



## Interest Growing in Shareholders' Meeting

It is feared that Room 1 in the Labor Temple will be too small for those who attend.

Just as "The Toiler" rendered valuable assistance in the promotion of the Labor Temple, "The Tribune" can now be used with beneficial results in appealing to union men to give their moral and financial support in a supreme effort to clear the property of incumbrance. The near approach of the annual meeting of shareholders has aroused a deeper interest in the Temple than has been manifested for many months, and there is a general desire among trades unionists to know what has been accomplished during the year. Trades union enterprises along co-operative lines in the past have not inspired confidence in new undertakings, and the Board of Directors of the Labor Temple have had to face a skepticism that made the wheels of progress run hard. This doubt as to the ultimate success of the Temple has not discouraged the men who have been working to achieve success, but on the other hand, has stimulated them to more active and aggressive labors to lift the project above any immediate financial embarrassment, and thus inspire greater confidence in the business ability and initiative of labor leaders.

When the scheme to purchase a Labor Temple was in its initial stages there were those who were fainthearted enough to suggest that the whole project be given up, and the subscribed money refunded to those who had given their financial support. Wiser counsels prevailed, however, and to-day the most chronic pessimist is willing to concede that no wiser step was ever taken in the interest of organized labor. In this age of co-operative effort the success of the Labor Temple suggests a wider field for co-operation, and once the benefits of such an undertaking can be clearly proved, it will not be difficult to induce the workmen to venture further into the field of production and distribution for their own benefit. When striking union men realize that their treasuries will not be depleted because of high rents in time of trouble they will see the direct advantage of having a home of their own, where a common sympathy makes conditions congenial, and the possibility of success all the more certain. During the past year there have been several strikes among the different unions, and the rooms in the Labor Temple have always been at the disposal of the strikers at a rental barely sufficient to cover the wear and tear. This is just what was promised by those who promoted the Temple, and their hopes were fully

realized. If the workmen fail to look after their own interests there are very few who will voluntarily offer their assistance to make their lot easier. History teaches that they who would be free must first strike the blow, and if there is ever to be a Labor Temple entirely free from debt, it must be by the dollars of those who realize the significance of their own solidarity.

An extravagant contribution of good wishes and profuse promises were never known to put bricks on mortar, and the union man who stands aside to allow others to take stock in the Labor Temple is like a puffing engine with a closed throttle—an obstacle in the way of those who would advance. There have been four kinds of shareholders in the Labor Temple—those who subscribe and pay without delay; those who subscribe and have to be dunned before they pay; those who subscribe and only half pay, and those who subscribe but never pay. Of these four, the first named are the Al shareholders. They save postage stamps and worry, and generally do the least kicking, and when help is needed they are always on hand. What we want is more of these kind of shareholders. We have a large number of them now, but there is room for more. Fulfilled promises are our best stock-in-trade, and one of the very best assets. Promises unfulfilled are heavy liabilities, and tend to insolvency. The promises fulfilled outnumber the promises unfulfilled, and the door has been closed to bankruptcy.

It would make an interesting story if we could tell everything about the success of the Labor Temple in this week's "Tribune," but that would rob the annual meeting of shareholders of its special interest. Those who want to know all about it should come to the annual meeting in the Labor Temple on Saturday night, February 10th, when the first complete annual report will be presented and the Board of Directors for 1906 elected. Nothing will encourage the present directors more than a good attendance, and Room 1 should be too small to accommodate the army of shareholders who are entitled to lend both voice and vote to the success of the meeting. Eight o'clock is the hour fixed for commencement, and if the business is going to be cleared up before midnight there will have to be some good work done. The directors will try to do their part, and the shareholders will no doubt do the same.

JAMES SIMPSON.

## TRADES UNION

Toilers, organize. Let us carry on the good work, and in a few more revolutions of the earth upon its axis we shall have a better world—a better mankind. Waiting will not accomplish it; deferring till another time will not secure it. Now is the time for the workers of America to come to the standard of their unions and to organize as thoroughly, completely and compactly as is

possible. Let each worker bear in mind the words of Longfellow:

In the world's broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of life,  
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!  
Be a hero in the strife!

"I look to the trade unions as the principal means of benefiting the condition of the working classes."—Thorold

Rogers, Professor of Political Economy, University of Oxford.

Organized labor is wielding an influence upon every public question never attained before. The world's thinkers are now beginning to appreciate the fact that the demands of labor mean more than appears on the surface. They see that the demand for work is not alone one for the preservation of life in the individual, but is a human, innate right; that the movement to reduce the hours of labor is not sought to shirk the duty to toil, but the humane means by which the workless workers may find the road to employment; and that the millions of hours of increased leisure to the over-tasked workers signify millions of golden opportunities for lightening the burdens of the masses, to make the homes more cheerful, the hearts of the people lighter, their hopes and aspirations nobler and broader.

"Capital is the fruit of labor, and could not exist if labor had not first existed. Labor, therefore, deserves much the higher consideration."—Abraham Lincoln.

Let us concentrate our efforts to organize all the forces of wage labor and, within the ranks, contest fairly and openly for the different views which may be entertained upon the different steps to be taken to move the grand army of labor onward and forward. In no organization on earth is there such toleration, so great a scope, and so free a forum as inside the ranks of the American Federation of Labor, and nowhere is there such a fair opportunity afforded for the advocacy of a new or brighter thought.

"I rejoice at every effort workmen make to organize. . . . I hail the labor movement. It is my only hope for democracy. . . . Organize, and stand together. Let the nation hear a united demand from the laboring voice."—Wendell Phillips.

The trade unions are the reflects in organized, crystallized form of the best thought, activity and hopes of the wage-workers. They represent the aggregate expression of discontent of labor with existing economic, social and political misrule. The trade unions are exactly what the wage workers are, and can be made exactly what they may please to make them. Active or sluggish; keen or dull; narrow or broad-gauged, just as the members are intellectual or otherwise. But, represent as they may either of these alternatives, the trades union is the best form of organization for the toilers to protect their present interests, as well as to work out their salvation from all wrong.

In politics we shall be as we always have been, independent. Independent of all parties, regardless under which name they may be known. The only interest we shall have in either is their real, not merely their avowed, attitude toward labor. We shall endeavor to aid in exposing the folly of being a union man 364 days in the year and failing to remember the union man's duty on election day. But we shall unqualifiedly oppose the attempt to impress the thought upon the workmen that so long as they "vote right" on one day in the year they may be remiss in their membership and all their other duties every other day in the year.

It is clear that the working people of the State of New York have reaped innumerable benefits through the influence of the associations devoted to their interests. Wages have been increased; working time has been reduced; the membership rolls have been largely augmented; distressed members have received pecuniary relief; general conditions have been improved, and labor has been elevated to a high position in the social scale."—Commissioner Dowling, in Report from Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To-day, in the midst of an appalling amount of enforced idleness and misery among the organized forces of labor in the industrial centers of the world, the first rumblings can be heard of the rallying cry, "eight hours for work; eight hours for rest; eight hours for what we will."

To-day we repeat what we have claimed in good and bad times, that the simplest condition by which the social order can be maintained is by a systematic regulation of the work-day to ensure to each and all an opportunity to labor.

"For ten years," said Potter Palmer, of Chicago, "I made as desperate a fight against organized labor as was ever made by mortal man. It cost me considerably more than a million dollars to learn that there is no labor so skilled, so intelligent, so faithful as that which is governed by an organization whose officials are well-balanced, level-headed men. . . . I now employ none but organized labor, and never have the least trouble, each believing that the one has no right to oppress the other."

"Labor is capital. Labor has the same right to protect itself by trade unions, etc., as any other form of capital might claim for itself."—Cardinal Manning.

"That the American Federation of Labor most firmly and unequivocally favors the independent use of the ballot by the trade unionists and workmen, united regardless of party, that we may elect men from our own ranks to make new laws and administer them along the lines laid down in the legislative demand of the American Federation of Labor, and at the same time secure an impar-

tial judiciary that will not govern us by arbitrary injunctions of the courts, nor act as the plant tools of corporate wealth.

"That as our efforts are centered against all forms of industrial slavery and economic wrong, we must also direct our utmost energies to remove all forms of political servitude and party slavery, to the end that the working people may act as a unit at the polls of every election."—Political Action—Declaration Convention, A. F. of L.

"We reaffirm as one of the cardinal principles of the trade union movement that the working people must unite and organize, irrespective of creed, color, sex, nationality or politics.—Thorough Unity.—Declaration Convention A. F. of L."

"It is eminently dangerous and destructive to the best interests of the individual wage-worker to proceed as if there were no other wage-workers; and infinitely to his advantage to seek for and adopt measures by which he may move so as not to jar and perhaps overturn himself as well as others. . . . We declare that not only are organizations of workmen right and proper, but that they have the elements, if wisely administered, of positive advantage and benefit to the employer."—National Association of Builders.

To speak of a union as "the union," meaning something apart from ourselves, is a misnomer. "Our union" is more to the point. It is as we make it, and it cannot rise higher than its units. But yet we have fashioned it fairly well. Our union, like any other human agency, occasionally makes mistakes, but in comparison it will show advantageously with any institution of the kind, either benevolent, religious or social. Its road has been a rocky one, but it has grown all the stronger and healthier for the knocks it has received. In its early days, derided by press and pulpit, persecuted by monopoly, laughed at by politicians and buffeted now by panicky gales or bayoneted again by militia, our union has marched serenely on, bringing down its tormentors, making supplicants of its enemies. In the past decade, thanks to the veterans who have gone on before, unwritten and unsung, our union has seen a mighty change. The columns of the press thrown open, searching, competing for its doings; academicians, scientists, art, espousing its cause, the Church rapping at the door for admission; popular magazines, dramatists, novelists, adopting its role, courting its favor. Our union to-day is a determining factor in all its social functions, a main artery of the pulse of trade, of commerce, of society. It raises wages, prevents reductions and checks strikes and lockouts from the mere fact that it is. It promotes fraternity, sociability, it fosters temperance and liberality. Above all, it is an educational force. Our union is out on sectionalism; it is the embodiment of democracy; it knows no creed, rank nor title. It scoffs at the cheap snobbery of wealth, and rejects its charity; for the self-styled "sets" and "upper tens" it has a healthy contempt, and upon the tinsel and brass of their striped defenders it bestows its scorn. Our union is of the people. We glory in its achievement, and we love its principles.

"Organization, co-ordination, co-operation, are the right of every body of men whose aims are worthy and equitable; and must be the resources of those who, individually, are unable to persuade their fellowmen to recognize the justice of their claims and principles. If employed within lawful and peaceful limits, it may rightly hope to be a means of educating society in a spirit of fairness and practical brotherhood."—Bishop Potter.

The trades union! That takes the individual, oftentimes careless of his obligations to his fellowman, ignorant of the very causes of the evils under which he labors and works within him a revolution; fans to life the good that lies dormant in his nature, that moral sense which all possess; that makes of him an enthusiast—a man—with new views, greater aspirations and nobler desires; a loftier purpose, a grander conception of society and life; that shows things in a different light, and awakens him to the fact that no matter what his occupation, how low his station, he is entitled to an opportunity to earn an honest livelihood, and no other can justly call himself master, notwithstanding wealth, gifts of birth—a generated spirit of independence and self-reliance that is the trade union's pride and honor, and which is the hope and safeguard of all civilization. True patriotism; not that hybrid brand too often sung to-day by the very class that persecuted the patriots of old, who would make slaves of freemen here. The trade union is right; and it is this sense of right that has defied the decrees of kings and priests in the past, and which, while suffering, defies the rulings of courts, judges and blacklisting corporations to-day. It lives both because of and in spite of them, and it will continue to live when its enemies sleep. Justice is its goal, and it seeks not a definition of that holy word in musty statutes and befogged legal opinions. It opens its eyes and sees the word written on the very face of things, so that he who runs may read, and it decorates the thought in becoming, simple attire, truth in terms, fair play in action. "Do unto others as you would be done by."

"Trade unions are bulwarks of modern democracies."—W. E. Gladstone.

If the labor unions did nothing else than call attention to the misery that abounds, their existence would be justifiable; but they have done more, they have not only called attention to the effects, they have shown the causes. They have done more still; they have produced remedies, upon the merits and demerits of which professors, editors and ministers now discuss and advocate. Labor unions have produced thinkers and

educators from out their own ranks, and have drawn students and teachers from the wealthy and professional. And more yet; while doing this, they have bettered the condition of thousands of families, by securing higher wages, shorter hours and greater independence, individually and collectively. The result is something to be proud of. The carpenter, the printer, cigmaker, clerk, shoemaker, tailor, working long hours on short rations, have stepped boldly to the front and worked revolution in American thought. It is a fact, beyond cavil.

"No wage-earner is doing his full duty if he fails to identify his own interests with those of his fellow-workmen. The obvious way to make common cause with them is to join a trade union, and thus secure a position from which to strengthen organized labor and influence it for the better."—Ernest Howard Crosby (President Social Reform Club, New York).

"Attacked and denounced as scarcely any other institution ever has been, the unions have thriven and grown in the face of opposition. This healthy vitality has been due to the fact that they were a genuine product of social needs—indispensable as a protest and a struggle against the abuses of industrial government, and inevitable as a consequence of that consciousness of strength inspired by the concentration of numbers under the new conditions of industry. They have been, as is now admitted by almost all candid minds, instruments of progress. Not to speak of the material advantages they have gained for workmen, they have developed powerful sympathies among them, and taught them the lesson of self-sacrifice in the interest of their brethren, and, still more, of their successors. They have infused a new spirit of independence and self-respect. They have brought some of the best men to the front, and given them the ascendancy due to their personal qualities and desirable in the interests of society."—John K. Ingram, I.L.D.

A principle in the economy of our lives must be established, and that is a living wage, below which the wage-workers should not permit themselves to be driven. The living wage must be the first consideration either in the cost or sale of an article, the product of labor.

There are many "isms" advanced for the solution of the labor problem, the appellations of which, if not the substance, are familiar to all localities, excepting perhaps, along the outskirts of civilization, and within the counting rooms of some large and very influential newspapers. While the advocates of each are inspired by the same noble purpose—the abolition of poverty, its criminal sequences, and the substitution of liberty, happiness, prosperity and health—yet there is no practical unanimity, no "get-togetherness" discernible from out the economic chaos. In fact, if the truth must be admitted, paradoxical as it may appear, each school looks upon the other as an enemy. While the end sought is the same, the means used and the basic principles are widely divergent.

One advocates the Karl Marxian idea—direction, control, an elaborate extension of state functions; another the Jeffersonian—less government, but yet government; while another, the followers of Proudhon and Josiah Warren, believes purely and simply in the sovereignty of the individual, unfettered by statutes or judicial coercion. And each has its subordinate coterie of unconscious supporters—of owners of telegraph and railroads, municipalities, minor legislative measures, freedom of land, etc. The discussion, so far as adherents count, proportionately, is yet in its infancy, and the outcome, which evidently will be decided by the relative number, the ascendancy of one of these particular schools, is not as yet even dimly foreseen in the distance.

Now, none of us know it all! We live in an age of doubt, uncertainty and inquiry, and while our great minds wrestle with the economic elephant, while this lack of harmony exists and we await the questionable outcome, is there any one practical means of mutual self-protection upon which the workers can unite?

This question is answered in the union label.

It is not a cure all. It was not discovered by any profound thinker of ancient or modern times—in fact, its author is unknown. But we do know it originated in the fertile brain of some live trade unionist. Some unselfish and thoughtful individual, who, perhaps, while you and I were sporting, was harnessing his overwrought brain to benefit his fellowman.

Here are some of its advantages: It rests on no long-spun theory; it is simple; it is practical, and it has no enemies.

It can be adopted by all vocations, the skilled and unskilled alike.

The printer can use it on his printing.

The cigarmaker can use it on his box.

The hatter underneath his hat band.

The tailor on his vest strap.

The shoemaker on his shoe.

The barber in his window.

The blacksmith on his horseshoe.

The molder on his shovels and low ware.

The cooper on his barrels.

The baker on his loaves.

The wagonmaker on his carriages.

The fisherman on his can.

Each can demand the union product of all.

The product of the union mule-spinner from the mammoth dry goods houses; linen and underwear from the haberdasher—all to be passed over the counter by union clerks with the union button in their coat lapels.

Demand it.—American Federation of Labor.