

SPASMODICISM OF SOME EMPLOYERS.

By Major George L. Berry, President of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America.

The hysteria of some employers in North America on the growth and influence of organized labor is, to say the least, sympathetic, but their attempt to foster the antiquated scheme of "the open shop" on the people under the guise of "The American Plan" is the height of insanity.

One should not be deceived as to what the so-called "American Plan" stands for. It is the retelling of the scheme of the manufacturers of a decade past who set out to crush the movement of organization among the working men and women of this continent under the banner of the "open shop," and the superimposing is represented in the following apparently harmless words: "By use of the term American Plan of employment we mean that all men shall have equal rights to work on any and all projects without regard to affiliation or non-affiliation with organized labor. We consider it the fundamental constitutional right of every employe to sell his services where he may without fear of hindrance."

The inconsistency of the quotation above is presented in the following parallel proposed: "We mean that all men shall have equal rights to work on any and all projects without regard to affiliation or non-affiliation with organized labor. The words 'affiliation or non-affiliation with organized labor' is hypocrisy of the worst sort, for the reason that it obviously proposes non-affiliation with organized labor. That this is true is borne out by the following language: "We consider it the fundamental constitutional right of every employe to sell his services where he may without fear of hindrance."

To tell his services where he may without fear of hindrance, can have but one interpretation, and that is that the employers propose by disorganization of the trade union movement to place the workers in a position where they will be compelled by circumstances to "sell their services" at a rate that will disregard the rights of their fellow workers. The one new angle to the present hysteria of the employers as presented in a portion of their programme reads: "The American plan recognizes the right of collective bargaining and the employer for the establishment and maintenance of fair wages and proper working conditions for his services and satisfactory output."

What does the analysis of this new matter in the programme of the employers say to the working men and women of America present? First, that the organization of labor shall be destroyed, and then the principle of collective bargaining shall follow. To whom shall the principle of collective bargaining apply? Since it is the purpose to destroy the trade union movement, there can be but one reasonable answer, and that is that "employer organization" and the employers shall deal collectively. Since this is the only apparent means by which collective bargaining can be conducted under the scheme, then it is reasonable to inquire what is to determine what "fair wages and proper working conditions" are to be? Likewise, it is of additional importance to inquire as to whom shall determine whether "honest service and satisfactory output" has been given? Since the plan is to "pull the teeth of the workers" to disarm them of their collective strength and coordination, which can only come through the international trade union movement, it must follow that the employer is to determine what constitutes "honest service and satisfactory output," or, in other words, the same specie of collective bargaining that applied to days when the chattel slave shall be reintroduced in this the twentieth century period of civilization under the guise of "The American Plan."

The open shop programme of the days of Van Cleve, Post and Kirby, rejuvenated by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States under the stirring title "The American Plan" is revolutionary and absolute; by the most vicious scheme for the undermining of stable governments that has ever been conceived.

Governments are not things separate and distinct from peoples. Governments are peoples, and the stability, prosperity, intellectuality and Christianity of the Governments are calculated by the standards of the people.

Organized labor is not revolutionary. It is evolutionary. It is an institution that moves forward and not backward. It is an institution representative of the great overwhelming mass of the peoples of all nations of the world whether all peoples may be affiliated with it or not. It is an institution nevertheless representing the workers, the producers, who constitute the great bulk of humankind.

One does not have to be a historian to portray or to recite from what source the humanitarian and constructive thought of the world has emanated. Certainly it cannot be said that it has come from the dormant or satisfied minds, but rather it has come from the active, energetic protestants who had a grievance and who notwithstanding the abridgements that have been made to prevent their speaking and writing they nevertheless have been heard.

Now comes the latest hysteria fostered by the Chamber of Commerce that proposes "normalcy." Such a purpose and such a term is best translated into the words "reaction" or "deterioration," and while it may be true that this remedial effort may avail many of those who were engaged in the precipitancy, yet it is reasonable to expect, if we are to be guided by the experience of the past, that it will despair and fall of its own momentum for the very simple and yet powerful reason "that" it is in contradiction of the very nature of human aspirations.

The fact is that certain members of the Chamber of Commerce, large and influential employers who have heretofore profited by confusions, are desirous of "repeating," and while they realize that it is but a makeshift scheme, they are in hopes nevertheless of securing sufficient results from the campaign to compensate them and to check momentarily the growth of the movement of organized labor, whose reason for existence it should be said, is to promote the happiness and well-being of those who toil.

most advanced type. Moreover, the most inexperienced student of economics and of human psychology will agree to the utter impracticability of the Bolshevik philosophy. The international trade union movement is opposed to this political and industrial imperialism. It stands for evolutionary tendencies predicated upon understanding.

Let us draw the parallel between the Bolsheviks and the Chamber of Commerce, or those members of it who have rejuvenated the failure of the past, as is true in the case of Lenin and Trotsky. The Chamber of Commerce, at least, those responsible for the so-called "American Plan," (Open Shop) scheme, are endeavoring to monopolize the materials of this continent in the interest of a few and to the disadvantage of the many. The programme contemplates the confiscation of property because their theory of collective bargaining dears and makes helpless the workers in conserving wage standards necessary in the maintenance of homes, and by the same ruse they have decreed that free men, the workers, shall not own their own homes because they would make it impossible through their bureaucratic control.

The international trade union movement is opposed to his political and industrial imperialism advocated by certain elements of the Chamber of Commerce. It is revolutionary, vicious, and selfish. The international trade union movement will therefore resist with the same energy the so-called "open shop" movement as they will the efforts of Lenin and Trotsky to sovietize the world, both being reactionary and destined to the same end while parading under somewhat different cloaks and titles.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and the American Federation of Labor will meet the present spasmodic movement of the Chamber of Commerce as it has always met such reactionary issues. As an indication of the growing sentiment in this respect a resolution passed by the 24th convention of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America is presented herewith which clearly emphasizes the intelligent understanding that the organized workers of America have in respect to the so-called open shop movement. It likewise emphasizes the spirit of resistance that will be found generally throughout the labor movement of America. The resolution reads:

Whereas, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America has declared war upon organized labor by combining with merchants and manufacturers and every employer's association that have stood for and advocated the so-called open shop; and, whereas, your special committee appointed to call your attention to this condition, hereby urge upon the convention the necessity of having our membership realize the menace of this organized organization of the moneyed interest; and,

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the American Federation of Labor shall determine what steps may be promoted and the wastes and interruptions resulting through lack of a larger sense of common interest may be minimized; therefore be it

Resolved, By the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union that we propose and urge that the American Federation of Labor shall create a general defense fund, from which a practical, unified and substantial support could be provided in peaceful industrial circumstances; therefore, be it further

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MANY IMMIGRANTS COME TO CANADA

Only Farmers, Farm Laborers and Domestic Allowed in.

With the war over, reconstruction advanced and conditions rapidly getting back to normal, the flow of immigration has started in heavily and it is believed by the end of the current fiscal year the influx will approximate 190,000, if not 200,000.

The immigration came from various sources, but largely from the old country and the United States. The prevailing restrictions operate to keep out the continentals and they also limit the number coming in from any source.

Only farmers, farm laborers and domestics are allowed in, and considering this fact, the showing is considered favorable. Ninety-five thousand immigrants entered the Dominion in the first half of the fiscal year, this being an increase of 2 per cent, roughly. Of these, 22,900 were British, 20,900 Americans and 11,900 were from other countries.

At present, as industrial conditions are rather unstable and is not desired to add to the floating population of the cities, the policy followed is to encourage immigration only of those willing to go on the land or to enter domestic service. Every person coming in must have at least \$50. There is no immediate prospect of lifting the embargo on nationals of Germany, Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria, but many Poles are coming in, though they are subjected to close checking up.

About 4,000 immigrants have come to Canada under the British scheme of assisted passage for former service men who are previously passed by Canadian officers and some who came at their own expense and made good have been refunded their passage money. While there is some criticism in Great Britain of the restrictions imposed, the organized workers here in respect to the coming of thousands unskilled for the land and likely to meet unemployment elsewhere.

"Two profiteers had been staying at a hotel for three months. 'Well, Jim, what do you think of this hotel?' 'Fine, Erbert, but there's one thing I don't like. They charge two bob for a bath.' 'Do they?'—Sunday Express.

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