

# ORGANIZED LABOR

Real Contribution to the Work of Civilization.

## A CATHOLIC CHURCH VIEW.

Warranted in Principle and Justified in Achievement—To Suppress Trade Unionism Would Rob Progress of a Main Support.

Those who find it difficult to be patient with organized labor and who honestly believe that it menaces highly prized liberties will sometimes find their views widened, their spirit of toleration broadened and their understanding sharpened when they endeavor to catch wider truths of whose existence the labor unions give striking proof.

Given ideals of American life as they have been handed down and given the industrial conditions which confronted the American laborer, organization of labor became inevitable. It was the necessary protest against unbearable conditions and the necessary aspiration toward those ideals which millions saw too dimly to be satisfied, but loved too dearly to lose without a struggle. Had American laboring men not created their unions they would have shown the spirit of slaves and they would have merited the fate of the slave.

Organized labor stands for a definite ethical judgment of human life, of the family and of society. This judgment of life is wider and deeper and much nearer the whole truth of existence than the mere political or economic estimate of life. This latter is entrenched in our institutions, and it condemns severely the principles and methods by which laboring men aim painfully to work their judgment of life into our civilization.

Organized labor is the ally of all employers who hold to the ethical judgment of life rather than to the economic. One will scarcely pretend that competition is an ethical invention; one will scarcely claim that the competitive struggle calls into play the nobler and higher faculties of those who compete. Now, the employer who has high moral principles—and there are many who have—who is compelled to compete with the employer who has low moral principles is at the mercy of the latter unless he receives assistance from those in the ranks of labor who cherish ideals and are willing to struggle for them.

Again, the laboring class has ideals, and it does not find those ideals established anywhere nowadays in a manner to satisfy its aspirations. These ideals have come to strongest expression in the labor movement, and in so far as the labor movement has affected the lawmaking, public opinion and social standards to that extent our institutions and our traditions commence to incorporate the spirit of labor's idealism. To suppress organized labor, to hinder it from working day and night, to apply its principles and its views in our social life, would be to rob the progress of one of its main supports.

Organized labor is part of a world movement that will in modified form control the future. It is warranted in principle, it is justified in achievement, hopeful in outlook and is a real contribution to the institutional work of civilization. It is all this and more than this in spite of its mistakes, in spite of its mistaken policies, in spite of demagogues who have misled it, in spite of its impatience, in spite of its

lack of historical sense. The historical antecedents of those who oppose organized labor are none too honorable. It would be well for the sincere minded man who fights the labor union to look around it widely and in a spirit of fair mindedness before sitting down to advocate its extermination. If it were trusted more by the powers that be it would make fewer mistakes and would have less excuse for them. On the whole, it would seem wisest to welcome it in our modern civilization and to co-operate with it in bringing out what is best and noblest in the workingmen and in lifting them into wider participation in the prizes of life.—Rev. Dr. William J. Kerby, Catholic University, Washington.

## THE EIGHTH WONDER.

The eighth wonder of the world—the most mysterious human being alive—is the wage-worker who will not join the union of his craft.

He can offer no good reason for not joining.

In most instances he doesn't pretend to have a reason for remaining outside of the ranks.

Many unions have already doubled the wages of their members during the past fifteen years.

The best workmen in all crafts are union men.

But what in heaven's name are you going to do if you don't join the union of your craft? Beefsteak is out of sight now and still going up in price. Your wages remain stationary or go down.

How else are you to keep up with the general tendency to higher prices for food and clothing and labor except by organizing, as all men of common sense have done and are doing? —Labor Unit.

## Increase in Union Labels.

Secretary Thomas F. Tracy of the label trades department of the American Federation of Labor states that the year just passed has been a very satisfactory one to the label trades and that the future is brighter than ever before. Demands have been heavier for the products of union men and women, and he feels satisfied that the demand will continue to grow in volume.

Some time ago Mr. Tracy sent out a circular to the label trades requesting information as to the increased demand for union labels during the year past, and of those organizations replying to date, six in number, an increase is shown of more than 8,000,000. As there are almost a hundred trades and crafts using a button, card or label in the federation, it is safe to estimate that the increase will easily reach 12,000,000 by the end of the year. Secretary Tracy states that the label campaign for the year will be vigorously pushed, and he expects to double the showing made hitherto.

## Ode to the Toilers.

My heart doth bleed for those who toll  
In squalid dens and gather spoil  
For idle hands that hate to know  
Another's need, another's woe.  
It aches for those who night and day  
Are toiling on for scanty pay.  
Creating wealth with busy hands  
For drones to spend in foreign lands,  
While those producing all the wealth  
In dungeons dark dwell where health  
And gladness, sunshine, air,  
Visit not their caves, but grief, despair,  
And cankering care and want of bread  
Reign supreme in plenty's stead.  
It breaks and burns with deep desire  
To sing their woes in songs of fire  
Until the toilers cease to be  
Ignoble slaves, but joyous, free,  
As birds that flit from tree to tree.  
—Joachim B. Z. Rancher.

# THE ERA OF LABOR

The Trade Union Movement Cannot Be Crushed.

## IT HAS COME TO REMAIN.

Workingmen Are Waking to a Realization of Their Power—They See in Organization Their Only Hope of Salvation.

Gentlemen—There is no place in the United States to which a manufacturer can escape to avoid the agitation for trade unionism.

This is what Meyer London of New York, attorney for the striking cloakmakers of Hartford, Conn., told the manufacturers at the hearing for an injunction against picketing a few days ago, says the Minnesota Union Advocate.

In the name of Davidson & Watts, cloakmakers, recently removed from New York to Hartford, the trusts in Connecticut brought suit against fifteen labor organizations in the latter city for the encouragement they had given the strikers from the shop of the complainant and asked for an injunction against these organizations restraining them from "intimidation, fraud and violence."

The hearing resulted in the quashing of the suits against twelve of the defendant organizations, the firm failing utterly to prove that these twelve had in any way injured their business. Numerous residents of the city voluntarily appeared in court and testified that the pickets had conducted themselves in a most orderly and peaceful manner. And it was brought out in the testimony that many women were so impressed by the reserve and dignity of the strikers that they offered them a place in which to carry on their campaign for winning over to their side the nonunion employees in the Davidson & Watts shop.

The argument of the bosses to prove violence on the part of the strikers was riddled by the police themselves. They testified that the pickets conducted themselves most peacefully at all times, the only arrest made since the trouble began having been that of a business man who was not a striker, but a strike sympathizer.

Realizing that the demand by Davidson & Watts for an injunction was merely a cloak for the evident intention of the manufacturers' association of the city, which includes representatives of a number of trusts, to crush unionism, the Central Labor union requested Meyer London of New York to assist in the defense of the suits. During his speech in the case Mr. London made his plutocratic auditors gasp by informing them that all their efforts to escape or stamp out unionism were like trying to stem the ocean's tide with a broom; that all over the United States workingmen are discovering their real situation and beginning to see that their only salvation is in organization. Much as this information must have annoyed the manufacturers, London told them the best thing they can do is to begin to realize that this is the era of labor, that organization and solidarity among the toilers and producers is necessary and that employers might as well make up their minds as to the inevitability of trade unionism and the impossibility of permanently crushing it.

## Industry.

"Is Jones raising chickens?"  
"No; he's trying to raise his wife a chanticleer hat."—Puck.

# WORKERS' INSURANCE.

Plan of the United Brewery Workmen of America.

The United Brewery Workmen of America have been taking a referendum vote on a plan of insurance that involves an entirely new phase of co-operative work—at least in the United States—between the employer and the employed. As proposed at the recent Chicago convention the plan is this:

The brewery and malt house owners are to pay \$18 per year for each member of the union employed into a fund to which each union man will add \$6 more. This fund is to be controlled by a commission of seven members, three to be chosen by the employers and three by the union, who together select the seventh member. The commission will have the power to extend the benefits of the plan to the members of other crafts working in the breweries.

Workmen injured in the course of their employment shall be paid 65 per cent of the amount of their wages, but shall not receive pay unless the disability continues for more than ten days and shall not receive compensation for more than fifty-two weeks for any one injury.

In case of an injury causing protracted incapacity for work the board of managers shall have power to make an allowance by way of single and final payment not to exceed one-half of the amount payable in case of accidental death. In case of death through accidental injury an amount equal to four years' wages shall be paid to the dependents of the deceased.

Brewery owners have, it is said, signified their willingness to enter into this agreement, as they are now paying the same amount proposed as their share of the insurance to private companies which assume all accident and death risks. The new scheme would save all middlemen's and legal fees and at the same time guarantee that all moneys collected for this purpose would go directly and entirely to the injured workman or his family.

It is believed that the fund thus established would be large enough to also provide for a liberal old age pension.

## LABOR'S BEST WEAPON.

The union label is organized labor's best aggressive and defensive weapon, and the real soldiers in its army of effort always go armed with it. Only the camp followers and hangers-on to the labor movement are without this weapon. Always demand the label on what you purchase. You will do this if you are sincere in your devotion to the cause of labor.

## State of Trade in Great Britain.

The condition of employment in the English labor market was not quite so good in August as it was in July. Slight improvement was noted in the building and woodworking trades. The usual seasonal slackness occurred in the printing industry. As compared with the previous year, several of the leading industries showed some betterment, but employment in the cotton trade was worse, it was reported, owing to the high price of raw cotton. In the 416 trade unions, with a membership of 705,473, making returns, 28,406, or 4 per cent, were reported as unemployed at the end of August, 1910, compared with 3.8 per cent at the close of July and 7.7 per cent at the end of August, 1909.