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WHEN THE WORKERS LEARN THEIR LESSON

When you've worked and toiled an
sweated
For forty year, an' more,
An' the wolf is still a howlin'
An' a scratchin' at your door;
An' you find that old Prosperity's
Arrivin' pretty late;
Don't it kinda start you thinkin'
That you should Co-operate?

When your boy's just right for college
An' your girl for boardin' school;
An' you find you're short of savin's
An' is generally the rule,
An' you feel that you've been handed
Such a nasty jolt by Fate
Don't you wish that you'd learned
sooner
How you could Co-operate?

Some'll say it isn't proper
For workin' folks to live
With their left hands out a graspin'
What their right hands have to give;
But "Big Business" knows as I do—
That there's truth in what I say;
"When the workers learn their lesson"
They will ALL Co-operate."
—W. H. Stober, Lewiston, Ida.

The "Open Shop" is a closed shop
to union men. It means low wages and
long working days. In other words,
night and day.

EDMONTON FREE PRESS

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AN EXCELLENT MEDICAL AID PROPOSAL

In this province there are several medical aid schemes of different kinds in operation. In some instances employees of industrial establishments themselves engage the services of a physician, each worker paying a stipulated amount each month, for which he receives medical attention for himself and family without further expense. In other cases a doctor is retained by the employer and each employee is assessed an amount each month for which medical attention is provided. In still other cases the employer engages a physician and himself bears the cost for attendance to his employees. In cases where no approved medical aid plan exists the Workmen's Compensation Board makes an assessment of one cent per day on workpeople, for which medical and surgical attendance, hospital accommodation and special treatment and appliances are provided for the worker who is injured while engaged in his ordinary occupation.

The Alberta Federation of Labor, backed up by Trades Councils and unions throughout the province, is requesting the Compensation Board to put into operation a medical aid plan that would take the place of all the schemes at present in operation. It would follow the lines of the Board's present plan, only extending the service to cover the families of the workers and providing complete medical and hospital attendance in all cases of sickness or accident.

It would be a much more satisfactory arrangement than any of the schemes now in operation. In case of sickness or accident the sick or injured person could have the attendance of the physician for which he or she had a preference and the charge would be met from the central fund. In instances where groups of employees or an employer now have a contract with a doctor, the arrangement only provides for the payment of such attendance as the practitioner with whom the contract is made could perform. Under the Federation's proposal the sick or injured person could secure the services of specialists in cases where special treatment was required without additional expense. The Federation is not asking something for nothing, and proposes that a central fund sufficient to adequately finance the plan be maintained by regular contributions from the people who would be entitled to benefit by the proposal. It is to be hoped that the Board will consent immediately to the creation of the proposed scheme and that it will be put into operation at an early date.

WHAT MAKES MAN SELFISH?

Would production for use rather than for profit cause a decline in individual initiative? If the standard of worldly greatness was service to humanity rather than personal gain, would men cease to perform great deeds and accomplish great achievements? Some say they would and this is one of the stock arguments against a reorganization of society looking to service to humanity to take the place of a system that breeds selfishness and turns men to the worship of mammon.

It is a poor argument and one to which history gives the lie. The greatest achievements, the noblest sacrifices, the most heroic deeds recorded in the annals of mankind's history have been accomplished in the service of humanity as a whole and without any thought of personal gain. It is a poor estimate of humanity that can see no future for mankind but that which is founded upon selfishness and personal greed. There is every reason to believe, on the contrary, that an unnatural artificial system of society which makes it impossible for man to love his neighbor as himself, is responsible for the prevalent dog-eat-dog attitude of man to man. Love of his fellow man is a natural human force which has become benumbed by a cruel unjust system of society that puts a premium on selfishness and greed. Make service to humanity the standard of greatness and individual initiative will be enhanced rather than made to decline and greater deeds and nobler achievements will be accomplished than were possible under a system of society based on personal gain.

NO INDIVIDUALISM IN CIVILIZATION

A speaker at the civic Industrial Congress banquet, told his hearers that he was an individualist. He did not, however, proceed to tell how it was possible for him to be an individualist unless he claimed to be an anarchist or a social outlaw.

There is no such phenomenon as individualism in civilized society. On the frontier where every man is a law unto himself individualism may thrive for a time, but as civilization advances individualism disappears; men's interests become more and more intertwined and the interests of the individual are merged into the common welfare of the whole. Personal liberty in a civilized community is a relative term. The individual's personal liberty can only be exercised, or at least should only be exercised, in so far as it does not interfere with the personal liberty or social welfare of some other individual, or that of the community.

The "personal liberty" cry has always been used to oppose social progress. Opponents of trade unionism have pretended to care for the "liberty" of the individual to affiliate or remain unaffiliated with the unions, and therefore they oppose the union shop which they improperly term "closed shop." The union shop is not closed to the worker that is willing to associate himself with his fellows for the purpose of mutual protection. The only liberty the union shop restricts is the liberty of the individual to reduce the standard of the workers' living. The same situation is, in effect, prevalent in all the activities of civilized society. Individualism does not exist and the personal liberty cry is not sincere in any case where it is used to oppose measures for the welfare of the community or nation.

ECONOMIC BETTERMENT THE MAIN CONSIDERATION

It is doubtful if the pioneers of the modern trade union movement consciously contemplated social or political gains through the organization of Labor. Trade unionism was inaugurated as an economic movement to ameliorate the conditions that existed for the worker in industry. But with economic betterment and as a result of it came a measure of social and political progress. The social status of a class of people depends almost entirely upon their economic status. Their political status, for a number of reasons, depends largely upon the same consideration. And so it would seem that the organization of the workers along lines that will mean economic betterment, is the fundamental function of organized Labor. There are other important considerations, but all are subordinate, and must remain so, to the economic issue.

The Free Press does not hold that organized Labor should not concern itself with issues other than the economic betterment of the workers, but there is a grave danger in Labor being led out of the main stream of progress into small tributaries of social or political interests and theory, which while important in themselves are all dependent upon and are influenced and regulated by economic conditions. When a person makes a statement to the effect that any interest is bigger than a mere question of wages or working conditions, such a statement is open to serious contradiction if we are to assume that wages mean the share which the workers receive of what they produce. Raise the economic status of the workers and their social status, including the ability to enjoy education, esthetics and a comfortable living, will be raised as a natural consequence. Political freedom will follow as a matter of course.

THE TEAMSTERS' COMMENDABLE ATTITUDE

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a story dealing with the negotiations between the Teamsters', Chauffeurs', Stablenen and Helpers' Union of this city and the local Cartage and Warehouse-

June—the Bride's Month; Also Home-Furnishing Month



Our Third-Floor Home-Furnishing Section is Replete with the Loveliest Suggestions for the Bride's New Home

A stroll through our Home Furnishings Department will convince you our values are the best in town. A few interesting items for the Bride's Home are quoted below. Have our expert call and help you in your home furnishing problems. No charge for this service. Phone 6141—Drapery Department for appointment.

Window Shades of Good Quality and Rightly Priced the First Consideration

We have them in all widths and lengths in the Opaque Cloth, Combination Cloth and Real Scotch Holland. Stock sizes, 36x70, 41½x70, 45x70, 47½x70 inches. Larger sizes made up from cloth we have in stock. Phone for estimates.

Portiers of Velour

"Seal of Quality" Velour for portiers in a beautiful new quality in rose, green, blue, sand and mulberry; 50 inches wide. Priced at, per yard, \$3.85 and \$4.00

English and French Tapestry

For furniture covering, have just come to hand quite the best range we have had for years. In foliage and art designs; 50 inches wide. Price, per yard, \$7.75

Brass Jardiniers

Regular size; 200 only to sell at this price. Brush brass, footed. To clear at, \$1.89

Corded Repp for Portiers

May we suggest a highly Mercerized Corded Repp for portiers, a very silky fabric and reversible which is an outstanding feature of this fabric, in rose, green, blue and brown; 50 inches wide. Price, per yard, \$3.00

Our Displays of Beautiful Cretone

Nowhere in the city do you see such beautiful cretone as we have at the "Bay." It is what so many of our friends tell us. Newly imported English Cloths are in and ready for your inspection. This season the bird designers are showing more than ever foliage and floral patterns, also are good and can be had in all colors; 31 inches wide. From 60c to \$1.35

Beautiful Newly Imported English and Scotch Curtain Nets

Pretty bird and floral designs previously bought and just coming to hand. The real fine Liva Nets and 15-point fillet, just the designs you are looking for, for the bride's home; 45 to 50 inches wide. Range in price from, yard, \$1.00 to \$2.50

Lovely Materials for Side Drapes

For side draperies nothing could be nicer than the new Tapestry Madras Muslin. Nicely colored, in plain and shot effects. The width of this fabric, 50 inches, is wide enough to divide nicely, which makes a pretty moderate-priced drapery. Priced from, per yard, \$1.75 to \$1.75

Casement Cloths for Dining Room Drapery

Have pretty fruit and art colored borders and are quite the newest drapery, fast colors, and wide enough to divide nicely; 50 inches wide. Price, per yard, \$1.50

A pair of Curtains and Vallance for ordinary window made up in our workroom would cost \$3.50.

The New Terry Cloths

Are in, and at prices far below the manufacturer's price today. Stripe and Chinese designs are included; 36 inches wide. Price, per yard, \$1.95

Pretty Bordered Madras Muslin

Scalloped edge and double bordered Madras Muslin for bedroom is one of the nicest window curtains we show. Again bird designs are to the fore; black and conventional motifs are included in the range of designs, in cream; 45 inches wide. Price, per yard, 75c

Beautiful Novelty Curtains

Our stock of Novelty Curtains in Serp, Vaile and Marquisette Curtains was never as complete as at the present time. Torchon, Filie and Cluny Motifs are predominating this year. 2½ yards long. In white, ivory and ecru. Range in price from, per pair, \$2.69 to \$14.00

The Hudson's Bay Company

men's Association. It is doubtful if ever a more sincere effort than that put forth by the Edmonton union has ever been exercised by any party to a dispute to bring about an amicable settlement. The action of the Warehousemen's Association in refusing to recognize the union in the first place, and in the second place declining to accept the Government's offer of a conciliation board to arbitrate the differences, is a very serious point against the Cartage men and one that will have a telling influence on public opinion if trouble of a serious nature should ensue.

The outcome of the dispute is still in some doubt, but it is hoped that the employers' association may agree to recognize the union, in which case an amicable agreement may be reached with respect to wages and working conditions. However, the men are determined, and justly so, to have their organization recognized in as full a measure as the union is prepared to recognize the Cartage and Warehousemen's association. If it should be necessary to resort to drastic action to enforce this reasonable demand, the public is certain to take cognizance of the effort put forth by the men to reach a peaceful settlement, as revealed by publication of the correspondence passing between the union on the one hand and the Warehousemen's Association, the Department of Labor and the local Board of Trade on the other hand.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Without independent organization of workpeople there can be no democracy in industry.

We remember that one enthusiast continually referred to the O. B.U. as the one big "onion." Which by the way has turned out to be appropriate, one of the union's characteristics being its tendency to bring tears to the eyes of those who handle it too familiarly.

The article by Alex. Ross, M.L.A., in this issue, dealing with the building guild experiment in England, is a very interesting and thoughtful criticism of the scheme. Professor Ottewill's contribution is again exceedingly interesting. He will deal next week with University Extension Work in Alberta.

The Farmer-Labor coalition government of Ontario has just concluded its first legislative session, which has established the precedent of having enacted more advanced social legislation than has even been considered within the past decade by previous administrations. When the farmers and Laborites undertook the legislative reins, predictions were heard on all sides, confidently limiting the newcomers' tenure of office to a matter of a few months. It was said that the essentially divergent ideals of the farmers and those of the Labor men could not withstand the obstacles of the eight-hour day, minimum wage, and other questions, which were an integral part of the Laborite platform. The answer given by the coalition to its critics is that not only has the cleavage failed to eventuate, but the Labor group, with the sympathetic support of the farmers, has successfully sponsored the enactment of Labor legislation which, even a year ago, would have been considered highly radical—Christian Science Monitor.

Mr. Max L. Holtz, President of the Rochester Clothiers' Exchange, to an annual meeting of the exchange, said: "The necessity of allowing the employees to organize along lines of their own choosing also was recognized. If only as a matter of convenience, it is easier to deal with one man than 10,000; but when the added weight of the discipline which a well-organized union fields among its members is thrown into the balance, recognition of some form of employees' organization becomes imperative." It would seem then, that when an employer puts obstacles in the way of his employees being "well organized" he is really working against his own best interests.

A DINNER-PAIL EPIC

By Bill Lloyd

In the newspaper pages, they always speak of wages as something that will make the workers rich, but in spite of all this din, I find my wallet getting thin, and financially I am headed for the ditch. We get a bean or two after putting on the screw and going through the stiffest kind of fight, but when the bills I settle with the long-green or the metal, I begin to see a new and reddish light, for the man who makes the wage seems to know just how to gauge the income with the outgo of the pile, and when I get more pay I see it vanishes right away to the profiteers who take it with a smile. Now you can kill a cat by trying in hot fat, if a fellow don't know how to tackle a feline; just so some duffers say that the world will wag its way and that running round in circles is divine. But a man who wrote some books of which I like the looks says man never was put here to chase his spine, and he says it is a cinch that the workers ought to pinch all that they make—and, hang it, that sounds fine! He says money's just a medium to relieve us of the tedium of swapping what we make for what we want, and that one who makes a hat and wants a pound of fat should learn to make the plutocrat look gaunt. Now the Prof.

49th BATTALION WILL HOLD PICNIC AT SEBA BEACH

On Dominion Day, July 1st, the 49th Battalion Association will hold a picnic at Seba Beach. The widows and orphans of the association will be the guests of the day. Widows and orphans are again requested to send in their names to C. A. Walker, 10742 107th Street, Phone 5485. Any others wishing to attend will kindly advise Mr. Walker as early as possible.

The Needle Workers' Union has sent to Gene Debs a full outfit of silk clothing. So far there is no report that the railway brotherhoods have sent a pair of silk pajamas to Senator Cummins, though they threaten to put him to sleep.

who wrote the book got the trustee's prong and hook, and is living on skimmed milk and pickled hock, but when I read his writing and found it so inviting, it gave my canned ideas an awful shock. I've decided that we better break every chain and fetter or we'll never get ahead a little bit, for no matter how they rate us, we'll never raise our status, by simply trading pail plutocrat look gaunt. Now the Prof.

Men's and Young Men's Suits

\$30.00 \$40.00 \$45.00

These prices are at least 25% below the real value. The styles for men and young men are especially good, showing much elegant smartness of design. The latest ideas are presented, the latest fabrics and colors, tailored in the highest manner of the best craftsmen; they're bargains.

And others, very big values; \$50.00, \$60.00, \$70.00

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