

# SONS OF TOIL.

## Atlanta's Laboring People Celebrate Labor Day Grandly.

### THE EXERCISES AT CONCORDIA HALL,

Where Were Gathered Together the Labor Unions of the City—Speeches by Martin, Smith and Woodward.

The working people of Atlanta, badged, each with the colors of his guild, and dressed in his best Sunday clothes, gathered at Concordia hall last night to participate in the initial celebration of Labor Day in Georgia.

The hall was crowded with people, a large percentage of the attendance being made up of the wives and daughters of the working people.

A splendid programme had been arranged for the evening, and was carried out with great success.

The first part of the programme consisted of speaking, after which came the more enjoyable features of music and dancing.

Far into the night the revelry held sway, every one enjoying himself or herself in the fullest measure.

It was the first celebration of Labor Day ever held in Atlanta, and was had under the auspices of the Atlanta Federation of Trades. It was joined in by all the labor unions of the city, each contributing its share to the success of the first observance of the day.

Labor Day only became recognized as a legal holiday in Georgia at the last session of the legislature, although it has been a holiday in seventeen states for some time.

Yesterday the laboring people united to make the first observance of it a memorable one, and their success is shown by the gathering of last night.

The exercises began at 8 o'clock. Long before that hour the hall was filled with people. Over one-third of those present were unable to find seats. Lilly's orchestra furnished music for the waiting crowd.

Promptly at 8 o'clock, President P. H. Moore, of the Federation of Trades, called the meeting to order, and, after a neat speech, introduced the invited speakers.

The committees which so successfully carried the celebration through were as follows:

Committee of Arrangements—Charles L. Govan, chairman; M. B. Morrison, C. P. Shackelford, Herman Ortwein, P. S. S. Kling.

Floor Committee—P. H. Moore, floor manager; Herman Ortwein, P. S. S. Kling, J. W. Bridwell, J. A. Winkles, J. M. Pinnell, D. W. Webb, J. H. Hodge, Charles L. Govan.

Reception Committee—S. W. White, chairman; E. B. Roberts, H. P. Blount, L. A. Shellnutt, J. W. Bennett, J. A. Bohannon, J. J. Flynn, J. T. Thurman.

Auspicious indeed was the first observance of the day in Atlanta.

#### President Moore's Speech.

After several selections by the band, President P. H. Moore called the assembly to order. In doing so, he said:

"The occasion upon which we are assembled is a great one in the labor history of Georgia. It is the first occasion ever given the thousands of toilers to celebrate as a legal holiday, called Labor Day, having been so made by an act of the last legislature." He then introduced Mr. E. W. Martin in a graceful manner.

#### Mr. Martin's Speech.

As Mr. Martin arose he was greeted by spontaneous applause. He said that for the first time in the history of this commonwealth the laboring people of Georgia are met together to celebrate a legal holiday set apart for their enjoyment. Labor Day does not mean antagonism to any class. It means the conserving of that element of our people who have made our country great. It is proper to state that, although this bill came to the legislature late, it was nevertheless carried to a successful passage and signed by the governor before the legislature adjourned. There was not a dissenting voice in either the house or senate. This was a tribute from Georgia to the patience, to the industry and enterprise of the laboring people in their efforts for the upbuilding of the state without injury to any other calling or profession. Mr. Martin proceeded at length to discuss the relations of capital and labor.

#### The Speech of Mr. Smith.

Mr. Hoke Smith was the next speaker. He spoke for half an hour. He said he did not have a set speech, nor did he propose to speak in favor of organized labor, because his hearers were all of one way of thinking. Labor Day meant more than a frolic. He advocated arbitration as a means of settling labor disputes—strikes were the last resort.

#### The Last Speaker.

Hon. James G. Woodward was the last speaker. He spoke but briefly, and at the conclusion of his speech three cheers were proposed for him.

#### On with the Dance.

The speaking concluded just before 10 o'clock, and then a short intermission was taken while the chairs were being removed.

President Moore announced that only the first half of the exercises were over, and he invited all to remain. And every one remained. Soon the dreamy strains of the orchestra started up, and the young people lost themselves in the mazy waltz.

Until the wee sma' hours of the early morning the Terpsichorean festivities continued. Stops were only made for refreshments.

The affair was in every way a delightful one, and thoroughly a success. Every one present enjoyed it.

It was an auspicious initial celebration of Labor Day in Georgia.