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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

ORGANIZATION

The slogan of the Trade Union movement is organize. We see the word organize wherever we go. To our humble mind the word organize is not generally understood in its best sense. When we talk of organization we do not necessarily mean bringing together a large number of people. We must use the word with a deeper meaning. Organization has two separate functions attached thereto. In the first place it includes all that the physical properties are; also it takes in the psychological side of this which we see and feel manifested in the universal mind. When the physical side of life is assured we can then look towards a rapid development along mental lines.

Let us for a moment look into the book of nature and see if we cannot learn something from it. Take the bees as an illustration. They are an organized body, not in numbers only, but organized mentally. They are agreed upon the vital things of life; they protect their livelihood, they fear no foe, simply because they are organized. They understand the benefits of organization and practice it accordingly.

The ant is another fine illustration. They are most industrious, they make provision for long periods ahead. A flock of birds when migrating will keep back nurses for those who are sick. We can see how organization in these forms of life has been the means of strengthening their hold upon life; how it has made them fit to survive. It has taught them "that all should live so that all may live."

What a boon it would be to us as workers if we could copy from the ant or any of the others mentioned. How can we expect anything different than what we have if we are not intelligent enough to get it? Even fishes in the sea move in organized bodies. It has previously been pointed out that organization does not mean to be together in large or small bodies; but, it does mean that all are agreed upon some common concrete plan for the general welfare of those organized. The workers in the past have done their part, so today the worker must do his part; a part more complex than that of our predecessors. We are all agreed that now is the time for organization; organization in every walk of life. Can we sufficiently organize, so that we can be, like the bee, prepared for all attacks. Can we feed, clothe and shelter all the human family? We must organize for service, for duty. All things are accomplished by organization. Our bread which we earn daily has to be protected by organization. If we want more, we must organize more; the higher the organization, the greater are the responsibilities. To shoulder these is the duty of all true citizens; duty to our fellowmen must be thoroughly understood.

You cannot trace in any activity of a people anything otherwise than what has been said, that organization must take place before there is much advance. In the past organization has been accomplished by the ruling class, in the political field we can see where the workers fighting for better things in industry will vote for their masters when called upon to do so. Further than this we have men and women who are bound down to existing conditions; who have not the patience or time to analyze the true position of things for themselves. Added to this are the fallacies of individualism. Many people think they are a part or parcel unto themselves, that they do not need any co-operation from the other fellow. They forget that under modern conditions we could not exist one month in an individual sense. Not a thing we wear, not a thing we admire, not a thing we own but what has a social connection with some one else. Consequently how can you cut yourself off from every one else? If we are agreed that we are socially bound, then we must act in unison. To this end organization comes in. Whenever we get what we need, a new need arises from the old one. Thus the whole of life, of organization, of desire, is a process in cycle form, ever changing toward the great ultimate of all things.

MEXICAN TRADE

(Continued from page 1)

views. He knows that the Mexican people can not be lifted by their own bootstraps. They go up or remain down as the workers of other nations go up or down. If the workers of the United States are happy and contented, a healthy influence will be reflected upon the workers of the Southern neighbor.

"Mexico secures the bulk of its supplies from the United States. It expects to spend hundreds of millions of dollars here in the next few years. It intends to spend this money in such a manner that it shall help and not injure American workers. Therefore, it has adopted as a settled government policy that it will have no dealings with any American firm that does not maintain decent working conditions. It wants for our producers the same conditions that it is conceding to its own producers."

Contracts for "Fair" Firms. Orders for agricultural implements, road building machinery, fire apparatus and various other manufactured products have already been placed with American concerns recommended by officials of the Machinists' Union, Mr. Davison said. Negotiations are pending for additional large contracts, all of which are to be placed with firms in the United States or Canada that are fair to organized labor.

"Naturally, this policy has aroused the 'open shop' crowd in this country and they are making a mighty howl about discrimination. A few months ago they sent their petted hireling, Ole Hanson, into Mexico, to see what could be done about it. He made a

number of attempts to persuade the government out of its program, but he didn't get far with his work. Then they sent Mrs. H. L. Gaidis, chairman of the woman's section of the United States Chamber of Commerce. She, too, failed in her mission of converting influential Mexicans to the 'open shop.' Mrs. Gaidis left Mexico with a very poor opinion of Mexican officials, but that seemed to worry them not at all.

"They are ready to pay gold for materials and supplies, and they assume the right to conduct their internal affairs in their own way. They claim the right to buy from whom they please, on such terms as are mutually satisfactory to buyer and seller. If American 'open shoppers' and labor matters don't like their methods, they are, of course free to sell their goods elsewhere. They won't distribute them in Mexico, that is certain."

Exposed "American Plan" Mr. Davison explained to Mexican officials what the "open shop" really means. He made short work of the so-called "American plan," pointing out that it wasn't American at all, "but the reverse of it. It had for its object the subjugation of workers, the denial of rights that are granted as a matter of course by practically all other nations, and the setting up of an industrial dictatorship with all the elements of feudalism."

"I think it is pretty generally understood in Mexico that those who represent the 'open shop' in America are the real enemies of Mexico," said Mr. Davison. "They are believed to be the same interests that have financed revolutions—the great injury of the people, the same crowd that is to-day clamoring for

intervention, not in the interest of the Mexican people, but in the interests of those who have been exploiting them."

Mr. Davison points to action taken by the American Plan or Open Shop Conference of Connecticut, as an indication of how the situation is to be met by American manufacturers of the "open shop" variety.

"Intervention is all these people think about," he said. "They would use the bayonets of American soldiers to prevent Mexico from giving effects to policies that all fair men must recognize as just and humane."

The Connecticut Open Shop Conference took cognizance of a letter written by Antonio I. Villarreal, secretary of agriculture, addressed to William H. Johnson, president of the International Association of Machinists, stating the purpose of the Mexican government to purchase several million dollars worth of farm machinery and implements and requesting that Mr. Johnston supply the names of firms that are fair to organized labor.

In a series of resolutions that are being sent to Senators and Representatives and the various commercial lobbies at Washington "this request and proposed action" are denounced as "a discrimination by a foreign government in favor of a principle inimical to the best interests of the industrial life of the United States," and, the resolutions state, "should be looked upon with disfavor and as an act unfriendly to the people of a nation whose good graces it is seeking." The resolutions then continue:

"The American Plan or Open Shop Conference of the State of Connecticut, in meeting assembled, in the name of and for American industry, protests against any interference by

...a foreign government with the industrial problems of the United States; particularly when such interference tends to discriminate in favor of a principle un-American in character and contrary to the best interests of American industry."

"It is not enough that Mexicans are willing to purchase from Americans, paying the price demanded," said Mr. Davison. "They must be forced to buy from manufacturers who treat workers as commodities and foreign nations as objects for exploitation."

Count on Public Opinion. The Mexican government, Mr. Davison declares, feels that American public opinion will support a movement that directly helps the American people and only indirectly benefits Mexicans. Organized labor has agreed to protect Mexico's interest by exercising supervision over goods being manufactured for it, thus eliminating all species of graft and commission. That will be a definite gain.

"But the real, the underlying thought back of the whole proposition," he adds, "is a conviction on the part of Mexican authorities that they can raise the standard of their own workers by assisting in maintaining the standards of workers of a nation that will, by reason of its close proximity, continue to exercise a great influence upon the lives and methods of those who reside across the border."

"It is an admixture of broad humanitarianism and sound business. It is the antithesis of the hateful policy of some American manufacturers of getting as much as possible, giving as little as they are forced to give, and using force to accomplish their purposes when other plans fail."

MINE WORKERS TO MEET. Indianapolis.—The biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America will be held in this city beginning Tuesday, September 20. The convention call refers to the international constitution which provides that delegates shall attend at least one-half of the meetings of their local unions for six

months just prior to the election of delegates. The international organization pays the transportation of delegates to and from the convention city. The miners are determined to resist wage cuts favored by coal owners. The latter is having poor success expediting why coal costs the public \$14 and \$15 a ton when the miner is paid less than one tenth of the amount for risking his life to dig this coal.

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