

## SOCIAL UNREST

By Rev. Chas. Stelzle

We have been too easily satisfied with a cheap success. Few of us have taken the trouble and suffered the pain to get deep down into the social problems of the Church. A bit of philanthropic work has been done here and there, not always because of a love for the sufferer, but that our own accusing consciences might be stilled, and frequently we have done more harm than good. This has often been true because of a lack of knowledge. Could we have known all the facts, we would have put more heart and life into the task.

In order to be efficient, it is absolutely necessary to know the conditions with which we are dealing. This is so manifestly true in business life that no one will deny it. But often we disregard this principle when performing service for the Church. What do the people whom we have been discussing think of the Church, and why do they hold these opinions? This question is easily answered if one will take the time and trouble to inquire. It is very important that we should get their viewpoint if we are to accomplish anything with them, but more important still is it to know why these opinions prevail.

If the objectionable Socialist and the anarchist, and the others who trouble some of us, are to be eradicated, we must begin at the fountain head and remove the filth which poisons the stream—we must remove the things which give rise to the spirit of social unrest. This will require an honest study of the problems of the poor. It will mean the confession that undoubtedly there is injustice in our dealings with the masses. It is absurd to imagine that all of this agitation of unrest would have no existence but for the vaporings of the professional labor leader. It will be seen that while the agitator has no doubt exaggerated some things, nevertheless, he is, himself, the product of the conditions which he deplures, rather than their originator. It will be discovered, further, that while the use of palliatives are justifiable in order to lessen the burdens of the poor, nothing short of complete justice will suffice, and until this has been given, it must not be expected that peace will reign.

Unfortunately, there are too many individuals in the world who are so comfortably situated that they deplore agitation of any kind because their continued prosperity is very seriously impaired during a time of strike or economic disorder. To such, social unrest is simply an expression of unrighteous discontent. As a matter of fact it is one of the most hopeful signs of the times. It proves that the people are alert to their needs. What is required to-day is unselfish leadership in the struggle which the masses are making. And herein lies the opportunity of the Church.

## FOR SALE FOR RENT

## Furnished Rooms Rooms and Board

The above signs, neatly printed  
on heavy cardboard, for sale at  
**THE WAGEWORKER**

1705 "O" STREET

## MAUPIN IN ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 16.—It has been my good fortune to watch both branches of congress while in session. It has also been my good fortune to sit twice as a delegate in conventions of the American Federation of Labor—though I have never been a congressman. But I am prepared to say, and to prove that the average of brains in a Federation convention is quite as high, if not higher, than the average of brains in the present congress of the United States. There is an earnestness about the delegates here that is good to see. It speaks in loud and encouraging tones for the future of the trades union movement.

A few seats over from where I am writing this sits John Mitchell, whose name is as familiar as the name of Roosevelt, and whose services to his fellows far exceeds those of the Strenuous One. Near him sits John Walker of Illinois, another mine worker, whose name is not so familiar as that of Mitchell, but who is making his mark in the labor world by reason of his ability and his force of character. John B. Lennon, for twenty years treasurer of the Federation, sits across the hall. Lincoln unionists know this splendid man. We may not all agree with some of his views on public questions, but every one of us will agree that he is a four square man and full of fighting ability for any cause he espouses. Over there is James M. Lynch, the burly, able and obstinate president of the International Typographical Union. Frank Huber of the car enters, "Bill Mahon of the street railway men, Jerome Jones of Atlanta, Al Urick of the Iowa state federation, Secretary Morrison of the Federation, Perkins of the cigarmakers—and scores of others who have spent their lives fighting in the cause of unionism and the uplift of humanity. And presiding with serenity and firmness is Uncle Sam Gompers! What a fine old fellow he is!

It is an honor to any man to sit as a delegate in a convention like this. It is doing business—not for pay, not for glory, but for the benefit of common humanity.

Its sessions are all open to the public, too. Nothing to conceal, nothing to be ashamed of, about the American Federation of Labor. Secrecy and plotting are left for the enemies of organization.

It takes about three days for the convention to get down to real business, for committees must meet and tart reports, delegates must get acquainted and frame up their little caucuses, and the orators must be given time to polish off their little speeches and make them fit the occasion. And you'll hear a lot of mighty good oratory at one of these conventions, too. He hasn't opened up yet, but pretty soon Victor Berger of Milwaukee will open up, and then there will be sparks flying. Berger is the recently elected socialist who will represent the Milwaukee district in congress, and between him and President Gompers there has been a struggle for years. The socialist are going to make things warm at this session. The man who fails to see that socialism is growing by leaps and bounds in this country is indeed blind.

There are some strong women here, too. Mrs. Raymond Robins of Chicago,

president of the Woman's Trade Union League, is a general favorite. She is a wonderfully brilliant woman, and her life has been one of devotion to the cause of her working sisters. She led the shirtwaistmakers of New York to victory, and she practically won the strike for the garment workers in Chicago. Alice Henry, editor of the official organ of the Woman's Trade Union League, is another powerful factor in the labor movement. There is no sacrifice too great for Mrs. Henry to make if in the making she can advance the cause of her working sisters. Gentle, yet with positive character, she is a leader in the world's industrial progress. Agnes Nestor, the tireless little secretary of the Gloveworkers' International, watches everything like a hawk, and not one point escapes her. In knowledge of the union movement and the best methods of accelerating the progress, Agnes Nestor has few equals and no superiors among the men whose names are most familiar to the working world.

There are some human dynamos here, less widely known than Gompers and Mitchell and Lewis, but who keep things going all the time. There's Sam DeNedry of Washington, Jerome Jones of Atlanta, Charley Fear of Joplin, Frank Rist of Cincinnati, Ed. Busch of Baltimore, Jimmie Egan of Toledo, Woodmonsee of Springfield, and others.

As at Toronto the electrical workers controversy is going to take up considerable of the convention's time. It will all be fought over again, and unless all signs fail the weight of the administration is going to be thrown on the side of the McNulty—Collins faction. If two or three of the Federation organizers have done anything in this controversy it has been to widen the breach. It is time they were called off.

The convention will last practically two weeks, but I'll not remain till the close. Next week I will endeavor to write up the convention, not in detail but in perspective, and it will be my aim to throw a little light upon some of the incidents. The attendance is the largest in the Federation's history, and there's a mighty lot of political medicine mixing going on, especially by our socialist friends.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

### WILL IT BE DONAHUE?

#### Omaha Man Aspiring for Deputy Labor Commissioner Maupin's Job.

Rumor has it that Tony Donahue of Omaha is an applicant for the position of deputy labor commissioner, now held by Will M. Maupin. Mr. Donahue is a republican, has several times been president of the Omaha Central Labor Union, a frequent aspirant for a police commissionership or sheriff, and is by occupation a switchman. Donahue is a loyal union man, a hard worker and well acquainted with the organized labor game.

It is reported that Donahue's friends are already setting the pins for him and preparing to file some strong recommendations with Governor-elect Aldrich.