



NO UNIONIST.

"The barmaids of Sydney have formed themselves into a union."—"Daily Paper."

BARRY.—"Say that was a deuced charmer that little blonde that was serving beach last week. Bai Jove, I suppose you girls had her sent away because you were jealous, don't you know?"

FLOREY (with scorn).—"No she was a blackleg."

CO-OPERATION IN A NEW FORM.

Whenever a period of labor depression arrives the heavy Conservative dailies or any other organ that prints long cables about the state of the gums of the Royal Family or the false teeth of Battenberg, will solemnly remark that the cause of such depression is the mistake of over production, and that the country is too poor because it is too rich. Now this is not a mistake on the part of the dailies, it is a glaring perjury. What the world wants is more producers and fewer idle consumers, for the world eats a lot more than it did ten years back, and is 100 per cent more luxurious. The worker in the large cities has a continuous fight for a living, and knows that if he earns an additional 5s. per week he often secures the increase by stepping on the fallen bodies of his weaker fellows. And now to come to the point, a new way out of the slough is offered him—a way that he can buy his progress along with his money down, or pay for it by instalments of his daily labor. A workman—a miner and shearer, educated, and with a great natural aptitude for business has got a scheme for a Co-operative Irrigation Colony into form. Arthur Tromayne came to this City six months back with no influence and very little money, and with only his enthusiasm and experience to back him. After a lot of trouble he got together a meeting of capitalists and other sections of the community in the Chamber of Commerce, and now the institution known and registered under the Provident Societies' Act as the Co-operative Irrigation and Mercantile Society of Australia Limited, is on a firm foundation, the first issue of shares is partially subscribed, the colonies at command are Riverside, (Vic.), Toorumbarry, (Vic.), and Mt. Arapiles, (Vic.), and a board of 18 directors representing the Co-operative Capitalists, Trades and Labor Unions, and Government Officials, and Friendly Societies, and including Professor Kernot, Melbourne University, W. G. Spence, of the Miners' and Shearers' Unions, and Alexander Sutherland, M. A., Carlton College. So now for the first time in Australia are Capitalism and Labor united, and Co-operation is trying to prove the folly and brutality of strikes and lock outs. All honor is due in this connection to the representatives of Capital who have shown their liberal views in offering to work with the one-time despised laborer. The objects of the Society are to secure an equitable distribution of profits between capitalist and laborer, and reduce to actual cost the prices of necessities to members and settlers. The Society is endeavouring to secure a

tract of 250,000 acres of magnificent land on the River Murray near Mildura, and the settlement will be run on the Chaffey system so far as practical work is concerned, but with this mighty difference—the settler will receive improved or virgin land at a trifle over cost price, and in many cases this represents a saving of £17 per acre on prime price. The first tax on profits will be 10 per cent on capital, and the balance is to be divided amongst the workers. Other settlements will be made in various portions of Australia as occasion may require, and already the three colonies in Victoria are being settled. Of these Riverside, in the Western district near Horsham, has 26 families (12 non-residents), and is planted with 23,000 raisin grape vines, 20,000 cuttings same, 4000 Zsate currants, 912 apricots, 850 figs, 528 peaches, 563 prunes, 450 pears, 300 apples, 100 quinces, 70 cherries, 100 oranges and lemons, and 350 almonds. The other settlements of Toorumbarry and Mt. Arapiles are also partially settled and planted. Two representatives of the Society have been sent to England, one being stationed at Liverpool and the other at London. Over 20 branch offices have been established in Australian provincial towns, and a canvassing staff of 3000 men will do direct business with over a quarter of a million of workers. The Society's aim is to settle the workers on the land, and relieve the congestion of the cities. The undertaking is in all points a national one—we in the town are becoming fonder of brick and mortar than we were two years ago, and brilliant ideas of a practicable nature, such as this scheme undoubtedly is, will be necessary in the near future to prevent the whole human race from living in a back lane, and shuddering at the sun beams. And when the inducement to leave the gritty city and settle in a Paradise is supplemented by the sure promise of princely returns in money, and health, and contentment the utility of this Co-operative Society becomes even plainer than before. We almost forgot to mention that sub-agents are required in every town where the Society is not now represented. The rules of working are very simple—that which goes out must return in part or whole. The Co-operative Stores will do business on that principle, the Society's laborer will have to invest 10 per cent of his earnings in Society shares or land, and a Worker's Bank is open to take the remainder. No one can hold more than 200 shares, and no one can sell his shares, so stock jobbing and market rigging is utterly impossible. He must surrender them to the Society which pays him their value and profits. The irrigated country, improved or virgin, can be bought outright or by long terms of instalments—the purchaser can work his own land or pay the

society to do it for him, and not settle on it until it has become profit-producing property. The man who has no money can secure work from the company, and through that an improved section for settlement. And for the potentialities and possibilities—Oranges can be grown, 80 trees to the acre. £10 to £14 per tree is a fair average in America, and a tree will bear for over a century. Olives produce at San Diego (Cal.), 250 gallons of oil to the acre, at £1 per gallon. France's largest vineyard, 54 acres in area, produces £20,000 annually in wine. Australia imports £100,000 worth of raisin grapes, and £230,000 worth of canned and dried fruits a year. There are not a dozen sensibly-conducted market gardens or chicken farms in the whole of this continent, and instead of doing the work and stopping the waste of 350 billions of gallons of water sloshing away into the ocean every year, we stay around the cities and howl about trade disputes, and Federation, and bad boots, and all the while grapes are crying out to be grown and pressed and drunk, and the chicken of the unladen egg is asking us to boil him and drop a tear. We might pit the unpopular politician with imported eggs and foreign tomatoes for all I know. There is a private garden in Adelaide growing by means of irrigation, not only all the English fruits, but great stone pines, shaddockes, limes, persimmons, olives, walnuts, hazels, Aliberts and Barcelonas, strawberries as large as an egg, and pumpkins turning the scale at a hundred and fifty pounds. The man who works as a wage slave in a smoky town when a co-operative irrigation puts this chance in his way, is not only foolish, but criminal. Mr. W. B. Chaffey said in 1887—"I will yet see a million and a half of irrigated acres on the Murray, and the growers need not even then be frightened of a market. If the produce is good, the demand will be good and unlimited."

"Who was the author of "Nothing to Wear?"
"Eve, I believe."

A WEDDING of an extraordinary character took place at South Shields recently, the bridal pair being a little lady only thirty-two inches in height, and a euphonium soloist who stands six feet in his stockings. Truly a well-matched couple. The gentleman who gave the bride away was armless, and signed the marriage certificate with a pen between his teeth. The bridesmaid weighed forty-four stone. The best man was seven feet in height, and the only other person present was a dwarf whose stature is twenty-nine inches. The whole of this curious party belong to a travelling circus. There must have been money in that wedding.

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