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### PEACE.

That industrial unity and peace are desirable will hardly be questioned. But is peace the all important necessity? As a delegate at the Ottawa Industrial Conference remarked, "probably the most logical and the final conclusion of a peaceful community would be found in a graveyard." Industrial peace that is brought about by industrial submission, is far from desirable. Industrial peace and unity must be based on the fundamental freedom and independence of the worker. Such independence is only possible through organization and collective bargaining. That is the reason for the ultimate failure of all schemes of a paternal nature that fail to recognize the workers' own organizations. That is why so many times ingratitude has been charged against workmen who have revolted against schemes that, while seeming to be most desirable on the surface, made the workers feel their dependence on the benevolent employer. Permanent industrial peace will not be attained by paternalism.

Neither will the desired results of industrial peace and of National unity be secured by the creation of coercive machinery that is calculated to destroy the effectiveness of the workers' organizations. Legislation is now before the U.S. Congress, which if passed will prohibit strikes on the country's railways. The head of one railwaymen's union promptly announced that such an order would be ignored entirely. Coercive measures must and will fail to destroy man's love of independence. The workers' independence is only possible by combination. To attempt to destroy trade-unions is to endeavor to benumb the workers' independence. This fact is recognized in Britain and the Whitley joint industrial councils are formed on the basis of the recognition of the workers' own organizations. "As a preliminary to their complete formation there must be organization both by the employers and the employees in the particular industry, as the councils are composed of representatives nominated by the Employers' Association and the Trade Unions concerned."

### LABOR'S WITHDRAWAL LOGICAL AND CONSISTENT.

The Canadian Conference on Industrial relations was not a very notable success, and the American gathering of the same nature was even less successful in accomplishing the ends for which it was created. While in Canada there was unanimity of action in connection with some quite important matters, in Washington such agreement was wholly lacking. While the ultimate results of the Canadian Conference may not be any more marked than those of the American gathering, our employers' group was evidently of a more conciliatory nature than the corresponding section of the Washington gathering. Certainly the Canadian conference seems to have been better managed, especially in the preparation of the agenda. It is extremely doubtful if the Canadian Conference would have arrived at unanimous conclusions on many of the matters before the gathering, had the question of the recognition of unions and the right of collective bargaining, been the first, instead of the last subject to be decided upon. It was probably as well that the Ottawa Conference was conducted as it was. It is rather difficult for us, however, to believe in the consistency of a group of men spending a whole week in session with another group which was admitted by all concerned to be composed of men who could alone truly represent Canadian workers, and at the end of the week refuse to recognize the right of the workers to have at other times representatives of their own choosing.

That was probably the line of thought of Samuel Gompers and his colleagues of the Labor group at Washington. "You have legislated us out of the conference," said Mr. Gompers. If Organized Labor as such was not to be recognized as the proper institution to represent the workers in the matter of the adjustment of working conditions, Organized Labor could not represent the workers in other matters. Such reasoning is logical to say the least. The recognition of unions is the vital question to Organized Labor. For trade unionism as such to attempt to discuss the relationship between employers and employed in a conference like that at Washington, while within industry itself the employers deny the right of the union to exist, would seem to be inconsistent, illogical and a waste of time and energy.

The dramatic withdrawal of Samuel Gompers and the Labor group from the Washington gathering served at least to show that there is considerable fight still left in the old warrior of American Organized Labor, and brings to mind his remarks before the Senate Committee of inquiry in connection with the Steel strike. In consideration of his age Mr. Gompers was told that in giving his evidence he might stand or sit as he wished. "I'll be alright as long as you don't ask me to lie down," said the A. F. of L. leader.

### INTEREST MUST BE INCREASED

School affairs in this and other cities are given comparatively little attention. Little interest is displayed in the election of School Trustees and even a smaller interest is taken in the work of the board during the year. Such lack of interest is deplorable for the reason that the school board's activities more directly affect the average citizen than those of any other elective body in the city. Likewise the future men and women of the community are vitally affected by the schools and their management.

Working people should take an especial interest in the work of the school authorities. No person realizes the value of education more than the one who has not had the opportunity to secure that advantage. And so we find the average worker has a burning desire to see his children well educated. But as matters now stand such a laudable ambition is not always realized, because stern necessity compels the boy or girl to go to work before his or her education is finished. So that Organized Labor takes the stand that every boy and girl, regardless of social position, should have an opportunity to secure all that the state offers in the way of education.

Then there is the question of the direction of school affairs, and the query that naturally arises in the mind of the average father is: "Is the time of my boy or girl in school utilized to the very best advantage?" The workers need representation on the School Board to determine such questions. The opportunity to secure such representation is afforded to Edmonton electors, and the Free Press hopes to see Messrs. Scott and Barnes returned with decisive majorities at the coming elections. Mr. Scott is intensely interested in education and has children teaching. Mr. Barnes has been a teacher and is greatly concerned in raising the status of the teaching profession, with a consequent improvement in the standard of education.

### WASTE.

High prices, and under-production are laid at Labor's door, and the shorter work-day and higher wages are blamed for all our ills. Which is equivalent to saying that the population of the world is not sufficient to produce and distribute articles of use in quantities that will provide a comfortable existence for every man, woman and child. A few moments of thought on the subject will prove the ridiculousness of such an assumption. Waste, economic waste, is the evil that if eliminated will make it possible for a greater distribution of the things that make for a proper existence.

Carl Riordon in a supplementary report in connection with the commission to Inquire into Industrial Relations in Canada, says: "It seems clear that the share of wealth produced that goes to those who come between the producer and consumer is entirely too great." Think, for example, of the many wholesale establishments in a distributing city such as Edmonton, all handling the same class of goods

and each duplicating the service of the other. Corps of salesmen all visiting the same towns and villages, selling the same class of goods. Wasted energy for which we pay and which should be applied to production. Not high wages and shorter hours, not better working conditions but waste is the cause of under-production and consequent high prices. Carl Riordon states further that "The share of the worker can be increased only: (1) by increasing the share of the other parties to the production of wealth, and (2) by reducing to a minimum the share of those who are not parties to the production of wealth."

### EDITOR'S NOTES.

How many bonds have you bought?

Why does the selfish employer pretend to show such unconfined affection for the unorganized worker?

When people speak of over-production, they almost invariably, unconsciously or otherwise, mean under-consumption.

Think of the chance a lone workman has when he walks up to strike a bargain with the United States Steel Corporation.

Did you ever hear the phrase, "my sympathies are with Labor"? Do people sympathize with those who are getting a square deal?

Personal differences should have no place in the support that is given to Labor's candidates in the coming elections. Let the horn take the hammer's place.

Summerside, Prince Edward Island, school teachers found it necessary to tender their resignations in a body, in an endeavor to secure a minimum salary of \$400. How unreasonable some workers are in their demands! \$400 a year, well the idea!

"Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital and deserves much the higher consideration."—Abraham Lincoln.

A most insidious propaganda is being carried on in the States by the old American Anti-Boycott Association now camouflaged under the name of the League for Industrial Rights. The aim of the organization is to make Labor responsible for losses to employers caused by strikes. This outfit sent us a pamphlet outlining its objects, and requesting our views on the same. We beg to decline. Our space is too valuable to devote to such rubbish.

The recent militant actions of Samuel Gompers brings to mind the words that the old warrior was wont to use so freely in his call to the unorganized in days gone by.

In the world's broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of life,  
Be not like dumb driven cattle,  
Be a hero in the strife.

The conference of representatives of all unions affiliated with the A. F. of L., with the co-operation of the railway Brotherhoods, which the A. F. of L. has decided to call in the near future, will be a momentous gathering. The American Labor movement threw itself heart and soul into the war, "to make the world safe for democracy." The fight "to make democracy safe for the world" will be entered into with a determination equally as great.

A learned Chicago educationalist told the Winnipeg Rotary Club that teachers should not be permitted to organize, because of their position of "sacred trust." Like the policemen, the teachers would no doubt have a greater belief in the sincerity of those who oppose their organizations, if the appreciation of their "noble profession" and "sacred trust" was expressed in terms of dollars and cents.

### PRES. STILLMAN WILL PRESENT HIS ARGUMENTS

President A. F. of T. Will Advocate Organization to Portland Grade School Teachers

The grade school teachers of Portland who have been conducting an investigation into the question of unionization of teachers will hear arguments for organization from Chas. B. Stillman, president of the American Federation of Teachers, who was due to arrive in the city yesterday.

The information which will be given by Stillman will conclude the inquiry which the teachers have conducted for several months and their decision as to affiliating with the labor movement will be made in a short time.

At a meeting held at the public library Tuesday, Rev. E. H. Pence, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian church, and A. E. Doyle, architect spoke to the teachers against unionizing.

At the luncheon of the Civic Club at the Benson Hotel at noon today the teachers have been invited to attend and hear Prof. Stillman advocate organization and C. C. Chapman of the Oregon Voter in opposition.

Stillman will meet with the teachers in a meeting to be arranged with them. The high school teachers have already applied for a charter, and there is but little doubt that the grade teachers will take like action.—Oregon Labor Press.

### SCHOOL TEACHERS AFFILIATE WITH FRENCH FEDERATION

Because of the government's inactivity in raising wages and providing a retirement pension the National Public School Teachers' Association at Paris, France, has voted to align itself with the French federation of labor and will hereafter be recognized as a bona fide trade union.

The teachers have also voted to inaugurate a plan for international public school education against war.

In answer to the claim that the teachers are not in sympathy with the essential principles of the French trade union movement, as expressed by the federation of labor, the teachers, declared by a vote of 170 to 43 in favor of the federation's working program.

### TELEGRAPHERS NOT TO STRIKE IF WAGE INCREASE GRANTED

Railway Telegraphers in session at St. Louis Wednesday decided not to order a strike vote among their 23,000 members, before communicating with W. D. Hines, director general of railroads. Director General Hines was notified by wire of the purpose of the meeting and he was asked to put the wage increase into effect at once. President Manion of the Railway Telegraphers stated that in case Mr. Hines did not do this, the chairman had voted to order the strike vote taken at once. He announced that the chairman would remain in session there until an answer had been received.

### JOINT BARGAINING FAVORED BY ONE OF FARMERS' GROUP

C. S. Barrett Says Impossible For Conference to Prevent Consumption Two General Policies

In supporting the demand of labor for the recognition of collective bargaining, C. S. Barrett, a member of the industrial conference, and president of the Farmers' Educational Co-operative Union of America, made this statement: "I am unwilling to withhold from any other group or association of men that which I demand for myself or my own group. Organized Labor has asked that the conference endorse its position on collective bargaining, that it make known to the country that labor may, if it chooses, meet with heads of industry and arrange bases for the adjustment of wages housing conditions and other matters which affect employment. "This position to my mind is perfectly correct and I don't see how I can oppose it without stultifying myself. The national board of farm organizations has officially endorsed the Capper-Herberman bill. This bill gives to the farmers the clear right to collectively dispose of their products. "Collective buying and collective selling are as general policies inevitable. It will be impossible for this conference to prevent their consummation."

In national safety it is not necessary to magnify into crimes all the reckless words, spoken and written, of irresponsible agitators hunting notoriety.

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### ANTI-STRIKE LAW WILL NOT BE OBSERVED BY RAILWAY BROTHERHOOD

The Congress of the United States has been warned by Timothy Shea, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, that the Brotherhood would not observe pending anti-strike legislation if enacted into law. Mr. Shea said that such a law was almost certain to precipitate revolution, and was in fact what extreme radicals and agitators desire.

Mr. Shea intimates that this move to single out railway employees and deprive them of what he termed the economic right of the workers to strike to prevent injustice, must be accepted as a foregone conclusion that the railroads contemplate a general reduction in wages when the government surrenders control and desires such a measure to forestall a strike.

### JEWELRY WORKERS GET 44-HOUR WEEK AND WAGE INCREASE

After a two weeks' strike the jewelry workers at Denver, Colo., have returned to work with a 44-hour week and wage increases. The former work week was 48 hours with a wage rate as low as \$20 a week. The new minimum will be \$30.

### BRICKLAYERS HAVE ESTABLISHED FLAT RATE OF \$1 AN HOUR

The Plasterers' Union and the Bricklayers' Union of Rock Island, Moine and Davenport have established a flat rate of \$1 an hour.

### COUNTRIES LISTED IN LEAGUE MAY VOTE AT CONFERENCE

Arthur Fontaine, of France, chairman of the organizing committee of the International Labor Conference which opened in Washington, Thursday, states that all allied and neutral countries listed in the annex of the covenant of the league of nations will be allowed to vote at the initial meeting of the conference. This is in keeping, it is stated, with the decision of the supreme council at Paris that the conference shall be "master of its own destiny, states H. B. Butler of England. The question of seating German, Austrian and Finnish delegates must go before the conference itself. The supreme council has approved their coming into the country.

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