

TRADE UNION BEST

Most Effective Agency For the Uplift of Toilers.

MOVES STEADILY ONWARD.

Organized Labor Thrives In Spite of Opposition and Makes No Promises That It Does Not Fulfill—The Only Hope of the Wagerworker.

A careful review of the labor movement and labor conditions strengthens the claim we have always made and which we now renew and reassert, that labor must work out its own salvation and within its own ranks. It requires no great thought to reach the conclusion as to how this can be done. Everybody knows, except those who are blinded by prejudice or through lack of experience, that the trade union is the simon pure, absolutely safe and only plan through which we must continue to work until all workers are thoroughly organized. Then wages will rise more rapidly, hours shorten, conditions improve and we will be in a position to absorb our full share of the wealth we create regardless of what system of government we may be working under.

Everybody agrees that we want better wages and better living conditions, and everybody knows that we have secured both through our unions. Our improved working and living conditions have come to us solely through trade union activity.

While political parties, co-operative enterprises, land schemes and many other visionary schemes to hurry the workers toward the millennium have gone up in thin smoke, proved absolute failures, the trade union movement has steadily advanced, constantly growing in numbers and usefulness, just as we have always said it would.

The trade unions have lived on despite the opposition of our natural enemies from the outside and the lukewarm, doubting ones and knockers on the inside, and, what is more, they will continue to do so. The workers have never been deceived or misled by the trade union advocates.

Trade unions have done what their advocates have said they would do. No false hopes or glowing prospects have been held out or promised. The trade union advocates have always said, and say now, that the movement is slow, evolutionary, constructive, protective, and is the only means whereby all can unite for better working and living conditions.

Trade unionism is composed of wage-workers only and is strictly a class movement. Other movements embrace capitalists, nonproducers and visionary, get-there-quick people who don't know where they are going, but who think they are on the way, and so they are—on the way to confusion, discord and up in the air.

The trade unions know what they want and how to get it. They are securing results every day and are marching as working men and women shoulder to shoulder, heads erect, over the safe but sure road to better working and better living conditions. Stand by the good old battle scarred trade union movement. It is your friend, your hope, your aspiration and your final salvation. — Cigarmakers' Journal.

Hatters Adopt Referendum.

The convention of the United Hatters of North America, recently in session in New York city, will meet again in that city in May, 1915. One of the

important propositions adopted was the one providing for the recall of the union's officers. Another was the referendum in elections on and after next January. Simon Blake of Danbury was made president and Martin Lawlor, the present incumbent, secretary-treasurer, to hold office until the referendum goes into effect on the first of the year 1912. It was one of the most progressive conventions held by the hatters in years. Matters not reached by the delegates will be taken care of by the new executive board.

Haywood Advocates a Fool Strike.

At Omaha the other night William D. Haywood, formerly secretary of the Western Federation of Miners, is reported to have advocated a general strike in all industries throughout the country on the day the McNamaras are brought to trial at Los Angeles.

"There is only one course left for you laboring people," he is reported. "Fold your arms the day McNamara is brought to trial and demand that he be taken back to Indianapolis. Let the strike be general, of every kind of working people, and you will win."

Verily, the fool killer is not abroad in Omaha.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Brotherhood of Trainmen.

The tenth biennial convention of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, that represents 300,000 men in the United States and Canada, was held recently in Harrisburg, Pa. One of the chief topics was the suggestion of federal legislation defining the employers' liability and workmen's compensation for death and injury. The trainmen take the position that the railroads should be held responsible for personal mishaps to the men in their employ. The brotherhood paid out more than \$2,000,000 last year in death and disability claims.

Five Thousand Lose Jobs.

The Dwight and Chicopee Manufacturing companies of Chicopee, Mass., have shut down. Five thousand cotton operatives are affected. The Chicopee company closing is indefinite.

REST FOR TRAINMEN.

Supreme Court Decides In Favor of Time Limit Law.

The "hours of service law for railroad employees" passed by congress in 1907 has been upheld as constitutional by the supreme court of the United States. This decision was announced by Justice Hughes in the test suit instituted by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. The decision of the court was unanimous.

Justice Hughes said that the words of the statute were plain that only persons engaged in interstate commerce and interstate carriers were affected by the statute. In this particular, he said, it differed from the employers' liability law of 1906. Because the interstate employees sometimes engage in intrastate business did not defeat the law, he added.

As to the authority of the interstate commerce commission to issue the order putting the law into effect, the justice said that the entire question of authority had been settled by legislation in 1910. The justice found no other objection to the order or to the law itself.

The act made it unlawful for any common carrier engaged in interstate commerce to permit any trainman subject to the act to remain on duty longer than sixteen consecutive hours or any telegraph operator more than nine or thirteen hours, according to the time the telegraph station was opened for business. The act also created periods of rest for the employees.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad company attacked the law as unconsti-

titutional on the ground that it applied to intrastate as well as to interstate railroads and employees. The order by which the interstate commerce commission placed the law into operation was attacked also. The railroad asserted that congress could not and did not attempt to delegate to the commission the power to require reports of violations of the law; that the labor and expense necessary to make the reports constituted a taking of the railroad's property without due process of law and therefore in violation of the constitution, and that it compelled self incrimination by officers and employees of the railroad also in violation of the constitution.

THE GOOD UNIONS DO.

If the labor unions did nothing else than call attention to the misery that abounds their existence would be justifiable. But they have done more. They have not only called attention to the effects; they have shown the causes. They have done more still. They have produced remedies, upon the merits and demerits of which professors, editors and ministers now discuss and advocate. Labor unions have produced thinkers and educators from out their own ranks and have drawn students and teachers from the wealthy and professional. And more yet. While doing this they have bettered the condition of thousands of families by securing higher wages, shorter hours and greater independence, individually and collectively. The result is something to be proud of. The carpenter, the printer, cigarmaker, clerk, shoemaker, tailor, working long hours on short rations, have stepped boldly to the front and worked revolution in American thought. It is a fact beyond cavil.

How Australia Cares For Women.

While we are struggling with might and main to force employers and state legislatures to treat women workers more humanely by conceding a nine hour or eight hour workday, our Australian brethren are outstripping us. Led by the printers, a movement has been started to enforce a six hour daylight workday for all female workers. The eight hour day is universal, and wage agreements are made in all trades. Labor controls the government and is quite independent industrially.

hour day will go into effect in all Western Union offices. Wages will also be increased, so that the best telegraphers will receive \$100 a month instead of \$85 and \$95.

The American Federation of Labor has issued an appeal to all organized labor in the United States for contributions to a fund to defend the McNamaras and any others who may be involved in the Los Angeles Times dynamiting case.

Honor Above All.

Believe it to be the greatest of all infamies to prefer your existence to your honor, and for the sake of life to lose every inducement to live.—Juvenal.

None to Do the Chores.

More than four million people are estimated to attend moving picture shows in the United States every day. No wonder it is getting so hard to find somebody willing to do the chores

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