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Miller & Paine

In the Basement

The Labor Movement in Europe

By Rev. Charles Stetle

LABOR LEADERS IN THE CHURCH.

At least twenty of the labor members of parliament are affiliated with the church, and several of them are "lay" or unordained preachers, spending their Sundays in conducting religious services. Large numbers of the leaders of labor in England and Scotland are actively interested in the church—indeed, they will tell you that they received their training as public speakers in the church.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, M. P., chairman of the labor party in the house of commons, is vice-president of the great church brotherhood movement in Great Britain, which has a membership of 500,000. He, together with such men as Will Crooks, M. P., George Nicholls, M. P., and other labor leaders who are not members of parliament, frequently speak at the national conventions and Sunday afternoon meetings of the brotherhood in various cities. These church brotherhoods, by the way, are composed very largely of trades unionists, as I discovered when addressing brotherhood in various cities. These church brotherhoods by the way, are composed very largely of trades unionists, as I discovered when addressing brotherhood mass meetings in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Manchester.

The trades union leaders on the other side have learned the value of having the church with them, and the church, at any rate, the non-Conformist church, is closely identified with the interests of working people. It is also quite evident that whatever the average workingman may personally think of the church and of the temperance question, he is careful to select as his leader, and as his representative in the house of commons, the man who is of high moral character and who is a total abstainer and a member of the church.

Incidental references have already been made to socialism. To treat it satisfactorily would require more space than seems possible to give it. Unquestionably, the labor movement in Europe, particularly on the continent,

is dominated by the socialists. Even when they are not in the majority, they seem to raise up leaders who control the situation. In France, for instance, the revolutionaries, while not so numerous as the present strike reports would seem to indicate, actually rule the entire labor movement. They prefer to keep the bona-fide union membership comfortably small, so that they will not be out-numbered and then overpowered.

In Germany, practically every strong trades unionist leader is a socialist. But there is a good excuse for socialism in Germany. While the conditions are rapidly improving, there still remains much more to be done for the workers, and the socialists are doing their share in the common cause. They are rendering their most valuable service as a party of protest. For practical co-operation and for sane helpfulness, the socialists in Belgium, in the work of their People's Palace, are giving assistance of a kind which workingmen all over the world sorely need. Here they minister to the social, intellectual and the physical needs of men, to a degree which is rarely surpassed by any kind of an organization. In England the term "socialism" is used rather loosely. It seems to mean almost anything that is a departure from the old-time conservatism. While it seems comparatively easy to get the British Trades Union congress to pass a resolution, the members of organized labor do not see fit to elect the socialist candidates.

Condition of Socialists.
Just now, socialism seems to be having rather a hard time of it on the other side. There is a note of pessimism in the socialist press which is unusual. In Germany, which country is always referred to as the leader in the movement, the socialist membership in the Reichstag (congress) was reduced at the last election from eighty-three to forty, although there was something of an increase in the total number of votes cast. In London, at the last municipal elections the socialists lost a large number of votes.

In Edinburgh they have steadily declined, according to the figures shown me by the local authorities. But while there is this comparative halt, it by no means indicates that socialism has seen its best days. It will probably lead to a more sharply defined cleavage between the socialists, the semi-socialists, and the anti-socialists, so that socialism in a few years will know its actual strength the world over, and it will begin its fight anew, upon a clear-cut program.

DELEGATES MEET.

Lincoln and Havelock Representatives Prepare for Meeting.

Delegates to the number of seventeen, representing as many unions, met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Maupin, Wednesday evening. These delegates have been elected to represent their local unions at the State Federation of Labor meeting in Lincoln on June 21 and 22. The object of the meeting was to prepare for the reception and entertainment of the delegates from the outside cities.

Committees were appointed to look after the printing of suitable badges and to arrange for a lunch and "smoker" at C. L. U. hall on Tuesday evening after Raymond Robin's address. It was decided to ask the presidents of the local unions to act on the reception committee on the occasion of the reception by Governor and Mrs. Shallenberger at the executive mansion Tuesday evening, June 21.

After the business of the evening was disposed of the delegates talked "shop" for an hour, and in the meantime refreshments were served by Mrs. Maupin, assisted by her little daughters, Lorena and Dorothy. Union made cigars and smoking tobacco were consumed in generous quantities. The delegates will meet again next Tuesday evening at the home of Mr. A. A. Hyers, Havelock. Mr. Hyers being the delegate from the Machinists' Union. Delegates are urged to take the 7:20 Havelock car and go to the postoffice in the shop city. From there they will be escorted to the Hyers' residence.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Pleasant and Profitable Meeting Held Last Wednesday Afternoon.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 to Typographical Union No. 209 met at the home of Mrs. Will Bustard Wednesday afternoon. The routine business of the organization was transacted. Deputy Labor Commissioner Maupin was present by invitation and made a short address on the lines of his addresses before the Women's Clubs of the state. He dwelt particularly upon the conditions surrounding women in the industrial field, and tried to show how their working conditions may be vastly bettered by a concerted demand for the union label. He also endeavored to show how the Auxil-

iary's members can take a leading part in this labor movement.

Mrs. F. H. Hebbard, president of the Auxiliary, read an interesting paper on the topic, "What We Are Organized For," in which she explained to several visitors the objects and aims of the organization. It was an open meeting and several women who are not members of the organization, but who are eligible to membership, were present, and several applications were received.

After the program dainty refreshments were served by the hostess. The Auxiliary is planning for its June social which will be held soon, and which, like all other Auxiliary socials, will be worth waiting for.

PAINTERS AND DECORATORS.

Brief Bits About Men Who Wield the Decorative Brush.

Every member of Local Union No. 18, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers is working full time, and most of them over time. The union shops report even better business than at the same time in 1908, and that was their banner year up to that time. The number of union men employed at present is seventy-five. Very few traveling cards are received, the men seeming to be busy elsewhere as well as in Lincoln.

Good health is the rule among the members. The relief committee is enjoying a sinecure. One member is laid up with a sore arm.

Of course it goes without saying that the union shops are commanding the best work and workmen in the city.

Following is the list of new officers recently elected:

President, Perry Jennings.
Vice-president, W. E. Dewey.
Financial secretary, R. I. Glover.
Recording secretary, H. L. Rose.
Louis Hale is the locals' delegate to the State Federation of Labor convention.

FARMER SADIE.

Before the first of July, Frank A. Kennedy and family of Omaha will be farmers. That is, they will be living on a farm. Kennedy, who is the popular editor of the Western Laborer, drew a patch of ground in the Tripp county lottery, and he is going to bet Uncle Sam he can live on it six months without starving to death. He will devote his energies to small pica pumpkins and DeVinne chickens. Here's hoping the Kennedy's realize all their agricultural hopes and ambitions.

RAILWAY TRAINMEN.

Reports of the officers to the ninth biennial convention of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, in session at Columbus, Ohio, show an increase of 2,000 in membership since the last convention. The total membership is now 101,000.

THE MUSICIANS.

Bunch of Active Unionists Get Into the Federation Game.

The Musicians' Union is made up of hustlers. At the regular meeting last Sunday this organization elected Dr. J. H. Cain delegate to the State Federation of Labor. Then it proceeded to appoint a band leader whose duty it will be to draft a band of forty or fifty pieces to provide a parade and music on Tuesday evening, June 22, when Raymond Robins speaks. Then, to clinch the matter, Dr. Gains was instructed to pledge the organization for its pro rata share of the expenses of holding the meeting. Guess that's going some! That sort of action ought to make some of the older unions in Lincoln sit up and take notice.

Delegate Pinney made a verbal report of his stewardship as delegate to the general convention, and the report was listened to with interest and profit.

A committee was appointed to wait upon the Lindell hotel management and protest against the unfair orchestra playing there. The Lindell hotel had been designated as headquarters for the Federation delegates, but Will M. Maupin, who was present at the meeting said that if the hotel was using a non-union orchestra it certainly could not be the headquarters. The committee will call at the Lindell.

Elite No. 2 is not exactly square with the union, and the committee that waits upon the Lindell will also wait upon the Elite.

The new roster and price list will be issued in a week or two.

Owen Miller, secretary of the American Federation of Musicians and president of the St. Louis Trades and Labor Assembly, seems to be something of a vote-getter. A few weeks ago he was unanimously re-elected secretary of the Federation. But a week or two before that he was elected to a civic office. He was a candidate for the St. Louis board of freeholders, whose duty it is to revise the city charter. When the votes were counted Miller was high man. He received 702 votes more than both old party candidates for mayor, and his total vote was the largest ever received by any candidate for city office in the history of St. Louis. At the same election M. H. Witter, ex-president of the International Typographical union, was elected city registrar, and L. W. Quick, grand secretary of

the Order of Railway Telegraphers, was elected city treasurer. That's going some in the political line. And in Jim Van Cleave's own town, too!

Kansas City musicians report the summer outlook the most discouraging in years.

W. T. Pinney has been appointed state trustee for this district of the Federation of Musicians. The Federation is divided into eleven districts, two of which are in Canada.

Every musician who can, should hear Raymond Robins at the First Christian church, Tuesday evening, June 22. He's the greatest advocate of trades unionism on the American platform.

An effort will be made to establish unions in Fremont, Nebraska City, Beatrice and Hastings before the close of the summer.

GONE EAST.

Deputy Labor Commissioner Maupin left Friday afternoon for Rochester, N. Y., where he will attend the annual national convention of State Labor Commissioners and Factory Inspectors. He was accompanied by his daughter, Dorothy.

WANT MORE BRICKLAYERS.

Kansas City Asked to Send Fifty or Sixty to Lincoln.

C. E. Haynie, local manager of the International Harvester company, says he has asked the head office at Kansas City to rush him fifty or sixty bricklayers at once. He wants to rush up the walls of the company's new warehouse, and says he can not get bricklayers to do the work, although he has been advertising for them all around.

Manager Haynie says the building rush in Lincoln is so great that it is impossible to get bricklayers, and unless he can get them from the outside he can not get the warehouse walls up in time to take care of the season's business.

This sounds good—if it isn't a scheme to import a lot of non-union bricklayers. It is true that work in the mason line is rushing, not only in Lincoln, but in Omaha, Fremont, Beatrice, Hastings and other Nebraska towns.

Garment Workers' Union in Erie, Pa., received increase in wages ranging from 15 to 40 per cent and the eight-hour day without a strike.

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