

# The Public

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A Weekly Narrative of History in the Making

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## EDITORIAL

### Labor Injunctions Expanding.

The American courts in the Philippines have let out another reef in labor injunctions. A strike of street-car employes being in progress in Manila, the strikers called a series of mass meetings to assemble on the 30th. But the mass meetings were prohibited by a labor injunction. Note the progress of labor injunctions. First we had injunctions against violence in strikes; these destroyed the American right of jury trial for crime in connection with the labor movement. Then we had injunctions against boycott publications; these invaded the American principle of a free press in connection with the labor movement. And now we have an injunction against mass meetings; which assails the American principle of free speech. It was a big blaze that Mr. Taft and a few other Federal judges kindled when they introduced the labor injunction into American jurisprudence.

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### The Race Question a Labor Question.

In the strike on the Georgia Railroad against the employment of Negro firemen, we have an exemplification of what many have long felt to be true, that the race question is at bottom a labor question and that the labor question is at bottom a question of restricted opportunity. The object of the Georgia strike against Negro labor at locomotive-firing, was to make room for white labor. With abundant opportunities for both races,

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there would have been no strike, for there would have been no motive for striking. But with opportunities so narrowed that the masterless man is a starving man the struggle for jobs takes on any form that happens to serve, and race differences are usually most efficient. Political differences would serve as well in some industrial circumstances, religious differences in others, and either would be as readily availed of. But in the South at the present time—and in the North, too, for that matter—the question of Negro or white man is most available. On the Pacific Coast the same scarcity of jobs develops race conflicts, with Chinamen and Japanese instead of Negroes as the white workman's enemy. The Georgia Railroad strike certainly tends to confirm the Texan, an old time slave owner, who, upon being asked about the race question in his part of the State, replied: "Race question! Well, it's about this way. When the white man owned the nigger there wasn't any race question; if the nigger owned the white man, there wouldn't be a race question; but when the nigger and the white man both want the same job at the same time, then there's a race question. It isn't a race question at all, my friend, not among the masses of the people. It's a labor question."

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#### Conviction of a Fake Labor Leader.

While the fine imposed upon Martin B. Madden, the Chicago "labor" leader, for blackmailing employers by means of faked strikes, makes his conviction seem like a farce, the conviction itself cannot but serve a useful purpose toward ridding the labor movement in Chicago of a dangerous man whom it has done all it could to rid itself of, and been opposed in its efforts by politicians and business men.

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Madden is not a labor leader, except in so far as he has been able either to conspire with some men in the movement and others out of it and thereby to fool unsophisticated workingmen, to intimidate the prudent, and to slug the rest. At the City Hall, until Mayor Dunne stopped it, he had a "pull" that added to his power as a "labor" leader. By fraud and force and City Hall assistance, to say nothing of the assistance of employers, he maintained control of the local Federation. After hard contests he was finally expelled, and under Fitzpatrick and Nockels and their associates the Federation has been conducted on the square. But big employers and grafty politicians have all along found Madden useful, for

even yet he maintains control of an unaffiliated labor organization which, now that his treacherous methods have been exposed, may have the wisdom and courage to drop him.

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To say of such men as Martin B. Madden that they disgrace the labor movement, is to miss the mark. What they really do is to serve the enemies of the labor movement somewhat as these are served by strike breakers, labor spies and other employes of detective agencies which specialize on labor,—all under the pay of employers. The remarkable thing about Madden's case is that some of his capitalistic paymasters have been inconsiderate enough to "give him away," and that the others have stood by and seen it done.

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#### The Meaning of Lorimer's Election.

When Mr. Lorimer had been elected Senator from Illinois (p. 537) he informed the assembled legislators that his desire for this office was prompted by the opportunities it would afford him to promote the construction of the deep waterway from the Lakes to the Gulf. Probably this information gave them no shock of surprise. Mr. Lorimer's election by Democratic votes—almost half his vote having come from that party, under the dictation of Roger C. Sullivan of the Democratic national committee—was due in much greater degree, no doubt, to an understanding with reference to the construction of that great waterway than to any ordinary bi-partisan considerations or the ordinary spoils of office. Possibly the feud between Mayor Busse and Senator Lorimer will now lengthen and strengthen; possibly President Taft's patronage in Illinois will be placed by Senator Lorimer where it will "do the most good" regardless of party; possibly Democratic supporters will be rewarded by Senator Lorimer with ordinary patronage in accordance with Mr. Sullivan's wishes and promises; possibly the Lorimer-Sullivan *modus vivendi* at Springfield will ripen into a treaty that will turn Illinois politics inside out; or possibly it all involves a Lorimer-Deneen-Busse coalition, with Sullivan in charge of the Democratic supernumeraries. Possibly it means all this and much more that the political palm readers are guessing at. Much of it all is even probable. But whatever the meaning of Mr. Lorimer's election may be in those connections; the inference is more than a possibility, more even than a probability, that he for the Republicans and Mr. Sullivan for the Democrats expect to distribute the rich con-