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A LABOR PARTY IN ITSELF.
"I want somebody to show me where to unload this coal," said the grim-looking man at the kitchen door.
"You needn't ask me about that," retorted the young woman. "I don't have anything to do with unloading coal. I'm the kitchen lady."
"I can't help that," he rejoined. "I'm the coal gentleman, and the father of three kitchen ladies, one laundry lady, and one wash lady, and if you don't show me where to put this coal, I'll call the woman of the house."
"I'll show you, sir," she humbly replied, leading the way to the coal cellar.

The union label is the most economical agency of trade union work. Its cost being little compared to its results.

The newspapers are printing an alleged statement by the Russian Soviet Commissioner of Ways and Communications to the effect that Communism in Russia has broken down economically, because of diminished production. The dispatch says that because of the commission's report and that of the president of the Popular Economic Council the eight-hour day is to be abandoned and the ten-hour made compulsory.

Back to Work. ALE and PORTER

Education and Democracy

By Professor J. A. Dale.

Without education there can be no democracy. For ideally (and approximately in practice) democracy is made possible by the intelligence, knowledge and co-operative goodwill of the greatest number of citizens possessed of these qualities—of all indeed who are worthy of the name of citizens. And ideally (approximately again in practice) these are the qualities which education aims to bring about.

Of all industries this—the production of citizens—is the most difficult not only because the children who are its raw material are going in any case to grow up, well or ill born, nourished, trained, fostered or cramped in physical or mental growth; carefully developed or wastefully exploited; they will grow up to exercise their mature wills and powers, and contribute to the asset and liability columns of the nation's account.

This fact affects all industries—and goes to the heart of labor education, while it points the way to some fundamental lines on which its solution can be attempted with good hope of success.

Another difficulty in education is illustrated by contrasting the material side of other industries. There, good brains have been able to isolate the particular problems of the particular industry, to clearly define what result is aimed at, and to adjust the means to that end. Not so in education. We all desire that as a result of it, the citizens shall be able to earn a decent living, to live with decent character, to enjoy a decent life, to make a decent contribution to the world's work. But we are far from clear as to what we as a nation mean by these words. And we are quite at variance as to the means to be adopted to secure them.

We can not "apply" education as a mathematician does a formula, or a chemist a reagent. It is itself a product, both in ideals and practice of the social, economic and political conditions of the community. Thus while a means of bringing about change, it is in constant danger of stagnation and in constant need of development. It can be used to give an individual a certain amount of freedom. History has its examples. But our education is not yet so clear as these extremes, it has in the conditions of the modern industrial democracy a harder problem. Gropping towards the best, it has not yet produced, as its total result over the whole community, a high level of good citizenship, good leadership, good workmanship.

We are only beginning to understand its dependence on social, economic, political conditions, and to lay bare their human foundations. All that is best in the educational reforms of today is based on this: that education must start from actual experience and enrich it. Emerging from the conditions of actual contemporary life, it must lead back to it, bringing to it the best results of organized experience.

It is a fundamental instinct of society to pass on to the rising generation the benefit of the experience of its fore-runners and so to make the most possible security for its own continuance. This is true all the way, from the modes of self-preservation of a primitive tribe, to the most disinterested of gospelists. As society has developed, this instinct has become a conscious determination to gather and organize knowledge for use, though the particular use has varied time to time and place through the ages. School systems were evolved in order to prepare children to acquire quickly and securely the fruits of long and costly experience.

This is most obvious in the technical field. A young student can learn in a few years by following a carefully organized course of study (say in medicine or electricity) to apply effectively results which have taken hundreds of thousands of years to reach. Not only so, but he is in a position to add to the sum of human knowledge; if he has the necessary brain and opportunity, and advances the limits of human power. This is the central fact about education. It is essentially an instrument of other men's power.

This was the aspect of education most thoroughly grasped by Germany. Production and Conservation were her watchwords before they became ours. With extraordinary thoroughness she absorbed and applied the discoveries of other peoples, and built great industries on a basis of technical education, which again rested on a foundation of special education. At the beginning of the 20th century she had a better groundwork and a better system of technical education than any other country. Note the date. For recent as it is, the development of other countries within the first decade of the century makes it necessary to modify the statement for a later date. But it remains true that in the organization of education for industrial purposes Germany had a clear head.

The connection between German education and the collapse of Germany is much misunderstood. It is not the war, the war, German education seemed to very many a model to be imitated. Now, that the conflict of ideas has blown out, we begin to know in what respect it was a model, and in what not. Such knowledge will help us to clarify our own ideas. Perhaps we shall learn more from their failure than we could have hoped from their success, and search for new systems for students of the Tonic disease.—Canadian Railroader.

If I were a factory employe, a workman on the railroads, or a wage earner of any sort, I would undoubtedly join the union of my trade. If I disapproved of its policy, I would join in order to fight that policy; if the union leaders were dishonest I would join in order to put them out. I believe in the union and I believe that all men who are benefited by the union are morally bound to help to the extent of their power in the common interests advanced by the union.—Theodore Roosevelt.

There are worse things than being laid off. Lots of people are absolutely broke.—Labor Review.

LEADERS OF THE BRITISH MINERS IN DOWNING STREET



Members of the Miners' Federation Executive met in Downing street on March 25 to resume negotiations with the Premier on the coal situation and conferred in the Cabinet room. Left to right: Messrs. Spencer, M.P., Cook, Troller, Batesy, Hartshorn, M.P., Brace, M.P., and John Baker. A settlement was effected with the Government.

WHAT WORKERS WANT AND APPRECIATE MOST IS MAN-TO-MAN CONSIDERATION

One reason why many employes find employes unresponsive to the installation of new features intended for their betterment is the suspicion that they are being "sold" to them. This suspicion is a "nigger in the woodpile" somewhere. This suspicion, in some instances, is founded on cases where a practice looked upon by other which has looked very much like it. In other instances it is due to attempts to force "favors" upon employes, a practice looked upon with grave distrust by them.

The most frequent cause of this unfortunate condition has been the installation of systems or methods on the pretense that they would benefit the workers quite as much as employers, when, as a matter of fact, many of these devices have been intended solely to enhance the interests of the latter. Such illusions were commonly practiced in past years and it is therefore with some considerable degree of justification that the employe still looks with suspicion upon anything new offered for his benefit.

Many elaborate plans, possessing much genuine merit, have failed simply because the employes were suspicious of them. Much of this suspicion could have been overcome by personal talks with the men, even in a body, instead of at long range, through handbills, posters and letters.

Another source of irritation to the employe, and one which more deeply imbeds his suspicions, is the attempt to baby or coddle him. Attempts to force his interest in athletics, ball, picnics, house publications, libraries, and debating societies, to him, it is humiliating for him to become interested in efforts of this character, and he usually resents the attempt to baby him. This is frequently accompanied by open ridicule of the effort. Such attempts to win the average employe are ineffectual, bringing to him a better feeling, and the resentment quickly develops into a firm suspicion of the most pronounced type. Many employes, in fact, have been misled along these lines, only to find, in

time, that they were unnecessarily building up suspicion and undermining their sounder relations with their employers. Unconsciously they were furnishing the disturbing element with an endless supply of ammunition.

What the worker wants and appreciates most is man-to-man consideration. He wants the best working conditions that can be given him. He wants wages that will enable him to live comfortably, and work well defined, but with a degree of freedom for the exercise of his creative genius. He wants some insurance of continuance of work. He wants to work under good and intelligent foremen—the better they are the better he likes it. He appreciates good, sound industrial talks by men who know what they are talking about—if from the shop, the better. Such talks should refrain from the effort to be "spellbinders," and should not be over-forcible or too emphatic.

An honest endeavor on the part of the employer to do the right thing, which the foregoing suggests will appeal to the real men in any shop, and no employe wants other than honest working for him. The kind of men that he can easily find in this day and age are not worth the effort and expense required to fool them.

In the matter of supplying entertainment for his employes and their families the late Henry B. Endicott achieved a crowning success. When one day on a committee of his next went to him and asked permission to clear a piece of ground on which to play ball, he said, "I will have pleasure in doing it. With that he went to work to give them that which they wanted—not what he had determined they should have. He cleared the ground, built a baseball ground, swimming pool, clubhouse, and other attractions, and furnished caterers. Then he said to the men, "There it is, organize it as you want to, and run it to suit yourselves—it is yours." It should be unnecessary to add that it was an instant and enduring success.—National Labor Digest.

WHY BRITISH COAL OUTPUT IS LOW

Production, it is Declared, Will Never Reach Pre-War Level Until the Desire of Miners for Joint Control is Satisfied.

In a pamphlet entitled "Workers' Control in the Coal Mining Industry," Frank Hodges, Secretary of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, admirably states the workers' case for self-government in the mining industry, and amplifies the general outline indicated in an interview when your correspondent was privileged to discuss the question with him in the first days of the campaign which has just ended.

Mr. Hodges begins by admitting the achievements of private enterprise, but points out that in 1913 the output ceased to expand and capitalism began to break down. Coupled with this inability to develop the industrial resources, the miner owners were faced with the changed ideas of the mine workers, a new mentality which was asserting itself, wherein the worker felt very keenly the relationship in which he stood to his employer.

The most remarkable of all the factors responsible for the decline in production, says Mr. Hodges, is the growing consciousness of the worker that all is not well with the industry, that the most profitable benefit of anything like a voice in the direction of the industry, "Output," he writes, "will never reach the achievements of private enterprise until the desire (joint control), now so manifest among men in the industry."

Mr. Hodges labors to explain that the claim of the miners is neither anti-social nor syndicalist in character. Although not guild socialism, it is, he admits, a decided step in that direction. Labor itself is by no means of one voice as to the policy to be pursued, and no reason is seen to change the opinion that the effective assistance of coal would be no general strike to force the issue. Labor has come out of the recent Parliamentary elections with a mandate to reduce to a minimum the price of industrial coal and an increase in the supply of domestic coal.

A cause for greater anxiety than a general strike for nationalization of the mines is the proposition thrown out in one or two quarters that in the event of the mines remaining in private hands, the miners would immediately make application for an advance in wages. The possibility is that the Trade Union Congress, while still adhering to its determination to nationalize the mines, will nevertheless, "warily" recommend a policy of drastic action. In this event it would be sheer madness for the miners to declare for a strike on the Labor account, with the rest of the Labor movement more or less against them.

But there is nothing to prevent the miners demanding more wages. Their contention has been right through the piece, that the mine owners were making enormous profits which might (a) be diverted into the coffers of the Treasury, or (b) that the profits could be considerably curtailed by reducing the price of coal, thereby assisting other industries, and so making the situation among the workers due to the high cost of living.

If the Government refuse to deal with the employes, or if they the miners were entitled to participate in the extraordinary profits of higher wages. In this they would obtain the active support of large sections of the trade union movement, for it is well to remember that Robert Skidmore has repeatedly stated there would be no difficulty for the miners to come to an agreement with the employers on the lines indicated by the Government's proposals, where the miners would increase their own wages at the expense of the rest of the community. This they refused to do, preferring to work the mines under their own scheme, which, in their opinion, would fair to the employers would also prove to be a boon to the general public.

The union label is the best medium of advertising as it is common to the employe and the union pays for it.

L. W. W. VOCABULARY

By Dr. Frank Crane.

EVERY sort of organized effort on the part of the human race creates a peculiar vocabulary.

Speech is not an artificial something. It is a by-product of life. It grows. It is organic. That is why the universal language, if it ever comes, will not be Esperanto or Ido made by ingenious word mechanics, but will be the tongue of the dominant race.

All games have their peculiar language. The language of the baseball reporter differs from ordinary English as much as does the language of a chancer. Golfers talk about tees, bibbles, foursumes, and brassies. Chess players converse about gamblers and openings. Automobileists, aviators, and sailors each have their own particular dialect.

All games have their own language. A list of slang terms as used by the L. W. W. Among them are the following:

Cockroach—Persons loyal to their home town.

Red Liberty Band—L. W. W. membership card.

A. F. to Hell—American Federation of Labor.

Cossack—Mounted policeman.

Mr. Block—An employe who works for his employer's interests.

Wobs—A group of L. W. W.

Sapping Up—To whip a man.

The Shift—Workman.

High Life—Grouching glass or concentration lens in shoes of a non-member.

Can Opener—A politician whose career release of a member from jail.

John O'Brien—A freight train.

Shiny O'Brien—A passenger train.

An Aviator—Porch climber.

Moll Buzzer—One who robs women.

Shophifter.

Soup—Nitroglycerine.

White Limer—One who drinks diluted alcohol.

Better study this. Or when the Revolution is accomplished and the Bolsheviks cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, you won't know how to talk.

their case than truth has come along to straighten out the record.

No less an authority than Lenin himself has just put the brand on the story about the independent Russian co-operatives. Lenin, in writing at Riga, Russia, for the New York World, quotes Lenin in a dispatch to the allied proposal to open trade. Said Lenin:

"At first glance the Supreme Council's proposition looks plausible enough—the resumption of co-operative relations through the medium of the Russian co-operatives. But the co-operatives do not any longer exist, having been annihilated by our Soviet distribution organs. Therefore, what is meant when the Allies talk of dealing with the co-operatives? Certainly it is not clear. Let us thank Lenin for this candidly at least. And let us say to the co-operative movement of America and to the 'better Bolsheviks' and to the purple fringe of distant socialist nations, that whatever it is to be the future of Russia and of its relation to the world, it will be a better and a safer future if it is built on a frank admission of truth. Those who have been wont to falsify about conditions in Russia should by now know that the truth gets to us sooner or later. How much better to have it set out as a disconcerting disclosure later on.—American Federationist.

More Facts From Russia.

By Samuel Gompers.

It is clear enough that European governments are moving toward peace with Lenin. How this policy will work out is something for the future to determine. It is, however, of immediate importance that the facts in the case be stated accurately, from day to day and month to month. There has not been a candid and truthful statement of facts on the part of some of the protagonists of so-called peace with the Bolsheviks. When the Russian Revolution broke out, it was set forth that commerce would be carried on with Russia as co-operatives. It was said that the co-operatives were independent organizations and that trading with them could be carried on safely. Indeed, it was proclaimed that the Lenin Government would keep hands off the co-operatives, not interfering at all with their merchandising of supplies. This was intended as something in the nature of a guarantee that supplies would get to the people and not solely to the Lenin-Trotsky army commissary.

It is well that truth was in the beginning of things endowed with persistence. Did truth but have less of vitality and less of an unerring habit of presenting itself at times not always convenient to tricksters, politicians and desperadoes, history would be a sadly tangled document. In the case of Russia truth has shown itself peculiarly versatile and persistent. No sooner have the protagonists of despotism come near a convincing display of the strength of

Always remember that but a very small percentage of Labor hates Capital, and but a very small percentage of Capital hates Labor. This fact kept in mind would cause many of the misunderstandings between employer and employe to quickly disappear.

"What do you think of the two candidates?"

"Well, the more I think of the case, the more pleased I am that only one of them can be elected."—convincing display of the strength of Exchange

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