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#### CAPITALISM CAUSE OF UNIONISM.

Trade Unionism is an inevitable product of the system of capitalism. Prior to the industrial revolution the distinction between the employer and workman in industry was very slight. The employer worked, usually in his own home, with his journeymen and apprentices and the latter could look forward to the day when they could themselves be master workmen and employ other journeymen and apprentices who would work with them in their homes. So that there was very little distinction between employer and employed under the hand or domestic system of manufacture. The inventions of the eighteenth century however, changed industry to such an extent that the term "Industrial Revolution," as applied to the period between 1760 and 1800, is by no means an exaggeration. It was obvious that workmen could not acquire the mammoth new machines that were brought into being, and so was ushered in the capitalistic system as we have it today.

The same conditions that created capitalism prepared the way for trade unionism. The introduction of the factory system of manufacture threw large bodies of workmen together in one establishment. They had common interests as to wages, hours and working conditions and the distinction between them and their employers was intensified to the greatest possible degree. The workpeople's common interests being in many ways opposed to those of their masters, the advantages of combination could hardly escape their recognition. While the trade union movement has to a great extent ameliorated the conditions under which organized labor was born yet the general condition of industry is identical with that which existed on the introduction of the factory system. The distinction between employer and employed is substantially the same in large industries as it was a century ago. Only by organization have the workers been able to ameliorate the disgraceful living and working conditions that then existed, and only by organization will they retain what has been gained, or succeed further in increasing their freedom and happiness. Organization of workpeople was made necessary by the introduction of capitalism, and while the system of capitalism continues to exist the necessity for trade unions is equally apparent.

#### ABOUT INDIVIDUALISM.

"The old frugal virtue of individualism is what the world needs today; the individualism that won the war." So Dr. Michael Clarke is reported to have stated in the course of his address on Monday night. But did individualism win the war? Individualism as the Free Press understands it means that every man should remain and be permitted to remain free unrestricted, undirected, unassisted, so that he may be in a position at any time to direct his labor, ability, capital, enterprise, in any direction that may seem to him most desirable. Surely no such idea was permitted to govern the actions of the soldier, or a great many of those who were not soldiers, especially in the countries close to the war zone. They were not allowed to make use of their labor, ability and enterprise in an undirected, unrestricted manner, but each individual was directed to govern his or her activities in accordance with the common well-being of the allied cause. Collectivism was undoubtedly the policy that won the war. The doctrines of Laissez-Faire and individualism have been tried and have miserably failed. True, while complete individualism the universal freedom of competition, was the dominant idea in Britain around the beginning of the nineteenth century, there was no doubt of England's wealth and progress. She stood before the world as the most successful and prominent nation of her time in all material respects. But an examination of her internal condition at that time reveals a grossly unsatisfactory condition. One has only to read the social and industrial history of England covering that period to realize what was the effect of the application of the Laissez-Faire and individualism theories. The employment of women and tiny children in twelve and fourteen hour shifts, the disgraceful social conditions, the filth and sordidness of the dirty factory towns, comprise the most revolting picture possible to conceive from England's history. Many of the horrible conditions that existed in 1800 have been ameliorated by legislation. Such legislation, or other similar laws, are in some quarters called paternalistic and are referred to as repulsive to "free and independent" peoples. As we pointed out before, the Laissez-Faire or let-alone theory increased the material wealth of the rich and powerful by blasting the moral, spiritual and physical natures of the poor and weak. Individualism if given the same chance again would very likely bring about a similar condition.

#### MUST BE ORGANIZATION.

A large employer writing in one of the leading magazines, makes the statement that he does not believe in Trade Unions or organizations of employees. He claims that the separate organization of Capital and Labor is just as unreasonable as would be the organization of all the wives of the country in opposition to a rival organization of husbands. We cannot, however, see the analogy. In the first place, Capital is already organized without more organization through employers' associations. A single corporation such as that represented by the employer mentioned, is an organization of Capital. And organized Capital creates the necessity for organized Labor under prevailing conditions. In the second place the analogy referred to falls down for the reason that husband and wife are partners. Each have a voice in the control of their joint affairs. Capital and Labor are not similarly situated in the true sense of the word, as only in very isolated cases has Labor in the least degree any control or voice in the management of industry.

When Labor is permitted to assume its proper position in the industrial world, when the same equality exists between Capital and Labor as exists between husband and wife then, and then only, may their relative positions be quoted as analogous. Even then, however we cannot see any other method whereby Labor will be in a position to assume its responsibilities, except through independent organization. Capital has been, is, and will continue to be organized in companies and corporations. By concentration Capital will express its desires and carry out its program. Only by organization will Labor be enabled to do likewise.

#### LIFE AND LABOR THE GREATER INVESTMENT

Progressive Labor is pushing on toward the participation of the workers in the control of industry. It is a most reasonable demand the justice of which cannot be effectively questioned. The investment of Labor in industry is an investment of skill and life; the investment of capital is an investment of substance and dollars. The one is a material the other a human investment. The right of Labor to a voice in the conduct of industry is well put by W. L. MacKenzie King in his book, "Industry and Humanity." The quotation, which follows, is one of the bright spots in a work that contains far too many meaningless and uninteresting platitudes.

"The capital investor, the individual who in industry loans and risks his capital, or a part of it, receives for the use of his capital a return in the form of interest. But he receives something more: he becomes, as an investor, entitled to a voice in the control of the industry in which his investment is made. The life or labor investor, the worker who in industry loans and risks his life, or gives that part of it described as "labor," receives for his labor, which is the use of his life and skill for the time in which labor is given, a return in the form of wages. He lacks, however, the additional right, which Capital receives, of a share in the government of industry. If Capital obtains this right in

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addition to the financial reward for the use of Capital for the time for which it is invested, is Labor not in justice equally entitled, in addition to its monetary reward, to a voice in the control of industry, in which for the time being its life and skill are invested? As a life or labor investor, is the worker's interest in industry not akin to the investor of capital? If investment in industry has any meaning at all, it is surely one equally shared by the man who gives his labor and the man who gives his capital. For the preferential treatment capital has thus far received there is no defense possible on grounds of democratic theory or fundamental justice."

Is there any good reason why we should retain a system of society that creates mansions and slums, millionaires and paupers?

Aggressiveness and progressiveness are not necessarily synonym terms. Progressiveness is usually aggressive but aggressiveness is obviously not always a proof of progressiveness.

There is every indication of greatly increased activities in the building trades when the spring opens. We expect to see a live Building Trades Council in operation soon. As a matter of fact there is every likelihood that Labor headquarters will be one of the busiest spots in the city in the course of a few months.

### THIS IS LABOR'S CRUCIAL YEAR, SAYS CHAIRMAN POWERS

Co-operation - Membership of Labor Party Throughout Year Asked For.

"This is Labor's crucial year" said Chairman Daniel Powers in opening the Dominion Labor Party meeting on Tuesday evening. Mr. Powers stated that in accepting the position of chairman he did so with the intention of putting his best into the work. "We are passing through serious times," said the speaker, "times that should stir men's very souls." Mr. Powers asked for the co-operation of the membership throughout the year and pointed out that the Labor Party was an organization in which all sections of organized Labor could work together for a common purpose.

It was decided to confer with the Farmers' organizations in the three Edmonton constituencies with regard to the allocation of seats to be contested by the two parties. This action was taken in reply to a request from the Farmers for co-operation. The executive was instructed to get in touch with the Farmers' executives. The meeting accepted a recommendation of the executive providing for the election of two members on the executive from the South Edmonton constituency as soon as a sufficient number of members were secured from that section of the city.

A communication from Prof. Osborne of the National Conference on Education, acknowledged receipt of the resolutions drawn up by the Party, and commented favorably on them.

Messrs. Chase, Treble, Coulson, Barber, Shaw and Williams were accepted as members of the Party.

Typographical Union No. 101, at Washington, D.C. has secured those wage increases for its newspaper members: Night work advanced from \$42 a week to \$47.88; day work from \$39 to \$43.68. The seven hour day prevails on both shifts.

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