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THE AMERICAN WORKMAN THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

"All things considered, the American workingman is as true a man, as moral a man as you can find anywhere." Such was the tribute paid the great body of artisans of this country by Rev. Chas. Stelzle in an address in the Amphitheater at Chautauqua, New York. Mr. Stelzle is a man who knows. Born in the tenement house district, and living on the East Side of New York City for twenty-five years, he is familiar with the social conditions of the masses. For eight years he was a machinist in the largest shop in that city, where he had an unusual opportunity for studying the industrial problems at first hand. Now, as Superintendent of the Presbyterian Department of Church and Labor, he is probably doing more than any other living man to solve the problem of the relation of the workingman to the church.

"America has learned," said Mr. Stelzle, "that the prosperity of the whole country depends upon the prosperity of the workingman. We believe it as a matter of theory, but not always as a matter of practice. Only too frequently the employer acts as if he were in business simply for his own interests. No wonder the average workingman feels that he too must work for his own interests. If the interests of employer and employe are common the American workingman ought to know it in such a way that there will be no dispute about it; if their interests are not common the workingman will soon find it out."

The labor unions do not, the speaker declared, as many employes suppose, constitute all the labor question. If the unions were wiped out of existence, the question would remain in a more aggravated form. The 25,000,000 Socialists throughout the world, 9,000,000 of whom have cast their ballots for Socialist candidates; the 9,000,000 trade unionists, the Russian peasantry, the movement among the working people in France, Belgium, Australia and the social unrest in our own country, were cited as phases of the labor question. "And they are all," said Mr. Stelzle, "fighting for industrial democracy and they are going to win."

Because the American workingman has caught the spirit of the democracy he reents anything that savors of patronage or paternalism, thinks Mr. Stelzle. "He does not want social welfare work as much as he wants a clean shop, reasonable hours, and a fair wage." To this Mr. Stelzle ascribed the failure of the social welfare work of the National Cash Register Co., and the Pullman Co.

The working man of America is organized, and the labor unions represent his sentiment better than other organizations, was the speaker's contention. He showed that the labor unions constitute one-half of those engaged in such trades as may well be organized. If the farmers, servant-girls, professional men, and those engaged in trade and transportation be subtracted from the 29,000,000 wage-earners in this country only 7,000,000 will be left and the labor unions have enrolled nearly half of these, and the most of the other half are in small towns or otherwise so situated that they are scarcely able to organize.

The speaker said that the American workingman is the best workingman in the world; he has more comforts than any other workingman; but he is not satisfied because he feels that he is not getting his proportion of what he produces. This battle for labor's fair share, thinks Mr.

Stelzle, will not be fought by the ignorant foreigner, but by the skilled artisans, and the Homestead strike of the high-priced steel workers was noted as an example.

"The American workingman is the most temperate workingman in the world," said Mr. Stelzle, and in evidence he quoted the testimony of Mr. John Burns, of England, and his own experience in the British Isles and on the Continent. He declared that the days are rapidly passing when the saloon can be used as a meeting-place for labor organizations, and ascribed the strength of the temperance movement in this country to the temperance sentiment of the working class.

"The American workingmen are standing for a square deal for women," he continued. "They are contending for equal pay to men and women for equal work. The child labor evil also is being combatted by the labor unions. The American workingman is demanding that the little children be given a chance. His own children are dying three times as fast as those of the more favored classes, and he is determined to stop it."

In regard to the solution of the immigration problem, Mr. Stelzle quoted with approval Carroll D. Wright, who said: "No organization is doing so much to Americanize the foreigners as the labor union, not excepting the church." He showed how the immigrants come to this country with the idea that all government is hostile to their interests, but that through working together—different nationalities in the same labor union—they catch the American spirit. He said that some day there will appear the typical American workingman, ideal in every respect, and the trades union will have a good deal to do with the job. As well as breaking down racial prejudice, the labor unions are breaking down, the speaker asserted, the antagonism of different creeds. In Germany, France and England there are different labor organizations for Catholic and Protestant. In this country they work together.

"The workingmen," said the speaker, "are fighting for universal peace. Some day war shall cease, but if we wait for the edict of a Peace Congress at The Hague, we shall lose our patience. The workingmen will call a universal peace strike and then war shall cease. He is anxious that war be absolutely wiped out."

The workingman, contrary to general belief, is generally religious, the speaker contended, and in proof he cited his own experience and that of workers under his direction in shop meetings throughout the country. He said that the workingman despises the minister who apologizes for his profession, for the Bible and the church and admires the man who tells him what he ought to know about his sin and his salvation. We can talk religion to the American workingman because he is interested in it. He is deeply religious even if he does not manifest that religion in the ordinary way.

GETTING WEAKER.

What's this? "American Industries," edited by John Kirby, Jr., president of the National Association of Manufacturers, is getting weaker. Heretofore it has been appearing semi-monthly, but in the issue of August 15 it is announced that it will appear in future as a monthly. In a little while it will appear as a quarterly, then as an annual—then peter out. And while the official organ of the union busters is dropping from a semi-monthly to a monthly, the little old Wageworker continues to come out weekly, and this week with more pages than "American Industries" ever had. Good-bye, John; take keer o' yerself!