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WHICH SHALL IT BE?

In the evolution of things characteristic of the age, Organized Labor is not standing still. To strengthen and to more directly focus its efforts, Organized Labor today is engaged in providing means for more effective and more definite co-operative action. Two proposals are presented. One is to amalgamate present unions into about twelve groups according to similarity of craft or calling. The other is to scrap all present organizations and seek to form one big union. The former method is advocated by the conservative section of Labor, while the latter is ardently promoted by the radical and Socialist element. The general public is following the activities of Labor more closely today than ever before in the history of time. It behooves Labor to consider well every move. False steps now must not be made.

THE BUSINESS WAY

Purely from the standpoint of sound business procedure, there appears no comparison between the two proposals. If practical business experience be any criterion, amalgamation of present organizations is the sensible method. With present organizations on the scrap heap, Labor would be in a chaotic state. Before any national effort could be effected, the entire country would need to be re-organized into unions on other than craft lines. Then those organizations must set up provincial organizations, and latterly a national organization and possibly then, international. An entirely new set of machinery would have to be built, tried out, defects corrected, measures more idealistic than practical eliminated, and the whole brought down to a business working basis. How long that might take is problematical. And what might transpire in the interim is extremely uncertain.

SAFETY FIRST ADVISABLE

By amalgamating present unions, Organized Labor never once leaves the defense lines which have taken so many years to build. All the machinery is at hand, and in running order. Why not utilize it? It cannot be denied that captains of industry are effective organizers. The big trusts that have throttled competition, controlled legislation and sought to stifle Labor, make few false steps in attaining their ends. They invariably amalgamate. If it were better business to scrap all organizations existing at the time and gather together the fragments into a new machine, they would certainly pursue that practice. A wise man learns by the experience of others; a fool only by the experience of himself.

RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD IS NOW

Until now, Reconstruction was a word applying to the future. It now applies to the present. The Reconstruction Period is here. It is today. National, provincial and municipal governments are called upon to inaugurate building and development programs adequate to provide ample employment for all. Money was found to meet every requirement during four years of war. So money must be found to meet this, the aftermath of the war, cost what it may. Canada, among other nations, has talked and planned for Reconstruction. The day is here. Let's carry on.

THE DAY'S WATCHWORD

Thrift is the watchword of the day. What is Thrift? And Why? If by thrift is meant making, consuming and utilizing as little as possible, living as plain and simple as one's self can be made to live, the advisability of Thrift is debatable. Automobiles have hardly yet gotten into the necessity column of the average citizen. For sake of Thrift stop spending money for automobiles. Hundreds of thousands of people would instantly be thrown out of employment. Would that benefit the nation? Carry it further. Stop the purchase of candies; contemplate the result. Stop the purchase of perfumes, toilet articles, reduce the mode of living to the plainest and simplest plane. Half the population would be thrown out of employment, much of the job would be taken from life, a minimum amount of money would circulate, a minimum amount of business would be transacted. Just suppose that the whole public heeded for one month or one year, the council to poke every loose dime away down into the family stocking and keep it there for the proverbial rainy day. The rainy day would be precipitated immediately.

Thrift is the watchword of the day. By that Thrift it cannot mean more than the elimination of waste. It means an effort to provide against an emergency, also, by tucking away a nest egg in the form of Thrift stamps. The difficulty with the nest-egg doctrine is that the ordinary citizen has never yet reached the point where he and his family satisfactorily meet the demands of the present. He is kept so busy pursuing the meal ticket for the present he has no time to survey the future.

France is a nation that has financed from within. The French peasant is offered as an example of thrift whereby a nation has been self constituted. But who wants to live like a French peasant? If the rank and file of Canadian citizenship must be deprived of what western civilization looks upon as necessities, and never got one little whiff of an occasional luxury in order that the nation may be self constituted, then probably it had better be constituted some other way.

Thrift and economy is practiced in China to an illogical conclusion as anywhere, perhaps. If simple living and small spending is profitable for a nation, China should be the greatest place in the world.

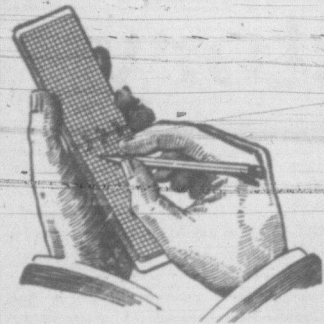
THRIFT STAMPS WORTHY CAUSE

Buy Thrift Stamps. Also it might be well to patronize the Postal Savings Bank. There is no doubt that the banking institutions make an enormous income—an income sufficient to meet all the overhead expenses, perhaps, of an extravagant Government. Suppose the Government did the banking instead of farming out the job by special charter to private capital and then borrowing back at substantial interest the bills which said capital prints by government charter. The Government now is disposed to come to the people to borrow money required. Interest will be paid the people. And money to pay the interest will be collected from the people in taxes. If the Government borrows money from the people, spends the money among the people among the people for improvements, etc., then taxes the people to pay the bill, the net result is merely a circulation of currency. But if the money is borrowed in foreign lands, interest goes out of the country which represents almost as much as the principal by maturity date. It appears sane, sound and sensible that the Government do its financing as directly as possible. Elimination of counting houses which a rake-off invariably takes on the face of it looks most desirable. To that end government sorties into self-financing deserves support.

WHY HIRE A COMPETITOR?

There may be reasons for it. But what are the reasons that causes the Dominion Government to haul so many returning soldiers over the C.P.R. when the nation is in the railroad business? If you were running a cartage concern would you hire your competitors to do your own private hauling for you? There may be a reason for it, but nevertheless the situation appears unusual from a business standpoint that the ordinary man on the street needs to be shown.

Out in British Columbia recently a One Big Union Propagandist drifted into town and was invited to drift right out again. He drifted. The process was repeated in a neighboring town or two.



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Merchandise of Merit

NEWS OF LABOR
TOLD IN BRIEF

The Trades and Labor Council met Monday evening.
 The Barbers meet Tuesday.
 Labor Party regular meeting will be held Tuesday evening.
 Machinists 817 will meet Friday evening.
 The employees of the City, through the various local unions, have signed agreements for the ensuing year.
 Those affected are the Street Railway men, who have settled the question of seniority.
 The Firemen have secured the two platoon system.
 The Civic Service and the Civic Employees No. 30 have secured agreements for the first time.
 The Electrical workers have also signed up with the City.
 The Mayor and supporting aldermen are to be congratulated for the support given. And also the committees of the men who have handled the negotiations.
 The Calgary Civic Employees have called off negotiations with that city and a strike vote is in progress.
 There is a real need for the Housing Scheme.
 The Dairy Workers of Edmonton held a very successful meeting Wednesday. Employees of Edmonton City Dairy were among those who were initiated.

STENOGRAPHERS ARE
NOW ORGANIZED

Following the lead of Toronto, Winnipeg stenographers are now organizing. Wherever office heads congregate someone is always taking the joy out of existence by asking: "Is your stenographer a union woman?"
 Officers of the Stenographers' union were elected at a meeting in the Labor Temple.
 No information is available as to the aims and objects of the new union. Application has been made for affiliation with the Trades and Labor Council and other classes of office workers have been invited to attend the next meeting in the Labor Temple on the evening of March 27.

WILL STAY ON
JOB AS EDITOR

Victor L. Berger has announced that he will continue to act as editor of the Milwaukee Leader, despite his sentence to twenty years' imprisonment in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., for having violated the espionage act. He says he will simply refrain from making any anti-war speeches or writing any anti-war editorials.

UNION PRINTED
BOOKS REQUIRED

The Kentucky state textbook commission has refused to reappoint the reader of the American Book Company and has awarded the contract to a union publishing house in Philadelphia. The commission's action means a loss of over \$200,000 to the non-union book company. The printing of School Text-books has received the attention of the Western Canada Conference of Typographical Unions and the matter is still under consideration. It is the desire of Western Canada Typos to have this class of work done by Provincial Governments and in the printing establishments of the respective provinces. As it is felt that much work would be created and the money devoted to this printing be spent at home. With the co-operation of employers and employees the goods can be produced in Western Canada.

FAMILY BUDGET
ESTIMATED \$1,500

In deciding a wage controversy between organized painters and employes, an umpire said that the most conservative estimate indicates that an average family cannot be maintained on a lower income than from \$1,400 to \$1,500 a year.
 Included in the umpire's findings were the following:
 "The painter's trade is subject to frequent periods of idleness and annual earnings are in no ways related to daily wages."
 "Occupational disease is associated with the trade."

Of the fifty-eight members representing the Labor party in the British House of Commons only three are socialists—the others are trade unionists.

In July, 1918, the news is given that a plant would be built to turn out "one motor carriage a week."

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WM. HOWARD TAFT
NOW A CONVERT

In his campaign in behalf of the league of nations, former President William H. Taft addressed a number of business men in Philadelphia a few weeks ago. He unhesitatingly told the business men they must come to accept the plan of collective bargaining as he himself has done. He openly admitted that once he had been known as the

"injunction judge" and rendered decisions with only the cold legal facts as his guide, but since being a member of the National War Labor Board he has seen the human side of the differences and had at the same time become a convert to the theory of collective bargaining.

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DOMINION LABOR PARTY
Regular Monthly Open Meeting in
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SPEAKERS:
W. R. Ball, of Salisbury, director of Central U.F.A. organization, on "The High Cost of Living: Who Is Responsible," and Rice Shepherd, one of the vice-presidents of the Provincial U.F.A. on, "Need of Co-operation."
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