

SUPPRESSION OF RADICAL AGITATORS NECESSARY TO INDUSTRIAL PEACE

ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA ON DUAL ORGANIZATIONS

Following communication has been received from the Headquarters of the United Mine Workers of America.

The International Executive Board with great concern the activities of certain sinister individuals in various sections and under various circumstances, are obviously plotting to create discord and confusion within the United Mine Workers. These individuals, many of whom are without trade union affiliation and some of whom are of questionable character, seem to derive their energy from the same source and are apparently actuated by similar motives and work for the same objective. We have witnessed the formation of a temporary existence of the "Working Class Union" in the Southern coal fields and the trail of confusion and trouble which it left in its wake; we have witnessed the formation of the "One Big Union" in the Northwestern provinces of Canada and its later annihilation by the efforts of the loyal trade unionists in the mining industry of the field; we have observed the continuous activities of the "League of Passes," who for years past have broadcast the malignant propaganda of industrial hatred which marked the history of the "Industrial Workers of the World"; we have observed in comparatively recent times the efforts of the "United Mine Workers of America" to obliterate the propaganda of the "One Big Union" and to head in the ranks of the organization in the maritime provinces of Canada.

WILL PROSPERITY LAST?

An Interview with Owen D. Young, Chairman, Conference on Unemployment. By WALTER BULLARD.

"As we are approaching the peak of this business cycle, it is clearly a time for caution, for—"
"This is a very important statement, Mr. Young," I interrupted. "May I quote that?"
"Yes, if you get it exact," he said. He considered a moment and then dictated: "The recent advance in wages in the steel and textile industries indicates that we are close to the limit of production with our available labor force. These raises mean that big employers are finding it hard to find their men. It is especially significant that most of the increases affect unskilled labor. When big industries are bidding against each other for unskilled labor, it means that the reservoir is getting low. Growth in real prosperity is based on increasing production, but if production is limited by lack of man power, we cannot push farther up on the curve except by boosting prices, selling the same thing over and over again, laying in heavy inventories on the hope of continued rise in prices, 'skyrocketing' the cost of living—inviting a buyers' strike and disastrous liquidation."
"We cannot prophesy about the slope of the curve. So far our recovery from the last depression has been rapid, and if we are really intelligent, we may stay up at the present high point for a long time. But if we get off the reservation and over-speculate, as we did the last time, we shall have another collapse. Yes, I think there is every indication that we are approaching the top of this wave of prosperity."
So important and definite a statement from a man in Mr. Young's position was more than I had dared to expect. I had been started on the trail of this interview by a Government document. Most of the voluminous output of Uncle Sam's printing office is not very exciting, but early in April there came from the press a small pamphlet, which, from the viewpoint of present interest, ought to be a best seller: "Report on Business Cycles and Unemployment." To be sure, there are few subjects which are dearer at the moment than "Unemployment," but none are livelier than the question that heads this article: "Will Prosperity Last?" The rise and fall of the tide of prosperity from the peak of booms to the bottom of hard times is what the economists call "The Business Cycle." This report is the work of a committee, appointed by the President's Conference on Unemployment. It consisted of: Owen D. Young, General Electric Co., chairman; Joseph H. DeLoach, former president of the United States Chamber of Commerce; Mary Van Kleeck, Russell Sage Foundation; Matthew Woll, vice president American Federation of Labor; Clarence M. Woolley, President of American Radiator Company; Edward Eyre Hunt, secretary of the committee and of the conference. It seemed worth while finding out what Mr. Young, who had been studying the general theory of business cycles for over a year, thought of the present situation.

SYDNEY STRIKE RESULT OF MONTHS OF "RED" ACTIVITIES

The trouble pot in the East has been brewing for some months past and despite repeated warnings sent forth by the Canadian Labor Press to remove the yeast from the pot before fermentation went too far, the yeast (being the "red" leaders of the miners) was allowed full freedom, and the pot has overflowed and created a terrible mess on the clean floor of industrial progress.

The trouble at the Sydney mines is but the outward demonstration of months of ceaseless and systematic teachings of the agitators. Nothing like that ever happens overnight; it is the steady drilling that finally causes an explosion and it has been the constant hammering of the disturbers at the morals of the miners that has caused all this havoc. And listen, readers! what has been the result? Who has gained from this terrible experience? Certainly not the miners themselves, and we would say that if anybody has gained it has been the Corporation and not the men. It is a well known fact that public demonstrations of this nature are far from being dignified and do not tend to increase the respect or influence of those making the demonstration, and dissension is bound to follow in their ranks when the motive is unworthy and caused through agitation and not sane reasoning.

The Miners are the Losers.

If the miners do gain anything as the outcome of the strike, they are still the losers from every standpoint. By following the Utopian doctrine of a few maniacs they have been dragged into the mire from which it will be hard to extricate themselves. On account of their foul tactics, caused by being misled, all respect and sympathy for the miners is gone. Their resources are limited and as a result the men and their families are slowly starving and they will never be able to quite regain the lost ground.

The Pen is Mightier than the Sword.

And thusly, peaceful arbitration is always much more successful than force of arms. Brute strength cannot prevail against sound reasoning, and that is why the miners will lose, even if they win. Now, if the men had had the right kind of leaders, this turmoil and strife would never have happened, for an amicable solution could have been arrived at through peaceful arbitration, whereby everybody would have been satisfied and still retained their dignity.

The whole question calls for serious consideration and deep reflection on the part of everyone if future trouble is to be avoided and the workers of Canada are to be protected from themselves. The problem is ever growing bigger, and haphazard methods of solution are useless.

INDUSTRIAL SANITATION

By S. DANA HUBBARD, M.D., Director Bureau of Public Health Education and Superintendent Division of Industrial Hygiene, of New York City

A modern up-to-date shop or factory is an institution suitably equipped, located, constructed, organized, managed, and personelleed to supply scientifically, economically, efficiently, and unhindered any or all of the recognized parts of the commercial requirements of trade, with functioning facilities for replacing and training new employees, and showing others how production may be performed at the highest speed and in the safest and most economical and satisfactory manner.

A factory that fulfills this definition is the ideal.

To expand upon ideal working conditions is "a large order," and one considerably beyond the limits of this paper and the ability of the speaker.

I will confine myself to domestic conditions, because it has been our experience in public health work, to find that the opinion generally prevalent is that any "old place" which will meet legal requirements is good enough to work in. This is a great and costly error.

As the best home produces the best (healthiest) citizen, so will the best factory produce the best workman.

As the best home is where happiness and contentment are found, so the best factory is one where the workers may be both happy and contented.

Happiness is not usually found in hovels, nor is contentment found in factories which approach hovel conditions. Show me the factory with numerous separations from the payroll and it is not difficult for an investigator to find unfair, unpleasant,

Book it was said years ago. Let there be light. Then there was light. Today, will our injunction be similarly obeyed? Alas, I fear that it will not.

Closed windows, in a shop with many workmen exhausting the oxygen and further vitiating the air by exhaling poisonous gases and various impurities as well as adding intestinal gases, makes some "close-up shops" too stuffy and stifling for pigs, let alone human beings.

Avoid drafts, yes, by all means, but open the windows so that drafts will not be occasioned. It can be done, and in the interests of efficiency and economy it should be done.

The question of light—natural and artificial—in a shop is a serious question. Many shops have practically no light and in very many the lights are so placed as to make what should be good light a menace to the sight of the workers.

Clare is one of these conditions. Shadows are another. Rarely do we have to complain of too much light, but frequently we do have to ask for more light. There are today light-testing machines, inexpensive and easily understood, as practical as a gas meter or thermometer. If the temperature is tested, as it always should be, why not test the light? It is just as essential to health and efficiency. Bad lighting causes eyestrain and strains cause inefficiency and disease.

The placing of the lights is another question that needs consideration. Lighting is a scientific study. Lighting engineers are today greatly aiding our public health problems by helping establishments economically and efficiently to light their shops.

Efficient housekeeping informs us that lights should be cleaned and kept so, and science tells us that dirty lights are inefficient and expensive. Keep your lights clean.

Toilets and lavatories are places to which health officers give considerable consideration and not without good results.

An establishment that had a plumbing bill of something like \$900 per annum had this unnecessary expense cut 50 per cent by a health inspector's observation. The loss of time of 2,000 employees—and there were 2,000 of them—was decreased 2 per cent without any expense by simply educating employees, and having a sanitary toilet squad established, with efficiency marks for promotion. Promotion means raise in pay. Hence it is an incentive.

It goes without saying that all factories should be provided with an adequate number of well-ventilated toilets. The toilet question is a serious one not only with the health officials but with factory and industrial supervisors as well. It needs more attention.

Our regulations regarding toilets need standardizing. Many of our public toilets show the reaction of gross ignorance even among our most (apparently) aristocratic. The man who helps take care of these public necessities is the exception.

My professor of chemistry once jokingly took his class to the college toilet for an interesting experiment—it was to see if Croton water, the supply of the city, would dissolve match stems, cigarette butts, and stubs of cigars. He very dignifiedly had one of the seniors place a stub in the urinal, another a cigar end, and another a used cigarette; then he stood back, cautioned all to stand back and look sharp, after which he turned on the water and most interestingly observed the whirl of the flush. When it was all over he turned to the class and said: "Just as I had expected. It won't do it."

"Won't do what?" one of the classmen asked. "Water will not dissolve tobacco." After that the college toilets were free of these articles and no further complaints of obstructed toilets came from our janitorial service.

The matter of rest rooms, lockers, washing-up places, open-air lunch quarters, and the like are matters which seriously concern numerous workers. All are agreed on the necessity, but on standards and regulations we probably differ widely. No locker should be in a workroom, and no factory should be without a locker system.

The matter of drinking water—an essential health requirement—has not been given sufficient attention. We watch this carefully, and the situation is much improved, but much time is lost by improperly placed drinking places in our shops.

Drinking water should always be provided, when possible, in containers so constructed that the ice chamber is separate from the water supply. Individual cups are also a desideratum. Workmen still believe in the comfort of the tin cup. It will take education to make our workers

A PEEP INTO THE FUTURE

The National Health Council, a combination of the 13 greatest medical and public health organizations in America, has announced, says the U. S. Public Health Service, that during the twelve months beginning July 4 next it will endeavour to persuade every person in the United States to take a peep into the future to see what the conditions of his health will be in a few years hence. Anybody who does not like what he sees will be told what he can do to better it.

For ages men have sought to probe the future by reading the stars, consulting the oracles, visiting fortune tellers and mediums, and even by watching for the ground hog and reading the goosebone. But always, in all ages, when men sought information concerning the future they coupled with their request the question, unspoken, but always understood: "Will I be there to see the prophecy fulfilled?"

It is not so difficult as it may seem to predict how long a man will retain his health or will live. His "expectation of life" is particularly easy to estimate: Subtract his age from 80; and if his health is good he will probably live for more than two-thirds of the difference.

"But is his health good? Is YOUR health good?" asks the National Health Council. "That is the question!"

A life insurance company can answer the question pretty accurately. Unless it does so it is bound to go bankrupt sooner or later. So it finds out the sort of work you are doing, inquires into your family history, and wants to be told what illnesses you have had. Finally it examines you physically, not merely to find out whether you are sound at the moment but whether you have any unsuspected disease whose existence neither you nor anyone else could know from ordinary observation. It considers also whether your lungs, heart, stomach, etc., are able to prevent "germ" diseases from getting a foothold in your body or to drive them out after they have gotten a foothold.

Most persons think of death as coming from one of the great diseases—typhoid fever, for instance. But it isn't these that do the real damage. It's the hidden things that weaken your organs without your knowing it till the test comes and you find yourself defenseless. It is, for instance, the abscess at the root of a tooth that manufactures the pus that injures the kidneys; the infected tonsils that discharge a pus that causes rheumatism; the little lump beneath the skin that changes some day into a deadly cancer; the work that strains one's weakest spot till it gives way, when another sort of work would do no harm.

All these things can and will be investigated under the Council's plan by a reputable physician—by each person's family doctor, if he likes. The Council hopes that at least 10,000,000 persons, say 30,000 a day, will have themselves examined during the twelve months beginning July 4 next. It is a big job; and to make it easier the Council suggests that every one should be examined on his own birthday—even those born on February 24, for 1924 is leap year.

This national health examination campaign will unquestionably markedly lengthen the average human life. Its span in the United States was lengthened from 41 to 56 during the 50 years that elapsed between 1870 to 1920; and it will be lengthened during the next 50 years by at least 20 years more, according to the American Public Health Association, which certainly ought to know what it is saying. This means that fifty years from now the average man will live to be 76 instead of 56, as at present; and that he will feel spry enough to enjoy life at 76—and for a good deal longer.

Refrain from covetousness and thy estate shall prosper.

Evry is like a fly that passes all a body's sounder parts, and dwells upon the sores.

Why are we so blind? That which we improve we have; that which we hoard is not for ourselves.

When a man tries to get something for nothing he succeeds in acquiring experience.

A little library growing larger every year is an honorable part of a man's history. It is a man's duty to have books. A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.

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