

patrons of the saloon keep children in the school room and on the playgrounds?

No, everybody that wants to admit the truth knows that the saloon is a treadmill, ever moving, carrying the children into industrial life when they ought to be receiving an education or playing to develop their physical, mental and moral manhood and womanhood. What the union stands for on the subject of child labor, the influence of the saloon is continuously tearing down.

A Burden on Womanhood

What is true of child labor is equally true of woman labor. How many hundreds of women are in industrial life that could be in decent homes if the wages of their husbands and fathers were not wasted in the saloon. The trade union stands for the home and for the highest standard of possible excellence to exist in the home. The saloon, on the other hand, means poverty and squalor and degradation and vice and discomfort and everything else detrimental to home.

A Foe to all Progress

Go all through the list of the things the trade union movement fundamentally stands for, and then observe what the saloon is doing in the world upon the same question, and you will find that the influence of the saloon is positively and unqualifiedly against the progress of every element of human uplift that the trade union movement stands for.

I am not writing about saloon-keepers. I am writing about the saloon. I have no contest with saloon-keepers in the least. But I have a contest with the saloon, and I am against it, and I will do all I possibly can to put it out of business.

Better Few Than Many

It is said, and truthfully said, that to put the saloons out of business is a tremendous hardship on wage workers now employed in that industry. There is no question about the truth of that statement, and I don't question it. But how about the people that are now put out of industrial life by

the existence of the saloon, and there are thousands and tens of thousands of them? I can point them out in any hamlet or town or city or country district on this North American continent. They are a constant stream, ever running along through the centuries; no letup to it. To put the saloon out of business would be a hardship on the men and women who are in the industry, but it wouldn't last for a thousand years or more, and for a greater period of time than that the liquor traffic has been putting men and women out of industrial life and making of them vagabonds.

The Liberty Question

The trade union stands for liberty and for free speech and for free press. The saloon, everywhere that I have seen it and know anything of its record, stands for no liberty unless it is that kind which makes business for the saloon. And it stands for absolutely nothing in the way of furthering free speech and free press, unless it is of the kind that promotes the growth of their business.

Against the Bar-room

I have been told that unless I muzzled myself upon this question I am to be put out of the trade union movement. And I have been told it pretty straight from saloon influence. And, I therefore take advantage of the privilege of writing this letter in order that everyone may know just where I stand; and I am delighted to be able to say that I know there are hundreds and thousands of trade unionists in this country that stand where I do. And I am pleased beyond measure to know that the number of those against the saloon is increasing in the trade union movement every day.

Manhood vs. Money

It is not a question of the money the saloon pays to the state or to the city. It is a question of manhood and womanhood; and, eventually, as upon all other great questions, the trade union will be found, not on the side of the dollar, but on the side that stands for manhood and womanhood.