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MINING JOURNAL.

FROSTBURG, MD., SEPTEMBER 6, 1890.

"Nothing to Arbitrate"—the Golden Text of the Gospel of Universal Right.

The JOURNAL cannot, of course, debate questions of law with its esteemed correspondent, Benj. A. Richmond.

But it is compelled to stand now and hereafter by the position it assumed last week—that Mr. Webb's right, whether as an individual or representative of a corporation, to employ or discharge, either without giving a reason why, is a vital part of his absolute and inalienable right to do any *lawful* act.

A great portion of Mr. Richmond's agonizing argument is, therefore, lost upon us. We stand now just where we did last week—upon the rock of individual liberty, the foundation-stone of all the immunities of a sovereign citizen.

As to the incorporation of the New York Central railroad company, it is presumed that the people of New York surrendered only so many of their rights as were essential to the creation and existence of the corporate body—no more. Among those not surrendered was the right to work for it or not, as the sovereign chooses. This without question either way. Among the rights indispensable to the establishment and operation of the body corporate was the one equivalent to the individual's option to work or not—the right to employ whomsoever it elected—without question bythe non-elect, or discharge the employee without incurring a master workman's inquest, or any other exceedingly modern brand of inquisition.

Anything further *in this case* is folderol. All Mr. Richmond's legal endowments and restrictions of the corporation do not add to or take one jot or tittle from the vital question—has Mr. Webb the *right* to discharge employees without giving a reason why?

We affirm that he has, because that right was born with him, and in him; it is a vital portion of his being as much as his right to breathe; it embodies the individuality and sovereignty which God breathed into man when "He created him in His own image," and he has enjoyed it by unbroken and inalienable entail from Adam till now. He cannot, if he would, separate himself from it; he cannot sink it in a corporation whose spokesman he becomes, for no corporation created by man, or "uncreated by God," can absorb it; no monopoly obtain exclusive control of it. It is the intransfusible blood—the incommunicable breath of life.

As such it is not subject to arbitration, neither, indeed, can be.

But we will try to get close to Mr. Richmond. He wants to know how we can "pretend to say that the people, the public, the State—the creator, has no right to call upon its creature for its reasons for its discharge of the experienced employee?"

We have denied no man, no power, no authority the *right to ask* all the questions they please. This is mentioned mainly to show that like much other of Mr. Richmond's appeal to a maudlin sentiment, this question is not in issue.

But who did ask Mr. Webb the impertinent question—"*why* he discharged so and so?" Was it the "people?" the "public?" the "State?" Not one of the three. But who did? "Tell it not in Gath nor publish it in the streets of Askalon!"—it was T. V. Powderly!

Who is Powderly? Is he the "people?" Is he the "public?" Is he the "State?" No; he is grand master workman of the Knights of Labor, an institution organized and run out of sight of the "people," out of hearing of the "public," and as far as possible from the purview of the "State." This man, Powderly, personifying a *secret* order, organized for *public* purposes, and panoplied only in the gall of high-muck-a-muck dark-lanternism—he goes and demands (1) that the discharged men be re-instated; (2) the reasons for discharge, and (3,) failing successively in the two first, that Mr. Webb's right to discharge for any reason be arbitrated.

Mr. Powderly alleges, and Mr. Richmond believes him, that Mr. Webb said the men were "discharged for drunkeness;" that "they were not put off for being Knights of Labor," Mr. Richmond coinciding. Be that as it may—we are impeaching no man's veracity—the question remains—what had Mr. Powderly to do with it? Of whom was he taking care? "Drunkards?" No; he was looking after Knights of Labor. If they had been discharged for being Methodists, Baptists, or Presbyterians, Mr. Powderly would have let Mr. Webb kick them into the bottomless pit, and he would not have coined into grief a single stilted phrase.

Nevertheless, we want to repeat that we have not, do not, will not, can not deny Mr. Powderly the right to *ask* all the questions he pleases. We are thus emphatic because Mr. Richmond appears to insist that such right has been impeached.

But he has no right to *pose* before Mr. Webb as a catechist in the interest of the "people," the "public," the "State." "The Sultan of Turkey or the Czar of Russia may" assume a *role* "thus unquestioned in their domains, but no one in America can do it, as yet," more especially and particularly T. V. Powderly, the head and front, body, boots and heels of a *secret* organization that has put its exclusive ban with particular emphasis upon Benj. A. Richmond's profession.

But Mr. Richmond is careful to speak of Mr. Powderly as "*one* of the public." This answers Mr. Richmond's object but Mr. Powderly was yet more solicitous to let Mr. Webb know that he was before him in no such capacity. He was there to protect Knights of Labor only. He cared nothing for other laborers—Jew nor Greek, white or black. His soul bled only for those whose signs of distress were learned in dimly lighted halls, and whose yea and amen were whispered far beyond the earshot of a world affectedly regarded as hostile to labor. Mr. Powderly was, therefore, not of the "public," did not pretend to be, and enjoyed no right to personify the "public," occupying, as he does, the headship of a crowd that cannot take the "public" into its confidence.

Mr. Richmond wants to know whether "an old, faithful, experienced employer, suddenly discharged, has no right to know the reason?"

Certainly he has. But his "right to know" is not paramount to the right on the other side to withhold the information. Take this legally or morally—it is the same. It is the very Golden Rule of a right which no man can surrender.

The "old, faithful, experienced employee" frequently resigns, and when he does so, if his reasons be private, he can respect them by reserve without the slightest disrespect to his employer.

The exercise of this right in either case may be "brutal" or "cowardly," or both, as may suit Mr. Richmond's theoretical vocabulary of corporate methods of torture, yet he is lawyer enough to know that no mere sentiment ever yet permanently displaced a muniment of our equal rights.

The JOURNAL did not appropriate Mr. Webb's discovery—"there is nothing to arbitrate"—further than to make use of it as a text.

But suppose we had stolen it—how does it compare, as a discovery, with that of Powderly as "the public?"

The JOURNAL has no reply to make to Mr. Richmond's medley of platitudes, semi-Scriptural, half-moral, and wholly specious. The JOURNAL feels that they are fired over its head at another target; that it is "jury talk" after both law and evidence have jailed to furnish topical discussion. Mr. Richmond is a lawyer, a good lawyer—too good to think he is misleading the JOURNAL into what is considered in his profession of strict constructionists the very trash of sophistry. He knows that "the laws of plain humanity, of the simplest justice and of the highest morals" have no show against statutory law through whose provisions the widow is often inexorably despoiled and the orphan reduced to beggary.

Mr. Richmond denies our statement concerning the Courts' reservation of reasons for judgment, or rulings, when they so elect. We based that remark upon a statement of one of the very best and most successful lawyers that ever practised at the Cumberland bar. And we re-affirm it on the word of another of Mr. Richmond's "learned brethren" who stated of a recent case in the Court of Appeals that "it was decided on grounds unsupported by a single citation of authority." And so Baltimore papers lately reported of a street-paving case in that city.

If this article appears to be disjointed, it is because we have endeavored to follow Mr. Richmond briefly as possible. Hence, in conclusion, we must go back to his apotheosis of "the laws of plain humanity, of the simplest justice and of the highest morals," and ask if these be the loftiest expressions of the unwritten code, why not enrol them with the Pandects of Justinian? Why not at least make them *lex scripta* in place of the gallimaufry of enactments which cumbers our statute-books to-day? And who better fitted than our friend Richmond, the defender of the latest inquisition, stamped with the K. of L. trademark and countersigned by Powderly—who better fitted to pioneer the new reform of making nobody's business the property of everybody? And what system is more sure to exemplify "*sic semper tyrannis*" and banish "cowards" than to place a door at the motives of every-Caesar and Sultan in America with a little "open sesame" tied to the latch-string, the latter always hanging outside to Mr. Powderly when he comes arrayed in the garb of "the public," cut and made for him only by Mr. Richmond, law tailor to labor's crown?

And what a harmonious time there will be in discriminating between the "old" and the young; the "faithful" and unfaithful; the "experienced" and inexperienced employees! For be it remembered, it is only the "old, faithful and experienced," who, once employed, are never to be discharged without assigning reasons. It is presumed Mr. Powderly will let the company off in the case of the young, unfaithful and inexperienced, although youth is thus punished as a crime; infidelity decreed as hopeless, and experience prohibited as a forbidden fruit.

The Order is, therefore, a clan. It has no respect for quality, capacity, competency; its shibboleth is "K. of L," and its plan of salvation is exclusive, not inclusive.

On the other hand, corporations know full well that the "old, faithful, experienced" employees are *the very last men* who do anything to get out of work in the cold of age, the alienation of treachery, or the barren field where the proof-tests of life-long competency count for nothing. It is not this class or classes that provoke discharge.

By the same token, it is far more likely that the men who rely upon the backing afforded by oath-bound association, who have little or no respect for the prestige which goes with length of service, fidelity or experience—these men are those who will do double duty to the Order in becoming troublesome themselves and fomenting discontent among their fellow-workers. And it is of such and for such Mr. Powderly lives, moves and has his being—not as "the public," but as grand master workman of the Knights of Labor. It is for these that he becomes a gigantic anomaly; it is for these he demands certain *private* reasons of a corporation, he being the chief of the cheekiest close-communion, oath-bound, iron-clad *secret* organization in the world.

But his structure must fall. It has no foundation in the moral stability of equity, and in the darkness of its self-isolated situation and condition it pursues its slow and devious course unblessed by a christian prayer and unsunned by a single beam from a sky illimitably populous with benign luminaries.

It is impossible, therefore, that its methods and pretensions shall make a permanent lodgment in the hearts and conciences of a generation of people whose birthright is doubly theirs—who are the legatees of a two-fold bequest, transmitted in their blood and by charter—a generation cradled in civilization and baptized with the *liberty* of equal children of God.

A Spacious Platform Broadened.

The distinction between personal and impersonal journalism is one generally understood and respected in the profession.

Our esteemed neighbor of the Cumberland *Times*, however, is an exception to the rule. A few days ago it published the following:

> The politics of the editor of the Frostburg JOURNAL are described by himself as being embraced on a platform whose sole foundation and superstructure is the following trite epigram:
>
> The past is gone; the present is with us, and the future is before us.
>
> This is indeed broad enough; so broad, indeed, as to suggest the "broad road" which leadeth not to the City of Life.

This is not fair. The JOURNAL was speaking of itself as a paper, not as an individual, for as an individual we have political predilections of the most decided character.

In order to make this matter perfectly clear to the reader, suppose for the time being we take similar liberty with a few quotations from the *Times*, and note how its distortion will sound:

> The outrageous overcharge by hackmen in this city and their connection with the ministerial-matrimonial combination to which the attention of the public has been directed by J. W. Avirett, has resulted in the passage of an ordinance that will check the evils referred to.
>
> The trouble as far as could be gleaned by J. W. Avirett's reporter, is that the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company is in the habit of pulling long trains of loaded cars, etc.
>
> Hon. W. L. Wilson Nominated. Special dispatch to J. W. Avirett, etc.
>
> The outspoken and persistent opposition of J. W. Avirett to Louis E. McComas, Congressman, and his unqualified denunciation, etc.

In its item the JOURNAL said no more about its editor than the *Times* in the above quotations states of J. W. Avirett.

The end of which is—the JOURNAL is obliged to add a plank to its platform:

> Honor the old, consult the wise, instruct the young newspapers and bear with the foolish organs.

Another City Grab Explained.

At this writing no Cumberland paper has answered our queries last week concerning the charge of over $500 in last levy for "city election expenses."

A Cumberland friend of the JOURNAL writes privately as follows:

> You enquire in your last issue why our "city election expenses" have to be paid by the county. It is a provision perfectly idiotic, but by the election law passed by the Legislature last winter, the *counties* have got to pay for the city elections. Same Hagerstown, Frederick, Annapolis, etc. Isn't it absurd? But its *lex scripta est*.

It is needless to ask, therefore, where were our own representatives when this law was passed.

Against the canal-steal crowd they furnished about as much resistance as a rat-tail to a millrace.

Justice Still Blind.

Judge Alvey has delivered an opinion favoring the sale of the canal, and the Cumberland *Times* claims it as "in accordance with the views of this (the *Times*) paper."

The Baltimore *Sun* observes that—

> There is no allusion whatever to any of the legislation of 1890, either to the act authorizing a lease of the canal and a sale of all the State's interests to the Washington and Cumberland railroad company, or the acts amendatory of the charter of that improvised corporation, so as to enable it to become a purchaser of the canal and operate it as a railroad.

To this discovery the JOURNAL desires to add another—that while the Judge agrees with his receivers, he makes "no allusion whatever" to his concurrence with tae views of the Cumberland *Times*.

Tempting the Clouds.

There is actually some talk of the democrats running Baughman for Congress.

If they do, McComas has a soft thing ahead.

The party that puts up a man who has to explain his own official neglect whereby the people lost over $130,000 will be struck by lightning.

Don't Make Bad Worse.

There is talk of enjoining the Water Board, or Mayor and Council, in the matter of proceeding with the new water works.

We regret to hear it.

The new works are getting along slow enough, and the obstructionists are already sufficiently unpopular.

A Stroke at Home.

What is "reciprocity" coming to?

Senator Sherman introduced a resolution Monday providing for "free coal."

That is, he proposes that if Canada will admit our coal free, we will "reciprocate" by admitting Canada coal free.

COUNTY NEWS.

Will Open Monday.

The new scholastic year will begin Monday next. The following new appointments are noted:

J. E. J. Buckey, a former Frostburg principal, holds the same position in Maryland avenue school, Cumberland.

Misses Emma Major and Nellie Higgins are assigned to schools No's 2 and 3, respectivly, in District No. 15—Lonaconing.

Miss Lillie Hotchkiss at Moscow, Miss Maggie Stewart assistant.

Miss Annie E. Bassett at Westernport.

Bernard Murphy and Miss Jane Patterson at Barton.

Miss Fannie J. Skilling at Lonaconing.

New Republican Paper.

The Lonaconing *Star* gives the details of a proposed new paper in Cumberland that is to be the organ of the republican party. It will be published by an incorporated company whose capital stock is $10,000; shares $10 each. The incoporators are Messrs. David W. Sloan, David Sloan, Robt. M. Boyd, Joseph B. Stottlemyer, Philip A. Bier, Wm. R. Percy, Otto Hohing, Albert H. Dowden, George L. Wellington, Albion Coles, Daniel Houck and James H. Hose. Experienced men will be placed in editorial charge. Time of first issue not yet determined.

GENERAL NEWS.

Maintenance of Roads.

The following article, condensed by the New York Engineering *News* from a circular issued by the "Roads Improvement Association of England," an organization formed to distribute matter for the education of local highway authorities, road contractors, and others, on the proper construction, maintenance and repair of highways, is here commended with special emphasis to our own street and road supervisors. The actual size of the largest stone allowable for road repair recommended by the association, as illustrated by the *News*, is pyramidal in shape, and 1½ inches each in height and breadth of base:

Never allow a hollow, a rut or a puddle to remain on a road, but fill it up at once with chips from the stone heap. Always use chips for patching, and for all repairs during the summer months. Never put fresh stones on the road if by cross-picking and a thorough use of the rake the surface can be made smooth and kept at the proper strength of section. The rake is the most useful tool in your collection, and it should be kept close at hand the whole year around. Never spread large patches of stone over the whole width of the road, but coat the middle or horse-track first, and, when this has worn in, coat each of the sides in turn. In moderately dry weather, and on hard roads, always pick up the old surface into ridges 6 ins. apart, and remove all large and projecting stones before applying a new coating. Never spread stones more than one stone deep, but add a second layer when the first has worn in, if one coating be not enough. Use a steel-pronged fork to load the barrows at the stone heap, so that the siftings may be available for "binding" and for summer repairs. Never shoot stones on to the road and crack them where they lie, or a smooth surface will be out of the question. Go over the whole of the new coating every day or two with the rake, and never leave the stone ridges. Never put a stone upon a road for repairing purposes that will not pass freely in every direction through a 2-in. ring, and remember that still smaller stones should be used for patching and for all slight repairs. Hard stone should be broken to a liner gauge than soft, but the 2-in. guage is the largest that should be employed under any circumstances. Never be without your ring guage. It should be to the roadman what the compass is to the mariner; and if you have no ring-guage remember Macadam's advice that any stone you cannot easily put in your mouth should be broken smaller. Use nothing but chips for binding newly laid stones together, and remember that road sweepings, horse droppings, sods of grass, and other rubbish, when used for this purpose, will ruin the best made road.

Water-worn or rounded stones should never be used upon steep grades, or they will fail to bind together.

Never allow dust or mud to lie on the surface of the road, for either of these will double the cost of maintenance. Dust becomes mud at the first shower, and mud forms a wet blanket which will keep a road in a filthy condition for weeks at a time, instead of allowing it to dry in a few hours. See that all sweepings and scrapings are put into heaps and carted away immediately.

The middle of the road should always be a little higher than the sides, so that the rain may run into the side-gutters at once. Never allow the water-tables, gutters and ditches to clog up, but keep them clear the whole year through. Always be upon your road in wet weather, and at once fill up with "chips" any hollows or ruts where the rain may lie. When the main coatings of stone have worn in, go over the whole road, and, gathering together all the loose stones, return them to the stone heap for use in the winter to follow; for loose stones are a source of danger and annoyance, and should never be allowed to lie on any road.

Never allow the grating bars of any gutter or drain to remain parallel with the road, but always set them crosswise, and so avoid serious accidents. No grating, man-trap, water-plug, gas-pipe, or drain should ever be allowed to project above the surface of the road under any circumstances.

Remember that any negligence on your part may cause the ratepayers to lose the benefit of the Government grant—given toward all main roads kept in an efficient atate of repair—as well as render your surveyor or overseer liable to an action at law.

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

GONE! East. GONE!

WAIT!

JOE BEAR,

Leading Clothier and Merchant Tailor.

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FALL GOODS,

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WHY?

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$40,000

worth of standard goods in the homes of this community during the next four months we have put a razor-edge on our axe and made a cut into current prices that will raise a howl among our competitors.

What few figures have not been annihilated are beaten out of all shape.

Nothing like it ever dreamed of in the wildest imagination.

Not a solitary article spared.

The price of everything cut to pieces.

Don't miss a single bargain in our royal bill of fare,
For ev'ry figure represents a bargain rich and rare.

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WHOLESALE & RETAIL DRY GOODS HOUSE

Sept 6

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

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Great Reduction in Summer Goods

EVERYTHING MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES.

ONE LOW PRICE TO ALL.

EVERYONE DELIGHTED

WITH THE ONE-PRICE SYSTEM,

And as a consequence of our extremely low prices and good quality of goods, and equitable way of dealing with our patrons our large business is daily increasing.

Special attention is called to our

Trunk Department.

The immense rooms now used for the display of trunks are filled with every grade and style of trunk known to the trade. Here you will find from the cheapest one dollar trunk to the best sole leather. All the visitor to this department need to do is to walk through the long avenues of trunks and make his own selection; the price of trunk is marked in plain figures way down lower than any of our would-be competitors dare offer them. A visit to this department alone is worth a journey of fifty miles.

A cordial invitation is hereby extended to everybody to visit our great establishment, whether you want to buy or not.

Gentlemanly salesmen will take pleasure in showing you through. Remember that an examination of goods incurs no obligation to buy.

Sole agent for

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N. B.—Special Reduction to Ministers of all Denominations.

SAMUEL J. EDWARDS,

Greatest One-Price Shoe, Hat and Trunk Store in all Maryland,

No. 98 Baltimore Street, CUMBERLAND, MD.

Ladies', Misses' and Children's, Men's Boys' and Youths' Shoes of better quality and lower price than any other dealer can offer. Ask to see our one dollar Ladies' Dress Shoe; it is wonderful. Our Men's Dress Shoe in Congress and Bals at one dollar strike the beholder with amazement. Nothing like it ever seen before.

July 26

Miscellaneous Advertisements.

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BLANK BOOK
Manufacturing.

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THE Leading Establishment of Western Maryland having added greatly to their facilities, are better than ever prepared to promptly execute all orders for work in their lines.

The Finest PRINTING,
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The Most Substantial BLANK BOOKS

NO CHEAP WORK.

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Aug 2

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The Courses of Study are
Modern, Liberal and Practical.
All Expenses Very Low.

July 26—8t

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Absolutely Pure.

THE purest, strongest and most perfect Cream of Tartar Baking Powder made. Each can guaranteed to contain full net weight of powder and to be absolutely the best.

Sold by all first-class grocers.

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EVERY OTHER TUESDAY.

Steerage Passage

To or from Liverpool, Queenstown, Belfast Londonderry, Bristol, Cardiff, or Glasgow Scandinavian and Continental points, at low est rates.

Very Best Accommodations for Steerage and Intermediate Passengers.

An experienced Surgeon is attached to each vessel.

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Feb 16 Frostburg, Md.