

# LABOR'S HOLIDAY.

## First Big Demonstration of Organized Labor in Atlanta.

## LABOR DAY GENERALLY OBSERVED

## Splendid Pageant of Labor Unions on the Streets.

## ELOQUENT SPEECHES AT THE CAPITOL

Celebration of the Day Closed at Lakewood Park, Where Speaking, Barbecue and Dancing Were Enjoyed.

Labor Day's great pageant was a superb showing of the men who toil.

From the first moment of the beginning of the celebration until its close last night, the workmen rejoiced over the brilliant display that they were making. Every feature of the observance of the day was a success.

The first big Labor Day parade in Atlanta was a feature of the celebration of the day that far eclipsed and left far behind every other feature on the programme of interesting events.

It was the intention of the Federation of Trades and the unions which took part in the arrangements of the Labor Day celebration to make the parade of the work-

- representative, mayor, speakers and committees.
1. Atlanta Federation of Trades
  2. Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, No. 51.
  3. Mail Carriers' Association.
  4. International Association of Machinists, No. 1.
  5. Order of Railway Conductors, division 189.
  6. Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, divisions 27 and 265.
  7. Iron Molders' Union of North America, 173.
  8. Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders' Union, No. 2.
  9. International Typographical Union, 48.
  10. International Printing Pressmen's Union, 21.
  11. Carvers' Union, 108.
  12. National Association of Stationary Engineers, 1.
  13. Farmers' Alliance.
  14. Horsehoers' Union, 59.
  15. Cigar Makers' International Union of America, 344.
  16. Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, unions 217 and 493.
  17. Switchmen's Mutual Aid Association.
  18. Order of Railway Telegraphers, 70.
  19. Railway Track Foremen, 103.
  20. Brotherhood Railway Car Men, 52.

### Second Division.

1. Fifth Regiment band.
2. Carpenters and Joiners' Union, No. 319.
3. Paper Hangers' Union, No. 28.
4. U. A. of Journeymen Plumbers, No. 72.
5. Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators of America, No. 15.
6. Tin, Sheet Iron and Cornice Workers' Association, No. 5.
7. National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, No. 29.
8. Granite Cutters' National Union.
9. Atlanta Cornet band.
10. Quarrymen's National Union, No. 12.

### Line of March.

H. P. Blount, of Typographical Union, marshal of the day—white sash.  
C. H. Chesidre, Tinnors, Sheet Iron and Cornice Workers' Association; W. A. Howell, Carpenters and Joiners; James H. Wilson, Paper Hangers, assistant marshals—red sash.

Form at capitol on Capitol square.  
Down Mitchell to Broad, Broad to Alabama, Alabama to Forsyth, Forsyth to Marietta, down Marietta to Walton, countermarch to Forsyth, Forsyth to Peachtree, Peachtree to Marietta, Marietta to Broad, Broad to Alabama, Alabama to Whitehall, Whitehall to Cooper.

### The Capitol Speaking.

Before the hour for the speaking to begin people began to gather in the vicinity of the capitol yesterday morning, and by 9 o'clock there were several hundred people within a block of the great state building.

The unions which were to take part in the parade appeared on the scene promptly on time and the celebration of the day was started as it had been announced that it would. The streets and capitol steps were crowded by members of the unions and their lady friends who desired to hear the addresses.

Mr. M. B. Morrison, chairman of the committee on reception of the Federation of Trades, acted as master of ceremonies and introduced the speakers. He was greeted with applause when he stepped forward in the Mitchell street entrance of the capitol and addressed his fellow workmen.

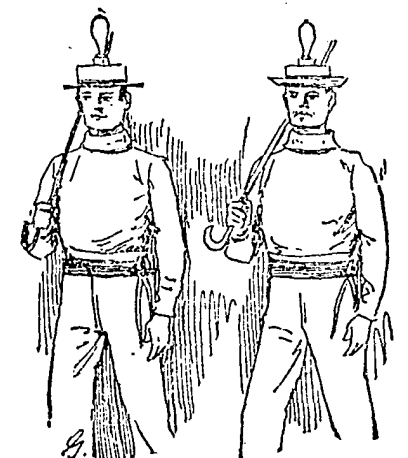
### Mr. Morrison's Speech.

Mr. Morrison began by saying that some years ago Mr. Charles L. Govan began the advocacy of the labor unions of the city forming a central labor union. From that agitation the Federation of Trades came into existence in 1891. It was now a mammoth organization. The speaker was glad to have the honor of representing that organization on the occasion of the first grand Labor Day celebration of Atlanta. He said that it would be useless for him to speak on the labor questions of the day at that time; every man within the hearing of his voice knew that the best men engaged in any branch of work were to be found in the ranks of organized labor.

"We have gathered here this beautiful morning to hear addresses of welcome from the honored representative of Georgia's honored governor," said Mr. Morrison, "and I will not detain you by referring to the

feeling between our citizens of all classes than exists in any other city of the same size. This is readily accounted for. Our capitalists of today, our merchant princes, those at the head of great manufacturing and other enterprises, were themselves in their youth practical workmen, farmers, clerks, citizens and mechanics, or they were the children of wise parents, who taught them to honor and respect labor, that from which all contentment springs. Our working people, too, are sober, steady, industrious, home owning and home loving. And, in fact, Atlanta claims for her citizenship the best people in the world.

"I commend you for the respect you have shown for yourselves and which you command from the world on account of the lessons of self-reliance and helpfulness to each other which are taught by your organized labor associations. Naturally, a similarity of interest and pursuit has drawn you together and so long as your organizations continue in the same line of worthy endeavor in the future as they have pursued in the past only plaudits can be bestowed upon them by all well-thinking people. Our city has been a stranger to the evils and bitterness growing out of protracted strikes and bloody



THE ELECTRICAL BRIGADE.

differences between capital and labor, and long may such be the case. I commend to you, representing labor on the one side, as I commend to capital on the other, the motto of our state, 'wisdom, justice and moderation,' as worthy of inscription upon all of your banners. Under such emblazonry we can march triumphant to the goal of successful achievement:

"Here feel secure from all turmoil and danger

We reap what we sow, for the field is our own;

We spread hospitality's board for the stranger

And care not a fig for the king on his throne.

We never know want, for we live by our labor,

And in it contentment and happiness find."

"This is largely a city of home owners, and above all things on earth to be encouraged, for they most nearly resemble heaven—are happy homes. What is more dignified or honorable than the stalwart man providing for and regulating his own household with his loving and blessed wife together setting examples of good citizenship and teaching lessons of lasting usefulness to the jovous children who make up so much of the light and happiness of home?"

"We live in a Christian community and God's laws are proclaimed by worthy servants from scores of churches every Sabbath day. Cultivation of the mind, especially with the young, is a blinding duty upon all.

"Learning by study must be won; 'Twas ne'er entailed from sire to son."

"We glory in our public schools, open, free to all, and the same facilities are there furnished alike to the poorest and the richest. The day of darkness and ignorance has, I trust, forever passed and we should all avail ourselves of this splendid system of education.

"The clouds may drop down titles and estates; Wealth may seek us, but wisdom must be sought. 'By knowledge we do learn ourselves to know And what to man, and what to God we owe."

### At Lakewood Park.

The celebration of the day at Lakewood park was interesting and impressive. It was variously estimated that there were from three to five thousand people at Lakewood and with few exceptions the best of order was maintained. A large stand for the speakers had been erected on the south side of the lake near the main pavilion. The seats for the audience were arranged in tiers on the hills overlooking the large body of water over the head of the speakers.

The bands were arranged to the left of the speakers' stand and furnished delight of water.

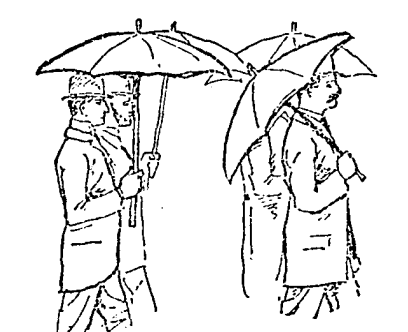
Mr. P. W. Wimberly, of Cochran, Ga., state lecturer of the alliance, was the only visiting speaker before dinner. It had been announced that Mr. James M. Welter, of Baltimore, would deliver the first speech at the park, but the order was changed for the accommodation of Mr. Wimberly, who was compelled to leave the city in the afternoon.

### The Speaking Begins.

The exercises at Lakewood park were opened by a selection of music by the Fifth infantry and Fifth regiment bands combined. The Marsellaise hymn was rendered by the bands on the hillside near the speakers' stand.

### Mr. Wimberly's Speech.

Mr. Wimberly's address was well received and during its delivery he was frequently interrupted by applause. Mr. Wimberly spoke of the condition of labor in Georgia and in doing so referred to the silver question at length. He exhibited a chart showing the manner in which national banks



THE TINNORS MARCHED UNDER UMBRELLAS OF TIN.

were organized, explaining the figures and their relation to the issuance of national bank notes. He condemned the system vigorously and declared that what was wanted was more money, not confidence.

Mr. Wimberly said that he had a home of his own and he knew what it meant to have brothers and sisters. He said those before him were his brothers. He wanted to reach their hearts by demonstrating the truth of his utterances. His advocacy of the truth was sincere. It had been declared by one of the speakers at the capitol that the laboring men all owned their homes. Was it true? No. Their homes were covered with mortgages. What was wanted was more money to make those mortgages.

### Adjournment for Dinner.

Master of ceremonies, Mr. Morrison, announced that the assembly would adjourn until 2 o'clock, when the workingmen would be addressed by Mr. James M. Welter, of

Baltimore, Md., president of the Painters and Decorators' Union of America.

Mr. Morrison then announced that he held in his hand a petition protesting against the imprisonment of Eugene V. Debs, who, he said, was the greatest labor leader in the country. He asked the workmen to come forward during the recess and sign the petition and a great many did so.

### The Afternoon Speaking.

Before the hour for the afternoon speaking arrived the big drops of rain began to fall from the thickly clouded sky and it was found necessary to continue the speaking programme in the pavilion. The building was inadequate for the immense crowd and the speakers found it very difficult to make themselves heard at any distance. There was considerable turmoil in the room, which was increased by the pattering of the rain on the roof.

### Mr. Jerome Jones's Speech.

Chairman Morrison, of the reception committee, introduced Mr. Jerome Jones, of Nashville, ex-president of the Central Labor Union of that city. Mr. Jones said:

"It is a custom confirmed by the universal practice of nations and communities to celebrate with appropriate ceremonies the days that have been marked by events the most important in their history. We have the 4th of July the national day of our country. When there was established upon this virgin soil another and different form of government old and rotten systems were disregarded and the religious and political freedom of man was established. We have other holidays of more or less importance. Though long deferred, the national government has at last recognized the claim that the working people have and named the first Monday in September of each year as Labor Day and made it a general holiday.

"It is an implied tribute to our worth and a just recognition of our rights, immunities and privileges as freemen of this great country.

"What means this vast concourse of people? What means this grand, gorgeous and magnificent display? What means this public interest among all classes of our citizens in the successful celebration of this day? Isn't it apparent that we are bound to a fair-minded and just public by the silken cord of sympathy and good will? Ah! an era of prosperity and public approval is just advancing upon workingmen. We can now turn an eye of hope to the sunrise, for the industrial classes are building particle by particle as the coral insects appear their perpetual reefs that substantial citizenship which in time will give the world an actual equality of rights among all men of sound mind and heart."

### Mr. Welter, of Baltimore.

Mr. James M. Welter, of Baltimore, president of the Paper Hangers Union of America, followed Mr. Jerome Jones in the order of speaking. Mr. Welter said:

The children are being given an opportunity for education and the notorious sweat shop evil of our large cities is being obliterated. But, my friends, who and what has accomplished the abolishment of this gross evil? Organization. It is briefly summed up in this one word—"organization." It has not been the work of a single day or months, but years, and the leaders of the movement have never swerved from the path of duty and have earnestly and conscientiously labored and overcome what seemed to many to be unsurmountable obstacles to bring about this result. As I am informed the condition of the workingman in the south is deplorable owing to the lack of organization, and who should be blamed for this condition of affairs? I tell you, my friends, nobody but yourselves.

"The present movement today is to discourage strikes and assert your franchise, which our laws endow us with. Do not train with any of the great political parties, but assert your independence at the ballot box if you find that you are not able to elect your own candidate, then go into a systematic canvass and find out who your friends are and secure pledges from them to support measures in the interest of organized labor, and by your state organization (if you have one) appoint a legislative committee who will watch and keep the record of every man in your state assembly. The fact of this is demonstrated in many states, especially in the great Empire State of New York, which has more laws on its statute books than any in the union, and is the state which took the initiative in inaugurating the first Monday in September as the day devoted to the interests of labor and created it a legal holiday almost ten years ago. I sincerely hope that Atlanta, and in fact organized labor of this entire state, will repeat this successful undertaking every year in the future, as we witness it here today. Let this first effort here today give you one and all an incentive to work for the interests of your fellow worker. Educate him to the principles of trades unionism. I am informed that there are many callings in your city that are not within the pale of the organization, and in order to secure them, give your patronage to those who are affiliated with you, and by so doing you will give to those not affiliated an incentive to organize.

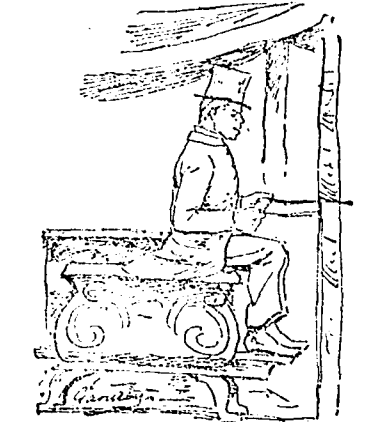
Mr. J. B. Hawkins, of Chattanooga, Tenn., a member of the Blacksmiths' Union of that city, was the last speaker of the day. His speech was one of the best of the day and was received with enthusiasm by the audience.

Mr. Hawkins is an ex-member of the Tennessee legislature and he is one of the best known and most influential men in that state. It was partly due to his efforts that the Tennessee convict lease system was abolished some time ago. He campaigned the state on that issue and gained friends for his cause all over the state.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hawkins' address the young people present indulged in dancing for several hours and until a late hour last night.

There was considerable complaint made by the visitors on the quality of the meat served at the barbecue.

The street car company was unable to furnish a sufficient number of cars to haul the people away from the lake and many had to walk to the suburbs of the city through the mud and board cars on other lines. Several rows and flights occurred during the day.



HEADED THE STOVE MAKERS.

ingmen the special feature of the observance of the day, and in that they were successful. It was the object of those in charge of the celebration to give the people of Atlanta an opportunity to witness the organized workmen of Atlanta in one grand harmonious procession, that the character of the organized labor men might be seen. The different unions realized the opportunity that was before them and turned out in large numbers accordingly.

The line of march of the parade was thronged with spectators. The people crowded the sidewalks and streets in their eagerness to get a glimpse of their favorite union or profession of men, and as the long line passed the points of vantage, great cheers of enthusiasm arose among the multitudes. Many thousand people witnessed the unusual parade, and to many of them, perhaps, the first realization of the power and strength of organized labor dawned.

The parade moved from the capitol at the conclusion of the speaking at that building. Marshal Blount and his able assistants quickly formed the different unions in the line in which they were to march, and in a few minutes after the conclusion of Mayor King's address Mr. Blount gave the command to march. The procession started down Mitchell street toward Whitehall, headed by the mounted police of Atlanta.

When the procession was commanded to move forward by Marshal of the Day Blount, the Fifth Infantry band of Fort McPherson barracks, which was stationed just ahead of the carriages, struck up a lively march, and to the music of Labor Day patriotism the vast concourse stepped forward in unison.

It was something entirely new for the people of Atlanta to witness. Since the recognition of Labor Day by the state and national governments there has been only a limited observance of the day in Atlanta, and the parade yesterday was the first that has ever taken place in the city.

Some of the unions carried emblems of their trade or profession, and all marched with lustrous banners and badges. The colors were bright and dazzling. Red, white and blue, of course, predominated. The men in line made an especial effort to wear some article of dress that would be conspicuous, and most of them succeeded.

The floats in the parade were original and attractive. The Federation of Trades' float followed the carriage and led the members of the federation on foot. There was a type case on the float, representing the Typographical Union. Several men in it distributed programmes of the day by the thousand.

The federation carried a banner condemning the Consolidated Railway Company on the 19-cent fare question. The stationary engineers' float contained an engine in active operation, and the iron molders followed a float loaded with stoves from the Georgia stove works. The Lithonia Stone Cutters' Union displayed several men in the act of cutting two large blocks of granite. Several other unions had floats in line. The plumbers made a handsome appearance in their blue overalls, black caps, black ties, white shirts and canes.

The electrical workers wore white costumes with incandescent lamps on their hats. The electrical workers made one of the best displays in the parade and they were awarded the first prize.

The iron molders carried off the second prize and the plumbers took third honor. The tailors made a splendid display and they were the admiration of many. The tinnors caught the crowds by carrying great tin umbrellas.

### How the Men Marched.

The big parade marched in the following order:

First division with front of line resting on Washington street, and forming in regular order back to and into Capitol avenue.

Second division with front of column resting on Capitol square and forming back in regular order on Washington street and into Hunter, the rear of the second division resting on the rear of the first division.

### First Division.

1. Mounted police.
2. Fifth infantry band.
3. Carriages containing the governor's



WORKMEN ON THE STONE CUTTER'S FLOAT.

appropriateness of this celebration further than to say that the day is an honor to the organized laboring men of the city and state."

He then introduced Secretary of State A. D. Candler.

### Colonel Candler's Happy Speech.

Hon. Allen D. Candler came forward and before addressing his audience was greeted with tremendous applause. His welcome as the representative of Georgia's sick governor was unusually sincere and enthusiastic. Colonel Candler spoke briefly and his remarks were listened to attentively throughout.

"I appear here this morning as the representative of Georgia's heroic governor, who has been stricken by the hand of disease. I have been asked by him to welcome you on behalf of the great state of which he has the honor of being its chief executive, and to assure you that while he is absent in person, he is with you in spirit. Governor Atkinson sprang from the laboring classes. He is in every way in hearty accord and sympathy with the workmen. He appreciates the dignity of labor and has worked to promote its just demands.

"I am pleased to say to you on this occasion that the governor's representative is in accord with his sentiments on the great labor question. Georgia has always been favorable to the laboring man. The legislatures of the state have done much to promote the welfare of the workingmen; in fact, Georgia's laws were founded on a basis of justice to the laborer. The state has always recognized the principle that no man has a right superior to that of any other man in the state. The maxim of the lawmakers has been that 'worth makes the man.'"

### Mayor King's Address.

Mr. Morrison stepped forward when the applause had ceased and Colonel Candler had retired, and introduced Mayor King in a happy manner.

Mayor King was greeted with ringing applause when he began his remarks and was frequently interrupted by applause. The mayor said:

"I rejoice at this splendid demonstration in honor of labor. Our state has properly made this a legal holiday, the laboring people being entitled to it as a day of rest, and the consideration being due them that their national selection of this day should be approved and confirmed by the laws of the most progressive state in the south. Atlanta has likewise adopted the celebration of the day, and with peculiar fitness has she done so. The proportion of working people to the entire population is, I am informed, the third largest in this city to that of any other in the union, and the 'city fathers' have done well to declare a holiday and participate in the exercises and pleasures arranged for the same.

"We are all proud of our city, and we love it next to our own homes. We have a goodly city, with every comfort and convenience, upon which nature has bestowed blessings with a lavish hand, and to which the ingenuity and industry of man have added in large measure. There is, I believe, greater sympathy and more brotherly