# UNION PROGRESS.

Aims of Organized Labor Better Understood.

## WON PUBLIC ESTEEM.

Trade Unionism Stands For Mutual Aid and Protection and For the Improvement of Its Membership Socially and Morally.

In the last issue of the American Federationist Joseph U. Sweeney, former county judge and ex-mayor of El Paso, Tex., says of the labor move-

Trade unions in the past few years have made a remarkable advancement and have been partially successful in impressing upon the public generally the fact that they have not associated themselves for the purpose of conspiring against the peace of the community and the destruction of property rights.

In the past there has been too much of a disposition upon the part of citizens not connected with trade unions to believe that unions symbolized agitation and destruction of private property and rights. Unions and their supporters and sympathizers never deemed it necessary or even expedient to undertake to educate the great body of American people into the supposed mysteries of trade organizations, their objects and desires. The citizen at large had no adequate conception of the policy and principles of unions, but entertained a vague idea that they were organized for the express purpose of harassing capital, causing turmoil and agitating business and commercial channels constantly.

Recent years have witnessed a gradual change for the good. The public is beginning to understand that trade unions are organized for the protection of the only product the mechanic, the artisan or the laborer has to sell-i. e., his skill and ability. Incidentally we understand that the trade union seeks to improve the hygienic, financial and social condition of its members and seeks to throw its protecting arm over the modest little homes of its members. Through its perseverance and influence the families of its members are reaping a benefit which has heretofore been denied them through the lack of information upon the part of the American public and the greed of interested capital.

This benefit has been received through the adjustment and standardization of the scale of wages, which has resulted in permitting the families of trade union members to indulge in some few of the necessaries of life and offer to their children an education the advantages of which their parents were deprived of.

Trade unions have advan in their effort toward better conditions. The American people are beginning to understand that they are merely contending for an adequate and honest return for the labor they perform, a wage which will permit them to maintain their families in reasonable comfort.

A distinct area of economic, industrial and civic progress has enveloped our present civilization, and from its midst there has emerged and is steadily progressing toward a solution a question of principle and policy of the most vital importance to the great majority of mankind, a final solution of which is essential for the future happiness, progress and prosperity of the entire human family. That question is embraced in the present and future progress of trade unions.

These unions are organized for the



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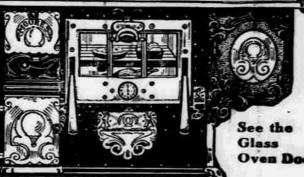
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specific purpose of protecting the inter ests of the mechanic, artisan and labor er against unjust practices and discriminations, in the same manner that the financial condition of the laboring element, but to improve the intellectual, moral and social condition of their members, protect their interests as well as those of the employer and thereby confer upon government and society a benefit as distinct and important as any that has beretofore been experienced.

### COTTON MILL WORKERS.

Conditions Under Which They Labor In the South.

In 1900 there were a number of unions of cotton mill workers organized in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Soon after organization the unions began to make demands for increased wages, the measurement of cuts and for a betterment of other conditions. A number of strikes were had, and the manufacturers combined and promptly closed down their mills. The workers, unprepared for such tacties, were soon starved into submission. When they returned to work it was with the understanding that they would no longer remain in the unions.

In some mills notices were posted that no union labor would be employed and that operatives who would not withdraw from the unions would be

compelled to vacate the company's houses. The unions were completely crushed. As the operatives had no homes of their own nor strike funds capital organizes for its mutual aid or other resources and no opportunity and protection. But trade unious go for employment in other mills or in further and seek not only to improve other industries, they were not prepared for a long struggle, and there was nothing for them to do but to submit to the requirement of the manufacturers and disband their unions. Where the strikes did not occur the operatives were awed by the failure of strikes in other places and made no demands. The whole movement to organize labor in the southern cotton mills collapsed.

> It is indeed unfortunate that men. women and children, working under such operous conditions, long hours and small pay, cannot have something done to relieve the situation. It is the consensus of opinion not only among the people of the south, but of the manufacturers as well that the time is not far distant when they must meet an organized force of working people. The age limit of children is being raised, and the time is gong to come when the law will step in and forbid the manufacturers, not only in the cotton industry, but in every other industry, to coin fortunes out of the lifeblood of children.

### PROTEST AGAINST EVIL.

Day Characterized by York Clergyman. In observance of labor Sunday the

Rev. Dr. Walter Duncan Buchanan,

pastor of the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian church, New York city, discussed in his sermon the conditions that made Labor day possible.

"Labor day brings a great question to us," said the pastor. "It causes us to consider why so many persons seek after the so called pleasures when from the very earliest times it is only too plainly told that satisfaction and contentment can only be obtained in

"It should be the object of the community to consider how to improve the work of the masses so that they will become the better satisfied in the contemplation of work well done and thus be diverted from the deplorable pleasures of our day.

"Indeed, it is time that the thought less and sinful rise to the duty that they should perform in suppressing the vices that come with great wealth. the whole combined to overthrow the main objects in life. In great wealth there is no toll, no activity, no ambi-

"Labor day is a protest against such

Blind Man Invents Musical Instrument An exhibition of a new invention will be given this afternoon at the reading room and library for the blind by Joseph Gannon, a man who is blind, The invention is a new harp with violin attached, and the strings of both are set on the same board, which is above instead of below, as in ordinary harps.-San Francisco Call.