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Should All Labour Unions Unite?

Strong Letter from Union Man On the Most Important Matter Now Effecting Our Labouring People--Thinks the Hour Has Come for All Unions to Unite.

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—The age has arrived in the country when every Union Member and every Union sympathizer should ask themselves the question—Should all Unions unite? This question has shaped itself in my little mind the last while back. It has caused me during that time to view Unionism and its principals in a new and to my mental vision. Now go! light which heretofore seemed not to glow little further than thinking I felt that by communication some of these thoughts to the limelight of publicity I may incidentally start in agitation by which a little good will come for the cause of unity of unions.

Now, to further along this cause, I ask the columns of your strong Union paper, so that I may place before the public just a few reasons why we should have United Unionism. It is a well-known fact that the closer the relationship of bodies the more solid they become, and the more solid they are the better they can withstand the assault of the enemy. Now this being a truism and applicable to all bodies surely there are no bodies do it apply to more, than trade unionism. We know that if all unions were united in this country that it would tend for better relationship with capital and labour.

Suppose, for example purposes, we had all unions united, every fisherman, skilled and unskilled labourers, all having proportionally represented at the Main Council Board by their delegates. They, acting in session at appointed meetings, discussing the various problems that would arise. Now, would any person be so rash as to say that no good could come from such gatherings, for there is no doubt that from this higher council would come some great schemes that would be advantageous to the country in general. It is only those who have to do with unions that see how handicapped unions are at times by not having unity of unions.

I belong to a prominent union and I can say it was regrettable to see how often, those who employed labor, gained points that was not consistent with the principals of the square deal. Of course a shabby employer knows just as well as ourselves that the weak spot in unions (other than the F. P. U.) in Newfoundland is want of unity of endeavor, and they knowing this, take every advantage to gain some petty victory, regardless of the principals at stake. We see these happenings and we regret of their occurrence, but occur they will until the true spirit prevails everywhere in all the unions in Newfoundland.

We recognize at all times that in order that unionism and its principals may succeed it is necessary that the support of the general public be obtained, of course, to hold this support. Unions must try and live up to its agreements. This, in the main, has been fully carried out by the various bodies of unionists. The best evidence of this is that nearly all the great supporters who in the past lent such strength to Unionism in Newfoundland, all of them, or nearly all of them, from the Hon. M. P. Gibbs, that peerless leader that tried, and true friend of the workmen of Newfoundland, yes, from him down to the Unions' humblest friend they are with us still. They form that great mass of silent supporters.

If Unionism was that monster that some would have you believe, any reasonable man will admit that it could not hold the support of this vast body of genuine sympathizers. It is admitted that unions and their trusted leaders do not at all times perform their respective duties without errors. Of course they are human and the institution is composed of human beings, but taking them all in all—one cannot but admire their labour and the benefits that have accrued to the institution they represent. How much more might have been accomplished if all the employers of labour were alike in their treatment of Unions. Unfortunately we have some who black sheep, of course they are the exception, but still small as they are in number they make things unpleasant at times for themselves and for those who happen to work with them. Whether it is that they want to appear clever and would be smarties, or that they are ignorant of the laws of fair play, either of these ways you may take it but you can arrive at only one conclusion and that is their actions tend to widen the gulf between capital and labour. Of course this condition of

things could not exist if united unions were an accomplished fact.

We have in mind an incident that occurred a few weeks ago which will serve to illustrate. It is a case where united unionism could deal promptly and effectively with a situation. The case is of such a nature that it will not call for a brilliant brain to diagnose and form conclusion not complimentary to the gent in question. It seems that Mr. Frank Woods, Delegate of the Fireman's Union, called upon one of the employers of firemen and spoke to him about granting a little favour. He said we cannot demand but ask that you would place a trimmer on board each steamer, one trimmer on board each steamer. Without any more answer he flew with a rage and said he would sack every fireman on these ships.

The next morning he put into execution his threat and discharged every one of them. But when he found himself cornered he sent for the men and placed a trimmer on one of the ships, but his turn was now served, so he placed a non-union man on the other. Now, is that not child's play? Would you not expect better from a man of importance. What would you call this, would it be a mixture of ignorance, impudence and tyranny. Anyway you can judge for yourselves. It won't happen much longer. It would not, in all probability, aye; it could not happen, if all unions were united under one high council. They would be able to deal determinedly with such a case. They would have every door closed in dealing with a case like the above.

Any way we must seek to build up the structure of United Unionism to protect ourselves in dealings with those who will not see that Unionism

The Issues of War Must be Decided on European Soil

Remarkable Article from Official Sources in Berlin Paper. The Balkan Campaign is Only a Side Issue. Question of War or Peace to be Settled in France.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—A remarkable article, obviously from official sources and calculated to reassure the German people that the outlook of the war for Germany is triumphant in all theatres, appears in the Frankfurter Zeitung. The article contains what is characterized as the results of a careful investigation of the strategic situation and prospects made by a military expert, who asserts emphatically that the decision of the war is coming on the western front. The expert believes that Russia is a negligible factor. He declares that, although the Germanic forces have been comparatively inactive since the completion of the Serbian campaign, it is wrong to assume that the general staff is marking time.

"The temporary cessation of operations on a broad scale," he says, "constitutes proof that the most ardent and serious preparations are in progress. We will try to drive ourselves of all arrogance, but we know that the course of the war hitherto has proved for our enemies only the impossibility of effecting a breakthrough, while we ourselves repeatedly have succeeded in overrunning the enemy position and in making full strategic use of these successes, which is the main thing."

"We can do what we will if we will do what is right. The apparent stagnation must in reality conceal strenuous preparations, as neither side can desire to waste costly time."

"The Dardanelles campaign is finished, while the French idea of an advance from Salonika is still alive. Italy has abandoned any idea of a serious campaign in Albania, although the bridgehead at Avlona is being extended so that a base might be created here for a concentric attack together with the forces at Salonika. As to the Russians, they are making vain efforts to approach the Balkan theatre of the war without the co-operation of Rumania by way of Bessarabia. They can fairly be left out of account."

"The Balkan Situation. Meanwhile the defeat of Montenegro has opened up Northern Al-

stands for progress, not stagnation. Unionism is not unfriendly to capital but on the contrary it is true to the guiders of capital when these are of that class who want to play the honest game, but it cannot stand the tricking chap who plays the game of the cheat and dead beat. This is the class that unions everywhere have to fight most. To say they are harmless because so small in number and principal, is not correct as often as they are in power, where they have a certain control which makes them for the time being a sort of menace.

Now, Unionism has greater power than any coterie of such characters. Because, if need be, they can control even the destinies of their country. Who knows but the time is near at hand when, to protect their interests, that unionism shall unite on one common ground and place into power their own men. Can they do it? Why, of course they can, if they go at it in earnest. After all if you cannot get the laws made by which you are reasonably protected on union matters, then there is nothing left to do only do for yourself what is proper and just.

The sooner we all wake up and come nearer to one another the sooner shall we be stronger to fight the characters who do not want us. We hear foolish droppings coming from the mouths of empty boosters decrying our unions. They foolishly speaking most giddy phrases. They hear somebody say, perhaps, that the unions increased the price of living, etc. Now, they say this somebody may be a Mr. Somebody, but who, perhaps, is as brainless as himself, but nevertheless he swallows the dose and he coughs it up to every unthinking being whom he meets, who, perhaps, unwittingly believes it in part. Now this is a really happening daily. The sooner then a propaganda starts righting this and all other libels of like nature the better. Of course if all unions unite, fishermen, labourers, skill and unskilled, they would very quickly eliminate all these damaging patrooms. Come fellow union men—should we all unite? Let our answer be Yes! Yes! Yes!

Thanking in anticipation for space
Yours etc.,
"A UNION MAN"
FROM TOP TO TOE."
St. John's, Feb. 9, 1916.

Boys' Cheap Underwear

Boys' Heavy Jaegar Fleece Lined SHIRTS and PANTS

- 24 inch, **28c** per garment
- 26 inch, **30c** per garment
- 28 inch, **32c** per garment
- 30 inch, **34c** per garment
- 32 inch, **36c** per garment
- 34 inch, **38c** per garment

Boys Heavy Fleece Lined Combinations

to fit boys from 4 to 14 years—A Job line—All one price **50c** per Suit.

Boys Heavy Unshrinkable Wool Underwear

24 to 32 inches, **90c** to **\$1.10** per garment.

STEER BROS.

"But to-day, just as emphatically as at the beginning of the war, it needs to be understood that the question of war or peace will be decided on European soil in France. If nothing else would make this clear it would be perfectly manifest from the phantasy of the leaders of the French nation that victory must and shall be theirs. We possess the strength to wreck this dream and we shall do so."

Justice is represented as being blindfolded, but the probabilities are she sometimes peeps.

SAID STEAMER WAS BEING TOWED TO ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.

HALIFAX, N.S., Feb. 6.—At four o'clock this morning Cape Race received a message from the Japanese Takata Maru, which was in collision with the Silver Shell, reporting that the engine room and stoke holds were flooded. The Silver Shell was standing by and reported all well. This information was relayed to the Marine and Fisheries Department here.

less communication with the Takata Maru last night, which was believed to indicate that the steamer had sunk, is now believed to have been caused by the flooding of the engine-room. It is believed here the same steamer in answer to the Takata Maru's calls for assistance will take her in tow to St. John's, NFLd., about 350 miles away.

QUEBEC, Feb. 8.—With their veteran goal tender, Moran, absent, the Quebec team played its best game of the season on Saturday night, defeating the Wanderers by eight goals to five.

OUR ANNUAL February FURNITURE Sale

Starts To-Day, Feb. 5th, 1916.

This Sale will bring you into touch with the very best values ever heard of in reliable, substantial, modern furniture. The values this February will be the very climax of all our Bargain Giving. Genuine reductions from 25 to 50 per cent. See our West Windows for specials in Bedding. We list a few of same, many others offered.

Our Combination Lath and Spring Bed, with Wool Top Mattress, only \$6.95 complete. Our 731 Bed, with Woven Wire Spring and Wool Top Mattress, only \$7.50.

Our New Idea Spring, built right into the bed, is the latest out. No wood whatever, perfectly sanitary, and sells \$1.00 cheaper than with wood. We can fit it to your own bed, as we have the machines to do it with. See sample in window.

The Ideal Spring is so well know that it hardly needs recommending. It has 120 springs, fastened securely, and will not sag. Guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Our Crescent Felt Mattress is built of the best material, competes with the Ostermoor, so well known, but sells for \$5.00 less owing to duty and freight saved.

Our New Health Mattress, 6 inch bands, are perfectly sanitary. Well made by skilled workmen. We have them in 3 grades from \$5.00 up. Other Mattresses from \$2.00 up.

We have also **Pillows, Bolsters, Cushions**, and can not only make but renovate any Mattress, Beds, &c., now in use; also repair Springs, as we have in our building the only weaver of wire in the country. No size too small or too large for us to handle. See our special Wire Stretchers from **\$2.50 up**. Just the thing for making extra beds by night and remove by day, as it shuts right up. Inspection invited.

The C. L. MARCH Co., Ltd.
Cor. Water and Springdale Streets.