Employing Printers in Circular Say Exclusion of Unions Good Principle

WASHINGTON—One of the recent circulars issued by J. M. Vollmer, secretary of the Employing Printers of America, printed in flaming red and circulated by the Associated Employers of Indianapolis, carries this choice sentiment:

"Free and independent management being the fundamental principle of the 'American plan,' there is no uniform and universal system of shop regulations, for the obligatory adoption of any rigid code of rules in all shops would defeat the very purpose of the plan.

"The exclusion of labor unions is a universal principle adopted purely by common consent to vouchsafe each firm's freedom to make its own rules to meet its own special requirements."

However, the circular proceeds to set forth a long series of "principles characterizing the management of non-union printing concerns which have survived. These rules prescribe the individual contract—of which Vollmer offers to supply a model—the 50 or 54-hour week, a bonus system, credentials for non-union service, etc.

"Leadership implies responsibility," concludes Vollmer, "and modern leaders of industry now acknowledge even a greater responsibility than the difficult one involved in creating dividends. As a trustee in cotrol of productive forces, the employer is charged with the wise direction of human effort, the beneficent guidance of human lives, and his every act should be measured by the golden rule. The independent American shop must be founded in fairness and the loyalty of every workman secured by a never-failing square deal."

From which it would appear that the "open shoppers" are finding it difficult to break the International Typographical Union and hence are pleading the purest benevolence of motive.

FIRST REAPING MACHINE.

Cyrus H. McCormick made the first successful reaper. He built it as a boy without his father's knowing it and tried it out one fall. It was not entirely a success, but he made some changes and tried it again. Finally in 1881 he made his first successful reaper, says Farm and Fireside. He kept on making improvements and 1934 had a machine good enough to parent. He offered them for sale for $30 apiece, but no one would buy. Finally in 1839 he invited a lot of farmers to see it work. It cut two acres an hour. That was really wonderful in those days but still no one would buy it. The next year, 1840, a man at Egypt, Va., bought the first machine and paid $30 for it. It worked, and faith in the new invention began to spread.

Industry is not, as stated by bankers, running away from its shadow. It is speeding from a group of substantial highwaymen.

STRIKE INSURANCE CO. USES STRIKEBREAKERS

The charge by trade unionists that insurance against strikes is the latest form of strikebreaking has been sustained in Topeka, Kan.

Recently W. E. Bush, president of Typographical union, stated that the employing printers' organization, which is opposing the 44-hour week, was employing spies and professional strike breakers through a detective agency.

F. S. Crane, president of Crane & company, and a member of the employers' organization, proves to be a far-sighted business man, and produces an alibi. In a letter to President Bush, the employer states that his strike insurance company asked for the number of employes who had gone on strike. Shortly afterward a dectective agency shipped a man to the Crane concern with a letter of introduction. The strikebreaker told the employer that the agency was furnishing men for the insurance company.

"We have not at any time, nor do we intend at any time, to hire any spies or professional strikebreakers, if they are known to us as such," said Mr. Crane, who adds that the strikebreaker left before he could be discharged.

In accepting the word of the employer, President Bush reminds him that the charge against the employers' association still stands.

WHAT TO JOIN?

A young Brooklynite, recently married, jointed the Masons a few evenings ago. After the initiation hubby returned home all smiles, but strangest thing, he volunteered no information. "I can't tell you what happened," he said in answer to his wife's appeal. "They told me that I musn't."

"But I tell you that you must," wifey said, and he did.

He told her that they had placed him in a room blindfolded, with instructions to remove the bandage in five minutes, which he did. And there before him stood a beautiful woman fastidiously gowned. Mm—mm, a dream.

"Did you kiss her?" the wife interrupted in a startled voice.

"I wasn't going to," hubby answered apologetically, "but a hidden voice commanded me to. 'I will not,' I replied.

"'Then,' said the voice, 'If you do not kiss the lady, you're not a Mason; you're an Odd Fellow.'"

INCREASE IN SUICIDES DUE TO UNEMPLOYMENT

Suffering and worry incident to the world-wide depression are reflected in an alarming increase in the number of suicides, according to a statement prepared by the Save-a-Life League, of New York city. In that city alone, during the past six months, 443 persons destroyed themselves.

Throughout the country and the civilized world there seems to have been a "suicide wave," the league says. In the first half of 1920 there were reported to the league 2,771 suicides in the United States, 1,810 males and 961 females. During the first six months of the year the number reported to the league is 6,509—males, 4,527, and females, 1,982. The average age of the male suicide is 43 years.

This large increase, according to the league, is doubtless due to business depression, economic disturbance and general abnormal conditions.

"The surprising thing is not the large number of suicides, but that the number is not still larger," says the statement. "When general economic conditions improve, suicides will become less frequent, but if the same state of things continue for any length of time we may expect an even greater numbfier of suicides."

BESSETTE PLAYED FAIR ON MOST LABOR BILLS

FRED W. BESSETTE.

Senator Bessette of Orr, is well thought of by the labor voters in his district. He voted favorable on most of the labor bills.

A wise man hopes only for the things that are possible and probable.

MORE WASTE.

"Are you aware, sir," solemnly demanded the gent whose countenance was as elongated as that of a venerable horse, "that there is three times as much money spent every year in America for tobacco as for education, nine times as much for chewing gum, and fifteen times as much for soft drinks?"

"I have never taken the trouble to inquire," replied J. Fuller Gloom, "but I am convinced that there is about eight hundred times as much paid to reformers for blatting about it as they are worth."

The Switchmen's Union of North America, from Aug. 1, 1919, to Aug. 1,1920, has organized 44 new locals.

The Sleeping Car Conductors' union has increased its membership to more than 2,000.

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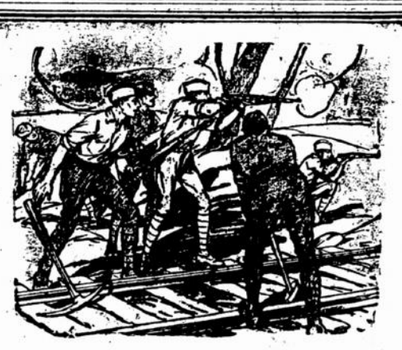

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