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## LABOR'S CALL TO ARMS

Washington, July 22.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor today made good its declaration of several months ago to enter the field of politics in the interest of the trades union movement and to urge all friends of organized labor to elect to political office men known to be favorable to labor's cause. At the headquarters of the federation the council today issued its "campaign program," addressed to all organized labor and friends in the United States.

It sets out that the trades union movement has kept and proposes to keep pace with the rapid change in in-

dustrial affairs, and that the working people cannot hope to maintain their rights or a progressive position in the varying phases of modern society unless they organize and exercise all those functions, which, as workmen and citizens, it is their privilege and their duty to exercise.

It is declared that labor makes no demand on government and society which is not equally accorded to all the people of this country, and that it can and will be satisfied with nothing less.

The proposed campaign is based upon the allegation that little attention has been paid to the enactment of laws prepared by organized labor and presented to congress, for the relief of these wrongs and the attainment of these rights to which labor and the common people are justly entitled and which are essentially necessary for their welfare.

The council issues a word of caution that the "movement must not degenerate into a scramble for office, but it should be a determined effort, free absolutely from partisanship of every name and character to secure the legislation we deem necessary and essential to the welfare and happiness of all our people."

It is expressly stated that where a congressman or state legislator has proved himself a true friend to the rights of labor he should be supported and no candidate nominated against him.

The following is a text of the program:

### Campaign Program Outlined.

"To All Organized Labor and Friends in the United States—Dear Sirs and Brothers: Events in the industrial affairs of our people have rapidly changed and are rapidly changing. The trade union movement, as expressed by the American Federation of Labor, has kept and proposes to keep pace therewith.

"The wheels of industry cannot be halted or turned back, nor should they be, even if that were possible. Welcoming industrial progress, labor must be ever alert to meet new conditions, recognizing that eternal vigilance is the price of industrial as well as political liberty.

"The working people cannot hope to maintain their rights or a progressive position in the varying phases of modern society unless they organize and exercise all those functions which, as workmen and citizens, it is their privilege and their duty to exercise.

"Labor makes no demand upon government or society which is not equally accorded to all the people of our country. It can and will be satisfied with nothing else.

### Congress No Friend of Labor.

"Several presidents of the United States have in their messages to congress, urged the passage of equitable legislation in behalf of the working people, but congress has been entirely preoccupied looking after the interests

of vast corporations and predatory wealth.

"Congressmen and senators in their frenzied rush after the almighty dollar have been indifferent or hostile to the rights of man. They have had no time and as little inclination to support the reasonable labor measures, the enactment of which we have urged, and which contained beneficent features for all our people without an obnoxious provision to anyone.

"Patience ceased to be a virtue, and on March 21, 1906, the representatives of labor presented a bill of grievances to the president and those responsible for legislation or failure of legislation in congress, reciting the failure or refusal of the party in power to adopt or enforce legislation in the interests of the toiling millions of our country. After setting forth labor's grievances and requests and urging early action, we closed that now famous document with this statement:

"But if perchance you may not heed us, we shall appeal to the conscience and support of our fellow citizens."

### Relief Asked for Refused.

"The relief asked for has not been granted. Congress has turned a deaf ear to the voices of the masses of our people; and, true to our declaration, we now appeal to the working people, aye, to all the American people, unitedly, to demonstrate their determination that this republic of ours shall continue to be of, for and by the people, rather than of, for and by the almighty dollar.

"The toiling masses of our country are as much, if not more, interested in good government than our fellow citizens in other walks of life. In line with the contention herein stated, the American Federation of Labor made its declaration of political policy, as already quoted above. And in line therewith we hope, and have the right to expect, to arouse the citizenship of our common country, interested in good government, to the apathy or hostility of the party in power to the real interests of the people, so that men more honest, faithful and progressive may be elected as the people's representatives.

"If it has come to a condition in this, the greatest and wealthiest nation on earth, that the almighty dollar is to be worshiped to an extent of forgetting principle, conscience, uprightness and justice, the time has arrived for labor and its friends to raise their voices in condemnation of such degeneracy, and to invite all reform forces to join with it in relegating indifference to the people's interests, corruption and graft to political oblivion; to raise the standard of legislation by the election of sincere, progressive and honest men who, while worshipping money less, will honor conscience, justice and humanity more.

"We recommend that central bodies and local unions proceed without delay by the election of delegates to meet in

conference, or convention, to formulate plans to further the interests of this movement, and in accordance with the plan herein outlined at the proper time and in the proper manner nominate candidates who will unquestionably stand for the enactment into law of labor and progressive measures.

"Wherever both parties ignore labor's legislative demands a straight labor candidate should be nominated, so that honest men may have the opportunity in exercising their franchise to vote according to their conscience instead of being compelled to either refrain from voting or to vote for the candidate and the party they must in their innermost souls despise.

"Where a congressman or state legislator has proved himself a true friend to the rights of labor he should be supported and no candidate nominated against him.

"This movement must not degenerate into a scramble for office. It should be a determined effort, free, absolutely from partisanship of every name and character, to secure the legislation we deem necessary and essential to the welfare and happiness of all our people. As the present objects of this movement are purely in the line of legislation, all efforts should be concentrated upon the election of members of congress and the various state legislatures.

"To make this—our movement—the most effective the utmost care should be taken to nominate only such union men whose known intelligence, honesty and faithfulness are conspicuous. They should be nominated as straight labor representatives and stand and be supported as such by union men and their friends and sympathizers, irrespective of previous political affiliation.

"Wherever it is apparent that an entirely independent labor candidate cannot be elected, efforts should be made to secure such support by endorsement of candidates by the minority party in the districts and by such other progressive elements as will insure the election of labor representatives.

"All observers agree that the campaign of our fellow workmen of Great Britain has had a wholesome effect upon the government, as well as the interests of its wage-earners, and the people generally of that country. In the last British election fifty-four trade unionists were elected to parliament. If the British workmen with their limited franchise accomplished so much by their united action, what may we in the United States not do with universal suffrage.

"Those earnestly engaged in our movement must, we repeat, be guided by the fact that the principles for which we stand must be primary consideration, and office secondary. We ask our fellow workers and friends to respond to this call, and to make of it a popular uprising of honest men, and to see to it that the best, most conscientious men of labor or their supporters are chosen as their representatives.

### Advantages Won by Sacrifices.

"Whatever vantage ground or improved conditions have come to the workers of our country were not brought to them on silver platters; they are the result of their better organization and their higher intelligence; of the sacrifices they have made and the industrial battle scars of many contests. The progress of the toilers has not been due to kindness or consideration at the hands of the powers that be, but achieved in spite of the combined bitter hostility of mendacious greed, corporate corruption, legislative antagonism and judicial usurpation.

"Labor men of America, assert your rights, and in addition to strengthening your faith and loyalty to your organization on the economic field, exercise your full rights of citizenship in the use of your ballot. Elect honest men to congress and to other halls of legislation, and by so doing you will more completely and fully carry out your obligations as union men, and more than ever merit the respect of your fellow citizens.

"Labor demands a distinctive and larger share in the governmental affairs of our country; it demands justice; it will be satisfied with nothing less. Fraternally yours,

- "SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.  
 "JAMES DUNCAN, First Vice President.  
 "JOHN MITCHELL, Second Vice President.  
 "JAMES O'CONNELL, Third Vice President.  
 "MAX MORRIS, Fourth Vice President.  
 "DENNIS A. HAYES, Fifth Vice President.  
 "DANIEL J. KEEFE, Sixth Vice President.  
 "WILLIAM D. HUBER, Seventh Vice President.  
 "JOSEPH F. VALENTINE, Eighth Vice President.  
 "JOHN B. LENNON, Treasurer.  
 "FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

"Executive Council American Federation of Labor."

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## Workingmen and the Church

### Continued From Page 1

upon the shelf—a back number, obsolete. Only one book has survived the ravages of change and time and is ever up to date—only one. It is the text book of all good men. Why do not all good men seek the divine interpretation and live up to it? Then there would be no colliding. Then we would be brethren as God designed we should be.

While very few workingmen reject Christ, there are many who think of Him as the friend of the workingman and as coming simply to free him from the slavery of toil. This doubtless is true as far as it goes, but Jesus came to free men from the slavery of sin. He said, "I come to call sinners to repentance." If sin could be eradicated this whole problem would settle itself.

Again, some talk about Christianity as being narrow. They certainly cannot mean that. Men may be narrow, but Christ is not narrow. The church may be narrow, but Christianity is not narrow. Jesus condemned the narrowness of His time, and Christianity must always condemn narrowness, for it is but the breathing forth of the spirit of Jesus. Take that remarkable summary of human duty as set forth by the Master in Matthew's gospel: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind." This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Now, I read the pledge taken by

men who join, for example, the Federation of Labor, and I find it copied quite closely after Christ's summary of duty. I can not see why every Christian cannot subscribe to both. They are both good, both seeking man's good. Then why should there not be perfect agreement between workingmen and the church in the great work of humanity? The workingmen believe in Jesus. They laud Him. Let them rally about Him and about the church which He established and make it what it ought to be, if it is not in line with the idea of its founder. The church needs the workingmen and the workingmen need the church. Some of our best church workers are workingmen; men who give their one-tenth to the Lord. Men who exemplify His teachings in all their life. Ask the workingmen if they would abolish the church and I believe a long, loud cry of "No" would arise from many workingmen, even of those who do not belong to church. Why? Because in their hearts they believe that Christ ordained the church to save the world.

Let us, my fellow workingmen, rally around the Carpenter of Nazareth and by our noble and aggressive Christian lives make His church what He designed it should be. Eliminate the evil by the spirit of truth, drive out all hard-heartedness and selfishness and arrogance and raiseeism by making the people Christ-like; then will the glad day have come when the knowledge of the Lord covers the earth as the waters cover the sea.

## The Christian Trades Unionist

Mr. Mickel said in part:

It affords me the greatest pleasure, this evening, to testify to the fact that the Christian Unionist is not a myth nor a dream ideal, but a reality. Among unionists such testimony is not especially needed for in the unions his influence is everywhere in evidence and his usefulness recognized. In the church he is not so well known, as while in the union he is continually advancing the principles of Christianity and brotherly love, in the church there is so much of ignorance regarding unionism that he must be very careful what he says.

In evidence of this fact, I am reminded of a certain minister in Lincoln, who has time and again made the assertion that it is impossible for a trades unionist to be a consistent Christian.

Mr. Maupin has very tersely expressed the duties of a Christian and the aims of unionism, and it only remains for me to say that if I were to take a text as he has done, I would select the fifteenth verse from the seventeenth chapter of John, which reads this way:

"I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil."

Now if Christ would not take His followers out of the world, how much less would he take them out of the union.

It strikes me very forcibly that in the union the Christian attains to the zenith of usefulness. The influence of a dozen Christians in a union would be almost without measure, and his opportunities for being a living testimony to the benefits of a Christian life are limitless; and the church is the most benefitted because the practical side of the wage earner is always in evidence.

Union labor contends for one ele-

ment above all others: in all things fairness: I am ready to contend for the position that a man can be as a union wage earner a far more consistent Christian than as a non-unionist.

In comparison I am reminded of the new testament story of Zacchaeus:

You remember how, when Christ passed by, he, being small of stature, ran before and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, and when Jesus came by he saw him and commanded him to come down, that he must abide at his house.

Now what strikes me as being the great lesson in this story is that if we would have Jesus come and abide with us, we must get above the crowd. And I verily believe that the union is the sycamore tree that the wage-earner should climb.

I love God and I love His people. I believe that when Christ saved me He saved me completely and I believe that inasmuch as he has come to take up his abode with me, he will not depart because I am in the company of the union, but rather will work in me an exceedingly more glorious salvation.

### SEVERAL STORES CLOSED.

Several of the larger stores closed at noon on Labor Day and allowed their employes to celebrate at least a portion of the day. Rudge & Guenzel, Hergolzheimer, Benway & Co., and Fred Schmidt & Bro. were among those who observed the day in this way. To them the thanks of organized labor are due.

At the annual convention of the National Electrical Contractors' association a resolution was passed favoring trade schools for the education of boys in mechanical arts.

Philadelphia trades unionists courteously gave the printing trades the head of the Labor Day parade in that city.

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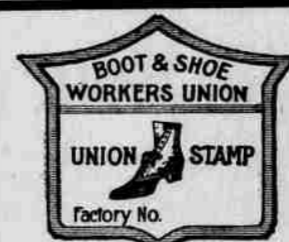
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