

# THE UNION PRINCIPLE

Foundation of All Successful Government.

GOOD OF THE MANY ITS AIM.

Objection to Trades Unions That They Deprive the Individual of Liberty is Unsound—They Secure and Maintain the Rights of Workers.

On Sunday evening, April 3, the United Trades and Labor Council of East Liverpool, O., together with members of other organizations of that city and Wellsville, attended services at the First Christian church of Wellsville, O., on the invitation of the minister, C. S. Morrison, A. M., a former printer. In the course of his sermon the minister asserted that the statement of C. W. Post that only 10 per cent of labor was organized was a false statement—that more than 20 per cent of the workers of the country are members of trades organizations. He declared that Christ, the Son of God, constantly dignified labor and "in pointing the way to victory stated the principles of unionism as the chief means to the end." The Rev. Mr. Morrison said in part:

The labor union is not only a legitimate institution, but is of great economic, educational and moral value, acting upon a principle or right recognized by both divine and human law. It is not denied that in the evolution of labor unionism mistakes, wrongs, even crimes, have been committed, but these are not to be charged to the principle and purpose of the union, but to misguided members. Nor is the labor union alone in these dark vicissitudes of development. Civilization, governments, cities, nations, are not one whit behind in these matters, as history well shows. But are they to be condemned because in their earlier stages misguided advocates were guilty of gross wrongs and crimes? Nay, should we condemn the labor unions as such. They, like other great movements for human uplift, have struggled up to higher ground and broader vision and will continue to do so. I would condemn wrongs committed by union men not only because it is inherently criminal, but also because it is contrary to the principle and purpose of unionism and brings reproach upon it unjustly. However grievous the wrongs sought to be righted, "no wrongs never make a right." The whole purpose of the labor union is to better the condition and life of laboring people generally. It is absolutely unselfish. Is it not a worthy purpose?

Nonunion labor should not condemn the unions, but should come into the house of labor may not against itself and may stand in rights, not only of wages, but of the payment of all conditions. Union principle is the foundation of all successful co-operation and government. The objection to unions that they deprive the individual of his liberty to act independently of the whole body or governing authority is not sound in social, material or political economy, for that very principle is the strength of our form of government—his votes and abides the majority rule. Liberty really only becomes possible through combination on the basis of majority rule. The relation of the member to the union is like that of the citizen to the republic—it secures and maintains his rights. It is charged it stirs up strife. What government was ever established without strife? What wrong was ever righted without strife? Is the union wholly to blame? Is the corporation that refuses to negotiate fair? It is a fact that, dealt fairly with, the union decreases strife. It is charged against organized labor that it excludes nonunion workers from employment. This is not an object, but simply an effect, of organization for their own good and the general good of labor people.

A popular objection to labor unions is that they oppose strike breakers in order to force them into the unions. This is a stock argument from the capitalists. Yet the same principle is the reliance of the ambitious capitalist to force out competition. Contrast the motives of the two. Even if the principle be not the best, the motive of the labor union is the best, for it is to build up all laborers, while the motive of the other is to crush all less fortunate competitors. However doubtful, therefore, the method, the moral credit is all on the side of the labor union.

Merchants often combine in a written agreement to control prices and hours of business. A cut rate merchant steps in and not only sells his commodity lower, but works longer hours. The organized merchants try to induce him to join them on prices and hours, and if he refuses on the ground that he has the liberty to do as he pleases the combine does not hesitate to punish him vigorously, even to the extent of putting him out of business. What is their motive? The good of the many? No; simply the benefit of the few—themselves only—and there is no public outcry.

When the labor union invokes the same principle from a more worthy motive, the good of the many, there is a great cry raised against it as wrong. Why this discrimination? Because all too many people are willing to lean upon the rich and powerful and sneer at and condemn the less fortunate.

Mr. Morrison concluded with the statement that the principles of unionism and of Christianity were identical and inseparable; that the Bible pointed the way to trades unionism and the solution of all troubles, labor and otherwise.—Typographical Journal.

**Labor Strikes.** Statistics published in the Imperial Labor Gazette show that there were 1,347 strikes in Germany in 1908 alone against 390 in England. France and Austria had, respectively, 1,073 and 721. Germany, too, had far more strikes than any other country in Europe in 1908. Of 1,419 German strikes for higher wages, 255 were successful, 488 partly so and 676 failed. The German trades unions disbursed on account of strikes in 1907 the sum of \$3,500,000.—Indianapolis News.

**Legal Day in Washington State.** Whether paid by the day or by the month, employees of the state of Washington or of any political subdivision thereof may be worked no more than eight hours a day, except in cases of extraordinary emergency, is the official opinion of the attorney general, rendered to State Labor Commissioner Hubbard. The question came on as to whether or not the eight hour limit applied to persons employed by the Tacoma street cleaning department.

# The Scrap Book

**Yes, He Knew the Time.**  
A quiet, bashful sort of a young fellow was making a call on a Capitol Hill girl one evening not so very long ago when her father came into the parlor with his watch in his hand. It was about half past 9 o'clock. At the moment the young man was standing on a chair, straightening a picture over the piano. The girl had asked him to fix it. As he turned the old gentleman, a gruff, stout fellow, said:  
"Young man, do you know what time it is?"  
The bashful youth got off the chair nervously. "Yes, sir," he replied. "I was just going."  
He went into the hall without any delay and took his hat and coat. The girl's father followed him. As the caller reached for the doorknob the old gentleman again asked him if he knew what time it was.  
"Yes, sir," was the youth's reply. "Good night!" And he shot from the house without waiting to put his coat on.

After the door had closed the old gentleman turned to the girl.  
"What's the matter with that fellow?" he asked. "My watch ran down this afternoon, and I wanted him to tell me the time so that I could set it."—Denver Post.

**The Chainless Mind.**  
Eternal spirit of the chainless mind, brightest in dungeons, liberty thou art. For there thy habitation is the heart—The heart which love of thee alone can find—  
And when thy sons to fetters are constrained—  
To fetters and the damp vault's dayless gloom—  
Their country conquers with their martyrdom,  
And freedom's fame finds wings on every wind.  
—Lord Byron. From "The Prisoner of Chillon."

**He Didn't Drop.**  
The great operatic star Signor Foll (John McCormack) when singing in grand opera in his native city, Cork, had to sing one of his songs from a stage balcony. The arrangements were not very perfect, and the manager, fearing the carpenter had not made the balcony strong enough to sustain the weight of the big man, told off two assistants to hold it up from beneath. The lengthy signor was only half through his song when one man said to the other:  
"He jaspers, Moike, the Oltalian is mighty heavy."  
"Let's dhrop him, Pat. He's only an Oltalian, afther all!"  
Voice from the signor above. "Will ye, ye divils, will ye?"  
"Tare an' omis, Pat, but he's an Oltishman! Hould him up for the loife of yez!"

**An Impossible Name.**  
In the Jefferson Market police court, New York city, several years ago a man and a woman upon being arraigned for disturbing the peace told the magistrate that the commotion between them had started in an argument as to what they should name their baby boy.  
"What do you want to call him?" asked the magistrate of the father, who was employed as a waiter at a Broadway restaurant.  
"Ludwig," answered the German.  
"And you?" he asked the mother.  
"Adolph," sighed the latter.  
The modern Solomon thought a moment. "I'll tell you what to call him," he said at length. "Call him Adolph Ludwig."  
"Nein, nein!" shouted the father.  
"Ludwig Adolph, yes; Adolph Ludwig, ceffer!"  
The magistrate demanded the reason for his stubbornness.  
"Der reason is der odder valters," plained the father. "I am Carl Coednitz, and if we called our little boy Adolph Ludwig Coednitz every valter at der restaurant would see his initials as A. L. C. vich means a la carte, and ve don't serf no a la carte by our restaurant, only table d'hore."

**Getting Back at Him.**  
The young man was timid, but he loved the girl so fervently that he mustered up enough courage to wait upon her wealthy father and ask him for her hand.  
"So you have the impudence to ask for my daughter's hand, eh?" exclaimed the father crustily. "Why, sir, at your present salary you couldn't more than keep her in gloves."  
"Well," stammered the suitor, "wouldn't that be enough?"  
"What! Do you mean to insinuate, young man, that my daughter would wear only gloves?"  
"Pardon me, sir," replied the young man, with sudden courage. "I asked only for her hand."—Lang's Magazine.

# BUILD UP THE UNIONS

Organize All Workers, Says a Socialist Editor.

FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM.

Political Action Must Wait Until Workers Are United Under Unionism's Banner—Robert Hunter Tells Socialism How It Has Erred.

Robert Hunter in a recent article, which we reprint from the Minnesota Union Advocate, warns Socialists that they must cease fighting trades unionism if they hope to further their cause. Mr. Hunter says:  
We Socialists are fast revising our views. Indeed, the revision is proceeding a bit too fast. Yesterday we were extremists on one side; tomorrow we promise to be extremists on the other side.  
John O'Neill, editor of the Miners' Magazine, said recently "that it was idle to talk of political unity while the workers were divided on the economic field."  
"It is a consoling philosophy," he said, "that tells us all we have to do is to march up to the ballot box on election day. But other things are necessary."  
"We must have unity in the shops, mills and factories. We must be thoroughly educated and organized. We must be alert, must be conscious of our interests and be prepared at all times to resist encroachments."  
"Blind protest voting will solve nothing. Our emancipation will not come from the sky nor from the manipulation of little slips of paper called ballots. Get the workers into the unions."  
"We are slowly rejecting the theory," he said, "that political action alone is necessary."

Now, these are the words of a sturdy Socialist. John O'Neill has fought a good fight, and what he says is worth giving ear to. And we must recognize the fact that in this case he speaks the view of thousands of other good Socialists. We have gone to one extreme, and now we are on the point of going to the other extreme.

Now, men and movements that go to one extreme are likely to swing about and go to the other extreme. Enrico Ferri used to be the most violent revolutionist in the Socialist movement of Europe. The other day he left the Italian Socialist party to support the new capitalist cabinet.  
John Burns was in his hunger days a raging lion. Today he is more conservative than Winston Churchill and Lloyd-George, two liberal politicians.  
Aristide Briand used to be a violent "direct actionist." Nothing but a general strike and insurrection would satisfy his revolutionary soul. Today Briand is premier of France.

The extremist is an extremist even when he turns from a revolutionist into a conservative.  
I do not mean to say that O'Neill is of this type. Far from it. I only mean to say that with movements, as with men, extremism is dangerous.  
John O'Neill and other Socialists all over America are beginning to see that political action will not solve everything. And that is true.

The mistake was made in going to the first extreme. We ought never to have said that political action alone was necessary. We ought never to have derided the unions, jeered at their weaknesses or chuckled at their every mistake. That was the first error and a terrible one. It was an error the Germans made at first, although they soon squared themselves. And it is a fact that in no other country has this error persisted as it has in America. And it is also a fact that if we continue to persist in this error we shall create a situation that will put back socialism for many years to come.

We shall see able and valiant working class comrades like John O'Neill abandoning this folly and turning to the other extreme. They will then try to build up an economic movement, while ignoring the political movement. And after going to that extreme we shall have to come back again after a few years to the work of building up a political movement.

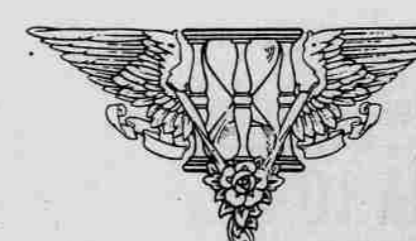
Surely it is as possible in this country as it has been in other countries to have unionists and Socialists constantly urge the necessity of both political and economic unity.  
Without both political and economic unity the working class will remain hobbled, unable to move with any force or decision.  
The fact is the working class must build up two powerful organizations and wield two powerful weapons, and those who strike in unity must also vote in unity.

We must have Socialists and trades unionists brothers and comrades in the same fight. We must make them stand together, backing each other day and night in the coming battle.  
We must allow the economic movement freedom to work out its own destiny in its own way and give it every support, aid and comfort that lies in our power. And we must ask freedom also for ourselves to develop our own methods of action, and the union movement should give the party every support, aid and comfort that lies in its power.

**The Printers of London.**  
The annual report of the London Society of Compositors shows the number of members to have been 12,000 at the end of 1909 and the total funds, including the St. Bride street property, \$310,500. Superannuation allowances (corresponding to the old age pension of the International Typographical union) were paid to 497 members.

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### BRIEF LABOR BITS.

**Little Ones Cuffed While Looking for Big Ones.**

The Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railway has increased the wages of its engineers, effective Aug. 1.

Forty or more caddies employed by Newport's exclusive society organization went on strike for a higher wage scale. They demand an increase from \$1.00 a week to \$3.00.

According to returns made to the Belgian Labor department 1.6 per cent of the 47,511 members of the trade-unions reporting were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2.1 per cent in March, and 3.0 per cent in April 1909.

The Anti-Picketing ordinance recently passed by the Los Angeles (Cal.) city council will be introduced at the next meeting of the Seattle, (Wash.) council, according to Secretary A. P. Garrison of the United Metal Trades association.

Of the \$100,000,000 paid out by the employers in the United States to reimburse the victims of accidents only \$44,000,000 reaches the workmen, and they, in turn pay fully one-half of this sum in attorney's fees. The remaining \$56,000,000 go to liability companies and lawyers.

### THE PLAIN TRUTH.

Bolton Hall, lawyer and author and son of the late Rev. Dr. John Hall, has sent an open letter to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, rebuking that body for its attitude in regard to the Jeffries-Johnson fight. He says in part:

"While in every big city young girls are snatched away to lives of slavery, while all over the land little children are worked to death in our factories, while the monopolies put prices so high as to increase these shrieking evils, is it possible that the church can find nothing more serious to attack than a prize fight, already sufficiently well advertised?"

"I am the son of a clergyman myself, a member of the Presbyterian Church, and I speak often in the churches, and it makes me sick to see the petty, ineffective, time-serving church organizations. Whenever there is a real fight on against political or social evil, the churches are sure to be found dragging a red herring across the trail with a 'crusade' against some such horror as Sunday saloons or playing craps."

"Religion only makes itself contemptible by such a bid for support as an anti-prize fight protest."

### THIS YEAR'S CONVENTIONS.

September 5-6-7, Chicago, Ill., National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

September 5, Chicago, Ill., International Slate and Tile Roofers of America.

September 5, Boston, Mass., International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes.

September 6, Bangor, Pa., International Steel and Copper Plate Printers' Union.

September 6-10, Louisville, Ky., International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America.

September 8, Boston, Mass., International Spinners' Union.

September 12, Kansas City, Kansas, Coopers' International Union.

September 12, Denver, Colo., International Union of United Brewery Workmen of America.

September 12, Philadelphia, Pa., International Union of Elevator Constructors.

September 12, Streator, Ill., International Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers' Alliance.

September 13, New York, N. Y., American Brotherhood of Cement Workers.

September 19, Des Moines, Iowa, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

September 19, Rochester, N. Y., International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.

September 21, St. Paul, Minn., Brotherhood of Railroad Freight Handlers.

September 26, Columbus, Ohio, Operative Plasterers' International Association of the United States and Canada.

October 18, New York, N. Y., United Textile Workers of America.

October 18, Detroit, Mich., International Association of Car Workers.

### WASHERWOMEN'S UNION.

A union of washerwomen has been formed at Orange, N. J., with a membership of 300. The officers announce that the standard of wages will be raised from \$1.25 to \$2 a day and the hours of labor reduced from nine to eight.

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