

UNIONISM ADVANCES.

Cause of Workers in America Not Retrograding.

LABOR HERE AND ABROAD.

Trades Unionism in This Country on a Higher Plan Than That of Europe. The American Knows His Rights and Demands Them.

Only those who can go back in personal recollection or through careful reading thirty or forty years are able to appreciate the present position of the labor movement in the leading countries of Europe as well as in the United States, writes Joseph R. Buchanan in the New York Journal. Particularly has the attitude of the governing powers undergone radical changes. Less than forty years ago there were few countries in which labor was considered other than as a part of the physical force contributing to production and trade. The laborer himself, as a person entitled to certain rights because of the work he performed, rights which it was the duty of organized society to obtain and maintain, was not recognized.

But a change came, and to the organization of labor practically all of the credit is due. In England, Germany, France, Italy and other European countries and in the United States labor legislation has become a standing item on the calendar of every legislative body. Departments and bureaus for the investigation and management of labor matters have become so numerous that it is unnecessary to refer to them specifically.

In some of the countries of Europe state interest in the affairs of the workers has gone further than in this country. Indeed, there are pessimists among us who see in adverse court decisions and occasional exhibitions of the power of manufacturers' associations and other anti-union combinations sure signs that the cause of the workers in America is retrograding. Such notions are not founded on the facts and are the result of a refusal to see and recognize the general progress of the labor movement.

There is a spirit of independence in the American workman which is not so marked in other countries. He doesn't like to be patronized. He prefers doing most things for himself. And this is true of the American trade and labor unions.

In both France and Italy, for instance, many of the municipalities have established trades and labor halls, or chambers, which not only serve as bureaus of registration, but do many of the other things which are done by our trade and labor unions for their members. Most of these "labor centers" are directly under the charge of governmental authorities.

An English newspaper, commenting upon this subject, says that this care of labor interests is often the result of the capture of a municipality by the Socialists. There are 100 town councils in Italy with Socialist majorities. "But," further says the paper quoted, "it is more often due to the government's secret fear of trades unions and the unemployed and to keep them and their doings constantly under police surveillance."

The American labor movement is not seeking such "progress." The trades unions in this country prefer to take care of their own affairs. At the same time they will continue to strive for such legislation as will protect their rights as American citizens and as important factors in the social organism. And along that line we have been going and will continue to go forward.

Mitchell on the Drink Evil.

In an address to a meeting of workmen held in connection with the international tuberculosis exhibition at Philadelphia Judge Mitchell said:

"Above everything else, avoid alcoholic excesses. The notion that whisky cures, checks or prevents consumption is exploded. It causes the malady frequently and hastens the consumptive drinker to his grave.

"Let me utter this further solemn warning—it will destroy not only your health, but your character, your mind and your worth as a man.

"And now, in conclusion, I desire to advise that the organized workmen of Philadelphia, through committees from each of the local unions, co-operate with the Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. The members of this society and the men of science and learning who are directing the movement cannot carry forward its work to the fullest fruition unless the organizations of labor give them loyal support and thorough co-operation."

LABOR NOTES.

The number of commissioned organizers in the American Federation of Labor is 996.

About 6,000 men will be affected by the 10 per cent wage reduction made by the Jones & Laughlin Steel company and W. P. Snyder & Co.

The St. Louis court of appeals recently affirmed a fine of \$100 imposed upon Albert St. Clair for using a union printer's label without authority.

The Waitresses' union of San Francisco has adopted a resolution imposing fines upon members who work for less than the union rate of wages.

Of the 250,000 building laborers in the United States not more than 50,000 are members of labor organizations. Nevertheless union hod carriers and building laborers receive higher wages and work fewer hours than many of the professions.

FREE HAND IN POLITICS.

Philadelphia Central Labor Union Frames New Constitution.

A radical platform upholding the right to boycott, declaring in favor of municipal ownership and direct vote for president and United States senators, vice president and all United States judges was adopted recently by the Central Labor union of Philadelphia in framing a new constitution, under which the labor movement in the city will be reorganized.

At the same time the Central Labor union delegates freed themselves from all restrictions on political actions. The constitutional committee in its report had put in an article forbidding the endorsement of any political party and restricting political endorsements to individual candidates bearing a union card. These restrictions were defended by the constitutional committee on the grounds that they "would keep labor out of politics" and prevent anybody from trading in labor votes. Past political discussions and endorsements by the Central Labor union have been blamed for creating internal dissensions in the labor movement. Up until about four years ago political discussions were not tolerated in the union.

"We are drifting toward political action," said a delegate of the Cigar-makers' union. "It is no use for us to put up bars against the inevitable."

Several other delegates spoke in the same vein. The clause forbidding endorsements of political parties was then voted down almost unanimously.

"The next section restricts us from endorsing a fair employer," said another delegate. "I don't think there is any sense in that. It says we can only endorse a man who carries a union card. How are we to stand by employers of union labor who are candidates for office?"

That argument killed the second section of the constitutional article on politics, wiping out the entire article and leaving the union a free hand in politics.

The virtual reorganization of the entire labor movement in the city is made necessary by section 2 of the new constitution, which provides that the local unions shall have direct representation in the Central Labor union instead of being represented through trades sections, as formerly. This section will not only do away with the trades sections, but will also enlarge the scope of the Central Labor union to take in all those unions which never had any trades section affiliation. It will more than double the number of Central Labor union delegates.

STRIKES PURIFY LABOR.

Raise Wages and Elevate the Moral Tone of the Workman.

"Not only have the wages of the workmen been raised by the strikes in this country, but the whole moral tone of the labor element has been appreciably elevated," said John Mitchell in an address to the members of the League For Political Education in New York. The subject of his talk was "The Moral Uplift of the Strike."

"There is no phase so much discussed and so little understood," he said. "To understand the moral influence of a strike it is necessary to understand the ideals of the strikers."

"The American workman wants the things that make for his physical, moral and mental advancement, and in pursuit of these ideals he is justified in adopting such lawful means as will aid him to achieve these things.

"A strike attributed to an apparently trivial cause is often caused by a pent-up feeling resulting from months and months of continued aggression.

"It is often said that the walking delegate calls a strike for the benefit of his own pocket. This is not true, for every strike means a loss to him. In fact, the remuneration of the walking delegate is like that of the Chinese physician, who is paid only while his patients are in good health.

"Roughly speaking, the average workman has spent less than 1 per cent of his wages in strikes. In other words, the workmen of the United States have lost less time in strikes than from the celebration of the Fourth of July.

"A strike cannot be won by a single action. It requires the greatest endurance and patience. The striker must refrain from any hostility toward the men who have been imported into his town to take his place.

"The amount of violence in strikes is greatly overdrawn. It is a matter of record that there are more people killed on the Fourth of July than have been killed in strikes in the United States since the declaring of independence."

Women Plate Printers Organize.

A local union of the women employees of the bureau of engraving and printing at Washington has been organized, with a charter membership of 200. The organization, which was brought into existence through the aid of Mrs. Eva McDonald Valesh, assistant editor of the Federationist, will be attached directly to the American Federation of Labor as a federal labor union. A resolution was adopted for presentation to the director of engraving and printing asking for a minimum wage for women of \$2 a day and thirty days' sick leave annually. The present wage is \$1.50 a day.

The Union and Citizenship.

Boston Cigar-makers' union has decided to take a census of its 2,500 members to ascertain if any are not citizens and to endeavor to have any who are not immediately become citizens, if eligible, and to take the first steps to the end that all will be voters. Citizenship and voting are an honor and a duty to all men, the union declares.

HINTS FOR FARMERS

Value of a Good Harness Room.

No properly equipped stable is complete, says Farm Progress, without a separate room for harness. It is economy in the long run to have a harness room, and, while a builder may think at the first that the space such an apartment occupies is room wasted, he will find in the end that it pays to have it. The fumes arising from the manure, particularly the ammonia from the urine, is destructive to leather goods. The harness room should be shut off as completely as possible from the main part of the stable.

Space at the end of the row of stalls or a box near the center may be fitted up to hold the harness, and, while it appears more convenient to hang harness up on pegs behind the team one strips it off, it is not much more trouble, after all, to place the leather safely away. It pays to do so, because it means money saved in harness and repair bills.

A Believer in Alfalfa.

Properly cared for, Professor Samuel Fraser of Cornell experiment station considers alfalfa one of the best crops that farmers can produce. On Professor Fraser's farm are some old pasture lands, with which he has tried various plans of renovation. The simplest plan he finds is to harrow and sow about a dollar's worth of grass seed per acre annually for two or three years in succession, using blue grass and white clover. Professor Samuel Fraser is a great believer in clover as a foundation crop. He thinks a good crop of clover plowed under with half a ton of lime per acre is better than ten tons of barnyard manure and ahead of any commercial fertilizer as a crop producer. The poorest soils on the place under this treatment give better crops than the best soils without such treatment.—American Cultivator.

Feed For an Idle Horse.

As to the feed for an idle horse, something depends upon the desire of the owner. If it is the intention to get him in good flesh and his blood is in good condition he may be grain fed as heavily as when at work without any injurious effect. On the other hand, it is often advisable to cut down his grain ration one-third when he is not at labor. If his grain, for instance, is divided into three parts and he is fed in the morning, at noon and at night, let the noon meal be cut out, or, what is better, cut down each feed just one-third. If a full grain ration is fed, for example, on Sunday, when the horse is idle, there is just a little danger of producing indigestion, and in some cases colic is the result.—Homestead.

To Destroy Canada Thistle.

A good method to kill Canada thistle is to go over the ground once every two weeks after mowing in June and cut off every thistle about two inches below the surface with a hoe or spud. A spud made of a strong, sharp chisel on the end of a pitchfork handle will be found most convenient for this work. The second year the spudding should begin as soon as the thistles show in the spring and should be continued through the season, although there will be few to cut after mid-summer if the work has been well done. The land should be looked over occasionally each year afterward to detect and destroy plants that may spring from dormant seeds.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Lime For Old Land.

Lime is not, strictly speaking, a commercial fertilizer, but an indirect one. We use it for two reasons—first, because we want it to act upon the insoluble plant food, making it available; second, because it is good for land that has been farmed a long time and where acid has developed. A bushel of average unleached hard-wood ashes weighs about forty-eight pounds and should contain approximately four pounds of potash, one and one-half pounds of phosphoric acid and eighteen pounds of lime. Ashes sown on old fields where clover has not been grown for years will produce a rank growth of the clover.—A. W. Gilman, Commissioner of Maine Agriculture.

Increase Orchard Yield.

One orchardist is said to have increased the yield of his orchard from 15 to 250 bushels in the following manner: He reduced the tops of the trees one-fourth; then in the fall he plowed between the trees. After manuring well he planted corn, beans and pumpkins and harvested a nice crop of each. The next spring he repeated the same form of cultivation, and that year, in addition to the good crops of corn, beans and pumpkins, harvested seventy bushels of good apples. The next spring he manured for the third time and planted potatoes, which did not do well, but he harvested 250 bushels of fine apples from the orchard.—American Cultivator.

Feeding the Heifer.

Liberal feeding is to be commended at all times and for all animals, but we have been told the heifer must not be fed so as to become fat, and this teaching, in my judgment, has done much harm to the dairy interests of the country and is in part responsible for the lamentable decrease in size of some of our dairy herds with each succeeding generation.—B. Walker Keen in Holstein-Friesian Register.

Wisdom in the Dairy.

If a Holstein cow giving forty quarts of milk per day and requiring no more room than a common cow giving ten quarts a day can be reared as easily as the inferior one, is it wise in farmers to keep the poor milkers?—Colman's Rural World.

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