

# LABOR'S OWN DAY.

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Celebration in Oakland City Reflects Credit Upon the Local Union.

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## HUNDREDS IN THE PARADE

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Brief Review of Hon. Edwin F. Gould's Address.—Littles Had the Best Delegation.

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Yesterday was Labor's own day and Labor exalted itself in this city by a most appropriate and creditable celebration.

In nearly every city in our land the conditions were the same as they were here—men observed the day set apart as Labor Day, in honor of the men who toil and to whom in a very large degree, is due the wealth and prosperity of the nation.

Brawny men they were, each one of whom toils with his hands in the production of the multifarious needs of his fellowmen, but they are the men who make up communities, villages, towns and cities where the greater portion of daily labor is done.

The laborer is not only worthy of his hire, but the celebration of yesterday demonstrated that he is also worthy of honor and esteem, because without him the universe would become as a wilderness.

But, more specifically to the local events of yesterday, it was a great day for Labor's cause in Oakland City.





and the local Labor Union which arranged the splendid celebration is entitled to great credit for their enterprise and zeal which resulted in such magnificent success.

The first train that arrived brought with it conclusive proof that the day was to be a success. That train was from the north on the E. & I. railroad and it unloaded here over 800 tollers from Washington, Petersburg and the mining towns intervening. Next came the special train from Princeton with about 400 more to add to the crowd. And then the regular afternoon passenger trains brought fully 400 more, making a total of 1,600 strangers in town besides the large number of farmers that came in wagons.

The banner which the local union offered for the largest delegation was awarded to Washington F. L. U., which had 180 men present, the next largest delegation was the Ayrshire Mine Workers with 106 men. Petersburg F. L. U. had 82, Little's Mine Workers 86, Petersburg Mine Workers 70, Princeton Mine Workers 59 and the Princeton F. L. U., 40, making a total of 635 visiting union men who came in bodies. The banner for the union making the best appearance was awarded to Little's Mine Workers.

Shortly after ten o'clock the parade moved from the fair grounds, going around the west side and into Main street on Harrison, moving south on Main street where it was reviewed by hundreds of people that lined the walks and crowded the windows.

The parade was made up of marching laborers, four bands and a drum corps, and was composed of about 1,200 people all told. It required 20 minutes time to pass the JOURNAL office.

After the parade covered its course the laborers dispersed to various lunch houses to get dinner, and after dinner they all assembled at the fair grounds to listen to the speaking.

There was an immense crowd of people in the amphitheatre and on the fair grounds when Edwin F. Gould, editor of The Union, arose to make the address of the day. His address was very lengthy, but the principal points he brought out may be summarized as follows:

In referring to Labor Day, the speaker said that in laboring circles it stands for what the Fourth of July stands for in the nation, the celebration of a new declaration of independence from slavish economic conditions. From this as a text, a comparison was made between the present economic conditions and that which organized labor demands. "Under the present regime," he said, "hovels and castles are erected within the shadows of each other and the laboring man, living in his hovel, has to

the sweat of his brow he secures only 25 per cent to meet the meager necessities of the hovel."

Mr. Gould denied the proposition that all men are born equal. Referring to the birth of a babe in a wealthy family recently, he said that the crib of that infant was studded with diamonds valued at \$25,000 and a \$5,000 parasol shaded its face from the rays of the sun, and that its first clothing cost \$10,000. He compared this with the child that is rocked in a cradle with a mortgage on it and vividly portrayed the difference in the lives of these two from the cradle to the grave.

The speaker said that improved machinery could be made a blessing to the race under new economic conditions, but under the present system they are a curse to the race.

Taking up the railroad question, he showed the despotism exercised by what he was pleased to call railroad kings. He stated that they own the land that produces the ore, the shops that convert the ore into machinery and utensils, the coal mines, the banks and other appurtenances of commerce, thereby taking from the people but giving nothing back. His theory is that the only remedy the people has left is for the government to own the railways.

He commented upon the insincerity of the politicians in their professed love for the people, stating that they are apparent enemies of the trusts in politics, but a part of the same unit when it comes to personal and financial affairs.

Concluding, the speaker placed "Old Glory" at the head of the labor parade, the most exalted place it could occupy, declaring that the laboring men gave it birth in 1776, went to its defense in 1861, and stand ready at all times and under all circumstances to maintain its honor and dignity.

In the evening there was a large crowd on Main street to hear the band music, witness the rake walk and enjoy other amusements provided for them. All citizens and visitors united in pronouncing the day a most decided success.