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DEMOCRACY IN INDUSTRY IS WORKERS' RIGHT

Paul Scharenberg, the able secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, spoke in the First Congregational Church of Fresno some days ago, his subject being "Democracy in Industry."

"With the advent of Christian teaching the right of men to worship as they pleased was claimed, and though at first met with resistance, that right is now established in all countries in the world, unless the most backward," said Scharenberg.

"The next fight was for equality within the state, the right of every man or woman to vote, the right for equal representation in the government of the state. The right has been fought for through hundreds of years, and found its greatest expressions in the Thirty Years' War, the French Revolution, and in the recent World War. There is now established the principle that no man had the right to govern another without the man's consent.

"The latest aspiration is that of the democracy in industry. This is the right

of every man, woman and child to have something to say about the conditions and surroundings under which they will work while working for someone else," continued the speaker.

Scharenberg said that the public had been misled by the use of the terms "open shop" and "closed shop." These terms, he said, instead of meaning what they were generally supposed to mean, meant the exact opposite. The closed shop is the only open shop. The closed shop was open to every man to enter who believed in the right to organize, while the so-called open shop was shut to those who believed that workmen should have the right to organize.

The speaker dealt with the need for organization in every line of business, claiming that organization was necessary to attain any end, and went on to say that the big trusts and corporations were organizing for the purpose of furthering their own ends. This right they were entitled to, but they should not, he declared, deny the same right to the employee.

The labor movement is not a theoretical movement. It is a practical attempt to solve the problem of the workers, and has attained practical results in every line of industry. Without organization and the right of collective bargaining, he said, these results would never have been achieved.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE

Dealing With the University Extension Movement in America

By Prof. A. E. Ottewill, Department of Extension, University of Alberta.
Article No. 5

At the conclusion of our last article we promised that this week's article would be devoted to a discussion of the University Extension Movement in America, but at the outset the writer wishes to add some information concerning the Tutorial Classes in Great Britain and Ireland conducted under the Workers' Educational Association.

Since writing last week's article, later information has been received on the work of these classes during the year up to the end of the college year 1916-17. In spite of the fact that at that time the war had greatly interfered with all social activities in the Old Land, yet, during the session 1916-17, 29 tutorial classes were conducted with an enrollment of 1122 men and 804 women, or 1926 students in all. The range of subjects studied was wide; the most popular being Economics and Industrial History which occupied the attention of 50 classes. Fourteen classes studied Psychology and Philosophy, English Literature, and Modern European History and History of Political Freedom, occupied the attention of 10 each; while Biology, Physical Science, Music and European Art and Culture, were all studied by some of the classes. Since the beginning of the tutorial class movement over 8000 students have been enrolled, and of these, approximately 500 have done more than three years' work, and the work is assisted by 18 Universities in Great Britain and Ireland. Considering that now, as during the whole history of the Movement, the most popular subject is and has been Economics and Industrial History, the significance of this outgrowth of the University Extension Movement to the organized working men and women of the Old Land can hardly be over-estimated. It might be noted further that the Workers' Educational Association concerns itself not only with the education of its own adult members, but also with the educational system of the United Kingdom, insisting that the underlying and behind educational theory there must be social theory, if intelligent work is to be done.

Turning for one moment to the University Extension Movement in the Overseas Dominions, particularly Australia, it is sufficient to say, that broadening speaking the same kind of development has occurred there as in the Mother Country. It is even stated that there is a tutorial class in Australia for members of Parliament. Reflecting on this, consider the possibilities of legislation in our own country if members of Parliament generally had some intelligent ideas of social and economic development.

Coming now to the American continent, the first beginning of University Extension work in spirit at least, began with the organization of the American

(Continued on page 3).

FUR WORKERS GAIN PARTIAL VICTORY IN N.Y.

New York.—A partial victory was gained by the striking fur workers here when all the larger fur stores granted the workers a 40-hour week and an equal distribution of work while the slack season lasts. Many smaller concerns have applied for settlement but the strike committee will settle only with those who will give assurance that they will not work for firms considered on strike. Nine thousand workers are still out.

ONLY ONE LUXURY IN CANADA AND THAT'S PRIVILEGE

Wealth Alone Escapes the New Luxury Tax Set Forth In Budget

There is only one luxury in Canada, and that is privilege. For an individual to be given a monopoly of land or trade, so as to amass wealth at the expense of the many—that is luxury. But this luxury is not taxed. Wealth alone escapes.

Men had to be conscripted before the war was won. Wealth must be conscripted before the war is paid for. This is the real outstanding inevitable truth. The people simply can't keep millionaires, and pay for the war at the same time. It does not matter how the budget is made out the people have to pay. What difference does it make to a farmer whether his shirt, or his pants, or his food is taxed? He has to pay no matter what article of necessity is selected for taxation. If necessities are not taxed there will be no revenue. Tax non-essentials, and people will not buy them, hence the tax would defeat its own ends.

If the idea of the Government in taxing what is called luxuries, is to get the wealthy to pay, why not come out straight and square and tax wealth? That would be honorable, it would be sure, and it would cost less. But it is how not to tax wealth that inspired the budget.—Western Independent.

CENTRAL UNION LABEL COUNCIL IN CONVENTION

Sale of Union Made Goods Is Most Important Feature of Labor Movement

On Thursday and Friday, April 29 and 30, in Building Trades Hall, No. 12 St. Mark's Place, Manhattan, under the auspices of the Central Union Label Council, there was taken up and discussed the most important feature of the trade union movement, namely, the Union Label, Stamp, Button, Shop and Store Card. Many of the phases of this movement were discussed and disposed of in a manner that will redound to the credit of all unions in the Greater City. The personnel of the conference was the best in our movement and a spirit of unity as well as enthusiasm at all times prevailed.

The number of unions represented by the officers present clearly proves that the trade unions of New York City are awakening to the necessity of getting together in order that a better understanding may be arrived at, insofar as the Union Labels are concerned. The conference was fruitful of results.

Some of the outstanding features were the work done by the Council during the past year, which were enumerated in the report of the secretary. The Union Label Stores and the successful establishment of the store in Brooklyn is put in concrete form in the report of the Union Label Store, by Secretary-Treasurer Schwartz. The resolutions concurred in by the conference if put into practice by the unions of New York City will do much to offset many of the evils confronting the workers today. The recommendations of the committees on the Union Label Advocate, the official journal of the Central Union Label Council of Greater New York, and District Councils are short and to the point, and if carried out by the unions will spread the gospel of the Union Label throughout the city in a short time. The following features were most forcibly presented:

(Continued on Page Six)

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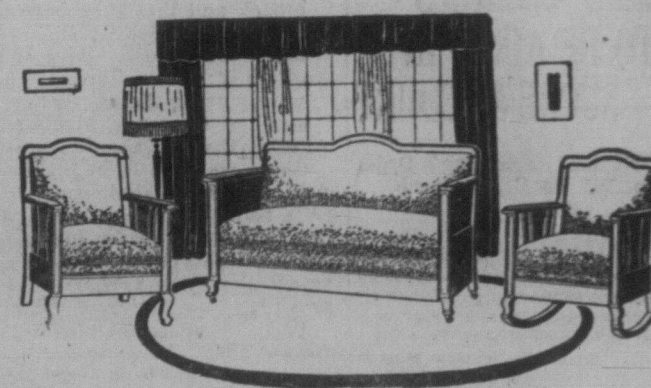
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