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EDITORIAL

JUSTICE TO THE UNORGANIZED.

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The *History of Civilization, which Includes a History of Life and also a History of Ideals* is the title of a new book written by Julian Laughlin, a member of the St. Louis bar. The book is interesting from cover to cover. It attests much thought, much research, it betokens an earnest mind, and is profusely illustrated with choice and well chosen pictures. It is not one of "the books that stick us." None will take it up and drop it before reaching the last sentence. It goes without saying that a book upon so vast, aye, so burning a subject can not choose but here and there incur statements that one would dissent from. Ungrateful though it would seem to register dissent from one unacceptable sentence in a work of so many sentences that one approves, the ungrateful task must be performed. On the last page but three the passage occurs that Trades' Union leaders "teach their men to strike instead of teaching them how to vote."

That the Trades Union leaders do not teach their men how to vote is a correct charge; it is an incorrect charge or praise, whichever way it is meant, to say that they teach their men to strike. The statement is incorrect in point of fact; it furthermore involves an unphilosophic slip.

Trades Union leaders do not teach their men to strike: what they teach their men is to BREAK STRIKES. There is not a strike citable that is not broken by craft Unions. The noise made both by the Civic Federation employers of Farley and by the craft Unions, the latter of whom affect indignation at Farley for gathering scabs to break strikers, rather goes to prove our contention. If "Farley's men" really did break strikes the Civic Federation would lie low on the subject. The fact is that the Civic Federation finds its account in making it appear that Farley is the villain. By doing so it draws the onus away from the labor-leaders, its Labor-lieutenants, and from the real cause of the failure of strikes. Instances of the conduct of craft Unionism towards workingmen on

strike, consequently, of the cause of the failures of strikes are of almost daily occurrence. The illustration used at the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum on the 2nd instant by President C.O. Sherman of the Industrial Workers of the World is brilliant: "Imagine," said he, "that during the Spanish-American war, we had received a despatch from San Juan hill, reading something like this:

"To-day was a day of fierce encounter and terrible slaughter. Our soldiers were driven down the hill and into the valley by the enemy, under a devastating fusillade. Suddenly the top of the hill was taken by a corps of our artillery. Couriers were sent to the officer in command, asking him to aim his guns at the foe and save the infantry down in the valley from complete annihilation. Drawing himself proudly up, the officer thus addressed replied: 'I refuse to accede to your commanding officer's request. We have no grievance against the enemy, they have not shot or driven US into the valley yet.'"

The illustration is so perfect that it needs but to be mentioned, and innumerable instances will crowd to the memory of craft Unions conducting themselves exactly like the officer in command of the corps of artillery quoted above. Such is the training that the labor leaders put their men through; that training renders impossible the triumph of any strike. The unorganized, the unemployed, the "scabs", cut only a secondary role. The chief role, the role without which the "scabs" would have no show,—that role is performed by the craft Unions, schooled therein by the labor leaders.

That much for the error of fact in the passage under consideration. The unphilosophic slip lies in the implied theory that craft Unionists could be taught to strike, an important thing to do rightly, notwithstanding they are unschooled in how to vote. He who does not vote right will be found doing all else wrong. Unity on the political is as essential as unity on the economic field. The one supplements the other. He who does either wrong, can do neither right.

The day when the Unions will strike right will also be the day when they will know how to vote.

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