers would number thirty-nine million, or a percentage similar in other figures.

I have stated 19 tractors and 19 separators on twenty farms are not needed and their cost (minus twenty per cent for construction) is money thrown away. This amounts to big figures when we consider 3,000,000 farms (one half of total). At \$3,000 an outfit (low) three million farmers threw away \$3,000,000,000 (three billion dollars; I don't miss much).

This does not mean the farms are not entitled to have so much machinery or that farming doesn't warrant it, it means, as I said, *so much machinery is not necessary.*

Did the farmers limit their machinery to the need does not mean the farmers would be \$3,000,000,000 ahead—the "specs" would have it. (and the 20 per cent for construction would be lost.) Poverty, with or without machinery, is the farmer's and laborer's lot until they learn to organize and sell their commodities for its full face value.

This latter discription throws me off my subject and may seem unfortunate but I had Yakima conditions in mind when I wrote it.

In the valley where vegetation is so thick that soil is hard to find the farmers are solving the problem of collapse of price system, (a condition where to pick a peach is equivalent to a trip to poorhouse) by throwing LABOR and its organizers into jail.

At present they have incarcerated among other friends of mankind the ageing W. I. Fischer one of the fairest men this benighted country has seen since the days of Thomas Jefferson.

Nothing is accomplished; for the remedy lies wholly in increased buying power in labors hands and jailings is only an additional expense put on the farmer—if such is possible. Strikes you will have, your own and LABORS', until you learn to pay labor a living wage and peg your tolerancy on that economic low. Afterwards, as nature begins to smile, you can adjust the returns to full face value. His self-evident that picking fruit or digging vegetables is not an act that should carry a penalty of impoverishment or prison to the ones so doing and when conditions get so in any country it is time to change the system.