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Phone 5595 ELMER E. ROOPER, Editor 101 Purvis Block

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PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN.

Christmas 1918 was full of abundant hope for those who longed to see the fulfilment of "Peace on earth good will to men." The war to "make the world safe for democracy" had been won. The men who had fought were returning to anxious loved ones in various lands. Statesmen were talking of countries "fit for heroes to live in," and altogether, from a superficial viewpoint, it seemed as if peace was really assured to the greater part of the world. The time seemed indeed propitious for the ushering in of the "new era" which we were told would follow the defeat of militarism by the armies of democracy, and there were grounds for the hope that a semblance of freedom would in future be in evidence, in the allied countries at least.

Christmas, 1919, however, finds the world that had been made safe for democracy, in a condition that cannot be compared in any degree favorably with that of pre-war days. If we think the time opportune for inaugurating the democracy that the world has been made safe for, we must be careful to keep our thoughts to ourselves. Oppression, as a matter of fact, is the chief characteristic of the governing bodies of all the world at this Christmas time.

Peace on earth, is not a phrase that is very much more applicable to conditions today than it was in the days when the great armies were locked in deadly embrace. There is war in the heart of men. War that is prompted by want and greed. War that is fed by an ever-increasing realization of the inequalities of opportunity and privilege. On the one extreme we find the enslaved workpeople of the steel trust, on the other the personification of privilege in Judge Gary and his ilk, and in between are many varied modifications of the same bitter struggle. Goodwill toward men is not possible in the broadest sense when hate and bitterness, greed and selfishness are so manifestly prevalent throughout the universe.

Peace there will be when hate gives way to love; goodwill there will be when selfishness and greed give way to unselfishness and altruism. When the spirit of He for whom Christmas is observed takes the place of the worship of mammon, and the servant of all is counted as the greatest among men, then will the spirit of Christmas be "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

Yet with woes of sin and strife,
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the Angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the Angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low;
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow—
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road,
And hear the Angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When Peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the Angels sing.

BARBERS LOCKOUT OF SHORT DURATION.

The local Barbers' Union has an agreement with the Master Barbers of this city, the contract carrying with it the use of the well-known shop cards issued by the barbers. The agreement, according to provisions therein, could only be changed by mutual arrangement between the employers and the union. In emergencies, the union has always been ready to accommodate not only the employers but the public, and have waived the provisions of the agreement at various times.

During the past summer the employers formed a Master Barbers' Association for the purpose of dealing with the Barbers' Union. The first request the new body made to the men was for six hours' extra work, composed of an additional hour each morning during Exhibition week. This request was acceded to by the union as a convenience to the public. It should be pointed out here that according to the agreement in force, the Barbers work a nine hour day, closing at six p.m. each day including Saturday. Sometime in August last the Master Barbers informed the Union that they intended to have the shops remain open Saturday evenings until nine o'clock instead of six as formerly. The union in reply pointed out that the agreement could only be changed by mutual arrangement, and a meeting was held between the two bodies when the men agreed to a compromise to the effect that they would work until seven o'clock on Saturday. The Master Barbers agreed to reply by letter and one can imagine the Union's surprise on receiving a communication to the effect that the men's offer was not acceptable and the employers had decided to now make their closing hour ten p.m. The city council, however, fixed the hour of closing at six o'clock and were not prepared to make any change until such time as the employers and men could agree on some other closing time. On Saturday last the matter came to a head when at 10:30 a.m. the employers asked for an adjustment to permit longer hours on that day. The time was too short for a meeting to be arranged and the barbers quit work at the usual time. The result was that nine shops returned the shop card, thus locking out the men employed therein.

The successful termination of the unfortunate incident is another point in favor of proper collective consideration. Had the Master Barbers shown the same spirit of conciliation prior to the lockout, as they found necessary to assume to get the men back on the job, the dispute would not have come to a definite break. The Barbers' Union is to be heartily congratulated on the way in which their part of the dispute was handled and their conciliatory spirit throughout will commend them to all fair-minded patrons of the barber shop.

CLOSER INDUSTRIAL AFFILIATION.

The individual who opposes the progress of the trade union movement toward greater consolidation of the workers' forces, is second only to the destructionist in being dangerous to the welfare of Organized Labor. The trade union movement is not without its vulnerable points, and while they remain the workers' organizations will not render the efficient service that it is possible to attain through a constructive program of progress toward perfection.

Without doubt the weakest point in the present Trade Union movement is the very sharply defined craft division. It was this outstanding deficiency of the existing method of organization that was responsible for the little success that the O.B.U. did have in this country. The desire in the minds of some trade unionists for closer affiliation led them to be deceived by a movement that was the very antithesis of constructive change. What the rank and file of our organizations desire is a solidifying of their forces. What the O.B.U.

RESTORATION OF FULLEST LIBERTY OF SPEECH AND PRESS

Trade Unions Are a Fact and Must Be Recognized By Employers

Trade unions are a fact and must be recognized by employers, and if employers are not prudent and refuse to accept this condition, their employees will unite regardless of opposition and retain "a rankling sense of injustice."

In effect this is one of the conclusions of the Ottawa government's commission on industrial relations, appointed to investigate the causes for social unrest. In discussing collective bargaining and the right of workers to organize, the commission says:

"The commission believes that the day has passed when an employer should deny his employees the right to organize—a right claimed by employers themselves and not denied by the workers. Employers gain nothing by opposition, because the employees organize anyway and refusal only leaves in their minds a rankling sense of injustice. The prudent employer will recognize such organization and deal with its duly accredited representatives."

Recommendations of the commission include a minimum wage, especially for women, girls and unskilled labor; government aid in the building of workers' homes and state insurance against sickness and old age. The "restoration of the fullest liberty of speech and press" is urged. It is stated that employers admit the need of a change in the basis of industry, but do not agree with the workers as to the method of bringing it about.

TRADE UNIONISM SAVED ENGLAND FROM REVOLUTION

In a copyright article Lord Northcliffe, the eminent publicist, said:

"Ten years ago, when I acquired the control of the London Times, this ancient institution was what is known as an open shop. It had never allowed trade unionism. I expressed my urgent wish to the mechanical staff that they should become members of the various labor unions to which they are attached. There are now members of fifteen different labor unions working in this and every other newspaper office in Great Britain."

"I believe that the Labor unions make for smoother relations. Without the Labor unions our strike last week would have been a civil war. It was the control of the men by their leaders that made it a peaceful struggle of which I, as a Briton, feel profoundly proud."

had to offer was the destruction of all that the workers possessed in the way of organization, while holding out a vague hope of raising a more efficient movement from the ruins.

But the failure of the O.B.U., as in the light of reason and precedent it was bound to do, should not discourage any effort along the line of amalgamation and federation of the well organized craft units of the existing movement. In Britain where the workers are more thoroughly organized than in America, the movement is evolving steadily along the lines indicated. Where it was found practical, industrial organizations were completed by the amalgamation of National craft unions. In other cases the desired results have been attained through the federation of organizations engaged in certain industries. Almost every British Labor paper received here recently contains an account of negotiations between organization of workers with a view to amalgamation or federation. The British worker is not being stampeded by the blatant mouthings of irresponsible dreamers, but in a thoroughly characteristic British manner are steadily consolidating their forces, strengthening the vulnerable points and presenting a solid front to the opposition. Thus must we in America progress. No opportunity must be overlooked to make the movement more efficient and to solidify the workers' forces by a constructive change in the method of organization. In practically every line of endeavor a movement must either progress or go backward and Organized Labor is no exception to that rule. The evident evolution of the trade union movement is toward closer affiliation and we must set resolutely our face toward that goal.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

A big month this. The civic elections, end of the world, power house smash, a lock-out of tonsorial artists and Christmas being among the most exciting features. These be the days of real sport.

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link. That doesn't exactly apply to a union, but certainly the inactive, indifferent member is not very helpful to his organization.

We are still waiting to hear of anything the non-unionist in the open shop is doing to raise the industrial and social status of his fellow workers.

Trades Unions are being called hard names these days, but hard names are much less difficult to bear than an empty stomach or the inability to have Santa Claus come to the little ones.

The trade union movement makes no claim to perfection, but we would be glad to hear its critics name some other movement that has done anything, in comparison, to raise the status of the worker.

If a soldier is disabled in battle, he is rightly given a pension without any word of "class legislation"; but if the same treatment is requested for the worker who is injured in industry, the "class legislation" cry is heard on every hand.

On an ordinary dark night it is difficult for street car passengers to discern "where they are at," especially in the outlying districts. Without the street lights it is practically impossible to recognize one's whereabouts, and we would suggest that the motormen might call the names of streets after leaving the downtown district. Thank you.

A reader phoned the editor this week regarding an editorial that appeared in last week's issue. We do not always expect to have our views interpreted as we desire them to be, and as this is the workers' own paper we are delighted to have criticism, unfavorable and otherwise, directed to us personally by letter or phone. In that way we can be assured of fulfilling our mission as a mouthpiece of the workers.

GREETINGS

May Christmas bring gladness to you and yours that will last throughout the New Year.

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The Store Will Remain Closed CHRISTMAS DAY (Thurs.)

and FRIDAY (Boxing Day) Dec. 26

In this respect the Hudson's Bay Co. are creating a precedent in Canada. Although "Boxing Day" is always observed in the British Isles it has never been a recognized holiday in Canada.

Watch Friday Night's Paper for BIG NEWS FOR MEN

HUDSON'S BAY CO.

CO-OP. CONVENTION BIG EVENT IN THE WESTERN STATES

One of the biggest events of the year 1920 in the Pacific States Labor and Co-operative movements is the 18th Annual Co-operative Convention which will be held in Richmond, California, February 27, 28 and 29. Delegates from Co-operative and Organized Labor groups from every state in the west will be present, and an attempt is being made to make this Co-operative convention the most important gathering of its kind ever called in this country.

Co-operative stores in California have a combined membership of nearly 6,000 and it is safe to say that a delegate for every fifty of these will attend the convention. Other states that will have representation are Washington, Oregon, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, Texas and Utah. In addition to these, fraternal delegates from Co-operative and Labor unions in many other states will attend.

The union label appeals not to force, but to reason; establishes confidence in place of fear; makes no one ashamed; but, on the contrary, invites and encourages the people to take pride in well doing.

SAN FRANCISCO NO PLACE FOR THE RED BRIGADE

One favorite plan of the red brigade is to attempt to silence criticism of their crazy conduct by asserting that their critics are playing the game of the employers. Sensible men who have the interests of the workers at heart rather than the spreading of propaganda for the purpose of ushering in an early Utopia, will not be influenced in the slightest degree by the unfounded assertions of the Soviet chiefs. They will go on exposing the deceitful scheming of the world savers and continue to advocate the policies of the trade union movement which have rendered the workers of this country such splendid service. In Seattle and Winnipeg these dreamers succeeded to such an extent in deceiving the workers that in both of these cities it is now necessary for the labor movement to battle for its very existence and there are elements in San Francisco who hope to bring the workers of this city to the same condition. Fortunately, however, they are not able to get a hold here.—Labor Clarion.

The union label is essentially an emblem of peace, both in suggestion and in practice.

GREETINGS

Christmas is here again—the time when friends greet friends with heartfelt wishes. So here we wish you all the old, old greeting in all sincerity—

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Stanley & Jackson 10117 JASPER AVENUE