

## LABOR DAY.

### No Suspension of Business During the Day.

### Street Parades and Public Speaking in the Evening.

### Speeches by J. L. Skinner, Homer Katz and Others.

Address by Mrs. Diggs, the National Lecturer of the Knights of Labor, in Advocacy of the Principles of the People's Party.

No one would have guessed had they glanced at the busy throng that filled the streets in the early hours of yesterday that it was Labor day, legalized by the State as a time for celebration and enjoyment by the laboring populace. With the exception of the banks, business houses generally were open the greater part of the day; and necessarily so, for Monday is always a busy day with the merchant and shopkeeper.

This did not prevent, however, the workmen from celebrating on a more extensive scale than ever before.

The celebration did not merely extend to organized labor, but included the laboring classes of all callings.

#### THE PROCESSION.

At 6:30 last evening the procession began to form at the corner of First and Los Angeles streets for the trades display parade.

James A. Cusic acted as grand marshal with Homer C. Katz, chief of staff, and M. Pope, J. S. Bancroft, D. O. Freeman, A. M. Green, F. A. Cheney, J. H. Flgge and E. J. Lind, representing respectively the plumbers, typographical clerks, painters, cigarmakers and tailors unions, as aids.

The procession was headed by a platoon of mounted police, followed by a brass band, with the grand marshal and chief aid immediately behind. Carriages containing the speakers—Mrs. Diggs, S. S. Chappel and J. H. McWilliams—came next, and behind them were arranged the various unions and labor organizations bearing torchlights and transparencies inscribed with mottoes.

The line of march was from First on Main to the Pico House, back to Spring, down Spring to Fifth, thence to Main and Third and thence to Turnverein Hall, where the evening's exercises were to take place.

#### AT THE HALL.

Turnverein Hall could not hold the crowd that assembled long before 8 o'clock, and the people were turned away by the dozens, being unable to find seating accommodations.

A reception committee composed of A. Brauer, F. M. Pierce and J. St. John had charge of the decorations and disposal of the audience. Various legends, which, by the way, were more suggestive of People's party maxims than anything else, were grouped about the walls, and as each new one was added to the collection the crowd yelled out their enthusiasm.

Seated upon the stage were S. S. Chappel, president of the Los Angeles Council of Labor, J. L. Skinner, Mrs. Diggs, together with the union representatives.

President Chappel called the meeting to order and made the opening address, in which he reviewed the history of Labor day in a brief speech, but cut his remarks short owing to the lateness of the hour by introducing J. L. Skinner.

"Labor and Its Destiny" was the subject discussed by Mr. Skinner, in a poetical vein that didn't strike the audience in a particularly enthusiastic spot, but the speaker was well read on his topic and presented it in an unassuming manner.

He took the accepted ground that to labor is due all that is and all that will be. That to the laboring classes is accredited the present advancement in science and invention. Stop the laborers and the wheels of machinery will rust in their iron frames.

"How are you going to free yourself from the yoke which binds you? [Vote for Weaver, Vote for Cleveland, the St. Louis platform,] came in a chorus from the audience.] Mr. Skinner, however, refused to express his political views in a way of advice, but turned to the advantages which labor might derive from various sources. The daily newspaper came in for a strong recommendation as an enlightening and advancing power. Unions were urged to continue as the only means of keeping the wolf from the door. Strikes were advocated, but not cited as powers which would attain all that the people desire, but simply as a means of attracting attention. Direct legislation was presented as a source of relief from alleged tyranny on the part of the Government.

F. B. Colver, of the typographical union, spoke next. He spoke strongly against the interference of the laborers in strikes in opposition to capital, except where all other available means had failed. He believed in organized labor as the only means of the preservation of the laborers' rights.

O. A. Beach endeavored to read an address, but was repeatedly interrupted with cries of "Diggs! Diggs!" for the crowd had caught sight of the lady speaker and impatiently called for her appearance.

Homer C. Katz, of the clerks' association, could scarcely hear himself talk as the crowd called with one voice for Mrs. Diggs. The chairman called repeatedly for order, but the crowd refused to be silent. Mr. Katz finally managed to secure hearing and delivered a well constructed address in defense of organized labor. Mr. Katz believed in the establishment of a free labor bureau in the city's public building where poor and needy might gain help without the expenditure of needed money.

#### MRS. DIGGS SPEAKS.

Hats were waved and the people shouted as Mrs. Diggs, the national lecturer of the Knights of Labor, stepped to the front of the platform and began in her clear, strong voice an address both humorous and entertaining.

Mrs. Diggs commenced with an amusing anecdote in illustrating the common and supposed condition of the general laboring classes, and then launched

upon a thorough discussion of the labor problems.

"The gentleman before me said that you will get justice through the ballot-box. You may get it through one ballot-box, but you never will with two. If you want to learn the true status of the laboring question you must hear it from the lips of the toilers themselves.

"There are about 20,000,000 of laborers in the United States of which only 2,000,000 are in an organized condition. Labor is nothing else but capital, and capital is nothing else but stored labor. It is just as much robbery for you to take from the laborer his work as it is for a thief to take from the back of a millionaire his coat or other property.

"I believe that the time has been that strikes have been valuable inasmuch as they called the attention of the people to the course towards which the vexing problems were tending.

"The 2,000,000 of organized labor is often called the bulldozing minority. I want to ask you if you remember the remark of Chauncey Depew that it was within the power of five men to stop every car wheel in the United States. What do you think of that bulldozing minority? You hear that organized labor must mend its ways or quit the business. It may also be said that organized capital must mend its ways or quit the business. People all over this country are considering as to whether it is the better part of wisdom to use one ballot box or two.

"I visited a cooperative colony where the men and women worked but four hours daily and prospered. The capitalists said the laborers would spend the other spare hours in the grog shop.

"Every shortening of the hours of labor has resulted in the improvement and betterment of the people."

Mrs. Diggs argued for some time without treading exactly upon the beaten paths of People's party principles, but she could not resist a final impulse to take up the oudgel against the two "old" parties, and People's party doctrines were expounded at some length.

When Mrs. Diggs concluded cries of "Hazard" arose and the Mayor responded in a short speech in which he expressed his approbation of the plan for the establishment of a free labor bureau in the City Hall, and advised the voters to elect councilmen pledged to support such a movement, and the evening's programme closed with farewell remarks by Mr. Chappel.