

ETHICS OF TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP

(BY CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL LABOR CAMPAIGN ASSOCIATION.)

Existing conditions and our mode of living make it essential for the toiling masses to be organized in unions, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining suitable working conditions and obtaining fair wages. All unions are divided into and subdivided into various smaller local unions. The local unions are the true backbone of the entire workingmen's organizations. If the local unions are strong and whole union will be strong. For the local union to be strong it is essential that the membership be strong. For the membership to be strong it is necessary that they attend meetings of their local union and take an active part in the meetings and be guided by their own deliberations. It is well to do as our fathers did, "to know our rights and dare maintain them." But duties are co-ordinate, with rights. Men will not fight for their union rights who have no sense of their union duties. Rights cannot be maintained if duties are neglected. They go together, and in our union life of today it is essential that emphasis be laid upon our duties rather than upon our rights. When a man, for instance, looks upon voting as a "right" instead of a duty, he is apt to regard his vote as his property, to be used as something of his own, to do with as he chooses, without due responsibility. A man's vote is his Union's—a sovereign weapon entrusted to him, not entirely for the protection of his own rights, but to be used for the defense of his union's interest. He is duty bound to use it for the defense of the weak and for the protection of the Union's welfare.

In our Union, as in a democratic state rights cannot be secured unless they have their foundations in the righteousness of union life. In a republic under universal suffrage, under "government by the people"—there are certain requirements essential and fundamental to the continued safety of the national life. If the people are to rule the State, they should understand the conditions on which this can be done. The same applies to our union life.

The members of a local union must be intelligent. If the membership in a union expects to be ignorant and free in a state of civilization it expects what never was and never can be. The members should strive to establish an education as universal as the liberty, which should be held to be the heritage of all men. The membership may be ignorant and depraved under a despotism where they have no power or responsibility, but a union with universal suffrage ought to provide for universal education. Popular government of our union without popular education is but a prologue to a farce, or a tragedy or both. If the designs of the wily demagogue are to be exposed, it must be by educated intelligence. Every true union man will, therefore, do all he can to promote the general intelligence of the membership of his local.

The membership of a local union must be virtuous. Moral character is the foundation of the Union. If the membership's rectitude and integrity are sapped and undermined, the foundation is gone. No union can live when the sources of its power have become corrupted. As long as the hearts of the membership is right, the union is safe. But when springs of our union life are poisoned, the inevitable result is decay and dissolution, and the outcome is the men on top with the iron hand of despotism, or a plutocracy where the people cringe and fawn at the behest of those who have money, or places, or favors to bestow. "When virtue dies the man is dead." It is so with the unions.

It is not the abundance of material wealth, but the courage of the union conscience, that, in the last resort, must be relied upon to save the union conscience that, in the last resort, must be relied upon to save the union life. It is in moral character that the member becomes a shield of defense to the union. It is this that gives him devotion and sacrifice for strikes, courage in battle, insight and boldness in leadership, and the manly independence to enable him to withstand the wiles and seductions of the corruptionist.

The membership of a local union must be free. They must not be restrained by power, they must not be bound by groups; they must not be bought by favor. This involves free speech, free petition, a free ballot. Without these there can be no free thought, and without freedom to think there can be no freedom in union government.

Every member will seek to preserve this liberty at all hazards. Liberty of speech and of the press (circulating etc.) may be abused, but it is safer to run the risk of this abuse, holding every man responsible for the effort of his words, rather than suffer the denial of freedom. However, this freedom should be confined within the Union. If the members are to be intelligent, if they are to understand questions of union government and policies, there must be free discussion; there must be much arguing, much writing, many opinions, for "opinion on good men is but knowledge in the making."

The membership in order to act freely and with intelligence must have knowledge. It is vitally essential to this knowledge that integrity of their press be ascertained. That important news is not suppressed nor false news disseminated. The foes of organized labor contend that newspapers are preferred to a standing army. The most insidious foe and more dangerous than single despots or standing armies is a perverted press and the corruption of the avenues of information. The membership should have the facts. If the membership are given full and truthful information they will be able to judge men and measure and take care of the union. This

indicates the need of independence in a newspaper or journal, that its columns should not be blindly biased and partisan, but that it should be willing to give its readers the truth and facts bearing on both sides of a controversy. The members are competent to form their own opinions.

The membership of the local union must be loyal. Loyalty is love of the union. It is the union spirit,—the spirit that leads one to devote himself to the service of the organization. Loyalty requires not only physical courage that will lead one to fight and if need be, to die in the service of one's union but the higher, nobler moral courage that will lead him, if need be, to oppose his union's government in wrongful and immoral course. It has been said of some that whenever they differed from the policy of their union government "They never appeared to have the smallest leaning or bias in favor of their union." It is not necessary that the union loyalist should be so indifferent. He ought to have a leaning in favor of his own union. A man may love his family

ever one belongs, be it local, sub-district, district or the union as a whole, loyalty involves the willingness of service and sacrifice for the common good. Loyalty does not stop with obedience to the constitution and by-laws and the payment of dues. Loyalty is not passive—a mere abstaining from evil. It is not merely an abstract definition or feeling. It requires expression, not merely in words, but in action, in deeds. The loyal member is "the one who serves." He may serve his local in attending conventions and in many other ways.

Loyalty is a virtue which leads a man to sacrifice himself for the good of his union. It is not loyalty to one's own brothers to assure them that they are right in what they are doing. That is merely swimming with the stream, one of the most alluring forms of indolence. A man is not a loyalist because he desires that the local, to which he belongs shall be aggrandized at the expense of other locals to which he does not belong. To desire the success of a cause because it is his own, and not because it is right, is a form of selfishness in man. "My local right or wrong," is no more noble than "Myself right or wrong," is noble and unselfish.

In addition to intelligence, virtue, freedom and loyalty, and in order to

establish union liberty by union government by the membership instead of by one man or a group of men, therefore, the constitution and by-laws. To any great and fundamental change in law and union government the membership must proceed by the processes and under restraints of the Constitution and by-laws. It is when union government by law is endangered that the rights and liberties of the membership are most seriously threatened.

The reverence for law will cultivate in the majority a righteous respect for the rights of the minority; it will make life and all just rights of members more sacred; and in times of change it will make the membership radical only when they are sure they are right and wisely conservative from fear of injustice and wrong.

The same qualities will bring leadership to the membership. With out safe leadership popular union government is impossible. The masses cannot act except under direction. A multitude of advisors may lead to safety but without wise guidance the members fall. If the membership cannot find capable leaders, of courage, of educated intelligence, of rectitude and unswerving devotion to the membership's interest, they will be helpless before the classes that represent cunning and power and that would exploit and oppress the membership for selfish ends. There is no form of government in which rectitude in leadership and office is more vital than in a union government. The membership may mean well and would do right, but they must have great thinkers to the solution of their problems and bold and devoted leaders for the execution of these solutions. Agitators and demagogues often proclaim themselves for a popular cause and claim on the membership's wrongs, but as soon as they get power and place the rich and powerful classes buy them from their allegiance and induce them to betray their trust. Attend your local meetings.

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- BANK OF COMMERCE
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- BANNON AND CO., Dry Goods, Clothing
- HOLT GROCERY, 7th and Center St.
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more than himself, his local union must be able to establish his district union more than his local, the whole union more than the district—as a higher love may demand his allegiance against a lower,—as he may love God and all mankind more than his union. It is a noble love that leads one to die for his union, not that his union may be saved from bodily harm or promote its material aggrandizement but to save the union as a noble organ of service for God and humanity. Loyalty to union may not override this higher loyalty. As the union loyalist must love God supremely, he will acknowledge the supreme law of love and righteousness, and he will, therefore, stand out stoutly and to the end against his union's pursuing a wrongful and unjust course.

The primary and fundamental habits of union loyalty have been summarized as follows: To strive to know what is best for one's union as a whole. The loyal member will not be content to be ignorant of his union's welfare. He will seek to know something of the offices of his union and their workings; of the needs of his local and its management; of the constitution and by-laws and their requirements; of various officers and their duties; of the history of his union and its great men and of the principles and services from which they stood. To place one's union interest, when one knows it, above group, or class, or sectional or selfish interest. To be willing to take trouble, personal and even tedious pains, for the

maintain these the membership of the local union must have religion. Not an established church, nor a religion imposed, but each member to his own particular faith or belief, with religion and the essentials of religious unity in the hearts of the membership. Religion is defined as "the life of God in the soul of man." The life of God must be in the soul of the union. The union has a soul; it is not only material, it is spiritual. The foundation of its morality and virtue and therefore of its spiritual life are its religion. Morality and religion are inseparable forces. Faith in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, are the greater savers. Its influence has tended to give the membership unity of moral ideas, to prevent social separatism and class strife; to promote brotherhood and equality of opportunities; to "establish justice, insure local tranquility, provide for the common defense and insure the blessings of liberty" to ourselves and our posterity.

These fundamental moral qualities in a local union will produce in the membership a love of order and a reverence for law, as set forth in the constitution and by-laws. Law and order are essential parts to true union freedom. Union Government is paramount to every interest, for upon all this al other interests depend. There can be no freedom without it. The struggle of our fathers to establish the various organizations would be in vain if the members did not perpetuate their good work in an efficient way. Their struggle

stand together—and they won their demands. Women have been in industry from the beginning, and they have been outside of politics. Now for the first time they are on the inside. They have been an economic factor. Now since at last they have become an economic factor, will they use their votes to promote their economic welfare? They early learned the lesson of solidarity in labor. Are they ready to accept the same principle in politics? They come into politics at a critical time. The two old parties which fought out the issues of the tariff in the days of our infant industries are the empty shells of the former selves. Republican and Democratic parties alike have become the tools of the capitalist class. Neither has any solution to offer for the needs of the complex society that has developed since Deborah Skinner set her power loom in motion. In the task of reorganization the working women of America are admirably fitted to play a part by reason of their long and honorable record in industry.

TRADE UNIONISM (By the Co-operative Educational Labor Campaign Association.) In this period of world reconstruction of organization and capital in which we are now struggling, and mad rush for the acquirement and holding of vast fortunes, no matter how much suffering is caused, brings us face to face with the fact that the organization of the working class is an absolute necessity for self-preservation, and is the only means and hope for the laboring class, and the securing for the members of labor unions the fruits of their labor, thus enabling them to maintain themselves, families and homes properly. Trade unionism is the philosophy of human justice in the world of industry. Its creed is the Golden Rule, and its doctrine finds millions of adherents, because it begins with elementary principles by pointing the way to a material solution of differences. The philosophy of trade unionism is disseminated most effectively through the educational campaign so untiringly waged by those individuals and organizations in the ranks of organized labor who have the love for humanity at heart, and their march is onward and forward, propelled by the irresistible power of enlightened conscience. The noble philosophy of trade unionism has through its unswerving purpose, permanently established its boundaries and cannot and will not be appropriated to any party or platform. The doctrines that have given a newer and brighter outlook of life to the millions of toilers will not be distorted by ambitious seekers of self-glorification. The men of labor will assert their right at the polls just as soon as they realize that the responsibility for honest, efficient administration rests not with parties, but on men. Then they will elect men who will recognize their responsibilities to their conscience and to society. Without organized labor and with capital organized as it is, the conditions of the workers would soon degenerate into industrial slavery. It would have become an inevitable consequence of competition. Industrial slavery means debasement of the people and national decline. Let labor be thoroughly organized then let wages and conditions of labor be fixed by collective bargaining between representatives of the two interests, in the same manner as business between the two governments is adjusted by their diplomatic agents. Capital organizes, and labor, for its own protection, must also organize. Every man had a right to the result of his own labor, all this right must be defended by all that is sound in industrial economy. The labor issue involves the whole scheme of competition, which in turn includes self-interest and selfishness. The combination of labor is an expedient pending the time when the whole industrial system will be established along the line of the Golden Rule. In the reel of labor three parties are involved: the man who belongs to the union, the man who does not for reasons, and the scab. For the non-union man there is hope, that he will see for his own good he should belong to the Union.

OREGON INDUSTRIES

Weekly Record of Industrial Conditions Gleaned From Reliable Sources Over The State

One hundred and twenty four mills reporting to West Coast Lumbermen's Ass'n, for week ending July 29, manufactured 83,611,834 feet of lumber; sold 78,639,026 feet; and shipped 75,496,800 feet. Production was 4 per cent above normal. Thirty-one per cent of the week's lumber shipments moved by water.

Salem packers expect to process and handle 15,000,000 lbs prunes.

Oregon City to have new \$6,000 concrete laundry.

Five northwestern states form 44,000,000 bushel wheat pool.

Sherwood gets combination tool factory.

Canney products to reach \$10,000,100 a year in Oregon and Washington in five years.

Newport—Several streets to be improved.

New bridge to be constructed over North Umpqua river on Pacific highway at Winchester near Roseburg.

Prineville—Work on new hotel started August 1.

Tillamook shingle mill running again.

Prineville—Crook county wool clip 250,000 pounds.

Roseburg—Cherries bring \$490 to the acre.

Milton—New brick and concrete store room being erected by Milton Economy store.

Astoria—500-rooms to be added to Weinhard hotel.

Pendleton—\$33,000 church to be erected here.

Aurora's new park and free auto camp grounds now open.

\$150,000 fire sweeps Marshfield; twenty-four business places destroyed.

\$35,000 Masonic home planned at Astoria.

Engene—Road to coast to be million dollar macadam highway.

Myrtle Point to have public playgrounds and swimming pool.

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