

# THE HUMAN SIDE OF THE LABOR QUESTION

## III. OUR BUSINESS AGENTS.

For an employer to know, personally, a thousand men, and to deal with them individually, is an utter impossibility. Because of the nature of present-day industry, collective bargaining has become a necessity. This must be true at least so far as general matters are concerned. Furthermore, the "employer" may really be divided into a hundred stockholders. It isn't often that a single individual has a cool five millions to put down for the starting of a business enterprise. When this is the case, these stockholders will elect a board of directors, who, in turn, appoint a superintendent or manager, which individual is rarely a stockholder. It is his job to represent the interests of the stockholders. The stockholders have a perfect right to do this, so has the individual employer a right to have a manager represent his interests. It is also perfectly legitimate for a number of concerns to combine and form a so-called trust, which combination of interests may elect a general manager.

But the thousand workmen must have the same privilege. They too, have the right to combine, either as representing the force employed in a particular shop or factory, or they

may organize all of the men in their craft in a particular city or section of country, and appoint or elect a man who will represent their interests in the matters which have to do with their general welfare. He then becomes their business agent or "walking delegate." He is the expert on all matters pertaining to the craft, as they have to do with business relationships. He is the spokesman of those who have elected him. His instructions come from them. He does nothing excepting as it is approved by the body of toilers who have placed him at their head. He not only protects the men by his wider knowledge of the state of business, but he protects those who might otherwise be subjected to punishment because of their active interest in behalf of their fellows, in the matter of securing better working conditions.

When the business manager or superintendent representing the stockholders declines to deal with the business agent or walking delegate representing the employees, he forgets that he, himself, is simply a business agent or "walking delegate," and every argument which he produces against dealing with the men's representatives, comes back as a boomerang upon himself.—Rev. Charles Stielze.

## CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

### Printers' Better Halves Celebrate Fifth Anniversary Fittingly.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11, to Typographical Union No. 209 celebrated its fifth anniversary last Wednesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Thompson, 402 South Twenty-fifth street. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson's new home was an ideal place for the celebration, and they proved entertainers par excellence. Supper was served at seven o'clock, the printers being invited to come right from their work and have a good time without waiting to put on their best bib and tucker. Many accepted the invitation and those who did not missed a good thing. The refreshments were ample and quite in keeping with the reputation established by the Auxiliary women.

Mrs. Marshal officiated as toastmistress and several clever little speeches were made. H. W. Smith responded to the toast "The Auxiliary," and paid a high tribute to the splendid women who have banded together to advance the cause of unionism as a whole and of the printing trades in particular. A guessing contest in which the guests were asked to guess the titles of old-time songs, was won by Erstine King, the prize being a handsome cup and saucer. Little Miss Erstine King recited several clever little pieces. The evening was delightfully spent, and the fifth anniversary was declared the "best of the bunch."

Following is the toast offered by Mr. Smith:

"Capital Auxiliary No. 11. A band of noble-hearted, pure-purposed women, organized to aid in the uplift of true unionism to share in whatever of burden there is, and to participate in whatever of joy which cometh to the faithful; may malice and envy never enter its bosom, but may it ever and always be all for which it was created—an aid and a comfort to the organization from which it springs."

Mrs. Fred Mickel, president of the Auxiliary, is still confined to her home by illness.

A letter from Mrs. Will Bustard, who is spending the winter in Oregon, conveys the information that she is enjoying herself but is yearning to meet the "home-folks."

## DO IT HERE.

Noting that the Barbers' Union of Beaumont, Tex., had subscribed for their local labor paper in a body, the Oklahoma Labor News gently hints that the Oklahoma City barbers ought to do the same thing. Of course they had. The Lincoln barbers got behind the Wageworker before the ink was fairly dry on the first issue, and they've been sticking to it ever since. We'll back the Lincoln barbers against any bunch, east, west, north or south. But the Oklahoma City Barbers ought to hurry up and do the right thing by their local labor paper.

## LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS.

Will Enjoy a Hard Times Party at Walsh Hall This Evening.

While The Wageworker is at press the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Division No. 98 assisted by the auxiliary of the brotherhood is enjoying a "hard times" social at Walsh hall. A quiet tip to The Wageworker was to the effect that some of the engineers expected to cause great hilarity by their poverty-stricken costumes, some of them having arranged to at-

tend in their everyday dress. The social was held primarily for the purpose of getting better acquainted, and also to entertain a few of the non-Brotherhood men with a view to interesting them in the great organization. The social was a success in every way the attendance being unexpectedly large. It was intended to hold it Wednesday evening but matters arose that necessitated a change of date.

## 'FESS UP, NOW.

### Have You Ever Been Guilty of These Unworthy Acts?

Roasted your officers at noon hour? Presided at a "harpoon throwing" contest?

Missed three meetings of your union at a stretch? Made a sacrifice for your union, and to what extent?

Taken more than a lukewarm interest in its deliberations?

Done any work for the union without wanting pay for the same?

Circulated "He said," "I heard," and "It is rumored" stories detrimental to some members?

Had opinions you failed to express on the floor?

But expressed those opinions after the meeting adjourned in a "wet goods emporium"—Paper Makers' Journal.

## THE STRIKERS.

Out on the roads they have gathered, a hundred thousand men.

To ask for a hold on life as sure as the wolf's hold in his den.

Their need lies close to the quick of life as the earth lies close to the stone;

It is as meat to the slender rib, as marrow to the bone.

They ask but the leave to labor, to toll in the endless night,

For a little salt to savor their bread, for houses water-tight.

They ask but the right to labor and to live by the strength of their hands—

They who have bodies like knotted oaks, an patience like sea-sands.

And the right of a man to labor, and his right to labor in joy—

Not all your laws can strangle that right, nor the gates of hell destroy.

For it came with the making of man and was kneaded into his bones,

And it will stand the last of things on the dust of crumbled thrones.

—Edwin Markham.

WE DO NOT PATRONIZE BUCK STOVES AND RANGES!

## CONVENTIONS IN 1908.

Where and When Trades Union Gatherings Will Be Held.

April 6, Toronto, Canada, International Association of Fur Workers of the United States and Canada.

May 3, Brockton, Mass., International Union of Cutting Die and Cutter Makers.

May 5, Youngstown, Ohio, Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

May 11, New York City, Actors' National Protective Union of America.

May 11, St. Louis, Mo., American Federation of Musicians.

May 11, —, United Brotherhood of Papermakers of America.

May —, Detroit, Mich., International Tin Plate Workers' Protective Association of America.

May —, York, Pa., National Print Cutters' Association of America.

June 1, St. Paul, Minn., Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders of America.

June 1, Detroit, Mich., International Association of Steam and Hot Water Fitters and Helpers of America.

June —, Washington, D. C., International Union of Journeymen Horse-shoers.

June, Mobile, Ala., International Printing Pressmen's Union.

June 1, Columbus, Ohio, Chainmakers' National Union of the United States of America.

June 1, St. Louis, Mo., International Association of Marble Workers.

June 8, —, International Ceramic Mosaic and Encaustic Tile Layers and Helpers' Union.

June 8, Cincinnati, Ohio, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

June 8, —, International Brotherhood of Tip Printers.

June 8, Milwaukee, Wis., The Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America.

July 4, —, Amalgamated Leather Workers' Union of America.

July —, Atlantic City, N. J. National Brotherhood of Operative Longshoremen's Association.

July 6, Buffalo, N. Y., International Jewelry Workers' Union.

July 6, Cincinnati, Ohio, Brushmakers' International Union.

July 7, Baltimore, Md., Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada.

July 7, Buffalo, N. Y., Amalgamated Window Glass Workers of America.

July 13, Toronto, Canada, International Piano and Organ Workers, Union of America.

July 13, Indianapolis, Ind., Lithographers' International Protective Association.

July 13, Minneapolis, Minn., Theatrical Stage Employees' International Alliance.

July 18, Holyoke, Mass., American Wire Weavers' Protective Association.

July 20, New York City, International Steel and Copper Plate Printers' Union.

August 3, Buffalo, N. Y., National Association of Heat, Frost, General Insulators and Asbestos Workers.

August 4, Detroit, Mich., International Glove Workers' Union of America.

August 6, Detroit, Mich., International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

August 10, Detroit, Mich., International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen.

August 10, Boston, Mass., International Typographical Union.

August 10, Boston, Mass., International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union.

August 11, Indianapolis, Ind., Shirt Waist and Laundry Workers' International Union.

August 24, Milwaukee, Wis., United Garment Workers of America.

September 1, —, Table Knife Grinders' National Union.

September 2, Milwaukee, Wis., American Brotherhood of Cement Workers.

September 7, Denver, Colo., International Association of Machinists.

September 8, New York City, International Photo Engravers' Union of North America.

September 10, Boston, Mass., Spinners' International Union.

September 14, Montreal, Canada, Journeymen Stonecutters' Association of North America.

September 14, Philadelphia, Pa., International Union of Steam Engineers.

September 14, Philadelphia, Pa., International Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers' Alliance.

September 15, Salt Lake City, Utah, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

September 17, New York City, Pocket Knife Blade Grinders and Finishers' National Union.

September 21, Indianapolis, Ind., United Association of Plumbers, Gas-fitters, Steamfitters and Steamfitters' Helpers of United States and Canada.

September 21, Indianapolis, Ind., International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.

October 5, Washington, D. C., Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union.

October 5, St. Louis, Mo., International Union of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers.

October 20, Cohoes, N. Y., United Textile Workers of America.

November 9, Denver, Colo., American Federation of Labor.

November 10, Bangor, Pa., International Union of Slate Workers.

November 12, Vinalhaven, Me., Lobster Fishermen's International Protective Association.

December 7, New Orleans, La., International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employees.

December 7, Brooklyn, N. Y., National Alliance of Bill Posters and Billers of America.

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