

The Ontario Argus

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GOING TOO FAR

There is a difference between the ordinary strike for higher wages and better working conditions than that which is now paralyzing the steel industry and which is threatened by the members of the United Mine Workers of America.

According to testimony produced before the Senate investigating committee, William Z. Foster, leader of the striking steel workers is a syndicalist—a near anarchist. Such a man is not an American and that he should be placed in so important a position by the steel workers shows the character of the movement—for the rank and file of labor unions delegate the most momentous decisions to their leaders.

In the case of the Mine Workers there is an absolute violation of their contract with the operators. These contracts run for two years, the country over, and end on April 1. How can working men expect the public to have faith in their statements of working conditions, no matter what they are, when they do not keep their own pledged word?

These strikes however are doing one thing. They are showing the average citizen, the average business man that it is time that he awakes to the situation and takes an active interest in what is going on in labor circles—and that means in politics. The average politician is afraid of labor unions. He cowers before their dire threats, for labor is organized and the average man belongs to no organization.

There is evidence growing daily that the public is losing faith in the protestations of labor leaders. It is getting tired of threats against the life and prosperity of this nation—men who heretofore have taken slight interest in these matters are talking about a show down with labor, and when that time comes there is no doubt of the outcome.

If the railroad men would starve the nation by strikes—well they will starve with the rest. If the coal miners would freeze the nation to death—they and their children would suffer as quickly as the rest. It is time that the railroad men with their Plumb-crazy plan of operating the roads, and the mines workers and their six-hour day and 60 per cent increase that of this side of the question.

There is no doubt but that there are conditions in the labor world that need adjusting and correction. But labors present plan will not bring the solution, and the sane laboring man knows it.

What labor needs to do is to clean house of the radicals in power in labor unions. Like their employers laboring men must be Americans first and union men afterward. They must realize that they can not intimidate government officials or the public any more than can corporations.

LABOR'S UNREST

No doubt there are two sides to the labor controversy, but there is no denying that there is not, and should not be two masters in America. We can not have government by the elected representatives of the people and government by ultimatum from labor leaders.

The general unrest in labor is due largely to a misconception and to the deception so generally practiced by American business men, especially those who make ostentatious displays of wealth.

Most business men, and laboring men, too for that matter, are prone to make a show of what wealth they have. It pleases their vanity to be deemed successful men. And this is often true of men who are barely getting by, before whom at times failure looms large. They keep up their show. They drive their high powered cars and their wives dress and entertain lavishly. These are the evidences that the working man sees. He does not see the worries of the employer. He does not know that often this show of wealth is a false display. He thinks his employer rich, prosperous, happy when the opposite is often the case.

But the greatest source of labor troubles may be traced to absentee ownership and officious management of plants and mines by foremen who lack authority to settle difficulties. Men are human. They do not like to be deemed mere machines and deal with impersonal authority.

When workmen are generally familiar with conditions under which they work and

know in a general way the difficulties which their employer has to meet they are less apt to strike than when they must deal only with a foreman who follows rules laid down by someone that perhaps neither he nor his men have ever seen.

The employer who does his best by his men, who takes an interest in their welfare and knows of their troubles and sympathizes with them, who comes in personal contact with them can iron out troubles when a foreman has to wait to carry the matter before a superintendent, who takes it up with the general manager, who refers it to the president who ponders over it with the board of directors. This long string of red tape takes time to unravel, and in that time a trivial thing has irritated the workers until its importance is enlarged and a strike results.

What we will have to do in America is to humanize business. Directors of corporations will have to be directors. They will be called upon to know the conditions under which their employees serve. They will have to know more about the foremen they place in charge. They will have some thing else to do than to meet semi-annually to declare dividends.

That is the trouble with our big corporations. They are too far removed from the men who work. Men are made directors because of their financial ability rather than their ability as managers of men. Either our corporations will have to be smaller or the men who direct them will have to be bigger, broader men. This last is the best solution for the labor problem.

ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT.

With the advent of paved streets and the general improvement in the appearance of the city of Ontario people will generally concede that Ontario is fast approaching that pleasing designation, City, in fact as well as in name.

In cities there are certain things expected that are not found in rural towns. It is these things that differentiate a town from a city. Among these is the free delivery of mail to the residents.

Ontario has, by reason of the growth of the post office business, been entitled to free delivery for several years but the matter has not been urged by any one in particular since it was, during the war not patriotic to create new jobs. This however is no longer true and Ontario folks are entitled to all the benefits that go with residence in this city.

It is true that Ontario would have had this service three years ago had the sidewalk system of this city been adequate to the standard set by the postal department. Conditions are slightly better today. There are stretches along some of the streets, for blocks, where there are no sidewalks, or what is worse sidewalks that are a snare and delusion, an actual menace to the safety of anyone who would attempt to use them.

During recent months several blocks have been improved by having permanent walks laid upon them, but the worst stretches remain untouched. The City Council has taken note of this condition but has not yet gone far enough to merit further action on the part of the postal authorities. There is still time this fall to get this condition changed and start the necessary proceedings to have Ontario take the step from a rural community to a city with city mail service.

CHAUTAUQUA WORTHY OF SUPPORT.

Not long ago Ontario business men freely subscribed \$400 for a horse race. No one objected. The purpose was fulfilled by making better just one number on an afternoon's program at the Fair.

This \$400 was secured by a committee of two hustling business men in less than three hours—two to be exact.

Next week Ontario will have a Chautauqua program. It likewise will cost \$400, and for that sum five complete programs, each of two hours or more duration, filled with good music or high class lectures, inspiration and informative will be given.

The \$400 derby lasted less than two minutes. The Chautauqua program will last ten hours. The price to the public will be the same.

The Chautauqua was guaranteed by representatives of the Commercial Club, the Public School faculty and a number of patriotic citizens who want to encourage educational entertainment for this city.

Is it unreasonable to ask for the same amount of support for such a week's program as to ask for contributions to one event of one program at the Fair that lasts but a moment or two?

Announcement

We have moved to the old Silver Grill Room and now have the most up-to-date Jewelry Store in this section of the country. We are receiving new goods almost daily and will have the largest stock of Holiday Goods ever carried in this city.

You are cordially invited to inspect our lines, and we want you, when thinking of a gift, to think of us---as we have just what you want.

Blackaby Jewelry Store

BROOMS

Just received a new stock of

Oregon Brooms

These are the best Brooms we have had for years.

Let us show you the stock.

E. A FRASER