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A THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

The words of the superior man are not necessarily high-sounding, but great principles are contained in them.—Mencius (Chinese).

BOOSTING THE UNION LABEL.

Effective work in encouraging the use of the union label and in inducing purchasers of goods to call for it is one of the most difficult tasks before workers in the cause of organized labor. Scheme after scheme has been tried, and in a way all have been successful, although results have not been realized as quickly as might have been desired. Among the unionists who have studied this problem are the Shoe Workers, and a helpful article has been prepared for use in the Shoe Workers' Journal. The article says:

"As a means of furnishing an objective point for the concentrated effort of trade unionists and their friends in behalf of the various union labels we desire to make the following suggestion:

"First, we suggest that the central body in every community take steps to secure statistics as to the total amount of money paid to the workmen of the community in wages each week. These figures should include all forms of payrolls where wages are paid to wage-earners whether they are all strictly union men or members or not, for reasons to be stated later. The unions can be of assistance in securing these statistics, both in the trades they represent and any other wage-earning occupation with which they are familiar and which possibly may not be unionized.

"Having secured and compiled the statistics showing the total amount of money paid to the wage-earners of the town or city each week, this total sum, whatever it may be, should be used as a rallying point for all unionists in increasing the sale of union-made goods. This gross sum representing the earning of labor should be called to the attention of the merchants of the town. It is true that they already know it, but the important point in this suggestion is that organized labor shall perpetually remind the merchants of the interest that organized labor has in that total payroll, to see that it is spent in the purchase of goods made by members of organized labor and not in the purchase of goods made by enemies of organized labor.

"The effort of all the unions in the community should be centralized on the task of securing the right expenditure, from a union label standpoint, of the largest possible percentage of the total earnings of labor, and the task of organized labor, or its duty in this direction, will never be ended as long as there is a single dollar of this sum spent in purchasing the product of non-union labor.

"To the mind of the writer, the strongest point in favor of a wide adoption of this suggestion is the certainty of its success. There can be no question of the tremendous influence upon the minds of the merchants of any community when they understand that the labor unions of the vicinity are seriously at work endeavoring to control any appreciable portion of the total circulation of money in the community, and, with this objective as a rallying point, the union label efforts of the members of labor become centralized and their effectiveness multiplied.

"The efficiency (efficiency is a nice-sounding word when applied to the activities of organized labor) of these efforts would be twofold. First, it would result in a constantly increasing proportion of the payroll of wage-earners of the community being directed in behalf of union label products, the product of fair em-

ployers, and, second, the competition in endeavoring to direct the expenditure of the payroll would most effectively assist in organizing the wage-earners of the community who are not organized but who are being solicited to withhold their patronage from unfair products.

"The gospel of the union label is the soundest and strongest plank in the trade union platform. It appeals most strongly to the soundest intellect because of the absolute effectiveness of the right spending of the dollar which positively determines whose labor shall be employed and what sort of an employer or merchant shall have the business.

"In enlarging upon the importance of union label work we mean no disrespect to any of the other accepted trade union methods. It is one of the strongest features of union label work that it does not oblige the abandonment of any other trade union activities, but adds strength to all of them and backs them up.

"We believe that the adoption of the suggestion contained herein by any local labor movement will double the sale of union label products in that community in 12 months and at the same time, while adding members, to the movement, will multiply its strength."

FIGHTING THE FAKER.

California seems to need a "blue sky" law to protect innocent investors from the cold-blooded attacks of men who are unscrupulous in their attempts to get money. California is the home of the eucalyptus tree, and in recent years men have grasped this fact to promote wild-cat schemes for selling land. In discussing the matter the Star, of San Francisco, says:

"There are always people, in real life, as in novels, the 'get-rich-quick' promoters of crazy schemes, who are trying to 'do up' the small, hard-working investors. They want the little school teacher's well-earned savings, the bookkeeper's few dollars, the widows pence, the orphan's education fund. It is the business of the state to get after them before they can do any harm, and the business of honest newspapers to print the facts clearly and often.

"Most of us remember how the small investor was everywhere being persuaded to buy shares in tea plantations in the South; then it was rubber in Central America; coffee, sugar, bananas, and lots besides, took a whack at the unfortunates. In a thousand and one cases it has been orchards on unworkable alkali soil, or town lots in the desert. Once, on record in California, it was purely hypothetical orange groves on the summits of the Tehachapi Mountains.

"But nothing in recent years has been more deliberately brazen than the way in which many promoters have told lies about the profits of eucalyptus culture. A few years ago pamphlets were published and sent broadcast, whose claims were atrociously untrue, and numerous small investors were badly sold. One of the worst features about the whole thing was that a prominent state official, whose duty it was to sift truth from falsehood in such matters, aided the promoters with might and main.

"What are the realities? Simply these: Eucalypts, principally globulus—the common blue gum—have been grown in California for more than 50 years, and have added greatly to the value of many tracts of land. Much more extensive planting, and especially of more valuable timber species, if on cheap enough land, under proper conditions, is very desirable. Professor Hilgard used to say, 40 years ago, that eucalypts should pay well on suitable land

costing not more than \$10 an acre, that was not guess-work; at that time he was one of the four or five men in the state who were thoroughly well posted on the subject.

"But cord-wood is now worth more than it was then; there are also constant efforts to utilize the timber to better advantage. We can possibly say, at present, that if men who know how, will plant eucalypts on large tracts of suitable land which does not cost more than \$30 an acre, they are likely to make considerable money. The Forest Service, which has recently taken up this matter, estimates that by the time blue gums are ready to cut for firewood, the total investment on each acre of the plantation should not exceed \$56.25.

"Now suppose a company of small stockholders want to plant 1000 acres. On this honest basis—the water being squeezed out—they must rightly choose, buy, plant and manage for ten years (until the first cutting) this area. And they must do it for less than \$60,000. But this leaves no chance whatever for inside profits, high-salaried men, buildings, or waste.

"But published pamphlets, many of which have been sent out by promoters, estimate that each acre will produce 100,000 feet of board lumber (much more valuable than firewood) in ten years, and that it will pay big interest on a first cost of \$250 for the acre. Earlier promoters used to claim that the trees could be cut in four or five years, instead of ten (and sawed into merchantable timber!). The truth is that there is little demand as yet for California eucalyptus timber, that little is known about it, that the problems of handling it are numerous, and, lastly, that the timber will certainly require from 35 to 45 years to attain the proper solidity and size (not the ridiculously small periods of five or ten years).

"Who should plant eucalypts? Principally the present owners of suitable tracts of land. Not the small investors, unless a group of them who know each other and who know how, can manage to get together. What shall the promoters do? We wish we could believe that they would have to carry the loads and take care of the trees with their own noble right arms. But we fear that they are mostly mute, inglorious Wallingfords.

"And of the moral, 'writ large' all over the eucalyptus affair, is that the state can and must exercise some sort of effective supervision over statements made by promoters in circulars and advertisements."

PLAN IS SUCCESSFUL.

That the municipal street railway in San Francisco is proving successful is shown by the following editorial reprinted from the Coast Seamen's Journal:

"San Francisco has long been noted as one of the worst corporation-ridden communities in the country. The local street-car corporation has been and still is equally noted as pre-eminent among the institutions of its kind.

"Its service is inadequate, cruel and unusual, inhuman and indecent—in short, absolutely rotten. It goes without saying that the corporation is also corrupt.

"It is an unscrupulous and mendacious instrument for squeezing money out of the people, at the same time squeezing the wind out of their lungs, and not infrequently grinding the very life out of their bodies. It has stood over the people, practically saying, 'Turn over your streets upon the terms we dictate, or forego all hope of civic progress!'"

"The expiration of the Geary-street franchise offered the first chance of freedom—if only the freedom of one arm—from the despotism of the local street-car monopoly. Long before the date of expiration an attempt was made to have the franchise renewed. This attempt was defeated by the foresight and energy of a few public-spirited citizens. Chief among the latter was James H. Barry, of The Star, who, at his own expense in time and money, rallied the drooping spirits, we might say, the dead spirits, of the community. The attempt to secure a renewal of the franchise was defeated. The fact marks an epoch in local history.

"From that moment the final victory of the people was only a matter of time, courage and adherence to principle. While we are calling over the lists of those who 'did it,' the name of James H. Barry must be recalled as that of the one man who 'led all the rest.'

"The Geary-street road is today a very popular institution. Let us hope that its popularity will increase and that it will have the

cordial support of the citizens and the city government.

"When the gilt has worn off difficulties will doubtless arise. These will be made the most of, as of course. We shall hear the counsels of cowardice in a proposition to 'abandon the experiment.' The real mettle of the community will then be put to the real test. We believe that the people will win in the end, that the victory signaled by the opening of the first municipal street-car line in the United States will be maintained by the same spirit that has made possible its original achievement.

"We believe also that the partial victory of San Francisco over a contemptuous and contemptible street-car monopoly will be extended until it shall embrace every street-car line in the city. Good luck to the Municipal Railway of San Francisco."

GOMPERS STATES THE CASE.

The position of the labor movement with reference to the recent "dynamite" trials is very clearly set forth by Samuel Gompers in a statement made at Washington, D. C., as he testified in favor of the Clayton Anti-Injunction bill. President Gompers pointed out clearly the connection between government by injunction and government by dynamite, the latter being an inevitable result of the former. Mr. Gompers spoke, in part, as follows:

"Though all censure those whom men may deem guilty of the terrible consequences of the Indianapolis trial more keenly than the men of organized labor. There have been added heartaches and sorrow to our already heavy burdens. The men accused and sentenced can not suffer the penalties alone—upon them and all workingmen fall the suffering and penalty.

"But what of the conspiracy of organized capital—the conspiracy to murder the liberty of the toilers, to tear from them the means of protection by which they have bettered their condition, to leave them bare and defenseless in the competitive struggle? Is not such a conspiracy sufficiently dastardly to incur some odium? Should the conspirators, with their hands stained with life blood of men's ambition, happiness, liberty, be accorded nothing but honor, power, respectability? Should they be allowed to continue to manipulate administration of justice until the oppressed find the burden intolerable?"

"More wise it is to seek social justice while yet we may. The judge who presided at the trial realized one of the issues—government by injunction, lawless, autocratic, irresponsible exercise of governmental authority, according privileges to the strong and denying justice to the weak.

"Even the judge who tried the case, smugly assured of personal irresponsibility, fatuously declared that 'the evidence in this case will convince any impartial person that government by injunction is infinitely to be preferred to government by dynamite.'

"The worthy judge had blindly chanced upon one of the causes, but had failed to realize casual relationship. The words to him simply were a conventional epigram—he does not know there is a law of life, just as immutable as the law of gravitation, of attraction and repulsion, a law of life which meets tyranny and injustice by resistance. The inaptness, aye, the unwarrantable character of this utterance of the judge discloses how far a field outside of the case he went to take another slap at labor.

"All of the forces of organized society were against these men. You say that these men resorted to forbidden methods of violence, and even sacrificed lives. You condemn their methods of fighting as elemental, brutal. Of any of those who are guilty the condemnation is merited, but I ask you: Were the methods used by the employers less deadly to humanity and freedom? Do you think that one side can play with the forces of injustice and tyranny and not lead to a defensive move on the part of the other? Each will protect his own interests—would anybody else do that for him?"

KILLING THE CHILDREN.

According to a statement in the Woman's Journal there is a condition prevalent in New York as barbarous as in England of the Fifteenth Century. The testimony of Zenas L. Potter, a member of the New York State Factory Investigation Commission, showed that there were found in New York canneries 1259 children ranging in ages from three to 16 years of age. This testimony is substantiated by Florence Kelley and

Miss Frances Perkins. It further shows that women in these canneries are worked as high as 21½ hours a day, and commonly as long as 115 and more hours a week.

Recently at the meeting of the Omaha Philosophical Society, during a discussion of the ethics of Christianity a man rose to ask if it were possible to extend Christianity among a race of beings that devoured its young. It was shown that a race of beings that lived upon its young was incapable of assimilating the ethics of Christianity; that even the lowest animals were above this, but that man is not.

Savages have never been as careless of their young as is modern industry of the lives of the workers who have not reached the really effective period in their lives. The waste of human life is appalling.

But the day of reckoning is at hand. For let it not be overlooked that these conditions, horrible as they may be, are not the result of individual iniquity. And all these conditions exist through the suffrages of men. When men and women learn that every law enacted to confer a privilege upon one at the same time forges a chain around the necks of these little ones, then perhaps their humanity may be aroused.

THE NARROW VIEW.

It all resolves itself into this fact most of us are too self-centered. We come to believe that our little plan is the most important, and, therefore we think that our little lives are counting for the most. Now it may be that we really have a pretty good thing. And it is quite likely that in most things we are absolutely honest.

But frankly, there are others whose lives and whose plans are counting for just as much as ours, but they are operating in different ways and they are influencing different constituencies. Let us give them credit for what they are doing. They are working out in all sincerity their own lives, and that is well. It is all that we have a right to expect of them.

And so, whether it be self-righteousness or a fit of the blues that has swung us out of harmony with the best movements of modern times—let us swing back. We are injuring no one but ourselves by holding aloof from our fellows.

BEATING THE UNORGANIZED.

World comes from Chicago that wages of workers for the city government, not including the higher-ups, were cut 20 per cent January 1, in a spasmodic effort at economy. It is said that the City Council was face to face with retrenchment, and as is the case not only in Chicago, but everywhere, labor was the first to feel the need of economy, the first to lose in the struggle for existence.

It may be worth noting that many of the men affected by the reduction of wages were unorganized, and have to meet the conditions alone and unaided by their fellows. Perhaps organization would not have prevented the cut, but it would have, at least, made conditions better, and might have held the loss to the workers at a less figure than one-fifth of the entire wage.

The story calls to mind the old maxim that politicians make the mistakes but workers pay the bills. If a City Council has exercised bad business management, it is no reason why men should be asked to work for less than a living wage. The error might be corrected by cutting off some of the big, perhaps crooked, expenses.

A CHANCE FOR ECONOMY.

Governor Haines, of Idaho, in his annual message to the Legislature, made the suggestion that in the interests of economy all bills should be referred to the appropriation committee for consideration before an order be issued to have them printed. This suggestion is a good one, and would seem to be in line with sensible management of public affairs.

It is safe to say that 50 per cent of the bills presented at any State Legislature in the country should never be printed or seriously considered. A would-be lawmaker wants to get his name before his people and especially before the body in which he has a seat, and hence rushes forward with bills covering everything except the really important matters before the people of the state. Then the public printer is put to work and the people's money is spent with little consideration for the taxpayer.

The suggestion of Governor Haines would not be out of place if it should be tried in Oregon this month.

The San Francisco Labor Clarion prints this item, which is self-

explanatory and illuminating: "Sacramento has brought to light the star union buster in a laundry owner in that city. His name is Warner and he accused the Laundry Workers Union of not being agreeable to do business with, whereupon he was requested to draw up a working agreement of his own. This he did. The agreement proved to be satisfactory to the union, and was signed by a representative. Then the union buster surprised all concerned by refusing to sign his own agreement."

The danger of using prison-made goods is not generally appreciated by the purchasers, who generally get them through mail-order houses. There are 15,000 cases of tuberculosis in our penal institutions. These pest houses send out annually 7,000,000 pairs of shoes of every description, 21,000,000 cigars, 10,000,000 pairs of stockings, 2,000,000 pairs of overalls, 1,000,000 pairs of trousers, 4,000,000 shirts and half a million petticoats. And frequently the dried sputum of consumptives is scraped off of the garments at the packing houses before shipment.

The Hudson's Bay Company in the good old days lengthened the barrel of the musket about six inches, so that it took more beaver-skins to come up to the muzzle; but the poor Indian never realized that he was up against the problem of a depreciating currency. The Hudson's Bay Company lengthened the barrel, and the gun to the Indian was undoubtedly a better gun and worth more beaver skins. He was quite sure that the value of the gun had risen and not the value of beaver skins had fallen.

Whenever you get to carrying the impression that you are the most popular fellow in your neck of the woods, that your bunch can't get along without your magnetic personality, just try to borrow a little money from your alleged admirers, and if you don't lay a very much chastened brain box on your pillow that night—well, you are IT forty ways from the barrier and have a pull which you can feel proud of.

The white slave law is a good law, but it does not reach the root of the evil. It is good to prosecute a 'cadet' here and there, but it is about as effective as a man going into the swamp with a gun to shoot mosquitos. Our factories and department stores are turning out prostitutes by the thousands. Their help is not paid a living wage. The best way to get rid of mosquitos is to fill the swamp.

Are you a patron of Sears-Roebuck Company, Chicago, the great mail order house? They are probably the largest distributors of prison-made goods in this country. A large portion of the output of the skirt factory at the West Virginia penitentiary at Moundsville is absorbed by this company. This firm also handles the product of the shoe factory at the Connecticut penitentiary.

For every child sent to the reform school one parent at least should be sent to a workhouse, and the terms of imprisonment should be of equal duration. The incorrigible child is simply the neglected child and the parent who neglects his child should be given the punishment that the child would suffer under our present laws.

Is it such a strange and rare occurrence for a trade union to take a correct position—a position for justice and fair play—that it then subjects itself to criticism and misrepresentation on the part of other trade unions and their representatives?

What would be the good of saints in the world if there were no sinners? Would mere enjoyment—mere hoggish consciousness of purity and perfection—be enough if there were no lower beings to be raised up by contemplation of it?

Once in a while we hear a man say he would rather go to jail than live with his wife. Lots of women we know would have a better time in jail than living with the grouchy husbands they have to endure.

Never give a child cause to believe that he is not able to accomplish anything that any other person has accomplished.

The man who whistles and sings at his work is happy—yes, but what about those who work with him?