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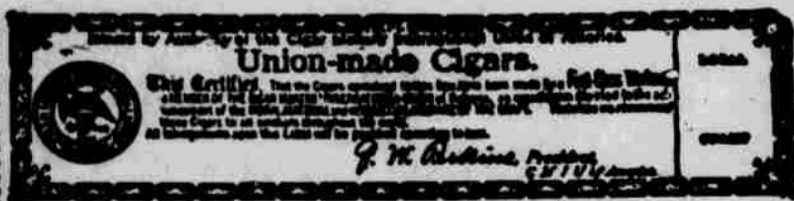
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Tenth and O Streets Lincoln, Nebraska

**What the Church Demands For Those Who Labor**

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, representing the united Protestant churches in this country with a membership of 18,000,000 and a constituency of 40,000,000, unanimously adopted, among other specific principles for which it asserts the church must stand:

1. The gradual and reasonable reduction of the hours of labor to the lowest practicable point, and for that degree of leisure for all which is a condition of the highest human life.

2. A release from employment one day in seven.

3. A living wage as a minimum in every industry, and the highest wage that each industry can afford.

The Federal Council's commission on the church and social service accepts as the basis of its belief and action the entire program adopted by the Federal Council in its report on the church and social service. For the concentration of attention upon concrete conditions, and because of the present keen interest in the three closely related propositions above set forth, it submits at this time to the churches the following statement and recommendations, and urges that favorable action be taken upon them by individual churches, synods, assemblies, conferences, conventions, brotherhoods and other representative bodies, in the many communions which compose the Federal Council.

The Pittsburg Survey revealed to all interested in industrial conditions a state of affairs in many respects surprising. In the steel mills, according to the report of the Survey, twenty per cent of the employes, or about 14,000 men in Allegheny county, worked twelve hours a day seven days in the week, at the rate of sixteen and a half cents an hour. Such employes, therefore, by working twelve hours a day every day in the week were enabled to earn one dollar and ninety-eight cents per day, any reduction in time involving a proportionate loss in wages. The high wages paid to a relatively small number of men in positions of responsibility—3 or 4 per cent getting over five dollars a day—had heretofore misled the public as to the general scale of wages in this particular industry. An investigation of the living conditions showed that the wage actually paid to unskilled laborers in the steel mills, was not a living wage; that is, not a wage on which a man with an average family could live respectably, under decent sanitary conditions and with a reasonable degree of comfort. The investigations of the Survey showed furthermore that, in precisely the regions where these low paid workmen were housed, the drink evil was at its worst and the general morality at its lowest. Saloons found this the most profitable region financially. While a fair proportion of workmen and their families were found resisting these influences, it was plain that the drink evil and the tendency of the population to immorality were connected with the prevailing industrial and housing conditions. For most men working twelve hours a day, seven days in the week, little is left except lethargy or stimulants. There was little enjoyment of life possible for them except the enjoyment of the senses. What the Survey revealed in Pittsburg is true, we are advised, to a greater or less extent—often to the same extent—in other industrial centers.

The illustration is taken from one industry and one center. The range of the propositions, however, is far wider. For while it may be proper to omit from consideration the workers engaged in the professions and in agriculture, those should be included who are engaged in domestic and personal service, trade and transportation, and in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits.

Moreover, with the increasing complication of the industrial situation, there has come the necessity of conducting many industries seven days in the week, and as a rule those industries conducted seven days in the week require the service of the individual employe seven days in the week, and the rate of wages is set not for a six day, but a seven day scale.

**One Day's Rest in Seven.**

The commission on the church and social service of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America calls the attention of the churches of Christ everywhere to this condition and the menace involved in it, and urges upon all Christian churches officially, through their pulpits, their brotherhoods and various other organizations, to emphasize and bring home to their members their Christian obligation in these premises, namely, that it is the right of every man to have one day out of the seven for rest and recreation of body, soul and mind, and that it is the obligation of every Christian employe so to arrange his business that each of the employes may have one day's rest in seven, without diminution of wages. The normal holiday is the Christian Sabbath, the

Lord's day, but where the conditions of industry or service require continuance of work seven days and the consequent employment of some part of the employe on the Lord's day, then those so employed are entitled to receive a holiday on some other day in the week; and, furthermore, that it is the obligation of every Christian employe to so arrange his scale of wages that the living wage of his employes is calculated, not on a seven day, but on a six day basis.

**A Living Wage.**

It is the obligation of every Christian employe, a part of the essential Christian teaching of the brotherhood of man, to pay every employe a living wage, that is, a wage on which not only the worker but the average family can live under proper sanitary conditions and with reasonable comfort. Normally the great bulk of the industrial work of our country should be done by the heads of families, and wages should be adjusted not to the cost of living of the unmarried boarder, but to the family life in the home. The living wage differs from time to time and from place to place. The obligation remains unvaried, and no industry can be counted as properly conducted from the standpoint of Christian ethics which is not so conducted that all employes shall receive a living wage.

**Reasonable Hours of Labor.**

It is manifest that that industry which, employing its laborers six days in the week, compels them to work twelve hours out of the twenty-four, does not give to those employes a proper opportunity for sane and healthy living. Family life, intelligent social intercourse with one's fellows, are impossible under such conditions, and the laborer not only is not encouraged to develop upward, but, by the conditions of his labor, is held in an inferior and degraded condition, with no chance of development. Such a condition is we believe, contrary to the dictates of the religion of Christ and a menace to the well-being of the state. It is an obligation resting upon Christian employes so to organize their industry that the employe may have reasonable hours of labor.

In view of present discussions and in view of the existing diversities of opinion, this commission is not prepared to state, for all industrial conditions, what is a reasonable working day. The movement for the standardization of reasonable hours at eight for all industries has not reached such a stage that, in spite of its own opinion that eight hours for labor is reasonable, this commission is prepared to call upon members of Christian churches to adopt that standard as a part of their Christian obligation, but it is the conviction of this commission that anything over ten hours in any business or employment is an abuse which should not be tolerated in a Christian community, nor exacted by a Christian employe. This commission recommends to the official bodies of Christian churches, in order to standardize, as it were, the simplest Christian obligations in the industrial field, and to secure their recognition, the adoption of resolutions calling upon employers of labor within those churches to conform, in their industrial operations, to these three simple rules:

One day's rest in each seven.  
Reasonable hours of labor.  
A living wage based on these reasonable hours of labor.

F. M. NORTH, Chairman.  
CHARLES STELZLE, Secretary.

**LOOK OUT FOR THIS!**

**Another Scheme to Put Men More and More Under Bondage.**

It is now proposed to enact a federal law that will put railroads in the hands of government receivers during industrial disputes. President Taft is quoted as favoring it and saying, "I will give it my personal attention."

Workingmen ought to protest in such vigorous terms as to make the enactment of such a law impossible. It would mean the further enslavement of labor. At first blush it looks mighty fine, but it will not bear analysis. It is another case of the "Greeks bearing gifts."

It is proposed that in the event of a threatened railway strike to put the road in the hands of government receivers. That would mean that the road would be in the hands of the federal judiciary. The judge would immediately enjoin the workers from ceasing employment, and the men who violated that order would be sent to jail without trial. If you think such a tyrannical act impossible, just bear in mind that it has already been done. We've got enough grief with the federal courts now without giving them this further opportunity of playing the czar and enslaving workingmen.

The allied printing trades in France have issued a boycott against Miroir des Modes, published by the Butterick company in New York.

**The Long Winter Nights**

May be made bright and cheerful by illuminating the home with either Gas or Electricity. And the disposition of the housewife may be sweetened by relieving her of the drudgery of filling "smelly" kerosene lamps and cleaning smoky chimneys. Nothing is so well calculated to make home happy as bright lights and cheerful dispositions. We will furnish the illumination—and the cheerful dispositions will follow as a natural result.

**If It's a Question of Cost**

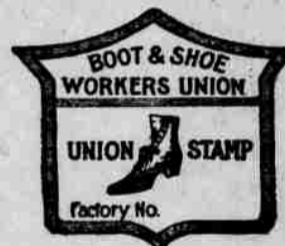
Let us prove to you—as we can—that it is cheaper, more convenient and far better to illuminate with gas or electricity than it is to illuminate with kerosene lamps. Counting cost of kerosene and chimneys, to say nothing of the drudgery connected therewith—it costs no more to use gas or electricity. And as for the results—dollar for dollar you get immensely more and better light—always ready, no cleaning, no breakage—by using our illuminants.

**Equipping a Modern Kitchen--**

Mr. Mechanic, you insist upon having the best and most up-to-date tools. Why deny your good wife the same conveniences for her trade. If you think housewifery is not a trade, just try it. Equip the kitchen with labor saving devices—first a gas range, then electric irons, toasters, etc. Come in and let us show you a few things.

**Lincoln Gas and Electric Light Co.**

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