LABOR SUES LABOR.

A most unusual case in which labor sued labor was recently decided in the Federal District Court in Washington, D. C. Judge for yourself.

In 1887, the Brewery Workers Union became affiliated with the American Federation of Labor under an agreement whereby it was to retain jurisdiction over beer wagon drivers. It retained this jurisdiction for 13 years. In 1899, the Teamsters and Chauffeurs Union became affiliated with the A. F. of L. It claimed jurisdiction over these drivers. In 1900, the A. F. of L. amended its Constitution to provide that no charter should be granted to any union without a clear definition of its jurisdiction. Samuel Gompers was President of the A. F. of L. at that time and pursuant to a resolution adopted in 1900, asked all unions to submit a written declaration defining their claims to trade jurisdiction. Again, the Brewery Workers claimed the beer wagon drivers. The Teamsters made a similar claim. In 1906, the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. was directed to discipline the Brewery Workers for not yielding on this point. They did not yield and were expelled from the A. F. of L. In 1907, the Brewery Workers were re-instated and continued to have jurisdiction over beer wagon drivers. In 1913, the A. F. of L. Convention affirmed this control. In 1933, the national Convention of the A. F. of L. adopted a report giving the beer wagon drivers to the Teamsters Union. Thereupon, the Brewery Workers Union went to Court and asked for an injunction to prevent the A. F. of L. from making this transfer of jurisdiction. Several defenses were set up by the A. F. of L., but the Court ruled that the Brewery Workers had never relinquished control over beer wagon drivers, that they had never appointed the A. F. of L. to arbitrate this matter, that the A. F. of L. usurped certain authority, and that the matter was a proper question for judicial determination. The injunction was therefore granted. Judge Goldsborough, former Member of Congress from Maryland rendered the opinion.

CORN AND THE MACHINE.

Man is ingenious. He is resourceful. He seeks to dodge unnecessary work. Or make it lighter. Or do it quicker. It is an age-old incentive which drives him to invent labor saving devices. Take the mechanical corn-picker as an example. Long hours in the field, skinned hands, aching joints must have made thousands of young men on farms resolve that there must be an easier way to get corn out of the fields. Then began the search for a successful corn picker. The first types were crude and inefficient. First came the single-row pickers. Then the double-row pickers. Each year saw improvements. Each year saw the number of machine pickers increase. But not so much at that.

Estimates are that by 1930, there were but 10,000 mechanical corn pickers. Then came another incentive. It was high-yield, hybrid corn which worked well in machine pickers. In 1937 and 38, it is estimated that 28,000 corn pickers were sold. Number in use by 1939 was estimated at more than 70,000. Illinois leads the field. 43% of the corn acreage was harvested by machines. Iowa stood at 35%. Average for the U. S. is 13%. In 12 states, less than 1% of the corn is picked by machine. In 10 states, there are no pickers at all. These are the South Atlantic and southern states where corn is but a meagre part of the farm produce. What of the future?

INDIANS ASK UNCLE SAM TO RETURN NIAGARA FALLS.

In the year of 1786, just one year before the Constitution was promulgated, the Seneca Indians in upper New York State made a treaty with New York and Massachusetts. That treaty established a line one mile east of the Niagara River and running parallel with the river from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. The treaty then gave New York an option to buy all the lands of the Senecas on the east side of the line and gave Massachusetts the right to buy all lands west of the line. Massachusetts sold its right to Robert Morris, famous financial figure during the Revolutionary Days. Mr. Morris exercised his right and bought the
lands west of the line. The Senecas maintain that New York did not
exercise its right and as a result, the Senecas claim and have con-
tinued to claim these lands. Last week, the Senecas petitioned, the
Federal Power Commission for a return of these lands. Only trouble is
that these lands include Niagara Falls and the huge electric power
developments of the Niagara-Hudson Company involving hundreds of mil-
lions of dollars. It is not likely that the Senecas claim will be
recognized.

THE MYSTERY OF THE PURPLE INK.

Draw up a chair! Steel your nerves! Get set for curdling melodrama!
Give ear as we unfold the details of a thriller! The afternoon sun
floated through a cloudless sky. The air was crisp with the tang of
autumn. But there was tenseness also. The Capitol was seething with
interest. On the floor of the House of Representatives, the Neutrality
bill was being debated with heat and fervor. The galleries were pack-
ed. Men and women, old and young, rich and poor were there, drinking
in the debate. Sitting in the East gallery was a comely young lady.
Her clothes were faultless. Her face was draped with deep interest.
From her purse she took a note book. She opened it very casually.
From the purse came a fountain pen. Furtively, she watched those
around her to see if they were cognizant of her action. She began to
write. The ink she used was of purple hue. Here was mystery indeed.
Someone peered over her shoulder. Deeper mystery! She was writing
in a foreign language and made mystical letters in the note book. This
must be reported. A spy perhaps? A doorkeeper was informed. Quietly
he glided away to impart the news to a Congressman. A spy? The police
must be informed at once. Here was a case for the Federal Bureau of
Investigation. Here was a morsel for the G-Men. A policeman came.
A G-Man came. The comely young lady was taken away. She was grilled.
Who was she? Why this purple ink? What were these mysterious charac-
ters which she scrawled in a note book? Solved at last! She was a
student at Catholic University and like many students she felt the
allure of things purple. Those funny characters? Oh, yes! She was
writing a letter to her mother in the old country.

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