

REAL AIM OF 'OPEN SHOP' IS TO DESTROY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Anti-Unions Use Deceptive Methods; the Word "Open" Appeals to American Sense of Fair Play, While as Matter of Fact the "Open Shop" Is Closed Shop; Closed to Unions.

Just what do the chambers of commerce, the employers' association, the "associated industries," the Republican Publicity Association and other like-minded organizations actually mean when they proclaim the "open shop" as the new slogan of Americanism? It is important to find out, for the labor struggles of the next few months, and possibly of the next few years, will center around that issue, and the public is already being "educated" by the familiar methods of cheap propaganda to a proper attitude in the matter.

The employers have tried to tell us what the open shop campaign implies; they have named it the "American plan of employment," and in the words of the "Dallas Chamber of Commerce Open Shop Square Deal Association," the open shop is "the only way to cure radicalism" and has been inaugurated "to protect personal liberty and property right by seeing that non-union workers have equal chance with workers who belong to unions."

No "Equal Chance"
It is inevitable that Americans should respond sympathetically to the proposal that all men must have an "equal chance." If the open shop means an equal chance the open shop propaganda will be easy to conduct. What the term implies, however, is something quite different. The open shop, as the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has said, is in practice simply a non-union shop. The idea of union and non-union men competing for jobs on equal terms and working side by side is in fact nothing more than an amiable fiction.

The primary object of labor organization is collective bargaining between the employer and the union. The object of the open shop is to eliminate collective bargaining and to substitute dealings with the individual worker. If collective bargaining is eliminated, the union is killed; a worker might as well join a golf club as a union in an open shop. The open shop, then, becomes a non-union shop and the meaning of the present campaign becomes clear.

Believe It Profitable.
The New York World put the matter very plainly when it said that "the champions of the open shop are not actuated by any patriotic impulse whatever. They believe that the open shop is more profitable to themselves than the closed shop and that to destroy the unions would put money in their pockets. That is all there is to the controversy."

The open shop advocates wear a mask of patriotism because they are afraid to meet the economic issue. In the face of the obvious intent behind the open shop campaign the noble spectacle of the embattled employees of America raising in defense of the "personal liberty" of their employees takes on comic aspect, while the claims of the employers that they seek to increase production must, in the present state of the market at least, be largely discounted.

Winter, the industrial depression, and the disorganization of the forces of labor have joined to help the open shop drive. In certain industries unemployment is rapidly increasing. In several large cities in the east we have already read reports of missions and lodging houses filling up with hungry unemployed workers. That business men are looking to

Break Union Arrogance.
these conditions to help break union "arrogance" is freely admitted; although one prominent employer put it perhaps a trifle bluntly when said the other day: "The union man is not so cocky as he was just before the election. In a little while he will be eating out of his employers' hand." The unions are weakened as a fighting force by their jurisdictional divisions, their conservatism and preoccupation with petty politics. It is plain moreover, that at present public sympathy does not turn to organized labor. Accusations of "labor profiteering"—largely unjustified—and revelations, such as those lately made in New York of the corruption of individual labor leaders have hurt the workers' cause in the public mind.

With the generous assistance of the political party in power in Washington the employers have some reason to feel hopeful. Certain factors, however, may modify the outcome of their drive. If the period of depression turns out, as wiser men than Harding believe, to be a short one, the labor situation will change.

Revival Is Due.
The Federal Reserve monthly bulletin, the Annalist, the current report of the Harvard committee on economic research, the monthly review of National City Bank, all agree in a general expectation that a revival is due. If they are correct, it is obvious that the employers of the country cannot work their will upon even the weaker unions.

Even breads lines and unemployment and the vast pamphleteering campaign of organized business can do no more than defeat individual unions in weak industries and they may have the salutary effect of forcing the rank and file to think in other and more constructive terms. Meanwhile the poor public victimized like the labor unions by the literary deluge sent out by the employers, should keep firmly in mind the true meaning of the open shop:—The Painter.

THE RECORD.
Howell.—"Last night was the hottest night in the year."
Powell.—"Not for me; the hottest night for me was when my wife discovered that my pay had been raised and I hadn't told her of it."—New York Sun.

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SENATOR KELLOGG PUT MUZZLE ON RAIL BILL



FRANK B. KELLOGG.

During his campaign for election five years ago Senator Kellogg made a campaign among workmen on the strength of complimentary letters of endorsement given by officers of the railroad brotherhoods for some service he had rendered during the administration of President Roosevelt.

His friendship for the railroad brotherhoods evidently ceased upon his election to the senate. A holder of railroad securities, he voted for the Cummins bill, and recently engineered a coup by which L. E. Sheppard, president of the Order of Railroad Conductors, and W. H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists, were refused the privilege of appearing before the senate committee on Interstate Commerce to voice the protest of railroad employees against the passage of the bill to loan the road a half billion dollars.

Senator Kellogg will no doubt hear from the railroad men of Minnesota during the next campaign, and he will be called upon to give his reason for refusing to permit the railroad men to be heard on such a matter of vital concern to them.

THE OLD MANAGER SPEAKS

By Berton Braley.

I've handled a pick and a shovel,
I've sat at a bench in my time,
I've done heavy work in the heat
and the murk,
I've known all the sweat and the
grime;

And so, when some frosty-eyed expert
Talks "Labor" as if it was coal,
"A commodity"—well, I just choke
for a spell
Before I regain my control.

Plague take all this dope economic
That plans human toil in its
charts,
I tell you that "Labor's" your friends
and your neighbors,

It's folks that have bodies and
hearts,
It's fathers and brothers and husbands
and wives,
Who love and who hate and who
dream and who wait;

It's real people living their lives.
Now maybe I'm moss-backed and
rusty,
But here's how it lines up to me:
Statistics will aid in the plans you
have made,

They're useful to quite a degree,
But all of your lore scientific
Will fall down again and again,
Unless in your brain this one fact
you retain
That "Labor" means flesh-and-
blood Men.

In brief, it's a problem that's Human,
No soulless "Commodity" stuff,
And the very best plan I have hap-
pened to scan
Is just to be human enough;
And when it is finally settled
(I fear I won't be here by then)
It won't be by art of a book or a
chart,
But by Men dealing fairly with
Men.

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.
A tightwad had just lost a ducat
From the pocket in which he had
stucut;

"I'll bet you my life,"
He grumbled, "my wife
Has found out I had it and tucut."

THE UNION MAN'S CREED

I'll be as fair as I know how—to
the people I serve, to the people I
work for, to the people I work with.
With this creed I feel the rest is
in hands of Providence.

ANCIENT (?) HISTORY
Jack—"Your headache must be
due to all that home brew you drank
at Jonesy's party last night."
Mac—"No, no, not at all—I attrib-
ute it to the fact that I went to
sleep this morning without remov-
ing Jonesy's goldfish bowl I was wear-
ing for a helmet."—New York Sun.

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the hand, rather than the throat, will
fare best in the long run.

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