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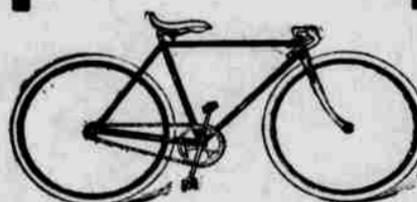
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Tell them you saw their advertisement in The Wageworker.

LABOR MUST UNITE.

SOME REASONS WHY WORKINGMEN SHOULD STAND TOGETHER.

Organization Is the Order of the Day in All the World's Activities. Labor but Follows General Trend. Co-operation Necessary For Self Preservation.

Do we approve of organized labor? It almost strikes me sometimes as ludicrous when that question is asked. It does not really matter very much whether or not we approve of it. The situation is not such that organization waits upon our tardy approval or our modified and modified and condescending approbation.

Organization is in the air. Organization is the order of the day. Organization is everywhere. Capital is organized, they say. Why should not labor be organized? Everything is organized.

Science is being organized. Even the solitary thinker is solitary no longer; the solitary scholar, the philosopher, meets his fellow philosopher in congresses, the psychologists, the historians, the economists, the scientific investigators—everywhere are these huge congregations of effort, these co-operative efforts, everywhere instances of concerted action. Everywhere great ends are undertaken not singly, but jointly.

Is it to be wondered at that labor should be organized? Labor simply follows the general trend. You cannot prevent it more than you can prevent organization anywhere else.

And, moreover, there is a special reason why there should be this organization or association of laborers, because, as every one knows, the argument is so simple that one is almost ashamed to repeat it—that the laborer, singly and individually, is at an enormous disadvantage as against the employer, the same disadvantage at which a man is who wishes to dispose of a house when it is known that he must sell on the instant, that he cannot wait.

A man who must sell his house, of whom it is known that he must dispose of it, is at a great disadvantage. He will not get his price, the price that is proper, because it is known that he cannot wait.

So the laborer cannot get the price of his services because it is known that he cannot wait. His necessities are pitted against the resources of the employer; his existence, always close to the verge of want, is pitted against the broad margin of the employer; his ignorance of market conditions is pitted against the experience and the outlook of the employer.

The only weapon in his hands is the threat of withdrawing his service, but as the place of an individual can easily be filled that threat is perfectly futile.

What shall he do? To establish himself in business is out of the question. He has not as an individual the capital. More and more large capital is required. He cannot do that.

Shall he go upon the land, as they say? That, too, is impossible; the mere expense of taking himself and his family to the land is prohibitive.

What shall he do? Threaten as an individual to leave his employer's service, when there are a hundred and a thousand others ready to take his place?

What shall he do? He stops to think and finds, while the threat to withdraw his service as an individual is futile, that if a hundred people threaten to withdraw that is more effective, because the places of a hundred cannot be so easily filled, and that if a thousand threaten to withdraw that is still more effective, and that if, finally, 150,000 withdraw, as they did in the anthracite coal strike, that is extremely effective, because the places of 150,000 men cannot be filled.—Dr. Felix Adler in New York American.

THE EIGHT HOUR DAY.

Progress Made In Various Sections Towards Lessening Hours of Toll.

A recent bulletin of the Massachusetts bureau of statistics of labor gives in a discussion of the eight hour day a digest of the enactments of the various states, a summary of legal decisions upon these and related statutes, and an account of the experience of some Massachusetts cities and towns that have accepted the eight hour day on public works. There are found twenty-seven states and territories, besides the United States, having an eight hour day.

Six states prescribe eight hours as the limit of a day's work unless specified to the contrary—Vt., Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, New York and Pennsylvania. Nevada and the United States prescribe an eight hour day upon irrigation works, and New York upon the reservoir. Wisconsin prescribes this limit for manufacturing and mechanical establishment unless otherwise agreed upon; Missouri, New Mexico and Tennessee for laborers on public works; Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming in mines and smelting establishments; California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland (Baltimore), Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Porto Rico, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming as a maximum day on public works; the United States upon government work.—Boston Herald.

And since the men of the skilled trades have generally a more solid organization, since they have more money and more leisure, since they have greater power and influence, it devolves especially upon them to take the lead in preventing child labor and in reducing hours, not in their own trades only, but particularly in trades which are worse off.—Carpenters' Journal.

Peaceful Methods Are Gaining. "Peaceful means of settling labor differences are gaining over the more warlike strike," said President Gompers in Chicago the other day.

"This is shown by the financial reports of the unions," he said. "These statements indicate a great falling off in the amount of money paid for strike benefits and a corresponding increase in the sum paid for sick and death claims. Employer and employee are both learning to understand each other better, to appreciate each other's strength and to realize that warfare does not pay. Conferences and conciliation are taking the place of strikes."

A SUCCESSFUL LONDON UNION.

The London Society of Composers, with 11,270 members, has a reserve fund of \$361,000. Nearly \$80,000 was paid to the unemployed last year. The society maintains 330 superannuated members, who received for the year \$32,000 from the general treasury. The funeral benefits for the twelve months totaled \$11,740.

ORGANIZED LABOR.

The Workingman Can Walk; He Will No Longer Crawl.

There will be recessions and progressions of the trade union movement, like the ebb and flow of the tide, writes John Mitchell in his book on "Organized Labor." The movement will be helped on in days of prosperity and retarded, or apparently retarded, in the days of adversity, although the moral chastening and the hard lessons learned in the period of adversity constitute, perhaps, the greater and truer and surer progress of the two. There can be no doubt, however, that the movement is onward and upward. The workingman who once crawled upon his knees is now upon his feet, and, though he may suffer buffets in the future or may be temporarily cast down, he has at least learned to walk and will no longer crawl. It takes generations to implant dignity in the human breast, but once implanted it is ineradicable.

The movement called the trade union movement is not a thing by itself, with its own beginning and its own end, but a step in a long development, which began many thousands of years ago and which will not have ended many thousands of years hence. It is a single act in a drama as long as the history of humanity itself—a single act in the uplifting of the human race. We are told that man rose from a lower scale of existence—that at a certain time he was tapped upon the forehead and it was said, "Let there be light." There was a gradual rise of man from the savage to the barbarian, from the barbarian to the semicivilized, from the semicivilized to the civilized man. Even this civilized man is himself merely a link in a gradual evolution. The evolutionary and educational forces which have been at work for thousands of years have not spent themselves, but will continue, so that the least civilized man of a future age may be higher in the scale than the noblest, purest and best man that lives today. There may come a time when the generations for whom we are struggling will look upon us as barbarians, but little removed from the cave dweller or the prehistoric savages who ranged the dense forests. There may come a time when labor will no longer be degrading, when the last vestige of slavery of any sort will have disappeared, when work will be a pleasure and an honor and an ambition. When that time comes, when men shall have advanced from and evolved out of the present degrading conditions, the generations to come will look back with gratitude and approval upon the institution of trade unionism, which has contributed and will have contributed so much to the ultimate goal of society, the ascent of man. "This," said the great humane philosopher, Thomas Carlyle—"this that they call the organization of labor is the universal vital problem of the world."

STRONG HELP THE WEAK.

The Duty Which Trade Unionists Owe to Fellow Laborers.

The most effective work the trade unions can do is in the direction of raising the condition of those workers, organized or unorganized, whose conditions are lowest. The poverty of the sweatshop workers and mill town hands compels them to send their children to work when they ought to be in school. The employment of children, in turn, displaces adult workers and sends them to compete for new jobs. This swelling of the army of the unemployed and intensification of wages in trades formerly more prosperous threaten even the best paid mechanics.

We have to remember that in these days more of what are called skilled trades are much easier to learn than they were in the days of our fathers. And even though the common laborer or factory "hand" might find it difficult to enter a skilled trade, yet these laborers and operatives have sons with life before them, and, if the conditions of those industries in which their fathers have been employed are growing harder, even greater grows the stimulus to them to press into the more skilled and paid trades.

So, too, since the shortening of the labor day gives an opportunity for more men to work, and since the existence of a body of unemployed men is a constant danger to such as are employed, it behoves the unions to work with special vigor for the reduction of hours in each and every trade.

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CHILD LABOR EVIL.

URGENT DEMAND FOR STRINGENT LAWS REGARDING IT.

The Fight in Great Britain in Behalf of Children—Need of Legislation in This Country to Check the Growth of the Pernicious System.

In a recent discussion of the child labor problem Hon. Hoke Smith, former secretary of the interior, said: "In 1890 the census report showed us that there were employed in our stores children between the ages of ten and fifteen to the number of more than 869,000. Unless legislation prevents the increase in the next ten years it will be even greater. What are we going to do about it? Are we to wait or act? It took in England three-quarters of a century of fighting by the friends of the children before legislation was secured to fairly protect them from the factories, the mines and the workshops. The ablest statesmen of Great Britain in the early part of the last century began the fight. They were told then that the industries of Great Britain would be ruined, and that Germany and France would outstrip her. The same kind of arguments are made in most of our states today. It took long time then for the friends of the young to overcome the influence and power of those who were using children, and the willingness to let them work, the willingness not of masters, but of idle and brutal fathers. All during that history reports to the English parliament are filled with records of shame and suffering and misery. Before her commissions the ablest doctors of Great Britain testified that to such an extent had the use of children in factories and mills gone that a permanent injury to the physical condition of mankind was threatened.

"A report of the French war department has shown that in those sections of France where child labor exists the recruiting officers find not more than half as many men who can meet the requirements of the army as in those sections where child labor does not exist. If we come to our own country we have ample evidence of the injurious effect of child labor. In a report made a few years back in New Jersey by the inspectors of factories and workshops it is stated that the average child becomes delicate, puny, ignorant, and that at the age of thirteen the face has a little, old, worn expression. The children can no longer play. They do not enjoy it. They do not care for school or training. All their energy and vitality have been sapped.

"But we need not go to the records and reports for information. Turn to your own children. See what is needed to train them. Suppose they were to be confined long hours in dark walls and close rooms, without leadership, without instruction, without direction, at monotonous work. What would happen to them? Think of all your loving care and training by the best teachers in the best schools and all that is done to strengthen them. Then think of that all taken away, and put your own children in such places as these child laborers fill. Let the president be as kind as he may—and I want to state that so far as my observation goes the large majority of the men at the head of cotton mills in my section are kind and helpful to their children and to their employees—but in spite of that fact you will find ignorant and pallid faces, dejected countenances, appearance which indicates sickness and the lowest vitality.

"The same New Jersey report to which I referred declares that 60 per cent of the children twelve years of age had not heard of the United States or of Europe and 35 per cent of them had never heard of the Revolutionary war. If you wish information, seek the places where children in their early years are worked in your neighborhood and you will find the effect upon their young lives."

A Campaign of Education.

The Chicago Federation of Labor is to inaugurate a campaign to educate the public on the aims and objects of organized labor. At the next meeting of the federation a plan along this line will be offered. It is proposed to select a number of the best orators to appear before the students of the different universities, women's clubs and all other organizations that gain their knowledge of the labor movement from the newspapers or magazines and explain the hopes and aspirations of organized labor. The leaders in the movement state that the same efforts are being made now by the opponents of labor to misrepresent trade unions that were responsible for 25, directly involving 17,602 persons, while 54 disputes, involving 13,471 work people, arose out of working arrangements.

Eighty-three disputes, affecting 23,241 persons, terminated in favor of the employers; 156, involving 25,609 persons, in favor of the employers, while 92, affecting 17,380 persons, were compromised.

Labor and Capital in Japan.

The relations of capital and labor are very cordial, says World's Work. They are like the relation of fathers and sons. The wages are in general low as compared with those of the United States and the European countries, but after the war there was a remarkable general rise in wages. This should not be taken as the result of strikes. It is the outcome of mutual good will between employers and workmen. Although there are local trade unions—without national organizations—these are in close harmony with the capitalists, for the capitalists themselves help the unions to grow. Among others, the late T. Sakuma, formerly the head of a large printing office in Tokyo, has done much to foster the unions.

MISSISSIPPI'S NEW CHILD LABOR LAW.

The child labor law passed in Mississippi provides that no child under twelve years of age shall be employed in any factory; that no child under fourteen years shall be employed to do night work, and that no minor can be employed without an affidavit as to his age and the written consent of his parents. The mill manager who violates this law is liable to a fine of \$500 and imprisonment in the county jail for six months or both.

NIGHT WORK IN BAKE SHOPS.

The advisability of inaugurating a general movement for the purpose of abolishing night work in all the bake shops throughout the country is being discussed by the members of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America.

UNHEALTHY TRADES.

Sailors Workrooms Good Investment For Employers.

For centuries the tailor has been the subject of jesting pity because his trade was supposed to make him physically weak, while the stonemason has been usually represented as the image of strength. So sailors and miners are supposed to follow dangerous trades, as indeed they do if the chances of external injury alone be considered, while bookkeepers and salesmen are supposed to be in little danger from their occupations.

Disease, however, kills scores where accidents kill one, and of all diseases consumption kills the most adults, and with regard to deaths from consumption a life insurance expert has recently prepared a chart from official mortality returns which upsets many popular notions as to the relative healthfulness or unhealthfulness of various trades. It covers thirty leading trades and shows the percentages of deaths from consumption to deaths from all causes of workers in each.

In the middle stand the painters and grocers, with percentages of 23.4 and 24.2. From grocers the figures rise through liquor dealers, molders, longshoremen, porters, cigarmakers, silk workers, bakers, salesmen, plumbers, bookkeepers, brassworkers, glassworkers, printers and stonemasons, of whom 45.1 per cent die of consumption.

From painters the figures go down through brewers, bakers, policemen, weavers, iron and steel workers, masons, butchers, carpenters, tailors, blacksmiths, merchants, sailors, brakemen and miners, of whom only 6.4 per cent die of consumption.