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UNIONISM VS. MILITIA.

Organized labor has been accused by the capitalistic press and enemies of trades unions as being unalterably opposed to its members belonging to the militia, and they use this as an argument that organized labor in principle is un-American.

The basis of their contention is taken from the action of a few misguided unions who have come to the conclusion that the militia was antagonistic to their organization, at the same time passing a law that members should not belong to the service.

The belief that the militia is a menace to organized labor is a misnomer, for the reason that organized labor believes in order and obedience to the laws of the land, and where this state of affairs obtains there is no reason for a clash between organized labor and the militia. True, a governor not friendly to trades unionism might aggravate the situation by un-military orders, but if the ranks are composed of union men the situation can be relieved, and the governor can be taken care of at the polls.

The sentiment of the conservative element in the trades union movement, which consists largely of the well established unions, is expressed by Samuel Gompers who, in answer to a correspondent asking for information, said:

"Yes, a member of the state militia can be seated in a trades council. In fact, the matter is so obvious that it ought not be open for discussion at all.

"A man who is a wage-earner and honorably working at his trade or calling to support himself and those dependent upon him, has not only the right to become a citizen soldier, but that right must be unquestioned.

"The militia, i.e., the citizen soldiery of the several states in our country, supplies what otherwise might take its place—a large standing army.

"The difference between the citizen soldiery of the United States and the large standing armies of many European countries is the difference between a republic and a monarchy—it is the difference between the conceptions of liberty and tyranny.

"While organized labor stands against the arbitrament of international or internal disputes by force of arms, yet we must realize we have not yet reached the millennium; that in the age in which we live we have not the choice between armed force and absolute disarmament, but the alternative of a large standing army and a small one supplemented by a volunteer citizen soldiery—the militia of our several states.

"With this both wisdom and policy, as well as principle, should warrant our trades unions in not taking any cognizance of the matter at all, allowing each member to follow the bent of his own inclinations, insisting only that he shall be a wage-earner, a faithful member of his union, and true to the cause of labor—the cause of humanity."

The current report that President Roosevelt has been urged to call an extra session of congress for the purpose of passing a currency bill calculated to relieve the rich men and gamblers of Wall street, has brought forth a protest from J. B. Corey, a retired coal merchant of Braddock. In a letter to the president he hands this bouquet to our congressmen: "I sincerely hope that the dignity and honor of our National Government, the good name of the American people, as well as the success of your own administration, will cause you to refuse to commit such a grave mistake as that of calling an extra session of congress will be. If you will stop and consider for one moment, you will find it a fact

that the majority of the men who compose our national congress are as mentally unfit to legislate upon a financial or currency measure as they are morally incapable of resisting the temptation to fall victims to Wall street stock gamblers and adventurers."

Associate Justice David J. Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, advocates as a remedy for the epidemic of lynchings in the East and South swifter retribution by the courts in criminal cases. He would also do away with appeals in cases of this character. Such is the law in England, although a question of doubt, can be reserved by the presiding judge for consideration. While some objection may be raised to this form upon the basis that a person accused of crime is limited in an effort to prove himself innocent, yet it is not shown that a greater number of innocent people have suffered in England than America by this system of criminal jurisprudence. And that it is more effective in dealing with the criminal class is proven by the fact that lynchings in England are unheard of.

The strike of the miners in Cripple Creek on the tunnel which is to drain most of the big mines of the district, was precipitated because the management attempted to force union men to work with non-union. The tunnel would have been completed in another week, and it is quite likely now to be delayed for some time. President Samuel Bernard, of the El Paso Mining Company, which has the contract for building the tunnel, says: "We will complete that tunnel if it takes the United States army to protect the work, and if it is necessary for us to put on our working clothes and do the labor ourselves." We don't think Bernard should use the whole army at one time and leave other important places in the country unprotected. It would perhaps, be easier for him and a few of his high salaried office men to pull their coats, go under ground, and do business.

"There is no clean cut definition among trade unionists as to what constitute 'recognition,'" says Thomas I. Kidd, national secretary of the Amalgamated Woodworkers' Union and one of the vice-presidents of the American Federation of Labor. "Some large organizations, like the cigarmakers, for instance, make no agreements, but allow the use of their union label to an employer who employs union men exclusively. The employer undoubtedly 'recognizes' the cigarmakers' union when he uses their label. In other organizations an employer who will meet with a committee from a union and do business with it is looked upon as 'recognizing' the union. In still other cases employers 'recognize' the union by agreeing to employ union men, pay union wages and comply with union conditions."

It is reported that the Employers' Association of Chicago has at last discovered that the cost of living has increased 15 per cent during the past five years, and has decided that wages should be increased in like ratio. The association has been delayed in making the discovery, and if they will figure again, they will find that the cost of living during the period specified has increased fully again as much as their findings show. Still if the association shows a disposition at all of magnanimity towards the wage-earner it shows that the world is gradually growing better. It usually puts people in better humor to find things than to be shown.

Mayor A. F. Knotts, of Hammond, Ind., has started a campaign in favor of the employment of married men as a means of avoiding labor troubles. He thinks married men feel their responsibilities greater than single men, and they are less liable to act hastily when a dispute arises. Mayor Knotts announced that he would call a meeting at which the manufacturers and the leading citizens of Hammond could discuss the pro-marriage project as a serious question of public policy and formulate plans for a concerted movement to discriminate against bachelors and encourage benefactors.

It appears by the correspondence from the industrial turmoil in Russia that the sympathy of the educated classes is with the workmen, as the strike movement is directed not only for the amelioration of labor conditions, but also against the system of government. The workmen are regarded as the pioneers in the movement for political freedom.

Hon. Edward M. Sheppard, of New York, said in a recent speech that trade unions promote justice and constitute one of the great and conservative forces of our industrial rights.

The garment workers in Sacramento have organized.

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THE RIGHT TO LABOR.

Editor Labor Press: It is said that the nonunion man or scab has a right to labor, and that he must be protected at all hazards, and when he tries to break a strike he must not be molested.

Certainly he has a right to labor. There is no question about it. So has the small merchant and the small manufacturer a right to live and do business in spite of the trusts, and when he tries to compete and thus destroy a trust he should be protected at all hazards. Yet he is crushed to atoms at once by these very men who talk about protecting the scab; and strange as it may seem, the courts then appear impotent. The trust regards the Federal court as their protector. But the men who talk about protecting scabs do not complain when a trust crushes a competitor. Let us look at the question of scabs a little further. Without organization the laborer would be ground to atoms and his children would be made beasts of burden.

Through organization he has already improved his condition immeasurably. Every time he gains a victory he not only improves the status of his own family, but of the scab and his family as well, and that for all time. The nonunion men and their families get the benefit of all that the union achieves.

On the other hand, when a non-union man takes a striker's place and crushes a union he not only lowers the status of the union man and his family, but of himself and his own family, and they must share the degradation of all labor. This being so, there is something dastardly about the act of a scab taking a striker's place. Nobody objects to him working anywhere else. If he does not wish to join the union he need not, but inasmuch as the union is making a fight for the ultimate welfare of his own children he ought to have manhood enough not to take a striker's place. Yet he has an abstract legal right to do it, but when whole bodies of men are wrought up over a matter affecting not only their happiness but their very existence, it is something hard to get proper consideration for abstract rights. During the Revolution the colonist preached political freedom, yet the man who opposed them was in danger of being hung. The truth of the thing about the rights of a nonunion man to take a striker's place is hardly ever made by the scab himself. I have conversed with many and have never heard one make it. But I wish to suggest to organized labor that to attack a scab who takes a striker's place is not only a violation of law, but is foolish, for it does not hurt the employer. It does not even inconvenience him. If a scab should be killed he simply gets another hiring to take his place. What cares he for the widows and orphans? He may be morally responsible for having placed scabs in a position where they get hurt or killed, but he will not support their widows and children. Instead of this, organize your forces in such a manner as to make the employer feel a little of the unpleasantness of a strike. Send a committee to his house before breakfast to urge him in a respectful manner to arbitrate; let it follow him to his office. Send another to his club. Next day repeat the programme, and if the committee is clubbed and sent to jail, send another. If the employer leaves town, telegraph to the organization in the community to which he has gone to wait on him and urge him to arbitrate. You can thus by peaceable methods get results quicker

PLANS EXPOSED.

Man Gets Drunk and Gives Secret Away.

A man by the name of McClelland got drunk one day last week and told things he was sorry for when he became sober. He claimed to represent the Oregon Land & Immigration Co., which enterprise is located at room 19, 233 1/2 Burnside street, dealers in real estate, business chances and employment agency. His story was told to a union bartender in a saloon on the East Side, whom the illustrious McClelland did not know. The latter kept up an industrious consumption of the social promoter and became confidential. He said that he had just finished a contract and secured the signature of Mr. Poulsen, of the Inman, Poulsen Lumber Co., to furnish as many non-union men as the company had union men in their employ, and as soon as the men were forthcoming the union men would all be discharged. To verify his statement he showed the bartender the contract.

He stated further that his company had secretly arranged to secure non-union men for all lines of business in Portland, and in six months every union man would be replaced and the unions would then be a thing of the past. His firm, he intimated, was the pole around which all union crushers in the City of Portland revolved. The Oregon Land & Immigration Co. had gone into the wholesale business of trades union annihilation, and he (McClelland) was it. He said he had formerly been a member of the Machinists' Union, but had lived to see the error of his way, and left the fold. Now he carried a sharp knife, and proposed to have the scalp of every trades unionist in the city. Not knowing that there are 10,000 members of organized labor in the city, he did not realize what a capital prize awaited him.

A day or two after McClelland had brought disaster upon organized labor through the flowing bowl, a couple of gentlemen visited the office at the address printed upon the card, and interviewed one of the partners, who was the only one in the office at the time. These gentlemen represented a large lumber company in Southern Oregon and wished to hire several hundred non-union men for the lumber camps and mills owned by the company in that district.

The gentlemen were told by the agent that he could not deliver the men at once, but if they would register and leave an order he would supply them. The gentlemen registered and left the order.

In the conversation between the lumbermen and the agent the latter corroborated all that the unsuspecting McClelland had told the bartender. So there is an employment agency in Portland that proposes to crush out all phases of trades unionism in Portland.

If the energy of the promoters of this refreshing scheme is to be measured by the amount of business sense they have displayed so far little fear need be exercised as to the future safety of organized labor. Anyway, it is hard for a combination of rogues, such as these, to dislodge the humanitarian principles of organized labor.

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