

AMERICA NATION OF WORKINGMEN

Rabbi Gries Says Country's
Future Depends on Char-
acter of Workers.

Urges a Closer Relation of the
Employer and His Em-
ployee.

Rabbi Moses J. Gries yesterday delivered the second of his series of addresses on "Problems of America." Rabbi Gries' subject was "The Laborer." He said in part:

"The laborer has developed from the slave and serf of former centuries. The labor of the ancient world was slave labor. From slavery through serfdom we have developed to the wage worker. No longer a caste system; no longer born to a class or trade; we are free to choose our calling in life. The nineteenth century was the industrial century. The disgrace of labor has vanished. This is a working world. Even the aristocracy

of the nation. Capital believes that man has a right to work—also a duty to work. Not only to work, but to work intelligently.

"Yes, every man should have a chance by work to earn a living—every man, union and non-union. Labor and capital should grant the liberties they ask. There is a manifest tendency to magnify the difficulties of the other side—the greed and oppression of capital, the unreasonableness and tyranny of labor. Intelligent and patriotic men and women, who have at heart the welfare of the nation and of the people who make the nation, observe, and read, and study and think. They should know the employer and the employee. All important is it that they should know the facts. One-half the misery of the world is caused by ignorance and passion and mutual misunderstandings. Let mutual understanding and mutual agreement take the place of misunderstanding and strife. Let employer and employee meet one another face to face.

"Let us go home, employers, thinking of our relations to our laborers, and laborers thinking of our relations to our employers. Think of your factory, your shop and your store. Is it sanitary, attractive; is it unhealthful and ugly? Are just wages paid for the work done? Do men and women toil under the best conditions of labor and of life? Let us commend all the welfare work of recent years. Let us re-establish the personal relation between employer and employee, a social spirit between master and workman. Let us commend and encourage those who recognize the human element. Independence is characteristic of the American workman. Remember, workingmen do not want to be patronized. Fundamental is justice. The American workman demands not courtesy and kindness, not love, but justice.