

THE CLOSED SHOP.

Places Capital and Labor Upon an Equal Footing.

VALUE OF ORGANIZATION.

Increases the Wageworkers' Power For Regulating Conditions of Toil—The Open Shop Means Dependence, Weakness and Poverty.

By the "closed shop" or union shop is not meant that the unions shall manage the situation in a few industries scattered here and there over the country, as we now have in the building trades, the printing shops, the foundry shops and a few others. These are but pioneers in a great movement. And even in such an incomplete and fragmentary state of organization as labor is at the present, only 10 per cent, I am not able to find a single case in which the fact that labor is completely organized in any particular trade is inimical to the interests of the wage earners at work in that particular industry. But even if such a case exists it does not follow that the evils now incident to a union shop would continue under a universal policy, for it is highly probable that labor associations, maintaining a closed shop under present conditions, are forced to resort to measures which would be altogether unnecessary if they had the aid and support of the whole wage earning class. The practice of carrying organization to its logical completeness is based upon a deep principle. It is the element of unity in modern life. But so long as labor is divided against itself it must reap the fruits of disunion.

Indeed, the wonderful growth and development which labor has achieved through organization in the last decade with the many obstacles which have bisected its path have scarcely had their parallel in history. The problems which have presented themselves to such men as Gompers and Mitchell have been numerous and intricate. With one hand they have successfully gained concessions from capital. Frequently, however, they have been forced to resort to the instruments of war—the strike and the boycott—which at times have been precluded only by the employer's lockout. With the other they have grappled with the problem of disunion among their own members. Out of such incongruous conditions the laboring class is being molded into a homogeneous unit.

This centripetal force, drawing men of a common state and those destined to a common fate into a unity of action for the purpose of securing mutual benefits, is odiously styled the policy of the "closed shop." But it simply means an organization of organizations, a union of unions, national, state and local. Certainly every wage earner should be a member of that union which deals directly with his own craft. And out of the different trade unions in any given industry should be formed an industrial union. These would serve as a foundation upon which to build the superstructure of a more perfect organization, embracing every trade and labor association, including all grades of artisans, skilled and unskilled, and bringing together labor in whatever form it may be found.

There are some today who contend it is better for the wage earning class to work in an "open shop" and live under rules and regulations made in the employer's office, where labor is not represented. The same spirit which animated the American colonists to take up arms against the Brit-

ish crown is the same spirit which is causing the laboring class to fight for the control of labor.

The "open shop" means that the wage earner must submit to the rulings of his employer and at the same time meet the fierce competition of other workmen. In short, it means dependence, weakness, poverty. Under such conditions labor is limited to the strike and boycott as means or instruments for defending its just claims. But the union shop eliminates cut-throat competition, places capital and labor upon an equal footing, and to the wageworkers it brings independence, strength, prosperity. These are valuable assets to any class. Complete organization adds to the potentiality of the unions, increases their power for regulating conditions of work, gives definiteness and concreteness to their aims and remunerates concerted action with visible and tangible returns. And not until both capital and labor are strong enough to command the respect of the other can arbitration be substituted for contention and negotiation for strife. But with capital strongly organized and labor united under a democratic federation the two can then meet upon common grounds and settle their disputes without violence or without doing hurt to either side.

The whole argument for the union shop clusters about the one question, Who shall control labor—shall it be in the hands of the employers or shall the laborers control themselves? Because a man is a laborer he is no less fit to be free. Honest work is no bar to industrial citizenship. Because a man is a wage earner he is no less a patriot. No country can be free which allows its workmen, the men who support it, to be oppressed. No class in civilized society can be free in which the principle of absolute individualism is the basis of action. Every workman is a vital part of the wage earning class, and the good of the whole demands that he shall act in harmony with his organic relations.—W. P. Stacy in American Federationist.

The Writ of Injunction.

In the federal courts Judge Taft long ago paved the way and built the foundation for the abuse and perversion of the injunction writ. He issued this species of injunction while judge, and he defended it during his presidential campaign and in his inaugural address, in his speeches at Worcester, Mass., and Passaic, N. J., last year and again in his message to the present session of congress. The fact of the matter is that the Moon bill, the enactment of which the president urged, would not remove one wrong or rectify one jot of the injunction abuse and perversion. Its enactment would simply have this one effect—it would legalize and give statutory authority for the issuance of these injunctions. It would put on the statute books in the form of a law what is now simply judicial invasion, court made laws.—Samuel Gompers.

To Fight Yellow Labor.

The international union with which the unions of cooks, waiters and restaurant employees of the country are affiliated has informed the unions of these crafts in San Francisco that it will aid them financially in the fight to exclude all Asiatics from employment in saloons and restaurants in that city.

Convict Labor In Michigan.

In its report to the legislature the Michigan commission on prison industries recommends that the contract labor system now in vogue in the penal institutions of the state be abolished and will urge adoption of the state account system or some other more satisfactory one than that under which the convicts are now employed.

IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

Zbysco, Who May Be Gotch's Next Opponent.



Wrestling in this country is receiving quite a boom this winter. In fact, more bouts have been held in America this season than has been the case for many years. The magnet has been so great that it has attracted nearly all the foreign mat artists of note. Among those here are Hackenschmidt, the "Russian Lion," Yusuf Mahmoud, Turkey's best wrestler, and Zbysco, the Polish champion. All three are traveling around the country meeting all comers. Later these men will meet in a round robin tournament, the winner to be given a chance to match with Champion Frank Gotch.

Syracuse May Have Crew.

"We've got to have a crew this year, and we're going to have one," is what every undergraduate of the University of Syracuse is saying. Over \$1,000 has been pledged, and most of this came from the engineers, who are always the first on duty when it comes to doing anything for their alma mater. A short meeting was held after chapel Tuesday, and at this time about \$700 was raised. It was later voted to impose a tax of \$3.50 on every man in applied science.

When you mention the crew situation to the Orange student you touch him nearest his heart. The collegians are behind their teams and crews. The matter has had a great deal of discussion from the alumni, and they are expected to chip in and help clear the debt. The situation was put up to the men of the university in plain terms in a recent mass meeting. There were no delays, one speaker succeeding another, and the remarks were close to the point.

Coach Ten Eyck compared the situation to that of Columbia recently, when the Morningside men had to raise \$8,000 or give up their crew. "If Columbia can do this," he said, "judging from the indications Syracuse will have a crew on the river in June." Doc John Cunningham has something up his sleeve. He said he had his eyes on a prominent Syracuse business man who would guarantee to raise half the money if the students would raise the other half, the matter of \$3,500.

Athletic Cup on "Knockout" Plan.

Cambridge University Athletic club of England will provide a challenge cup which is to be competed for by each college on the "knockout" plan.

This means that each college will hold its sports as usual, but will at the same time play against some other British college. At Oxford, too, it has been found that there is a lack of keenness about competitions closed to any one of the many colleges there.

Hart to Lead Tigers Again.

Edward J. Hart of the Princeton football team has been re-elected captain. Hart is a member of the class of 1912, and his home is in Exeter, N. H. He is one of the few Princeton players to be elected captain in their junior year and has the further honor of having been elected to lead the varsity football team two years in succession.

Football Aids Coffers.

With the exception of college baseball, football is the only branch of sport that pays for itself. The Harvard annual report shows that more than \$88,000 was earned by the football squad last season, which more than made up a deficiency in other sports. Rowing cost Harvard about \$15,000.

Trying to Organize Polo League.

New York Athletic club swimmers are trying to effect the organization of an intercity water polo league, to include Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Pittsburg and possibly St. Louis. The idea is to have play during the winter season.

West Wants Rowing Regatta.

Minnesota university is nursing a movement to establish a western college rowing regatta on the Mississippi. Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington, Nebraska and possibly Michigan will be invited to send crews.

English Fighter to Come Over.

Digger Stanley, the English bantamweight champion, is about to come to this country for matches. He is ready to meet any of the boys who will make 116 pounds.

PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM.

One principle upon which the union shop is based is that labor shall control itself. And control means organization. Then how can we escape the logic of the union shop? And even in the face of a strong public prejudice against the "closed shop" I am so bold as to maintain that the rights of the laboring man are as real, as genuine and as vital as those of his employer. His struggles for existence have been fought with hardships, dangers and bitter toil. From these he has not shrunk, but, rather, in the enjoyment and the strenuous exercise of the same he has earned for himself a place in the history of civilization. The principle of the union shop is but the principle of freedom for the laboring man. It is inevitable. It must come because it is but the legitimate price to be paid for human liberty.—W. P. Stacy.

Unionism In Chicago.

According to MacDonald's Directory of Labor Organizations Chicago labor unions collect and disburse \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000 annually. The wages paid to members of labor unions which have obtained recognition by the employers vary from 35 to 70 cents an hour. A uniform eight hour day and a half holiday Saturday have been obtained in most of the building trades. Seventeen international unions are represented in Chicago. There are 700 labor organizations in all.