

TheOntario Argus

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WHY NOT?

The biggest problem before the American people today is not the League of Nations, or the German peace treaty. It is not the formation of a gigantic corporation to care for the floating of foreign loans so that the suffering nations of Europe may finance their reconstruction operations.

The great overshadowing problem that the genius of the American people must solve is that of saving here in America.

How can that be done? That is the burning question.

It can not be done thru mutual distrust of capital and labor—agreements are not made that way.

It can not be done thru industrial strife. That leads to further distrust—breeds hatred and destroys property.

It can not be done by the domination of either factor in the dispute.

It can be done by co-operation based on mutual trust in specific agreements mutually arrived at upon as fair a basis as men can draw them.

That seems a simple program, but it is not, so it seems in these days of bickerings and conferences where one side or the other wants to rule or ruin.

It is most apparent that neither labor nor capital trusts the other. Toward the public they are each assuming the familiar attitude of "the public be damned." It is high time that the public let each of these sets of autocrat become aware of the fact that it has made different arrangements and will not be damned by either of them.

The public must make capital and labor agree—or if that can not be done at least make them observe their mutual contracts. That's the rub. The contracts between capital and labor are unalterable contracts. They are binding on capital only—so it seems to the public, tho the writer knows that capital too has been guilty of breaking labor agreements.

To accomplish this the agreements between operators of various industries and their men or women workers should be made a matter of public record and the public should be made a party to these agreements with suitable machinery employed to see that the contract is lived up to by each of them. There must be connected therewith severe penalties for the violation of contracts—and these penalties must be made to apply to labor as well as to capital.

The labor leader who signs such a contract should be as responsible for its fulfillment as the employer. Until that is done there is little use to talk arbitration.

The miner wants to live in comfort by working only 39 hours per week, 1560 hours per year. He wants to eat and enjoy the products of ranchers who work from sun to sun every day in the year. That is fine isn't it—for the miner—but how about the farmer?

Renew your Red Cross Membership. No dollar will ever do greater service.

If someone does not stop this rocking the boat, it will do the United States little good to be the greatest producing nation the greatest banking nation, the greatest industrial nation in the world. We do not see the advantages of being the greatest striking nation in the universe.

Just a little hard luck kept the Ontario High School from completely humbling the haughty crew from Nampa last Friday. But it was some battle the boys put up and they should not feel down hearted. It takes a game crew to stand and fight under their goal posts for forty-five minutes. No one knows that better than those who have played that great old game of foot ball. Ontario is proud of its team, and the team deserves that pride. The boys have no reason to feel down hearted, we should say not. Just think of the fun of playing in such a game. It is worth the effort.

When the mothers of the land read about the miners asking for a six hour day for five days per week they must get envious. And it is no wonder. What would those miners have done if their mothers had asked for such a schedule? Yes what would they do NOW if their wives went on a strike for that condition of labor?

THE SLAV IN AMERICA

What good does it do to keep foreigners from voting at political elections if they are to be given the right to vote in labor unions, which appear to be the most potent political power in the land to day, before whom politicians cower, and who apparently would coerce the great American people to bow before them?

If the enemies of American liberty in labor unions—and there are thousands such—can by their votes dictate the policies of these great organizations it is time to see that those votes are American votes and not those of Austrian Slavs, Russian Slavs or the heterogeneous collection of Southern Europeans who dominate, for example such nations as the United Mine Workers of America.

John T. White, former president of the United Mine Workers told the writer five years ago that 70 per cent of the coal miners of America were Slavs. He added that a majority of the common labor of the railroads was Slavic, that this was also true of the steel industry. In other words the basic industries of America are built upon Slavic labor.

As yet the Slav in America, especially in the coal fields, does not appreciate American citizenship—his ideal and these ideas of government are not those of the Anglo-Saxon people from which free America sprung. Long muscled in his home land the Slav comes here and mistakes liberty for license. It is not altogether his fault. America has made no, or at best but a feeble attempt to teach him. He has been ignored as a foreigner and treated too often with contempt instead of sympathetic guidance.

The Slavs who have come to America were to a large degree bred here for industrial exploitation. They have been herded into coal camps and industrial centers where living conditions have been such as to breed distrust, disgust and demagoguery in their ranks. Being uneducated they blindly follow their leaders. Many of them cannot read or write even their native tongues. They are thus the ideal material for the flannel-mouthed socialist agitator who abounds in such regions.

This is easily accounted for from the fact that the Slav in his native land was not a miner, he was not an industrial workman, but was a farmer or a shepherd. The congested life of the city under the generally prevailing conditions irked him and he easily becomes dissatisfied.

America will never solve its industrial problem until it makes of these Slavs, Americans, imbued with the ideals of the founders of this nation. To that end every agency of government, every effort of liberty loving Americans who cherish the desire that this nation shall not sink into chaos such as Russia has experienced, must be marshalled for the fray.

THE RED CROSS CALL

One of the organizations which the war gave occasion for great growth and usefulness was the American Red Cross. It is true that it was not a war born institution, that it was thru this great struggle that the institution grew to popularity and strength.

The American Red Cross justified itself thru its service. That is the only message that any organization need give to merit the approval of the American people.

While most of the agencies of relief which resulted from the war have served their purpose and now retire from the stage of public activity with the rewards due them, the Red Cross must go on. The relief of warriors is but one of its activities. It is a blessed agency of peace as well as of war.

The Red Cross lays its healing hands wherever sorrow and disaster congregate. It is the first aid to injured communities. No man knows where its service will be needed next.

The perfection of organization in relief which the Red Cross attained should be continued for the benefit of future sufferers, for thru this agency we will always know that what is given for relief will be ably administered.

And then the war work of the Red Cross requires that all its bills be paid and its war work properly closed. The American people have had their hand at the plow for two years or more. They are proud of our state's record, a record in which Malheur county, and every community in the county has an enviable share. Not the least of that pride comes from the work of the country's Red Cross Chapters and auxiliaries. That record will remain unsullied, for in the Third Annual Roll call Malheur county will stand forth and be counted, as in the past a 100 per cent American community.

MORE OF THIS WOULD HELP

On Monday Governor Cox of Ohio suspended Mayor Poorman of Canton from his position because he failed to do his duty and keep his oath of office to enforce the laws of the State and protect life and property from the rioting strikers there.

That Governor Cox acted in this matter is subject for congratulation. If there were more Governors who had the nerve to remove derelict minor officials there would be a more healthful respect for law and order in this land of ours.

You will have to hand it to Miles Poindexter, he is not trying to pussy-foot his way into the Presidential nomination. We have never rated Miles highly, but our admiration for him grows as his statement is read. This bold Lochinvar who comes from the West to win the White House may give courage to other aspirants to stand forth and show their colors.

Miles Poindexter apparently cares not for the actions of a Republican convention—he would write his own platform. In the mean time it might be advisable for Miles to get ready to subscribe to the Republican platform, if that is the party he would represent.

Maybe Secretary Lane is right and all this strike talk is merely hysteria. If so the sooner we get over it the better.

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