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### TRADE UNIONISM

Its Methods and Its Goal.

THE trade union enables the fair employer—who, like the fair unionist, predominates—to estimate his labor on a living basis. This system is a good deal preferable to figuring on what his unfair competitor can procure his cheapest help for. Not only that, but it is a protection for the merchant. It enables the trade unionist to live as becomes an American citizen, and has a powerful influence in procuring fair compensation for the individual whose conscience will not permit him to join any combination in this free (?) competitive age. Again, the union headquarters act as a clearing-house for the employer. It is convenient to send there for additional help.

The trade union is not flawless by any means. It is a good deal easier to tear down than to build up, but the latter course applied with intelligence to the labor movement will overcome many of its deficiencies. The gains are greater than the losses. While the dominant trait of human nature is selfishness, just so long will we find both sides endeavoring to get the best of the industrial situation. The trade union has come to stay. It is a natural outgrowth of present-day conditions.

#### Aim of the Future

WHAT has been accomplished? The history of the labor movement during the last quarter of a century parallels in action and results the noblest of all permanent organizations, that grandest of human achievements, our republic, the United States of America. It has, by the unselfish, honest, energetic effort of her leaders; the stability and fundamental righteousness of her cause, destroyed the barriers of ignorance and disdain, the injustice of prejudiced critics, and has made the great mass of the people believers in the sincerity and stability of its principles.

What has the future in store? If the history of the past acts as the guide for the future—and I know of no better guide than the lamp of experience—the results to be accomplished cannot but accord and merit a proper position in the progress and prosperity of our country, and be the factor for the preservation of the rights and ideals of a free and enlightened people. When the future records the achievements of the past; when the impartial verdict of the great events is rendered, the shape of its efforts weighed in the balance will be no mean proportion of the whole.

Determination of public issues in the referendum of public opinion is the aim of the future.—Peter W. Collins, President of the Boston Central Labor Union.

#### Labor Day

LABOR DAY has become an established institution, distinctly to the advancement of the welfare of one of the most important factors in the American prosperity and progress. It is a wholesome thing thus to set apart a certain day in the name of the workers of the country, as a recognition of their contribution to the advancement of the country and a tribute to them. It arrests national thought and

concentrates attention upon the fact that this is a highly complex organization, with all the elements mutually dependent. The day is more than a holiday for the sake of rest. It affords an opportunity and it furnishes an incentive for reckoning up the situation at large from the broadest possible viewpoint. It is calculated, too, to make for a more intelligent appreciation by both sides of the great productive combination, the employer and the unemployed, of the conditions which should in justice and equity govern their relations. Every celebration of the day should score an advance toward practical lasting harmony, and thus toward the ideal state of social organization.

#### What Has Been Done

WHAT are the reforms that union labor is addressing itself to in its effort to reach the good time coming, and what means are being employed? In the first place it should be noted we have come a long way already. The hours of labor have been reduced from sunrise and sunset to ten and then to eight hours; Chinese immigration has been stopped, as also the importation of contract labor; the sweatshop has been eliminated in large measure and wages have been advanced. That is worth while. We have undertaken to abolish child labor and will not cease until it is accomplished and the child sent to school. These are some of the things we are working to accomplish. We wish to secure the initiative and referendum and we are diligently at work in every state to that end. The work is progressing excellently. The initiative and referendum once secured it will form an effective means toward other reforms.

#### Its Wisdom Shown

THE growth of organized labor in the United States is shown by the great increase in the membership of the American Federation of Labor, the most powerful body of wage-workers in the country, if not in the world. Organized labor is stronger in America than ever before. The cry for the open shop and the heated denunciations of the opponents of the boycott, the closed shop and the sympathetic strike is met on every hand by examples of the wisdom of collective bargaining on the part of workmen when dealing with their employers and the continuance of union shops by cooler headed employers.

#### The Greatest Need

I CANNOT name the greatest achievement of the unions since the first Labor day, but two that I consider the greatest are the measures against child labor and the accomplishment of the eight-hour day.

Unions should in the future strive most for general adoption of the eight-hour day, for it means the advance of other workmen's questions.—Francis J. Clarke, President of Massachusetts Branch, American Federation of Labor.

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