

TWO FORCES, ONE LEADER.

Church and Labor Working For a Greater Democracy.

By Rev. CHARLES STELZLE.

Lift the stone, and thou shalt find me.
Cleave the wood, and there am I.
—Sayings of Jesus.

Whether or not these words were actually spoken by Jesus Christ, as is supposed by those who recently discovered a manuscript containing them, makes but little difference. There is already sufficient evidence to indicate that Christ and the toiler are not very far removed. The birth, the life and the death of Christ gave him a claim upon the common people, and the common people are justified in their insistence that Jesus belongs to them. Whatever may be the opinion of the average workingman with regard to the church, his devotion to Jesus

Christ is in most cases unquestioned. This is a hopeful sign. Without the rugged strength that comes from and with the common people the churches are sure to fail. But without the moral and the spiritual vision that comes from Christ the people are bound to perish.

The organized church and the organized labor movement have each in them the elements which are working for a stronger brotherhood and a greater democracy, because these elements are founded upon the teachings of Jesus Christ. As the leaders in each movement come to know each other better they are recognizing that they have so many things in common that they wonder why there should ever have been any differences between them. There are and always will be men in both movements with narrow vision who will see only one side of the great cause which engages the attention of both church and labor. But

In spite of this serious handicap the time is coming when men will see that neither side can afford to ignore the other. There will come so close a knitting together because of the strong religious element in the labor movement and because of the growing social spirit in the church that it will become a question as to whether the labor movement will capture the church or whether the church will capture the labor movement.

That time may not be in the very near future, but there is absolutely no doubt as to its final consummation, for every great cause which has for its supreme object the making of better men and women, physically, socially, mentally and morally, will come into affiliation for the most successful carrying on of their work, although each will continue to perform its peculiar functions.

The important thing is that we both keep close to Christ in our ideals, in our aspirations and in our work. Then we shall never be very far apart, and neither of us can go very far wrong.

McRae's Tributes to Unions.

At a recent Franklin day celebration in Detroit Milton A. McRae of the Scripps-McRae league drew out rounds of applause by the tributes he paid to the Typographical union. He said that he had never employed a printer who was not a union man, that publicity and transportation are the great prime causes of the nation's wonderful growth and that he knows of no organization that has developed so greatly in character and intelligence as the International Typographical Union of America.

California Protects Label.

The legislature of California has passed a law making it a misdemeanor to use a union label on goods not made under fair conditions. This species of fraud will now become more or less unpopular, as it deserves to be. Instances are known where labels have been sewed on the product of unfair firms in order to make sales. Even from a nonunion standpoint there should be no objection to such a law as the legislature has passed.

DUTY OF UNIONISTS.

One of the most important duties devolving upon men and women who join a trade union is too frequently neglected—attendance at their union meetings. This is a serious matter, more so than appears at first glance.

Only by intelligent support can an organization assume a position its due. This is not given when to a minority is intrusted the plenary power of acting and speaking for all.

Union meetings need the attendance of the rank and file. The business considered is serious. It deals with the welfare of the home and the most vital relations of the employee and the employer. Collective bargaining should represent a real majority. Attend all union meetings.

Trade Union Notes.

There are 142 trade unions in London.

In Minnesota 21,023 persons work seven days a week.

The labor temple at Sacramento was recently dedicated.

Chicago bookbinders have demanded an increase of \$1.50 per week, to take effect May 1.

HINT TO UNIONISTS.

Your wife may have plenty of provocation that would justify her striking, yet the wives seldom go on strike. But as the buyer or purchasing agent for the home she can by insisting that the union label is on the articles she purchases for the home remove many of the causes of unbearable sweatshop and factory cruelties that are the basis of the worst kind of strikes. A little talk upon this question with your wife (when she's in good humor) would be a mighty good turn for many a poor soul who is trying to uplift the working conditions.

Many garments now worn by women as well as those worn by men are made in union factories, where the work is done under conditions that are fair and honorable to those whose labors produce those articles.

By insisting upon fair conditions under which her children may work the wife is preaching good, sound doctrine by seeing to it that the union label is on all her purchases, for she is practicing the doctrine in its real essence.—Switchmen's Journal.

SAFETY IS FOR THE RICH.

Labor Conditions Would Improve if They Mined Coal.

Ocean travel is comparatively safe because it is for the idle and the rich. That was one of the views expressed by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of New York in a recent interview.

"If the rich mined coal, coal mining would be made as safe as possible," Dr. Wise said. "Human life is held cheap so long as only wage earners are concerned."

"I had a good chance to get the view of the value of human life in a cotton mill which I visited in the south. I entered the large workroom of the mill from the outer air. Inside the air was stifling. I said something about it. I learned the room was kept at 85 degrees. It approximated as nearly as possible, the superintendent said, the conditions of mills in the north."

"It is best for the goods," the superintendent said. There was no thought by him as to the effect of the air on the men, women and children who worked twelve or more hours a day in that atmosphere. Neither time nor money will be spent to invent a process by which the cotton can be milled under more healthful conditions as long as human life is held so cheaply. If the owner of the mill spent twelve hours a day in it he soon would try to remedy the conditions."

Butterick's Now a Union Office.

At the outset of the campaign for the eight hour day among the book and job printers, now about five years ago, it was announced that, among others, the Butterick Publishing company of New York city, one of the largest concerns of its character in the printing industry, would not be able to meet the demands of the union. Since that time the office has been conducted as a so called open shop, thought it is not stated that any union men were employed therein. Recently, however, negotiations between the company and President Tole, Secretary-treasurer Maxwell and Organizer Gamble of Typographical union No. 6, begun previously, have resulted in adding the office to the union's roll. The chapel is one of the largest in the book and job trade in this country.

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