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ORGANIZATION  
WORKERS' MEANS  
OF SETTLEMENT

The Right To Cease Working for Another Is Basic Element of Human Liberty.

"Peace in industry cannot be maintained unless there is first recognized the right of collective bargaining," said Secretary of Labor Wilson in his annual report.

The remedy for industrial discord, the secretary finds, is in mutual counsel. "But this is not possible," he said, "unless there is first recognized the right of collective bargaining. In the past this right has been conceded by some employers, but vigorously combated by others. The public interest demands that it be universally recognized, for the primary interest of the public is in peace.

"The denial of organization is a denial of the only means of peaceable settlement that wage earners have.

"The right of any man to cease working for another for any reason that is sufficient to himself is the basic element of human liberty. The right of any person to refuse to operate his plant at any time he desires to do so is the exercise of a property right, guaranteed by the constitution. It does not follow that because these rights exist it is necessary to exercise them. They must nevertheless be safeguarded. Having done that and having devised the machinery by which justice can be secured and by which everybody at interest has the opportunity of knowing that justice has been secured, it is not likely that the right to cease work will be exercised by sufficient numbers or the right to cease operating industrial plants will be carried to such an extent as seriously to affect the welfare of the rest of the people."

Secretary Wilson urges the re-establishment of the working conditions service and the United States training service, both of which were discontinued with the end of the war. The working conditions service had set up machinery for investigating working conditions and where advisable recommended standards for their improvement. The training service provided educational training for the workers. The secretary stated that 7,500,000 of the 10,000,000 wage earners now employed in American factories have no education suited to their needs.

PORTLAND IRON WORKS  
DECLARES FOR A  
NON-UNION SHOP

Trade union advocates who use the terminology of anti-trade unionists will probably call the Smith & Watson iron works at Portland, Ore., a non-union plant, despite the company's claim that now it is an "open shop."

In announcing its "open shop" plan the company has reduced wages, lengthened the work day and reduced overtime pay 25 per cent.

Fashion has much to answer for. Just when a man's straw hat begins to feel particularly comfortable, the man must discard it.

PULLMAN PORTERS AND  
C.P.R. OFFICIALS TO  
MAKE AGREEMENT

Officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the porters in the pullman cars have obtained an adjournment of the sitting of the board of conciliation which has been considering the porters' claim for the elimination of tips and 100 per cent. increase in salaries. The adjournment is for two weeks and in the meantime efforts will be made to come to a satisfactory arrangement with W. A. Cooper, of Montreal, an official of the pullman department of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The board was informed that there were excellent prospects of a settlement.

THE ESSENCE OF  
SUCCESSFUL COAL  
MINING DISCLOSED

Take Out As Little Coal As Possible and Sell It For As Large Price As Possible.

Nothing can be clearer than this; that governments must use all the power at their command to prevent, in future, selfish exploitation of the nations industries by operators, without due consideration of the workman and the consumer. As we are all consumers; everyone who lives is a consumer. We give the following story, without knowing that it is true. It may not be true; but if it is, those who have the responsibility of ruling the United States, where the rotten deed, is said to have been done, ought not to be ignorant of it; and they are bound to do all in the power of the state to prevent such injustices:

When asked why the operators did not mine more coal thereby increasing the production, and permitting the law to supply and demand to bring about a lower price he (a coal operator) replied that "the essence of successful mining is to take out as little coal as possible, and sell it for as large a price as possible. We've just learned to do that in the last few years," he added, with a satisfied smile upon his face.—Baltimore dispatch in the Oregonian.

When a workman loafs on the job, thus cutting down production though demanding full pay, he is committing sabotage; when a manager of a great business voluntarily limits production and raises his prices, he is a shrewd business man. Those who are looking for the causes of industrial unrest ought not neglect the double standard which obtains in this matter.

We have no hesitation in saying that a man caught doing what is charged above, would be well served if his mine were at once taken out of his hands and put in the hands of better men. We don't mean confiscation; but expropriation.

WAGE INCREASES  
ARE INVARIABLY  
BLAMED FOR H.C.L.

Large Corporations Have Expert Managers Write Articles for the Public Press

There seems to be a strong disposition on the part of large corporations to get before the public by having their expert managers write articles for the public press, giving their views relative to the high cost of living.

In almost every case the blame is placed on the increase in wages.

To attempt to unload onto the wage earner again, the capitalist representative either wholly ignorant of the true situation or else he is nursing a poisoned mind which makes him a dangerous person to wield a pen.

How do these expert managers account for the fact that when wages go up the cats do not increase.

In other words, increased wages does not mean more cats. The United States Department of Labor has this to say about the increase in wages and the cost of living.

A comparison of changes in trade-union wage rates and in retail prices of food from 1907 to 1918, shows that an hour's wages in 1918 purchased but 79 per cent. as much food as in 1913, and a week's wages but 77 per cent as much. As compared with 1907 an hour's wages in 1918 brought but 72 per cent as much food and a week's wages, but 69 per cent as much food.

The remedy for this state of affairs is obviously along different lines than "more" wage raising.

Clearly the point of attack must be changed.

When retail prices continue to "go up" at a much swifter pace than wages there must be something wrong with the distributive machinery.

As long as the machinery of distribution remains under the control of a third party—the middle man—there can be little hope of reform in this quarter. One way out of this dilemma is the co-operative method of buying and selling, now officially advocated by the American Federation of Labor.—Eastern Federationist.

The Lynn (Mass.) Shoe Manufacturers' Association and the United Shoe Workers of America have completed an agreement whereby more than 12,000 workers will receive a 15 per cent increase in wages, with a 44-hour week of five working days. The contract expires in September 1, 1920.

SOME THINGS THE  
UNIONS HAVE  
ACCOMPLISHED

Wherever Majority Supports Union Movement Results Are Very Apparent.

Foolish question number 99,999 is a stock argument of the non-unionists and with its variation consists of asking: What has the union ever done for me? They might as well ask: What has civilization ever done for them, or what has organized society ever done for them.

These same workers laud the public school system, but if you told them that they owed their education to the labor movement they would pook-pook the idea, yet it was the labor movement that fought the private school system and brought about free education, by making it the duty of the state to educate the children of the nation.

Workers who now enjoy the eight-hour day would consider it preposterous to be compelled to work from sunrise until sunset. It was the labor movement that reduced the standard work day, yet the people will ask: What has the union ever done for me?

Sanitary conditions in workshops are the result of legislation. The present generation does not know anything about the bitter fights put up by Organized Labor in the past to get proper health laws passed. They enjoy better surroundings that are the direct result of the labor movement, yet they will ask: What has the union ever done for me?

The workers in organized trades will take in and enjoy all the benefits that have accrued through years of sacrifice by those who preceded them. They take it as a matter of right that they should enjoy these conditions, while they ask: What has the labor union ever done for me?

The same situation applies with respect to minimum wage laws, working-men's compensation, employers liability and other beneficent legislation promoted and carried to a successful conclusion by the labor movement, but all of this is lost sight of by the selfish one who asks: What has the union ever done for me?

The most absurd illustration of this foolish question is to be found in the semi-organized fields of industry. Men and women who carried a union card for a few months will say: I belonged to the union once, but it never did anything for me!

They can never understand that the union is merely a means to an end, that unionism is the voice of the aspirations of the working people and that this voice will be strong or weak in a given industry, according to the strength or weakness of the union. Usually it is the case of where the union workers are in the minority in the partly organized trades, and is it not fair then to ask: Why blame the minority for trying to do something that is worth while, in spite of the majority being either hostile or indifferent? Would it not be better to ask: What has the non-union element ever done for me?

The non-unionists have kept down wages, have permitted long hours, have lowered the standard of living, and for these things it is the majority and not the minority that should be blamed.

The labor union is the machinery, but it is the membership which furnishes the power to move the machinery. If the non-union majority prevents the machinery from moving, why should the union minority be blamed?

On the other hand, wherever the majority of workers have supported the union movement nobody ever needs to ask: What has the union ever done for me?

The results are too apparent to need discussing.

WOMEN BREADWINNERS  
IN RATIO OF ONE TO  
EVERY ELEVEN MEN

Bread winners in American families during 1919 were at the ratio of 11 men to every woman, according to a survey of sources of incomes in nearly 100 leading American cities by department of labor investigators. The cities include Chicago, New York, Denver, San Francisco, Seattle and Cleveland. The survey shows that in practically every city women composed from 5 to 15 per cent of the bread winners of the family. In one city the number of feminine mainstays outnumbered the men more than three to one. This was in Johnstown, N.Y., where 76.9 per cent of the sources of income for families were women. This high percentage is due to the fact that glove making is a leading industry of the town, and furnished work which women can do at home.

According to the survey the percentage of families having income from children totals 18.6 per cent. The percentage of families having incomes from the earnings of wives varies widely in different cities.

In Chicago the percentage of families having income from the earning of wives was 12.3; Cincinnati, 13.2; Cleveland, 6.5; Columbus, Ohio, 8.9; Dallas, 2.5; Denver, 2.5; De Moines, 11.8; Detroit, 4.5; Indianapolis, 4.1; Kansas City, 10.7; Memphis, 3.9; Minneapolis and St. Paul, 6.1; New York, 13.1; Portland, Ore., 11.1; San Francisco, 4.3; Seattle, 7.1; St. Louis, 4; Wichita, Kan., 9.3.

Stated in concrete terms, the union label is powerful because it accomplishes by peaceful means, with absolute certainty and at little cost, that which the strike and boycott seek to accomplish, always at great cost and sacrifice.

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