

## THE WAGEWORKER.



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### THE NEED OF UNIONISM.

**Without Organization the Workers' Case Is Hopeless.**

Many years ago, before the era of concentration, when master and man were on familiar speaking terms, there was some semblance of justice in the dealings between the individual and the employer. Even then, through the greed of human nature, there were those employers who never gave any man what he did not force them to yield. In the time of which we speak there was no female or child competition in the trades. The factory system was yet in its infancy. Then came the high tide of immigration, which was brought about by a desire for cheaper labor and the allurements held out by the steamship companies.

The colleges were busy teaching the exploitation of labor, and a generation of vipers in the shape of graduates was turned loose to theorize how to keep down expense of production and economize in cost of raw material. Flesh and blood were counted of less consideration than in the dealings between the individual and the cost of a finished product.

Then the immigrant, through painful experience, got wise. The American workmen had formed trade unions for their protection, and many of the newcomers had known of them in Europe, although they were crude as compared with the present conservative status. These trade unions were only formed as a means of self preservation, and if they were not in existence today the lot of all workers would be hopeless. The European gradually refused to be further made use of, with the exception of the most illiterate races, who flocked to the coal regions and to the New England textile mills.

The manufacturers next turned to female labor, which they used as a club or lever to reduce male wages. As the factories grew under a beneficent protection the standard of age was lessened until the familiar sight of the child carrying the dinner pail was reversed and the parent then did the lugging.

From this condition the trade unionists are striving to deliver the nation. You who never aligned yourself on the side of what you know in your heart is the only remedy at hand should give earnest thought as to whether you are getting the best there is in life for a worker. We would ask you in a serious, unimpassioned manner when you are informed that you are free and independent how much that counts for. Go single handed to a corporation or a large employer of labor or even an individual and demand what you may think is just. If there is another free and independent in reach will you get justice?

### CRITICISM OF COURTS.

**Governor Hadley of Missouri Declares It Perfectly Proper.**

Governor Hadley in his address before the American Federation of Labor convention at St. Louis declared it perfectly proper to criticize a court after a decision had been rendered.

"Judges in general have been more

solicitous in protecting the rights of property than in protecting the rights of the individual," said Mr. Hadley. "I have never recognized any department of our government as immune from criticism, and certainly the executive department has not been.

"I do not see why the judiciary should not have the correctness of its reasoning subjected to criticism. This should be done for the protection of just judges as against unjust judges, whose decisions are not based upon good reasoning or good faith with public morals. We have been too tender, too solicitous, in our criticism of the judiciary, but the judge should not be criticised while a case is under advisement.

"Legislation and court made law both are only the expression of the people of the time, and a decision which may be just at one time may be quite impossible at a later date."

### DUTY OF UNIONISTS.

One of the most important duties devolving upon men and women who join a trade union is too frequently neglected—attendance at their union meetings. This is a serious matter, more so than appears at first glance.

Only by intelligent support can an organization assume a position its due. This is not given when to a minority is intrusted the plenary power of acting and speaking for all.

Union meetings need the attendance of the rank and file. The business considered is serious. It deals with the welfare of the home and the most vital relations of the employee and the employer. Collective bargaining should represent a real majority. Attend all union meetings.

### Gompers Welcomes Negroes.

President Gompers, denying the statement that he was opposed to negroes in trade unions, said: "There are about 8,000,000 negroes, and I not only have not the power to put the negroes out of the labor movement, but I would not even if I did have the power. Why should I do such a thing? I would have nothing to gain, but the movement would have much to lose. Under our policies and principles we seek to build up the labor movement instead of injuring it, and we want all the negroes we can possibly get who will join hands with organized labor."

### German Labor Legislation.

"Germany has passed labor legislation," said Dr. Albert Sudekum, a member of the German reichstag, "prohibiting women working from 8 in the evening to 6 in the morning; providing a ten hour day limit and an hour for lunch; giving women but eight hours' labor a day before a national holiday. Recent laws insure against sickness, accidents in factories, old age and inability. Next will come insurance for every widow and orphan in the empire."

### Elevator Men Win.

Elevator constructors in the employ of the Otis Elevator company in all its principal plants throughout the country, numbering upward of 3,000 men, who have been on strike have effected a settlement with the company. The mechanics will receive \$5.20 a day and will work forty-four hours a week. Helpers will receive \$3.40 a day. The union is given the fullest recognition in every city where factories of the company are located.

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