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FAITH IN HUMANITY.

Is individual initiative in danger of annihilation by the growing trend toward collectivism? We are told that if the incentive of individual gain is removed, men will not achieve great deeds. We are told that only the promise of personal reward will stir the ambitions of mankind. We are told that young men will not be inspired by high ideals and lofty aspirations if material wealth and power do not continue to be the standard of greatness.

In the light of reason and precedent we believe no such thing. The greatest achievements of all time have been consummated by men who had no thought of personal material gain. Faith in humanity is small indeed when it is suggested that selfishness and greed are the authors of ambition and the inspiration of achievement. But history brands such an inference as false. The story of the human race down through the ages records chapter upon chapter of great accomplishments, of heroic deeds and noble self-sacrifice for humanity's sake. If men are prepared to die for humanity, how much more will they be willing to live for their fellow men. When the ability to serve the race is made the standard of greatness, our faith in humanity is great enough to make us believe that greater achievements will be accomplished, loftier ambitions will be awakened and higher aspirations will be animated than could have been possible while the standard of greatness was the personal possession of material wealth. We cannot believe that individual initiative is the child of selfishness and greed.

AN AMUSING PRESUMPTION.

During the week the Journal gave front page publicity to a story by "Windermere" that contained a most amusing passage. The propagandist and apologist for Winston Churchill and other British stand-pat Tories, begins his effusion with the following remarkable paragraph:

Arthur Henderson, who is nearer the parliamentary leadership of the Labor party than anyone else, last night said on a public platform in the presence of Lord Robert Cecil that the Labor party had come to regard Lord Robert as an ally. This may be interpreted as a confession that the Labor party as constituted today would not regard itself alone as competent to assume the reins of national power.

Lord Robert Cecil is a man of democratic mind. He has been advocating many of the principles of the British Labor movement and has proved himself to be sympathetic to the ideals and aspirations of those in the old land who would place humanity above material interests. In so expressing himself Lord Robert has, in effect, become an ally of the British Labor Party and the tribute of Arthur Henderson only serves to show that Labor appreciates the co-operation of all who are inspired by the love of real democracy and equality of opportunity and privilege. Labor's goal is the betterment of all mankind, and we hail as an ally any person, regardless of his position, who is inspired by similar humanitarian desires. We must confess our utter inability to understand the psychology of a mind that perceives a confession of weakness in the rendering of a courteous tribute to a courageous exponent of high ideals who happens to be of a different strata of society.

SHAMEFUL EXPLOITATION.

The announcement of Premier Stewart to the effect that a commission will be appointed to regulate the coal mining industry of this province, will be received with considerable satisfaction by those who are familiar with the mining situation in Alberta. If the commission is composed of the proper persons and is given the power to reorganize the industry in the best interests of the province, there is a splendid opportunity for the performance of a great service to Alberta that will have its greatest effect in the years to come.

It is doubtful if ever a natural resource of any country has been so shamefully exploited as has the coal field of this province. With no restriction on the methods to be adopted, men have been permitted to sink holes in the ground throughout the province with the sole object of making a lot of money in a short time regardless of the destruction and waste of millions of tons of the precious heat and light-giving substance. Consequently for every ton that has been produced, a ton and one-half of Alberta coal has been squandered beyond recall. There are some three hundred mines, or alleged mines, in the province. If the wasteful career of about three-fourths of them was ended the people of Alberta, present and future, would benefit immeasurably. If the proposed commission can eliminate the needless waste of our richest heritage the future inhabitants of this part of the Dominion will rise up and call it blessed.

THE BROTHERHOOD MOVEMENT.

There are those who look with scornful disdain upon the efforts of church and other societies to bring men together to discuss the great problems that confront the human race. The Free Press has no sympathy with such a spirit of intolerance and we believe that the average trade unionist will appreciate the sincere efforts of organizations that are seeking to provide an opportunity for free and frank discussions of current problems.

The formation of Brotherhoods throughout the city similar to the organizations that have done such a great work in Britain, is a move that will have a good effect in bringing men together to grapple with the great issues of the time in a frank and friendly manner. Any organization that is making an honest effort to foster a spirit of brotherhood among the men of this or any other community, is worthy of respect. The British Brotherhood movement has contributed greatly to the development of a large number of the men who are today in the front ranks of the Labor movement of the old land. The introduction of similar organizations here is a subject for gratification.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The Edmonton Canadian Club suddenly came to the conclusion that if it was to justify its existence and its name, it must get members from a wider circle than those who were in a position to attend noon-day luncheons at the Macdonald hotel. And so the executive of the club decided to hold evening meetings when a representative membership could be attracted and discussions on current topics take place. It is significant that a Labor man should have been the speaker at the first gathering under the new plan. It is planned to have a Labor speaker at each meeting and our own Bob McCreath will lead the discussion at the meeting on Tuesday next. We predict a change in the complexion of the organization from this time on, and the change will undoubtedly be for the good of the club, the membership and the city.

The new attitude of the Edmonton Board of Trade is also a significant sign of the changing order of things. In its present appeal for members the Board is not limiting its membership to business heads but claims to welcome any citizen who has the interest of the city at heart. And why indeed should a Board of Trade be confined to business men? The worker in the shop or factory is just as vitally interested in the welfare of his city and its industries, and probably more so, than many of the business and professional men who have always composed the membership of Boards of Trade heretofore. If such bodies are supposed to represent the industries of a city, they certainly cannot properly do so if only employers of Labor are members.

SHOULD BE A BIG YEAR.

The increased activities in all lines of industry and trade, the signs of which are already in evidence, that will characterize the year that we have entered upon, will also bring increased activities to the trade union movement in this province. With an organizer at work in the province working in conjunction with the Federation of Labor and Trades Councils in the field, there is every indication that 1920 will be a big year for the Alberta Labor Movement. Thousands should be added to the trade union membership and scores of new organizations will undoubtedly be brought into being.

The convention of the Federation which will be held in this city next January should be the greatest gathering of the provincial body yet held. It will be so if we apply ourselves to the task of organization. Let Edmonton be one-hundred per cent unionized when we entertain our friends from other parts of the province in 1921. Those in favor signify in the usual manner. The Ayes have it!

EDITOR'S NOTES.

The idea of national insurance is so reasonable and practical that one cannot but wonder why its introduction is being so long delayed.

All down through the ages men with a vision have been called dreamers and idealists.

The ideals and aspirations of the Labor movement will stand the test of any amount of publicity. Every time a well-informed Labor man addresses a meeting or writes an article converts are made to the cause of "Humanity first."

Imagine the British House of Commons refusing to permit a Socialist to take his place in the house after his constituency has elected him by an overwhelming majority. Yet that is what has happened in the "Land of the free" to the south of us.

In choosing Daniel Powers as Chairman of the Labor Party the members of that body did themselves a good turn. The whole new executive as a matter of fact is probably as strong and representative as could have been chosen. If the party does not make great progress in 1920 it will not be the fault of its Executive Board.

One of the counts on which J. S. Woodsworth will be tried, consists entirely of quotations from the Prophet Isaiah which Mr. Woodsworth had attempted to apply to present day conditions. It is getting fairly warm when a man can be tried for sedition because he quotes the Book of Books.

The lack of administration of the Factories Act in this province has made a joke of a piece of legislation that has many good features if properly enforced. If all the workers who are affected by the Act were properly organized there would not be any difficulty regarding its enforcement. Moral: Organize! Organize!! Organize!!!

**FIRE FIGHTERS
 ENGAGE IN SPORT-
 FEST AT Y.M.C.A.**

Teams From Nos. 1 and 2 Halls
 Met in Baseball, Hockey
 and Basketball.

Teams from Nos. 1 and 2 Fire-Halls met at the Y.M.C.A. gymnasium on the evening of 24th and the fans and followers who turned out witnessed some of the most exciting and fastest games that have taken place at the "Y" for some time.

The results of the different games, with the exception of base-ball were very one sided, but the contests, at all times were spirited on both sides. At times, when it looked like a complete wash-out for one of the teams, their opponents coming to life, cut loose a burst of speed that dazzled the apparent victors, and received an ovation from the fans that indicated their intense appreciation of saving that team from complete annihilation.

In baseball No. 1 team has some high class players, consistent, dangerous, and brainy hitters, and dazzling fielders.

In hockey the team from No. 2 is well balanced, their forwards are fast and show indications of combination. The defense play from No. 1, together with their goal-keeper made some wonderful saves; in fact their goal-keeper is about as good a custodian as there is in the city and it appears due to his excellent work that the score was not double what it was.

In basketball No. 1 team was a whirlwind of flying legs and arms. They were doing nearly everything they should not do, and leaving undone dozens of things they should have done. Right from the opening of this game No. 2 injected a lot of snap into their clock-like combination, and they received support at the right time to make their work effective. The clock had ticked but a moment when the ball shot through the tapestry, which operation was repeated again, again and again.

Refreshments and music, vocal and instrumental were now in order, and offered the fullest measure of unalloyed pleasure for one and all, and the occasion is one which will live long in the memory of the guests of the Y.M.C.A. The programme was brought to a close with the singing of God Save the King.

If plans, now in process of formation to provide a similar evening for the other shifts, mature, elbow room will scarcely be available.

**PASSAGE OF ANTI-
 STRIKE BILL MEANS
 SLAVERY FOR WORKER**

Governor Allen's proposal to make strikes unlawful is declared to be a most vicious piece of legislation by Alexander Howat, president of district 14, United Mine Workers, who calls upon all members to protest to the Kansas state representatives and senators. "If Governor Allen is successful in securing the passage of this bill," said the trade unionist, "it means absolute slavery for the coal miner and all other classes of labor in this state. It is the most drastic and vicious bill against labor that has ever heard of. If it is passed, it means that we will be at the absolute mercy of the employers of labor."

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these fundamentals.

"Americanism, such as we desire to inculcate into the minds of the foreigner, can not be successful if laws are enacted restraining that Americanism—laws that could not be exceeded by the czar of Russia himself."

Naturally there will be a sort of explosion at whatever point of the "vicious circle" of high prices the attempt to break is made.

The workers who strike in protest against their wrongs may be defeated, but the public protest registered in the demand for the union label is invincible.

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