

AID ASKED FOR TAILORS.

The Merchant Tailors' Association's Plan to Destroy the Union.

The following circular letter, signed by the entire membership of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor has been issued for the careful consideration of organized labor throughout the United States and Canada, which should meet with prompt and substantial returns:

Washington, D. C., Oct. 26, 1903.—To Organized Labor, Greeting: The Merchant Tailors' Association of the United States, backed up by the Manufacturers' Association, are making war upon the organized journeymen tailors of the country, in the hope of crushing out unionism and forcing the most miserable conditions as to wages, under the pretence of ranking workmen, and without regard to the check which organization interposes against avarice and injustice. In making the fight to refuse to furnish "back shops" (shops in which the men can work), they thereby admit their purpose to return to the old system of tenement house home work. The following facts and appeal are earnestly commended to the serious, favorable and sympathetic action of all members of organized labor. Read carefully to your organization.

On the last day of June of the present year the merchant tailors of Kansas City, Mo., submitted to the journeymen tailors in their employ the following communication:

"Believing it to be our mutual interest, the undersigned merchant tailors have resolved that in the future we will treat with our men as individuals and, employ same as long as they meet our requirements. It is not our motive to reduce wages; on the contrary, we will pay more for the highest class of workmanship, thereby making it an incentive to excel; we decline to pay as much for poor work as the first-class men are justly entitled to. We also reserve the right to judge the class to which it belongs, and place the journeymen in their respective grades. We decline to furnish back shops, as past experience has proven them to be a detriment to the craft instead of a help. We will not put any restrictions on our men as to helpers, as we deem it very essential to the trade that we have apprentices.

"(Signatures.)" About the same time an exactly similar communication was submitted to the members of the Tailors' Union in Binghamton, N. Y. Since that time the merchant tailors of Cleveland, Denver, Chicago, Parkersburg, W. Va., Stockton, Cal., and other cities have taken exactly the same position as that set forth in the Kansas City letter, refusing to treat with committees of the Tailors' Unions or to have any dealing with them as an organized body. While not saying so in words, yet in act declaring that the Tailors' Unions must disband.

The journeymen tailors were among the earliest pioneers of organized labor on this continent. Before the year 1800 they had some unions, and in the earlier years, running from 1800 to 1823, they formed probably more local unions on this continent than any other craft, and all through trade union history and development in this country the tailors have carried their share of the burdens and performed their part of the pioneer work of the trade union movement. In every effort that has been made to consolidate the trade union movement into a federation the tailors have taken part, and an active one. They have been affiliated with the present American Federation of Labor since its foundation. They have never asked assistance of a financial character from the other trade unions of the country in all their history, but the Merchant Tailors' Protective Association, backed up by the Manufacturers' Association, of which body Mr. D. M. Parry is the spokesman and president, has declared that the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America must and shall be destroyed, and their actions in the cities cited above show that they intend to destroy the Tailors' International Union if that is possible. Their members have been sued in the courts for damages, and their property attached; injunctions have been served upon them, and arrests of pickets have been made by the score. The expenses of the organization are, therefore, enormous, and they need the help of organized labor to meet them. If organized labor will respond in somewhat the same degree of liberality to assist the tailors in their struggle that they did to assist the anthracite miners in theirs, the attempt to destroy their organization will not be successful.

For several years the journeymen tailors have been struggling to do away with home and tenement house work. In this crusade they have met with a very great degree of success. Now comes the Merchant Tailors' Protective Association, backed up by the followers of Mr. Parry, and declares that the tailors must give up

working in the shops furnished by the employers, as is done in all other trades, and carry their work home to their kitchen to make it. If the struggles of any organization are entitled to the sympathy and support of organized labor, surely this struggle of the tailors for maintenance of their organization and for the abolition of the home and tenement house work is exceedingly so.

In an interview published in one of the daily papers the representatives of the Employing Tailors stated that they could draw on the defense fund of the Manufacturers' Association, which was said to amount to a million and a half dollars, in order to successfully carry on their contest with the Journeymen Tailors. We feel assured that the organized workers in the United States and Canada will respond with sufficient liberality to make it impossible, even though the fanatics who are trying to destroy the Tailors' Union expend a million and a half, or even more.

We submit this appeal to our fellow-workers of this country, feeling assured that it is of such a character and that it will so strongly appeal to all members of trade unions that not a single union will fail to respond as liberally as possible.

The executive council of the American Federation of Labor is deeply concerned that the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America shall be successful in its effort to maintain its members in the great contest in which they have been engaged for several months, and in which they can and will be victorious, if sympathetically, liberal, and promptly the unions, local, central, national, and international, come to their financial assistance.

Note.—Please send all contributions to John B. Lennon, general secretary, Bloomington, Illinois, who will receipt therefor.

Would Retaliate With Tariff.

Because American millmen have succeeded in capturing a large proportion of the trade in the Canadian Northwest and Southern Manitoba, lumber manufacturers of British Columbia are planning to curtail the output of their mills during the coming season. A year ago very little lumber from the State of Washington crossed the boundary line, but now the Vancouver millmen are face to face with the fact that their trade has been cut into to a very large extent. Not only has American rough-cut lumber obtained a secure foothold in the Canadian Northwest, but the importations are increasing so rapidly that British Columbian interests are becoming alarmed.

Under the free entry terms the American millmen are able to lay down their product in Canada and sell it at a marked cut on prices demanded for British Columbian lumber. Why the Americans should be able to do this is somewhat of a mystery, yet it is a fact that Puget Sound millmen buy logs in British Columbia waters, tow them to their mills in Washington, manufacture them into lumber and then sell it back in Canada at prices that beat the local manufacturers.

At a meeting of the British Columbia Lumbermen's Association a few days ago it was decided to urge the Dominion Government to impose a duty on American lumber coming into Canada, a duty the same as is imposed by the United States on lumber being imported from Canada.

Tacoma Tied Up.

Arbitration is looked upon as the only course by which the building trades' strike at Tacoma may be settled. Both sides have locked horns and unless outside influences can be brought to bear the misunderstanding will last indefinitely.

Action looking toward this has been taken by the Tacoma Trades Council, which recommends that a committee including one representative from each union interested meet a committee from the contractors' association and go over the matters in dispute. If it is found impossible to reach an agreement, it is proposed to select a third person, agreeable to both sides, and thus form an arbitration board in accordance with the state law. Both the Tacoma Trades Council and the carpenters' union have passed resolutions endorsing the stand taken by the Building Trades Council.

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.

Los Angeles Packing Houses Will Not Meet Men—Strike-Breakers.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Nov. 5.—(Special correspondence.)—Recently the Butcher Workmens Union adopted a nine-hour work day and asked the Council of Labor for an endorsement. The council withheld its endorsement until the butchers would agree to arbitrate in case of a refusal. To this the butchers agreed. When the managers of the packing houses were waited upon, they not only declined to arbitrate, but refused to meet their employees upon any proposition. As a result a strike followed, and every member of the union came out and are still out. As usual the Los Angeles Times is daily resorting to abuse and misrepresentation, with the hope of prejudicing the public against the union. The Times has whipped the proprietors of small meat markets into acting as strike-breakers, and many of them worked all day Sunday at the slaughterhouses. There is a probability of a general strike in Los Angeles and a widespread industrial disturbance.

Union men and woman everywhere can render great assistance to organized labor in Southern California by rapping the infamous Times at every opportunity. Let every reader of the Portland Labor Press write one letter to each of the following advertisers in the Times.

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Ghirardelli's Ground Chocolate—D. Ghirardelli, San Francisco, Cal.

EXPOSURE OF SCHWAB.

Not So Good an Example for Young Men to Emulate Now.

A year ago, newspapers and magazines throughout the country were united in praise of Chas. M. Schwab, at that time president of the United States Steel Corporation. He was held up before young America as a model. His life was given as an example of what could be achieved by every American boy who was willing to devote himself assiduously to business affairs and the execution of the plans of his employer. Schwab was therefore worshipped.

During the period of his popularity he conceived the plan of forming the Shipyards Trust. Financiers and people of small means who worshipped him eagerly subscribed for the stock and bought the bonds of that corporation. A few months elapsed and the trust went into bankruptcy. Not so with Schwab. The "idol" of the people had laid his plans as he had laid them before when he was bloody Carnegie's lieutenant, and the dupes who trusted him had filled his coffers. In forming the trust he had not forgotten himself. His property, the Bethlehem Steel Works, worth at the most \$9,000,000, was turned in to the trust at \$30,000,000, and his worshippers who had money to invest, paid the bill. The investigation into the trust's affairs in New York City the past two weeks has developed these facts. Schwab has been shown up not as a model citizen but as a confidence man. His methods are on precisely the same basis as those of the trickster who sells a worthless gold brick to the trusting rustic. He has been caught in the practice of the same tactics that made him valuable to Carnegie and gained for him the position of prominence he has held in financial affairs. Years ago as a worker in the steel mills he betrayed his fellow workmen and gained advance in position by his perfidy; later as the tool of Carnegie his tactics made him of great service to that labor hater and robber and he was still further advanced; with Carnegie's retirement he was pushed to the front again and finally reached the position which enabled him to perpetrate his final piece of villainy.

Yet, branded as a confidence man and a thief, Schwab will still have

his liberty and his millions. He may seek to still his conscience and smother public sentiment by endowing schools as his patron Carnegie has done by endowing libraries. But with all that, the fact remains that he has reached his position and gained his millions through the practice of villainy, dishonesty and theft. There are men now working in Bethlehem Steel Works, whose wages have been cut to swell Schwab's gains, whose homes are only cottages where his is a palace, but who are better citizens in their poverty than Schwab is in his affluence; whom greed cannot swerve from the paths of honesty. There are many millionaires and trust-promoters of the Schwab type who are as yet unexposed. There are those fearful ones among the people who do not wish to see them exposed for fear of checking prosperity. These same people do not think that labor should organize to resist encroachments of these financial despots for the same reason. They are afraid that the nobobs may bring on a panic if their methods are too closely questioned. But, thank Heaven, there are thousands of fearless souls in America yet who believe that in the practice of honesty and the promotion of the welfare of the common people lies the greater safety of the nation, no matter how many rascals of the Schwab type may be exposed.—Los Angeles Union Record.

Old Craftsmen Pensioned.

The benevolence of the proprietors of some of the great London daily newspapers in providing for their old and practically worn-out employees is more marked than is perhaps generally known. For example, the Daily Telegraph has more than a hundred men upon its pension list, the Standard about as many, and the Daily Chronicle is not far in the rear. These pensions, supplemented by the superannuation allowance these old craftsmen receive from their society, tend in some degree to keep their recipients out of the workhouse.—Australasian Typographical Journal.

The Italian Parliament has lately passed a law giving municipalities the authority to establish municipal bakeries.

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