

municipal election which will take place in a few weeks. The presence of half a dozen representatives of the working class in the City Council would stop all such talk as that of Butler's.

RELATED THINGS

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THE FLEET.

Edmund Vance Cooke in the Independent.

This is the song of the thousand men, who are multiplied by twelve,
Sorted and sifted, tested, tried, and muscled to dig and delve.
They come from the hum of city and shop, they come from the farm and field,
And they plow the acres of ocean now, but tell me! what is their yield?

This is the song of the sixteen ships to buffet the battle and gale,
And in every one we have thrown away a Harvard or a Yale.
In them are the powers of Pittsburg, the mills of Lowell, and Lynn,
And the furnaces roar and the boilers seethe, but tell me! what do they spin?

This is the song of the myriad miles from Hampton to the Horn,
From the Horn away to that western bay, whence our guns were proudly borne;
A royal fleet and a host of hands to carry these rounds of shot!
And behold! they have girdled the globe itself and what is the gain they have brought?

This is the song of the Wasters, well "Defenders," if you please,
Defenders against our fellows, with their wasters, even as these,
For we will not learn the lesson known since ever the years were young,
That the chief defense which a nation needs is to guard its own hand and tongue.

This is the song of our folly, that we cry out a glad acclaim
At these slaughtering ships in the shadow of which we should bow our heads in shame.
That we clap applause, that we cry hurrahs, that we vent our unthinking breath,
For oh, we are proud that we flaunt this flesh in the markets of dismal death!

This is the song of our sinning (for the fault is not theirs, but ours),
That we chain these slaves to our galley-ships, as the symbol of our powers;
And we crown men brave, who on land and wave fear not to die; but still,
Still first on the rolls of the world's great souls are the men who have feared to kill.

THE MORAL VALUE OF LABOR ORGANIZATION.

From a Speech by Raymond Robins before the City Club of Chicago, February 17, 1909.

Fair-minded employers have given convincing testimony to the value of trade agreements between organized laborers and themselves, not only in maintaining industrial peace, but in preventing the baneful competition of sweatshop products with goods made under fair working conditions. Government officials, national and State, have borne witness to the beneficent power of organized laborers in aiding the enforcement of school, factory, sanitary and health regulations. Enlightened ministers of the gospel and teachers of morals have testified to the inherent strength of the union among laborers in strengthening and defending the morality of the individuals within the organization. Upon this high consideration for the social welfare, let me submit a case in point that will illustrate the moral significance of this very organization that the Supreme Court has found to be "a conspiracy in restraint of trade."

In a city on the Atlantic coast are two hat factories within two blocks of each other. In one of these factories the girls in the trimming department are organized as a local of the United Hatters of North America. In the other factory the girls in the trimming department are not organized. A little over a year ago the foreman of the floor where the trimmers work in the unorganized factory insulted one of the girl trimmers. She stood her ground and told him in plain language what she thought of him. She was discharged for insubordination. This girl wrote to the owner of the factory and had a registry receipt purporting to be signed by him. She never received any reply, and was out of work for some weeks. Some months after this incident a similar insult was offered to a girl by the foreman on the trimming floor of the organized factory. The girl, who was "shop woman" on that floor for the United Hatters of North America went to this foreman and said: "You cut that out. We won't stand for anything like that in this shop." He replied: "You go to hell! What have you got to do with it, anyhow?" She answered: "I've got a whole lot to do with it, and if you don't go to that little girl and apologize, I will call a shop meeting right now." He replied: "If you do, I'll fire you." She said: "No, you won't, either!"

Then this little woman, who is less than five feet tall, "called shop," and 170 odd girls laid down their work. She told the girls what the trouble was, and they agreed that they would starve before they would go back to work if the foreman didn't apologize to the little foreign girl he had insulted. Here the general superintendent came

into the controversy, and after a conference in the office the foreman was discharged, and that little woman is still shop woman on that trimming floor, and there isn't any foreman in that factory who thinks he can insult a girl while she is at work just because she is a foreigner and poor.

Now, I submit that the organization of laborers known as the United Hatters of North America had more power on that trimming floor, not only to preserve fair wages and hours, but to preserve individual virtue and the hope and fidelity of the home for poor and sorely tempted working girls, than all the churches and universities within the limits of that city. Yet this is the organization that, in extending its benefits to other workers in other factories, is condemned as "a conspiracy in restraint of trade"!

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NATIONAL NEIGHBORLINESS.

A Plea For Neighborly Relations With Spanish-America, Rather Than Paternalistic Meddling.
Editorial in the New York Times
 of February 23, 1909.

Regard for our commercial welfare demands a careful consideration of our relations with our Latin neighbors of South America, and the development of such cordial official understanding with these nations will favor our efforts for trade development. We have complacently viewed the voyage of a fleet of battleships around the South American coasts, the formal and official visits of a member of our Cabinet to those countries, and the official courtesies with which the most polite race in the world has received them as evidences of existing good will and eternal friendship. But formal and official protestations of affection need something behind them to establish good understanding in fact.

Each new development of our attitude toward that continent is closely scrutinized by each of the Latin republics. The recent change in our interpretation and application of the Monroe Doctrine, until it is no longer a shield for the weak, has been shrewdly followed by their statesmen, while the Calvo doctrine has been called into existence to serve as a check against the encroachments of the future. Since we began to cherish the desire to be considered a "world power" no eyes have followed our policies more keenly than those of these southern neighbors. True it is, perhaps, that we have accomplished "results," careless of the practical benefits or evils that would follow them, to leave entirely out of consideration any merely academic questions of justice, equity, or fair play. We foment, aid and conduct a revolution against the United States of Colombia to a successful end, and that act would seem to commit us to sympathizing and

sustaining revolt against injustice, oppression and corruption. If it did, indeed, do this, there could be no cavil in the minds of any, either Latin or Anglo-Saxon. But scarcely has this revolutionary attainment been accomplished on the Isthmus than we promptly use the same powerful administrative machinery to suppress a revolution in Cuba—in this case a revolution against an inefficient political domination, so entrenched, however, that nothing less than an armed revolt could loosen its grasp.

We enter Central America and give peremptory orders as to their treaties and compel their signatures. Our officials announce what cities shall not be bombarded and limit the scope of the military operations of the forces in the countries to which they are accredited. To Venezuela we present a demand for the arbitration of a dispute, involving the interpretation of her laws, which has never been entered for trial within Venezuelan courts. We insist upon indemnity, and secure it, for another claimant whose naturalization is under grave suspicion.

And while we are busily engaged with these strenuous demands, the other nations are exerting themselves to further their official and commercial friendships that we carelessly imperil. While Venezuela has been struggling with the domestic problems and crises attending the sudden stormy advent of a new administration, we have been jogging her elbow with our insistent exactions, leaving it to Germany to play the part of mentor and faithful friend of the new régime. England has for the moment tactfully refrained from urging her grievances. Italy cordially greets the new administration by at once establishing a minister in Carracas in place of a chargé d'affaires. It is we alone who have seized this moment of Venezuelan stress and difficulty to clamor for the settlement of a disputed bill.

It is worth while for us to take thought about the effect of these procedures upon the minds of the statesmen and the peoples of the Latin republics. The policies we establish today may cause the gravest complications in the future. Surely it would be unwise to excite distrust and apprehension among peoples who should be our best customers. President Monroe pointed out that it is wise to preserve our neighbor's house from burglary, for by so doing it assists us in the protection of our own. But that principle carries with it no corollary of the right to regulate his domestic affairs as well, nor to proscribe or impose his diet.

Whatever energies we may devote to South or Central America can best be spent in furthering the most cordial relations and policies of which our whole commerce may share the benefit, rather than in the rescuing of dubious enterprises or in irritating altruistic meddling.