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A WORKINGMAN'S CHURCH.

Rev. Charles Steizle Discusses a Matter That Interests the Workers.

Recently an earnest and, I believe, thoroughly sincere trades unionist advocated the plan of organizing a church within the ranks of organized labor, which should be composed exclusively of working people who made a profession of Christianity. The ministers, the officers, the teachers, the singers—all who had anything to do with this novel organization were to come from the ranks of the toilers.

Repeatedly has it been suggested to me that I organize the Christian trades unionists in the labor movement to separate trades unions. But always have I declined to become the advocate of such a scheme for practically the same reasons that prompt me to disapprove of the organization of working people into separate religious organizations of any kind.

Perhaps the strongest objection to such a plan is the fact that workingmen themselves do not believe in "class" churches. I once wrote to 300 of the prominent leaders of labor asking their opinions concerning the organization of a distinctively "workingman's" church. Only three of the 300 were favorably disposed toward the proposition. Among the reasons given for opposing it were the following: "If true religion means anything it means the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and an exclusive church would be contrary to that doctrine." "While workingmen are poor, they are also proud, and they would be slow to connect themselves with an exclusive institution which might possibly be dubbed 'a poor man's church.'" "A church established exclusively for the workingman would deteriorate. There would ultimately arise a secluded, isolated and forsaken spirit that would eventually end in strife and dissatisfaction."

One of the reasons given for the organization of this "workingman's church" is that the church is making "many great and grievous mistakes." But isn't that also true of the labor union? Must we therefore pull out of the labor union all of the Christian men and those of high moral principles and place them into a separate organization? Is it not better to keep them where they are, so that through their influence they may correct the errors which are now being made?

This is equally true of the church. We need every loyal Christian trades unionist in the church just as we need the loyal Christian trades unionist in the labor union.

Such a process of seclusion as has been suggested would also result in a sort of pharasaical spirit which would practically destroy the influence of the Christian men who would engage in such an enterprise. The "I am better than thou" attitude makes few converts.

What we really need today is a straightforward, manly, Christian life, lived out both in the church and in the labor unions, without much flourishing of trumpets. That kind of living will soon rectify the mistakes both in the church and the labor union, and it will also usher in the day when there will exist a truer spirit of real brotherhood.

BOTH HAPPY.

The workingmen who are so elated over the election of Taft, should bear in mind that his success is also intensely gratifying to that noted friend of the working class—Van Cleave. But then, his interests are in common with yours, you know.—Kansas City Labor Herald.

THE BARBERS.

Omaha Artists Will Hereafter Have to Stand Rigid Examination.

The Omaha city council has decided to retain and enforce the ordinance which calls for the maintaining of an examining board to inquire into the competency and healthfulness of all barbers. Mayor Dahlman will appoint a board within the week. The ordinance has been on the city's statute books a number of years, but of late it has been a dead letter and there has been no examining board. The mayor has not as yet decided who he will appoint, but applications for membership on the board of three qualified barbers have been made by Anton Gross, John W. Light and John Konvslin.

AN IMPORTANT MOVE.

Railway Employees Organize a Department Under A. F. of L. Auspices.

Immediately after the adjournment of the A. F. of L. convention at Denver the first step was taken towards securing an affiliation between the va-

rious railway brotherhoods preliminary to affiliation with the American Federation of Labor. The idea of the promoters of the plan is to have the railway brotherhoods organize councils similar to the building trades councils and the councils of the allied printing trades, the whole to form a department of the Federation.

H. B. Perham, president of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, called the first session to order and business was immediately taken up. The sessions were held behind closed doors and no report has been made. No report will be made in the near future. But the promoters of the plan believe that success will attend their efforts.

DO NOT

PATRONIZE

BUCK STOVES

AND RANGES!

THE MUSICIANS.

Will Have to Stand for the Competition of the Marine Band.

That the Marine Band may play for compensation, without regard to the statute providing that navy bands or members thereof shall not receive remuneration for furnishing music outside the limits of military posts, when in competition with local civilian musicians, is the effect of a decision rendered by the attorney general Wednesday, November 11. Organized labor has taken the position that government bands should not compete with union musicians, and the question was as to whether the Marine Band is strictly a "navy band" in the meaning of the law. The attorney general cites many decisions to show that while the marine corps is a part of the navy it frequently has been held to be a separate institution, so far as legislative enactments are concerned.

LABOR TEMPLE MEETING.

The Directors Will Meet Monday Evening, This Time For Sure.

President Dickson has issued a call for a meeting of the directors of the Labor Temple Building Association next Monday evening at Chaplin & Ryan's barber shop, 124 North Twelfth. It is imperative that a meet-

ing be held on this date, and the director who fails to be present will be seriously neglecting an important duty. The very life of the association may depend upon this meeting.

Speaking of Labor Temples, the following dispatch from Sioux City appeared in the daily newspapers of November 20:

"Sioux City, Ia., Nov. 20.—Special: Sioux City trades unions last night dedicated the finest labor hall in the state, with President A. L. Urlick of the Iowa State Federation of Labor as principal orator. The entire second floor of the new Richardson block has been leased by the united labor unions.

"There are ten rooms in all. Two large assembly rooms, the largest of which will seat 200 people, will take care of the mass meetings. Overlooking Fifth street there are four small rooms which will be used for office rooms and headquarters for the smaller unions. The hall is fitted with two thoroughly modern retiring rooms. The flooring and woodwork is all highly polished hardwood. The ceiling and walls are rough finish."

Sioux City is no larger than Lincoln, and the trades unions are no stronger, either in membership or in finance. Certainly what Sioux City has done Lincoln can do.

BEFORE AND AFTER.

Moses was the first strikebreaker, and he made old Paroah look like a monkey. Watch how the workingmen of America put "Little Willie" of Cincinnati in the Paroah class on November 3.—Lincoln Wagerworker.

Well Moses must have been a grand old leader.—Schenectady Leader.

Aw, cheese it, Bo., What's the use of rubbing it in?

AT LEAST CONSISTENT.

Cabinet builders are at work, but no two agree. The Lincoln Wagerworkers' list comes nearest to Taft's ideas as it includes VanCleave, Post, Parry and Otis.—Sioux City Union Advocate.

UNPROFITABLE BUSINESS.

"Brush Burning" behind Gompers is an unprofitable business.—Sioux City Union Advocate.

The International Cotton Spinners' union has presented Samuel Ross of New Bedford, its veteran secretary, with a silver service of fifty pieces.

World of Labor

News from All Parts of
the World, of General
Interest to the Worker

Pittsburg, Pa.—The United States Steel corporation partly uncovered its hand in the Pittsburg district when it showed that, with independent concerns, it had for several months been planning to make the year 1909 the biggest in the history of iron and steel. Startling figures were produced to show that all records for carrying iron ores into the Pittsburg district are being shattered and there is already piled up in the district above 10,000,000 tons of ore, or enough to run most of the blast furnaces at their full capacity for a year. In addition to this, about 3,000,000 tons of ore will yet be brought in, which will give the mills more material than they ever used in any year, and arrangements have been made for using it all in 1909.

Pittsburg, Pa.—The Republic Iron and Steel Company announced from its Pittsburg offices that it would soon have in operation 100 per cent. of its furnace capacity in the Birmingham districts of Alabama. Orders have been issued for the blowing in of furnace No. 1, in the Pioneer group. The company has three big furnaces at Birmingham, and this will be the first time in ten years that all have been in operation at once. It is expected that the New York Central railroad will place an order for 1,000 cars in the Pittsburg district early next week. The order has been hanging fire for some time, but Vice-President J. M. Schoonmaker, in charge of the Pittsburg district, has been called to New York to consult over the matter.

Boston.—Frank J. McNulty of New York, international president of the Electrical Workers' Brotherhood, was in Boston and spoke before a special meeting of the executive board of the New England council and a mass meeting of the Boston unions. The members learned from him quite a different version of the international troubles, and he had affidavits and correspondence to substantiate his statements. The international has called a special convention for January 15 at Springfield, Ill., to permanently settle all controversies. The New England executive board decided to put special organizers in the field at Stamford, Conn., and at Gardiner and Holyoke.

Watertown, N. Y.—The paper-makers' strike against the International Paper Company, which has been on since August 1, has been officially declared off by the officials of the union, under the same conditions as provided for in the agreement of September 24 between President Carey of the union and the International Company, which was not ratified by the locals. The international will take the men back as fast as needed, but they must apply as individuals and the mills will be run "open." The men struck against a reduction of ten per cent. The September agreement is a compromise calling for a reduction of five per cent.

Portland, Ore.—Ralph Blaisdell, auditor for the Harriman system of railroads in the northwest has, "for the good of the service," issued an order forbidding employees in his department visiting saloons or liquor houses for any purpose whatsoever. The order affects about 500 employees. Several months ago Blaisdell discharged all the women clerks and stenographers in his department and replaced them with men. The women were dismissed on the ground, as assigned, that men are more efficient.

New York.—There is a movement in the east on the part of a number of labor unions to eliminate from their respective constitutions the clause which bars the discussion of politics at meetings of the organizations. The leaders in this direction assert that they are moved to this action by the changed conditions in the country, and demand that such a step must be taken for the better protection of organized labor.

Newark, N. J.—The H. R. Worthington Company announced that its full complement of more than 5,000 men will be at work in the plant in Harrison by January 1 next. The Lidgerwood Manufacturing Company made a similar announcement, which affects 2,000 men. Both have been running on part time and had received many big orders contingent upon the election result.

Chicago.—A school for wives is the latest undertaking of Chicago club-women. Courses will be given in the making of clothes, cooking, household economics and general housekeeping. The idea is to make good housewives and to make them through organized and unified effort.

Boston.—Efforts are on foot to have the Order of Railway Clerks, the membership of which is mainly on several sections of the B. & M. railroad, amalgamate with the big general organization of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. Organizer Reynolds of the Brotherhood is now in this section endeavoring to bring about the desired result.

Boston.—Pres. Edward J. McGiven of Boston Plasterers' union has been elected a member of the international executive board of the union. The international has voted to affiliate with the A. F. of L.

New Haven, Conn.—A revival of industrial activity will be felt in Connecticut in nearly every branch of trade, and more particularly along the Naugatuck valley, which is the center of brass and copper goods making. The increase in orders to electrical equipment concerns will immediately be followed by active resumption on full time of many plants in Waterbury and Bridgeport, which turn out fittings of copper used in electrical machinery. In all the metal trades a busy winter is expected. Interviews with manufacturers at Waterbury indicating that inquiries for estimates on contracts have begun. The Naugatuck valley was hit hard by the industrial depression for more than 25,000 highly skilled workers in copper and brass have been on partial time for months. The industries of this compactly settled valley furnish something in the metal line to every corner of the United States. The hardware and silverware concerns are preparing for a good season. Heavy machinery makers think the improvement will reach them late in the winter.

Galveston, Tex.—From the lumber regions of east Texas comes the announcement that seven lumber mills which have been shut down since last May will resume operations between the middle of this and the first of next month, giving employment to about 1,400 men. Four other mills which have been running on half and three-quarter time will be put on full time and increase their force with about 250 men. The mills report that orders, aggregating 340,000,000 feet of lumber, which had been held up for two months, are now coming in. The most favorable sign of the times is the reopening of the railroad shops in Texas on full time. It is estimated that over 10,000 men will be restored to work.

Richmond, Va.—In a telegram received by Joseph Bryan, announcement was made that the Virginia railroad, controlled by H. H. Rogers, had ordered 19 engines of the latest model from the Richmond branch of the American Locomotive Company, which will necessitate the operation of the plant, so long practically idle, at full blast for months to come. Other industries throughout the state are noting improved business, and employees are being reinstated in many factories. Local retail and wholesale houses report increased trading for the last two days, some houses having sold more goods in this time than within the same period for the last six months.

Pittsburg, Pa.—As a result of the revival in industrial activity there is a remarkable scarcity of laborers in the Connelleville coke district. An appeal is made in this week's issue of the Connelleville Courier for 1,000 men. According to the operators, the foreign workmen who went home last fall when the financial stragglery came on have not returned. Thousands who did return to America, fearing that the Connelleville coke region would not be as good as before, continued on their way to the far west. A positive famine of coke workers is threatened.

Cleveland, O.—Printers who went on strike in the two Hungarian daily newspaper offices to increase the wages of machine operators to \$18 per week for day men and \$19 for night workers, organized a union Friday evening. They had previously sustained a social and beneficial club.

Boston.—The wage question of the street carmen's unions of the Boston & Northern and Old Colony street railway systems has gone to arbitrate for a decision. Each side appoints one member of the board, and they select an umpire if an agreement cannot be reached. There can be no strike, the general agreement still having two years to run. The men voted against renewing the existing scale and want an increase. The companies suggest a reduction of one cent an hour for every man.

Pittsburg, Pa.—It was announced here that ten glass plants in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland and Indiana will be put in operation within two weeks. They are the property of the National Glass Company, now in the hands of a receiver. All have been idle for months and bondholders will endeavor to purchase plants at the trustee's sale with a view of putting them in operation so as to get the money back.

Mobile, Ala.—The shops of the Mobile & Ohio railroads at Whistler, Ala., which have been running on half time, started on full time for the first time in several months.

Chicago.—Chicago's contribution to the prosperity is 15,000 jobs by the following concerns: Western Steel and Car Foundry, 500 men and 1,000 more within a month; Pullman Car works, 2,500 and 2,500 more soon; Inland Steel Company, 1,800 and 1,000 more soon; Illinois Steel Company, 1,500; United States Steel Corporation, 500.

New Orleans, La.—On December 7 the International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employees, and at Brooklyn, N. Y., the National Alliance of Bill Posters and Billers of America will meet here in convention.