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15

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NATIONAL CIVIC FEDERATION

The January number of the Monthly Review of the National Civic Federation contains a full report of the fourth annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Civic Federation, which met in December. The purposes of this organization is little understood by the public, and especially the wage workers, as its deliberations receive little space from the great news gathering agencies. There is one noticeable feature of the personnel of the Federation, which is an absence of Mr. Parry, and those of his ilk. The men who compose the Civic Federation are men of large affairs, noted for achievements in some great enterprise. A better understanding of the Civic Federation can be gained by reading the following editorial in the last number of the Monthly Review:

A higher and broader conception of its mission was conspicuous throughout the fourth annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Civic Federation. All of its proceedings were inspired by this wider view and a determination to put into operation plans to realize larger possibilities. Incidentally, it became evident that there is growing to be a more accurate public understanding of the purposes of this organization. The popular misconception that the sole end of the National Civic Federation was to settle strikes and lock-outs, that it was to be a kind of voluntary tribunal of arbitration, is yielding before the persistent reiteration that arbitration is not one of its functions as a body, although its individual members may upon request act as arbiters; that its ultimate aim is industrial peace; that such an ideal state can only be approached in the great industries through a series of adjustments; that the trade agreement has proved the most practicable method of securing harmonious relations between capital and labor; that, in general terms, the National Civic Federation would examine the underlying causes of industrial conflicts and search for their remedies.

Its definite aim—the promotion of more rightful relations between employer and employed—it has become apparent, involves the entire field of industrial economics—a science so far-reaching as to extend into every department of human life and endeavor, and at the same time so technical as to demand the closest study for the correct ascertainment of facts and the keenest analysis to determine their inter-relations and their interpretation.

The past year has witnessed much work accomplished by the Departments of Trade Agreements and Conciliation and Arbitration in encouraging collective contracts and in avoiding labor troubles. The Department of Welfare Work has been organized, and is in active and practical operation.

The members of the Executive Committee expressed their confidence that the new Department of Industrial Economics will be a most effective educational agency. Its periodic meetings, which will discuss specific topics, will be reported verbatim in The Monthly Review, and will thus evolve a body of industrial literature of distinctive quality and high value. The participation in the discussion by economists, sociologists, professional writers and speakers and hard-headed men of affairs must bring about a combination of theory and fact that should confirm or modify recognized principles.

The membership of this Department is of a character that warrants its high aims.

The proposed Trade Sections, whose task will be to consider the best solution of special problems relating to the employment of labor in particular industries, will produce definite results through special investigations and conferences. These technical studies may be carried into all of the great industries.

The formation of an International Industrial Committee may have a practical bearing upon the internationalization of great industries and the development of international unions. Oscar S. Straus suggested an association between this movement and the prevalent desire for arbitration treaties when he said: "Industrial peace is one of the greatest guarantees of international peace."

The four years that have passed since the birth of the National Civic Federation have brought to its founders and promoters ample reasons for faith in a future of progressive usefulness. The organization has endured all the strains which both the scoffing and the doubtful predicted. The labor leaders have found that some of their demands have been defeated, and large employers have learned the necessity of concessions, in the various disturbances with which the body has had to deal. Yet each element has adhered to a movement that has survived the period of excessive sentiment as well as of decided reverses, and that is today stronger than ever in the confidence and support of the general public.

We cannot win by violence or thugery. Brutality only grows. If we had to win by that method it would be better to lose. Violence and thugery only hurt our movement.—Samuel Gompers.

Child labor laws, juvenile courts and other unselfish legislation for the benefit of humanity are always advocated and fathered by the despised labor unions.

Every union workingman in Oregon is interested in the passage of the bill to regulate prison labor which is now before the Legislature at Salem.

Your conscience will never keep you awake nights if you ask for the union label.

WOMEN'S UNION LABEL LEAGUE.

The effort put forth by the Federated Trades Council to organize a women's label league in Portland has at last assumed the form of a temporary organization. A meeting was held at the Council Hall, at 162 Second Street, last Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. H. G. Parsons, president of the Federated Trades Council, took the chair, and called the meeting to order. C. H. Gram, general organizer for the American Federation of Labor, was present, and outlined the purpose of the gathering and the labors that it was supposed to perform. Temporary officers were chosen, as follows: President, Mrs. L. A. Helbök; secretary, Mrs. H. G. Parsons; financial secretary, Elizabeth Keegan. A. W. Jones, president of the Cigarmakers' Union, made an address upon the general good that the label league could do the trades union movement in the way of aiding home industry, and eliminating from the stores the product of tenement houses and "sweat shops." Mr. Jones covered the subject thoroughly and impressed his hearers with the duty they owed to the men who were trying to improve the conditions of their fellow men and women. A number of short addresses were also made by the ladies present, and the best of feeling prevailed. Each one of them pledged themselves to bring in an applicant at the next meeting, which will be held at the same place next Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The secretary was instructed to send a letter to each union in the city, soliciting their aid in getting members. Each one of the applicants who were absent at the last meeting will be given notice to be present at the next. The letter sent to the unions is as follows:

Portland, Ore., Jan. 16, 1905.
To Organized Labor.—Greeting:
At a meeting held Saturday afternoon, January 14, there was formed a temporary organization of the Women's Label League Union.

You can readily understand the great importance of such an organization to all the labor movements. We sincerely hope that in the next six months we will have enrolled at least one thousand members. We are going to ask your unions to help us. Should we succeed it will place a weapon in the hands of organized labor such as they have never held before. When we demonstrate to the merchants the great purchasing power which we really hold, they will not be so ready to join an organization that is opposed to us. Your wives, daughters and sisters are eligible to become members.

The initiation fee is 50c as long as

the charter remains open. The dues, while not yet decided on, will be very small. We are going to take the liberty to ask you to appoint a committee to solicit applications. The next meeting will be held Saturday afternoon, January 21, at 3 o'clock, in Drew Building, second floor, 162 Second Street, near Morrison.

Please send all applications to
MRS. H. G. PARSONS,
Secretary,
724 E. Yamhill St., Portland, Ore.

BARBERS' UNION.

With President Thoolens in the chair the meeting was called to order last Monday evening with a large attendance. The new by-laws came up for final reading and consumed considerable time. There were many changes made which were necessary on account of the organization growing so rapidly and the present condition of affairs.

There were five new members initiated and 10 admitted by card.

The union decided to subscribe for the Labor Press to such an extent that all union shops may be supplied.

The members of the various unions will please bear in mind that the Portland Hotel barber shop is unfair to organized labor and all other shops that shave for 10 cents and do not display the union shop card. We kindly ask you to patronize shops that display the union card.

TEAMSTERS' UNION.

The Teamdrivers' Union, Local 162, have elected officers for the ensuing term as follows: President, T. Fuller (who subsequently declined, and Mr. Egle was re-elected to fill the chair); vice-president, F. Wynn; secretary-treasurer, T. Roberts; recording secretary, J. A. Gratton; corresponding secretary, E. Jones; warden, J. Smith; conductor, Mr. Sparks; trustee, C. Walton. A number of candidates were initiated. Several members made addresses under the good and welfare of the union, which was well received by those present.

ENJOYABLE PARTY.

The Women's Auxiliary to Multnomah Typographical Union gave another of its enjoyable socials on Tuesday evening last, in Alisky hall. About sixty persons were present. Progressive Whist and dancing were the order until 11 o'clock when refreshments consisting of coffee, cake and sandwiches were served. Music for the dancers was furnished by the Auxiliary's own mandolin club assisted by the guitar and piano. All who attended report a delightful evening's enjoyment.

Eliot Increases His Output.

President Eliot, of Harvard, is establishing for himself a reputation as a "knocker," not even second to Thos. W. Lawson. What Mr. Lawson would do to "frenzied finance," that also would President Eliot do to organized labor—smash it and its twin abomination, the Chinese Exclusion Act. If it be permissible to use such a vulgar term when discussing the views of a man of President Eliot's culture and learning, we should say that he is gone daft on the subject of "trade-union tyranny." He now accuses the unions of deliberately "limiting the output of labor," etc., and says he does not "know anything in present-day conditions which is more demoralizing." Well, trade-unions do limit the output of labor to the extent of refusing to work the long hours that prevailed when the injunction, "Servants, obey your masters," was backed up by the strong arm of the law. Trade-unions are opposed to the employment by the bosses of "drivers" to sweat the souls out of those working under them. Trade-unions believe in setting a pace which will enable the lightweight man to work alongside the heavyweight on a reasonably even footing. Trade-unions do not believe that the weakest should be driven to the limit of endurance possessed by the strongest. In short, trade-unions believe in justice to all, as exemplified by the spirit of the good old maxim, "A fair day's work for a fair day's pay." If such sentiments "demoralize" anything at all, it must be the conceptions of what constitutes personal liberty held by persons intellectually in the same boat with President Eliot.—Coast Seamen's Journal.

Opposed to Destruction.

A favorite form of sneer at union men on the part of the Parryites is to represent them as envenying and trying to destroy the property of the rich. So far from having any justification in fact in this charge, that it is the very extreme of misrepresentation of the union man's attitude towards honestly gotten wealth. It is fundamental faith with the unions that their own success and the individual well-being of their members depends upon and is inseparable from the profitable use of their employers' capital and upon the growth of the general wealth of the

community of which they form a part. It may be said, in fact, that labor unions do not and cannot exist in poor or unthrifty communities. On the contrary, the wealth and the power to increase wealth of any industrial community may be accurately measured by the numbers and activity of its union workmen. No element of population has a higher civic pride in their city's, their state's, their nation's prosperity and increase in solid, honest wealth than the element of organized labor. No other element contributes more by its skill and toil to that increase of solid honest wealth. No other element is so thoroughly to be relied on, or so readily to be called into action for the defense and protection of that peace and order of society upon which the accumulation and safe enjoyment of property is dependent. This statement is made with full knowledge of the fact that occasionally in strikes to secure benefits for themselves—benefits justly demanded and wrongfully denied—union men resort to violence. Even these outbreaks are, however, defensive. They are not intended to destroy the property of others, but to maintain the undoubted rights of labor. The union man is honest wealth's best friend.—Everett Labor Journal.

Why Workingmen Join Labor Organizations.

The same stern necessity that forced the present union men to organize. Workingmen don't form union men and strike-breakers to organize. Workingmen don't form unions, pay dues, attend meetings, engage in strikes, and suffer privations and hardships just for "the fun of the thing." They do these things because they want enough pay for their labor to support themselves and their families in decency and comfort, and experience has taught them that they can't get this without organization. The truth is the foundation rock upon which unionism is built.

And just so long as employers seek to get the most work for the least wages, so long will unions of workingmen exist. Damming a river does not stop its flow, any more than crushing the truth destroys it.

Employers never have and never will furnish the champions for the rights of labor. They must come from the ranks of the workmen themselves. Hence it is plain that the recent championship by the Employers' Association of the cause of non-union



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men is prompted by self-interest rather than by a desire to benefit the workmen.—Exchange.

Not Intended to Be Sarcastic.

The Los Angeles Examiner prints an editorial on "Codfish Aristocracy," and which is the sentiment they have arrived at from some article in the Washington papers.

At all times dignity is a great thing particularly in a Republic where all are supposed to be equal (nit).

And for a head of a department or his sisters, cousins or aunts to be on the social level of a deputy would most certainly lower the service.

For one instant for any one to assume they are equal to a higher order of rank in a Republic would, without a doubt, place them in a position of ridicule in our republican Washington.

Whatever may be the standing of caste, stay by it. Who knows but what the Dem's may be on top some time and to think of the chance of your nurse girl holding up her nose when she passes the nurse girl of some defeated Rep. How exasperating!

When it comes to real revenge among our elite how great a satisfaction it must be to have our kids say they won't play in your back yard, you ain't on top any more.—Union Labor News.

The Theory of Theft.

Mrs. Chadwick's operations have demonstrated anew the great theory of theft, which is given as follows:

Stealing a million—Genius.
Stealing \$500,000—Sagacity.
Stealing \$100,000—Shrewdness.
Stealing \$50,000—Misfortune.

Stealing \$25,000—Irregularity.
Stealing \$10,000—Misappropriation.
Stealing \$5,000—Speculation.
Stealing \$2,500—Embezzlement.
Stealing \$1,250—Swindling.
Stealing 100—Larceny.
Stealing \$10—Theft.
Stealing 100,000 acres of Oregon timber land—Conspiracy.

THE EDITOR'S JOY.

How dear to our heart is the steady subscriber,

Who pays in advance at the birth of the year;

Who lays down his dollar and offers it gladly,

And casts 'round the office a halo of cheer.

Who never says "Stop it, I cannot afford it,"

Or "I'm getting more papers now than I can read,"

But always says "Send it, it's well worth the money,"

The bright Labor Press union men need."

How welcome he is when he steps in the sanctum!

How he makes our hearts throb and our eyes with joy dance!

We outwardly thank him and inwardly bless him—

The steady subscriber who pays in advance.

The Loretto Mining Company has increased the wages of its employees 10 per cent, the new schedule taking effect the first of the year. The company, which is an independent concern, composed of Chicago stone quarry men, operates a good sized mine opened under both the Sturgeon and Pine Rivers, five miles east of Norway, Mich., Menominee range.

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