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# Labor Day, 1889

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September 2nd, 1889, Labor Day, was celebrated throughout the length and breadth of the land by multiplied thousands of workingmen. It was Labor's holiday. Picnics were in order. Men, women, and children went forth from their homes to the groves, to the sunny highlands, by babbling brooks, by silent rivers, bent upon rational enjoyments. There was music and dancing, speaking and feasting. Dull care and toil were left behind, and rest and pleasure ruled the day.

It was a new departure and dates a new regime. It means that in the future, workingmen are to have more enjoyment. It means that education and the refining influence of education, are having the effect designed. The movement is full of promise. It betokens "a good time coming" for which so many prayers have been offered up, and which is coming, because workingmen have declared that it shall come.

God helps those who try to help themselves. God never helps a coward, nor did cowards ever win a battle. Labor Day presages the 8-hour day. Labor Day voices the fact that the hosts of labor are coming closer together. Imaginary partitions are being broken down, and imaginary lines of divisions are disappearing. The bond of union is growing stronger, sympathies, which were but yesterday weak and narrow, are today strong and broad. Labor days vitalize principles, exalt truth and speak for an era of justice. Labor days dignify labor. There was a time when the badge of labor symbolizes degradation. It is so no longer to men who are not born to wear yokes. The time is not distant when Labor Day, like the 4th of July, will be a national holiday, by virtue of statutes. A labor Sabbath, when in honor of labor and its achievements, all the people shall cease from work and make the day notable by demonstrations of joy and gladness.