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EDITORIAL

McMACKIN A SCAPE-GOAT.

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THE excuse given by Commissioner McMackin for the large number of children found illegally employed in 2,607 factories in this State is a convincing one. He says: "I had to enforce the new law considerably". That should settle the question.

McMackin is a product of the Gompers A.F. of L. so-called "labor organization". The Gompers body proceeds from the theory that the capitalist has rights, and that the part of "practical" Labor is to "get along comfortably with the capitalist". The Gompers body does not deny that Labor also has some rights, but it holds that the two sets of rights are identical, at least "reciprocal", according to the phrase that Hanna coined and his labor-lieutenant Mitchell repeats. Several conclusions in the nature of general principles follow, as night follows day, from such premises:

1st, The capitalist's Right being unquestionably the most comfortably situated, and admittedly so, the workingman's Right stands in the relation of a horse ridden by a rider, the Capitalist being the rider, Labor the horse;

2nd, Seeing that a spavined or wind-broken horse is a slow means of locomotion, and even endangers the rider's limb and life; and seeing also that a weak rider may cause his mount to stumble and fall, to the injury of both, the interests of rider and horse are mutual, or "reciprocal"; and

3rd, Seeing that the rider does not ride the horse for the horse's health but for his, the rider's benefit, no law that affects rider and horse is intelligently enforced if enforced without consideration, first, for the rider, and only secondly for the horse.

It can not be denied by any truthful man, if he be sane, or any sane man if he be truthful, that Labor Commissioner McMackin has deported himself in strict accordance with the above canons of Capitalist Society, or of A.F. of L. "organized laborism".

Factory laws, intended to protect the workingman's children, are in the nature of anti-cruelty-to-animal laws, intended to protect riders' horses. The two sets of laws reason along identical lines. It, obviously, would have been an infraction of his oath of office had the Labor Commissioner enforced the child-labor law in any way to interfere with the social status of riding Capitalism and ridden Labor. He enforced the law "considerately": he says so himself: the facts prove him truthful. In 2,607 instances, he considerately left the child under the rider. Had he done otherwise, he would be been decidedly inconsiderate, inconsiderate of the rider, certainly entitled to first consideration, and who would have suffered had his horse had precedence over him in the attention of the Commissioner. Indeed, any other conduct on the part of the Commissioner would have been revolutionary.

Labor Commissioner McMackin should be reappointed by our capitalist State Government. And yet it is quite possible that he may be fired out. It is no uncommon spectacle in history that of a despot sacrificing a trusty favorite to the howl of a hare-brained mob, and thus pacifying unthinking opposition while appointing a substitute who, in the very nature of things, will act no otherwise than his predecessor.

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