

DIRECTORY of CENTRAL BODIES

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL—Meets every Friday, 8 P. M., room 201 Labor Temple. E. H. Crandall, secretary, Labor Temple.

DIRECTORY of LOCAL UNIONS

AMALGAMATED CARPENTERS No. 821—First and third Wednesday, Labor Temple. Second and fourth, Morrison. T. J. Seward, secretary, 394 Harrison street. Marshall 4467.

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LABOR AND MACHINERY.

By Julius Gerber, New York City. There is at present a good deal of unemployment among members of trade unions. This is due to a number of causes. In the first place there has been for some years an overabundance of organized labor in New York City; in the second place there is today a condition of considerable dullness in many trades, especially in building and allied trades; in the third place, each of the other two causes has been intensified by the fact that New York appears to be a popular place for people who are out of work to flock to from the outside.

It is true that the amount of business has increased greatly during the last five years as compared with the five years immediately preceding them, but it has not increased in as great a proportion as the average standard of the day's task or as the number of skilled laborers seeking work. But behind these simple and easily discernible causes for the increase of unemployment lies a broad general cause of almost universal operation whose effects have been obstructed partly by their own complexity and partly by the common acceptance of a sort of fatalistic assertion that has been dinned into the ears of the last three generations that the employment of machinery has been an unmitigated blessing to the world.

I am not setting up any plea for the abolition of machinery or for any modification in its use; the point I want to make is simply this—that the object of labor-saving machinery being to save labor it is in the last degree absurd to express any surprise when its employment upon an ever-increasing scale is accompanied by an increase in unemployment. Under the system of industrial democracy, in which the machinery of production and distribution was controlled for the benefit of the people, labor-saving devices would be employed for the two-fold purpose of reducing the hours of labor while keeping everybody employed and of getting prices down to a true relationship with the cost of production.

However, as we are still living under the capitalist dispensation, with its attendant evil of unemployment, the present question is what can be done to provide work for those who want it and cannot get it. For my part I would like to see the Federal Government establish a series of labor exchanges at favorable points all over the country. Unemployment among those willing to work is not so much a question of wages or conditions of labor as of getting the employer and the employee together; and for this purpose we have today no efficient method by which demand and supply can be adjusted through a central bureau of information in which the daily needs of each locality over the whole length and breadth of the land could be registered as well as the available supply of all kinds of labor at all points.

MEXICANS STRENGTHEN LABOR

Workers Slowly Gaining Place of Prominence in Madero Land. The new movements in Mexico include attempts to improve the lot of the laboring men. Laws have been already passed as to the hours and wages in the factories. Formerly such things have been fixed at the caprice of the capitalists, and these men were so backed by the administration that the workmen could do nothing. During the administration of Madero a ten-hour day shift and a nine-hour night shift were introduced into the workshops of many parts of the country. This was done with the consent of the factory owners, inducements being given in the way of reduction of the taxes on goods made in such factories. According to the old law all factories paid the government a tax of 5 per cent on their gross sales. To such factories as introduced the new labor regulations this tax was cut to 4 per cent, and at the same time a proposition was made to increase it to 8 per cent on all other factories. This policy will probably be carried out in the future, and the result will be better hours and higher wages.

It is quite possible to grind a man down without making him sharp.

CAUSES OF POVERTY

Arthur James Todd, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, University of Illinois.

Causes of poverty fall into two general groups, personal and environmental. In practice it is often difficult if not impossible to distinguish between them. Many causes, too, listed under "personal" in one generation may be due to generations. Also certain "causes" of poverty (for example liquor), are at the same time and with equal reason "symptoms."

Among personal causes come (in order of importance) sickness, passing of the family's chief wage-earner, bad ancestry, weakness of character and bad judgment, lack of trade and education, large families, family desertion. These we might lump together as the factor general incompetence. A second factor, bad habits, includes use of liquors, vice, and indolence. An elder generation of philanthropists magnified these personal factors almost to the total exclusion of environmental influence. Edward Everett Hale, for instance, once told the Boston Associated Charities that if they would take care of all cases resulting from liquor he would handle the remainder. "But more recent students and social workers find that he was making an impossible bargain. The early estimates of 50 to 100 per cent as the share of liquor have dropped to the more demonstrable figures of 5 to 30 per cent. The same might be said of bad judgment and shiftlessness.

Of course the poor drink, and buy badly, are wasteful and shiftless. But the question is, Are these causes or effects? The general consensus of experience is that in the majority of cases these are the sad results of adverse environment. After the same fashion we might unmask the bugaboo of bad ancestry. Perhaps a third of the dependent classes are at the same time defective. But this does not argue for "vitiated hereditary stock," whatever that may be. It usually means that somebody has been ignorant and careless in the handling of children. We grant freely that pauperism is inherited; but not in the eugenic sense of degenerate stock. Pauperism passes from generation to generation just as other

class distinctions are transmitted. It is inheritance of lack in poorer classes just as it is of privilege and opportunity in the more favored. Neither case necessarily involves a question of "stock." It is rather contamination by pauper association.

From environmental causes we must exclude any notion of rigidly nature. Certain "natural calamities" occur, but they are only temporary. The social environment is our real concern, man-injury, and friction and wastes in the industrial system. Under the latter appellation irregular employment, crises, strikes, displacement of workers by machinery or rising standard of efficiency, occupational diseases, immigration, injury, child labor, "sweating," bad housing, "slums."

The whole problem of poverty might be summed up in the one word "incompetence." It may be the incompetence resulting from improper care and training in childhood, from lack of moral and industrial education; it may be surmountable down to the avenue of the "unemployableness." In any event the poverty is mental and moral incapacity. And it is incapacity whose causes disclose themselves if studied seriously. The development of economic knowledge and expert philanthropy reveals that these causes include ignorance, overcrowding, lack of work at decent wages, physical disability, industrial maladjustment, practically all of which are environmental causes and only slightly connected with individual faults. It is not too much to say that the poverty of my neighbor in the slums is due more to his own mental incapacity than to his. But this is no more legitimate as a defense of poverty than derangement is a real defense in a case of homicide. It only points to causes and directs that we look within and bestir ourselves.

WOMAN'S PLACE IN POLITICS.

It is frequently represented that where women are in the enjoyment of equal suffrage they are more active and aggressive in politics than are men. The manner in which women carried on a recent campaign in California is held up as a fair indication of what may be expected of them in other parts of the country. In this particular instance women monopolized the political situation, men consenting, and carried their point with apparent ease. But no sincere well-wisher of woman suffrage, and no sincere well-wisher of the country, as we view it, will hope for, encourage or consent to any sex alignment in politics. It is probably inevitable that in the initial period of woman's enfranchisement and in the zeal generated by her enlarged liberties and opportunities she may deem it necessary to act independently of or in opposition to men, but upon mature consideration we are certain she will see rather the greater need of acting in co-operation with him. The idea of a political division based upon sex qualifications would be abhorrent were it not absurd. Men and women have common interests in politics and out of politics. There is no political question of interest or concern to women that is not of equal interest and concern to men. It may be true, it is perhaps unquestionably true, that woman's discernment along certain lines peculiarly qualify her for a leading part in public affairs, and in seeking to take this part, and in striving to fill it, she will be encouraged by the thinking manhood of the country.

It will be well if woman shall, by taking an intelligent part in politics, arouse the dormant male citizenship of the nation to a higher sense of its responsibility—it will be well if she shall inspire her brothers to play a more permanent part in public affairs—but come only through co-operation between the best elements of the two sexes. The worthy men and women of the country, in other words, must stand united for the nation's welfare. Good citizenship is not a question of sex; it is a question of righteous civic aspiration.—Christian Science Monitor.

CAUSES FOR PAINT CRACKING.

Poorly Dried Lumber and Cheap Priming Usual Reasons. The causes for the cracking of paint are manifold, says the Painters' Magazine. Formerly the most common cause was the use of boiled oil in priming that was in vogue some years ago. Priming with cheap oil or cheap white lead in it was another cause. Unseasoned or poorly dried lumber used in buildings is another reason for the cracking of paint. This refers to outside painting mostly. On interior work the cracking of paint is due mostly to the kiln-dried or green lumber to green or hot walls, inferior size or imperfectly dried undercoats, always proving that the finishing paint is properly made and well balanced for the purpose. When paint cracks with appearance of an alligator skin it may be assumed that the wood may have been green or the undercoat not hard enough, or if in a wall, the sizing was imperfect, or that the wall was too hot for sizing and painting. This effect will show in deep ridges, or rather furrows. When a plastered wall such as, for instance, that in a kitchen or in a laundry, is repainted without being first washed down with soap and water and thoroughly rinsed, and shows, after painting, large furrows in the new paint, it is not necessarily the fault of the paint, but the grease on the wall that does not permit the new coating to obtain a proper hold on all of the surface.

Count Them.

A man remarked that he came from a very large family. "How many are there of you?" he was asked. "Well, there were ten of us boys," he said, "and each of us had a sister." "Good gracious," exclaimed the other. "Then there are twenty of you?" "No," said the boastful man, "eleven."

ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN.

Women compose 5 per cent of the student body in the universities of Germany.

The charwomen in the New York postoffice receive only \$325 a year. Philadelphia has a savings bank which has over 2600 women depositors.

More than 12,000,000 book books have been distributed by the Government. There are nearly 800,000 women in the United States engaged in agricultural pursuits.

One of the most promising clubs in New England is the Boston Business Woman's Club, which has a membership of 430. Making what is claimed to be the world's record for women, Miss Dorothy Cure of Roanoke, Va., cleared 15 feet 2 1/2 inches on a running broad jump. Miss Violet Edmunds, the Brookline, Mass., heiress, who was engaged to the Rev. Clarence V. Richeson when he murdered Avis Linnell, is now doing missionary work in Japan.

MEDICAL CARE FOR CHILDREN.

Fifteen Million School Students Need Practical Help.

The Woman's Home Companion is carrying on a great fight for "Better Babies" by promoting state, county, city, village and country baby shows at which the standard of excellence is physical condition rather than beauty. The score cards have been prepared by eminent physicians and children are judged and marked precisely as live stock are judged and marked at fairs where they are exhibited. At the same time practical scientific suggestions for the care of children are being circulated free among mothers.

The first big problem was to work out a thoroughly scientific yet simple score card that would cover everything and yet not be cumbersome or involved—a score card recognized as the standard by which to judge the babies of the whole nation, and which at the same time would be useful for every mother whose baby was scored. It took months to perfect this card. The foremost experts were consulted. Many of them gave their services when it was explained that the score card was not a commercial venture.

From better babies to better school children is simply a logical step, and that is one reason why there is such profound interest in the great movement which will manifest itself in the International Congress of School Hygiene in Buffalo, the last week in August. This congress has to do with the health of school children.

The figures that have been carefully collected are startling. Dr. Thomas D. Wood, professor of Physical Education in Teachers' College, Columbia University, says, in a formal report:

"There are in the schools of the United States today approximately 20,000,000 pupils. . . . About 75 per cent, of 15,000,000 of these school children need attention today for physical defects prejudicial to health and which are partially or completely remediable."

This congress is going to do something. Each of the 7000 women's clubs in the United States has been invited to send a delegate. In fact, every organization—governmental, social or religious—that is concerned in this important work will be represented. President Eliot of Harvard University will be the president of the congress.

THE POOR MAN'S "MEAT."

In the August Woman's Home Companion, Zona Gale, writing an article entitled "Ethics and Cooks," says: "The family of the legumes, the poor man's meat"—the peas, beans, lentils and peanuts—are found next in importance to meat and eggs, with peanuts one of the best balanced foods available, and a peanut butter sandwich is quite as nourishing as a ham sandwich."

Out Out the Awnings.

When they wore the invisible skirts last summer they used to drop an awning as far down as the knees. This year they are trying to get along without any awnings.—Cincinnati Enquirer.