

# Trades Unions

## Savings Bank Lifts Load of Anxiety

By DANIEL J. McDONALD

**T**RADES UNIONS are formed to elevate humanity by increasing wages and by bettering the condition of the laboring classes. In work along each of these two lines they have been far more useful and effective than is generally believed. Each dollar increase in wages and each hour of leisure secured gives larger opportunity for education, thought and the gaining of knowledge.

Among the greatest of the loads borne by the workers are uncertainty of employment, heavy expenses of sickness and of death of the worker himself or of those dependent upon him or of those upon whom he is dependent; the loss of wages during such times of trouble and the lack of provision for old age. So small is the utmost possible amount of a workingman's savings that almost invariably it is swept away, sometimes repeatedly, by one of these causes, and old age finds the worker penniless.

Any movement like this of savings bank insurance that proposes to lift the financial load at times of sickness and non-employment, and makes provision for old age, is in direct line of trade union effort. By providing for future emergencies it promotes independence and lifts a load of anxiety. The man is more able to fit himself for advancement. The British labor movement has been noted from the beginning for the variety and extent of its financial assistance to its members in times of trouble. Unity, solidarity, steadiness of purpose, devotion and faithfulness of members have been the results. The splendid achievements in English labor legislation, far surpassing anything we can hope for in many years, are due to the unity of purpose and action produced largely by the fraternal care for each member. In this country we need to exercise more care for the welfare of each member, in order that each member may be more devoted to the welfare of the whole.

The ideal method of affiliation, if there is to be affiliation, between the labor movement and savings bank insurance, is for each union to insist that each of its members shall be properly and adequately insured.

*Daniel J. McDonald*

## Federal Clerks Receive Small Salaries

By ARTHUR BLANCHARD

Government clerks are generally thought to have an easy time by many outsiders, who envy the short hours and supposedly large pay of those who labor in the big department buildings of Washington.

The facts are entirely at variance with the popular conception. The employees of Uncle Sam have had no increase of salary for years and most of them are getting exactly the same pay their predecessors drew 50 years ago.

This affects a multitude of honest, hard-working men and women who are just able to make ends meet on their scanty stipends. The condition, indeed, so far from being enviable, is pitiable.

Realizing that conditions had vastly changed and that it requires far more to live decently now than it did in 1880, or even later, congress, a little while back, raised the salaries of senators and members of the house from \$5,000 to \$7,500 a year, an increase of 50 per cent.

The country at large found no fault with this piece of self-conferred liberality.

Now it is up to congress to be as just toward many thousands of government clerks as it was generous toward itself.

Investigations lately made show that a lot of these people are forced to take their children from school to help in the family support, while others are continually in the clutches of usurious money lenders.

## French Copying Many Yankee Notions

By HAROLD F. TRACEY

When in Paris lately I ran across so many Yankee notions and devices that I concluded the capital of La Belle France and New York City would be very much like twins after the lapse of a few more years.

They have American dentists, American saloons, where all kinds of mixed drinks of the sort we are used to are served; skating rinks, Luna park shows, shops where one can buy shoes from the Massachusetts factories, and hundreds of other products of the States.

You can see the fair dames of France wearing the long veils which the daughters of Uncle Sam introduced after motoring became fashionable and the Parisiennes have actually adopted the big handbags that only American women formerly carried on their shopping expeditions and by which their nationality was easily proclaimed.

I also saw in many stores roll top desks, adding machines and cash registers bought in this country and in my hotel in Paris was a mammoth self-playing piano which was branded U. S. A.

## Teacher Refuses Tribute to Santa Claus

By SAMUEL PARKER of Chicago

During the recent holiday season a teacher in one of the Chicago public schools was subjected to not a little criticism for refusing to pay tribute to the Santa Claus myth, declaring it to be wrong morally to teach a child a falsehood or to tell the child anything as a truth which it would discover to be false later on. Instead of being a target for thoughtless ridicule that teacher should command the respect of every teacher and parent who conscientiously regards the moral training of children. The holiest thing this side of heaven is the faith of a little child and he who carelessly or purposely abuses it perpetrates a wrong from which the abused child seldom fully recovers. If parents and friends would side-track the heathen myth and bestow their endearing gifts in their own names the dear children would be just as happy and escape the shock of falsehood and deception at the hands of those who ought to love them too well to expose them to such danger.

## SENDS TEACHERS TO PUPILS

Italy Reverses the Order of Things So That Education May Be Spread.

Italy's recent plan to educate her mountain folk is already in operation, according to the Rome correspondent of the New York Sun. As the shepherds of the Abruzzi could not be brought to school, teachers were sent to them. The percentage of illiterates among the inhabitants of the Abruzzi has always been very high, and statistics show that despite the fact that many schools have been opened in the towns and villages within the last five years, 68 per cent. of the population is still illiterate.

Some members of the board of education feared that the general spread of education among the peasantry would tend to a decline of religious faith. Others put forth the theory that the inhabitants of the Abruzzi had been ignorant and unlettered for centuries, and consequently had lost the aptitude to learn.

Prof. Emidio Agostinoni discovered the real cause. He noticed that the government schools in the towns and villages were not well attended, not because the boys were not willing to go to them, but because they could not. The majority of the inhabitants of the Abruzzi are shepherds, and spend nine months out of every year in the mountains, living in huts and tending their flocks.

Prof. Agostinoni suggested to the ministry of public instruction the plan which has now been adopted as an experiment.

Instead of having schools with teachers and empty benches, why not send the teachers up to the mountains where the boys are, and hold classes there?

The plan pleased some influential members of the board of education, and 15 teachers were furnished with horses and instructed to ride out every day and beat the country for pupils. Wherever they found boys or men willing to learn, they were to stop and teach.

The 15 traveling teachers have their hands full, as, to their great surprise, they found that the shepherds, young and old, are not only willing to learn to read and write, but that they are very quick and intelligent.—Youth's Companion.

### He Had Learned It.

Willie, five years old, was in his father's office one afternoon waiting to go home with him. Mr. S. was very much occupied—in fact so much so that he had quite forgotten that his young son was sitting behind him. At length the telephone rang and Mr. S. was told that there was a long distance call for him. He called "Hello!" a number of times, and just when his patience had about given out central rang vigorously while the receiver was still at his ear. At this Mr. S. uttered a terrible and forbidden word.

The words were no sooner out of his mouth than he remembered that his son was but a few feet from him. Wheeling about in his chair, he said, with humility:

"That was very wrong of father to say those naughty words, Willie. I hope," he added, "that my little boy will never use such dreadful language."

"I—I won't never say it, papa," replied the child, with a mischievous twinkle in his eye. "but I learned it all the same!"—Harper's Magazine.

### Fillipino Uniforms.

"The uniforms of these Filipinos," says Lieut. R. S. Keyes, U. S. N., in the Wide World, "were marvelous creations, but some of them would hardly be considered decent on Broadway. First came the cavalry, mounted on ponies and carabaoos, no two of the riders dressed alike. Here and there rode an ugly Visayan, happy in an old high hat and a breech clout, while others had not a rag on them save a high collar coming well up under the ears. Some of the riflemen and bolomen had a sort of Eton jacket, made of any color of cloth to be had, and marched bravely along in that, without even a breech clout. The popular dress, however, was the breech-clout of nipa leaves, high hats, Eton jackets and collars beyond the means of the majority. I remember remarking to Porter, who stood beside me in my room, that I should like to see just one company of our cavalry dash into the square; they would drive the whole eight or ten thousand caricatures clean out of the island. He laughed and said he could well believe it."

### Physical Exercise.

Comparing notes on physical exercise, some one asked Congressman Paul Howland what he did in that direction.

"Who, me?" he exclaimed with a good deal of warmth. "I have little need of any artificial form of exercise. I live on the sunset side of the river, you know, in West Fifty-seventh street, and my exercise consists in building the fire every morning."

The answer quite convinced all hands but one, a professional skeptic, who wanted to know, you know: "What sort of fire do you build?" he inquired. "Wood or coal?" "Neither," replied the congressman. "We use gas, and I have to scratch a match every time I light the fire."—Philadelphia Record.

### Our Specific Recollection.

Maud Allan, the dancer, has returned to America after 12 years abroad. Welcome, Maudie. We seem to have a bare recollection of you.

# WASHINGTON GOSSIP

## Nickel, Uncle Sam's Most Useful Coin



**WASHINGTON.**—The government could afford to dispense with almost any coin rather than the five-cent piece. It stands for more stable prices than any other. It is the price of a loaf of bread; it pays the cost of the ride in the street car; with it the German buys his glass of beer and the American pays for the shining of his shoes. It is probably not too much to say that the disappearance of the "nickel" would prove a greater shock to the finances of the nation than almost anything that could happen.

The five-cent coin for two generations, at least, has been the fixed price of so many things that the people would be at complete loss how to proceed without it. True, hundreds of thousands of five-cent pieces are lost each year, but that is due largely to the amazing use to which this little coin is put. The uses of business require the coinage of a greater number of "nickels" than any other coin.

The "nickel" is extensively used in telephone calls. It was formerly more than now the open sesame of the popu-

lar slot machine, for which it still does extensive duty. It is the price of admission to the fast multiplying picture shows in all parts of the country. The new-fashioned boot-shining parlor charges a "nickel."

The saloonkeeper and the baker for years have gathered their daily harvest of these little coins. The soda fountain, growing in popular favor, deals mostly in "nickels." Ice cream in summer time goes for five cents, and the charge for a myriad of things in the pharmacy and the five-cent store requires this coin.

Most smokers would have to quit were it not for the "nickel," obnoxious as the domestic cigar is to many of them. The cigarette would cease to be the popular smoke if it is the price were not five cents. Shoe laces would either become a luxury at a higher price or require payment in pennies.

Turn which way one will, the five-cent piece bobs up at every turn as the most necessary coin of the realm. Its discontinuance would inevitably increase the cost of a thousand things of every-day life, which no dealer now has the daring to change because of riveted custom.

There is no likelihood that the government will soon consider the elimination of this coin, as such action would result in a howl of disapproval nation wide.

## When Minister Bryan's Cat Came Back



**COL. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN**, who has been transferred from his place as minister to Portugal to that of minister to Belgium, had an unusual tribute paid to his popularity while serving as minister to Brazil. A large coffee importer, returning from a trip to the interior, brought with him a young onca, which is a species of wild cat or tiger, and he gave it to Col. Bryan as a testimonial of his regard.

The minister was fond of animals, and prized his gift highly, but the onca, while interesting during its youth, rapidly loses that attraction as it becomes older, one of its specialties being an insatiable appetite. The colonel wearied of his pet, and one day when some United States battleships were in port he presented the onca to the officers of the Iowa as a mascot.

In the course of time the men of the navy looked about for some one on whom to unload the animal, and at Buenos Ayres they fell in with a Chilean man-of-war. As a token of the cordiality existing between them, the impoverished Iowa officers gave the onca to the officers of the Chilean war-

ship. Donor and recipient were pleased beyond measure, and the ships resumed their journeys.

After the lapse of considerable time, a number of Chilean warships stopped in the harbor at Rio Janeiro, and among the entertainments prepared for the officers was one at the American legation. Minister Bryan was more than usually felicitous as a host, and the Chileans thought they should in some manner show their appreciation. So the next day a delegation of gold-laced, beplumed and clanking warriors appeared at the legation, and after presenting Col. Bryan an address teeming with good nature they gave him the onca—the same old cat, only larger and hungrier, and more repulsive—and the minister turned away to hide his tears. He had received the same token twice from two widely separated sources.

Later the onca was given to the captain of a merchant ship under an ironclad agreement the animal was not to be put ashore at a port anywhere if Col. Bryan was there.

Col. Bryan has had an interesting diplomatic experience. While serving in Brazil he witnessed the rise and collapse of a revolution against the republic, but the disturbance never was serious enough to cause embarrassment to the diplomatic corps.

Then he was transferred to Portugal and was in Lisbon at the time of the assassination of the king.

## How Mr. Grigg's Stopped an Elevator



**THE** late Congressman Griggs of Georgia once had an experience with a negro elevator operator in the post office department at Washington which the negro probably never will forget. The congressman entered an express elevator which was forbidden to stop below the fifth floor, on which is located the office of the postmaster general.

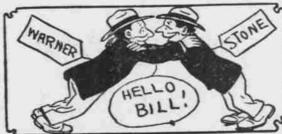
"Let me off at the fourth floor," said the congressman.

"This elevator doan' stop below the fifth flo'," responded the negro with finality.

"Let me off at the fourth floor," commanded Griggs, looking the negro in the eye.

"Deed, sah, dis elevator doan' stop at dat flo'. Why, it wouldn't stop even for the postmaster general hisself!" Griggs' southern ire was aroused.

## Missouri's "Bills" and a Bridge Bill



**IT** IS the custom in the senate for each senator to address every other one as "Mr." Talking with persons with whom they are not very well acquainted, it is probable that Senator Warner and Senator Stone each refers to the other as "Senator."

In their committee rooms, homes and among Missouri friends, the Missouri senators are "Bill" to each other. If Senator Stone has something to say of his colleague to one of his intimates, he will remark that he told "Bill" Warner, or he will suggest to the man to go and see "Bill" Warner. Close friends of Warner have heard him refer to "Bill" Stone. The Mis-

souri "Bills," though of opposite political parties, are very good personal friends.

"The senator from Missouri," said Vice-President Sherman. Senator Stone was on his feet in front of his desk on the Democratic side, addressing the chair.

Far back on the Republican side Senator Warner was doing the same. "The senior senator from Missouri," said the vice-president, looking directly at Warner. Again Senator Stone addressed the chair. "I am the junior senator from Missouri," said Warner, "if the chair intends to recognize me." "Then it is the junior senator who is recognized," said Sherman, and Warner introduced his bills.

Some time later Senator Stone was recognized and introduced his bills. It may have been more than a coincidence that each of the Missouri senators introduced a bill extending the time for the commencement of work on the municipal bridge at St. Louis.

## LOOKING AHEAD.



**Elephant**—Why does Longneck run around with his head so close to the ground?

**Lion**—Why, he's afraid that if he raises it he'll bump his head into one of those airships!

### Why He Was Lonesome.

Tommy, whose varying points of view are illustrated by the Farm Journal, had not yet learned the Golden Rule. Neither have a good many of his elders.

"I should like, Tommy," said his father, "that you might find some boy to play with you. Now what's the matter with Johnny Jenkins and the little Dobbs boy?"

"Pool! Why, they're a whole year younger than I am," said Tommy, contentedly. "I couldn't play with them!"

"Well, there's Jack Spear and Willie Harlow. Won't they do?"

"Yes, but they're a year older than I am," said Tommy, wistfully, "so the mean things won't play with me."

### Does He Love Anybody?

Von Moltke had some few human failings. He loved his wife devotedly, but conquered his alma mater, Denmark, even after she had educated him for the military service out of her poor, stingy pocket. But Kitchener is a machine man only. He loves neither man nor woman. His spear has never known a brother, as his sharp point has hewn asunder the bodies and souls of the sons of women.—Boston Post.

### Meaning of Cemetery.

It is not correct to say that "cemetery" means the "city of the dead." The word is from the Greek "Koimeterion," meaning sleeping place, not the place of the dead. There is nothing in the thinking that it was originally intended to convey the idea that the departed were really dead any more than there is in the old Hebrew term for cemetery—"Bethaim"—the house of the living.

## THE STORY OF THE PEANUT SHELLS.

As everyone knows, C. W. Post of Battle Creek, Michigan, is not only a maker of breakfast foods, but he is a strong individual who believes that the trades-unions are a menace to the liberty of the country.

Believing this, and being a "natural-born" scrapper for the right, as he sees it, Post, for several years past, has been engaged in a ceaseless warfare against "The Labor Trust," as he likes to call it.

Not being able to secure free and untrammelled expression of his opinions on this subject through the regular reading pages of the newspapers he has bought advertising space for his purpose, just as he is accustomed to for the telling of his Postum "story," and he has thus spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in denouncing trades-unionism.

As a result of Post's activities the people now know a whole lot about these organizations: how they are honeycombed with graft, how they obstruct the development of legitimate business, curtail labor's output, hold up manufacturers, graft upon their own membership, and rob the public. Naturally Post is hated by the trades-unionists, and intensely.

He employs no union labor, so they can not call out his men, and he defies their efforts at boycotting his products. The latest means of "getting" Post is the widespread publication of the story that a car which was recently wrecked in transmission was found to be loaded with empty peanut shells, which were being shipped from the south to Post's establishment at Battle Creek.

This canard probably originated with President John Fitzgerald of the Chicago Federation of Labor, who, it is said, stated it publicly, as truth.

Post comes back and gives Fitzgerald the lie direct. He denounces Fitzgerald's statement as a deliberate falsehood, an underhanded and cowardly attempt to injure his business, having not the slightest basis in fact. As such an effort it must be regarded. It is significant that this statement about "the peanut shells" is being given wide newspaper publicity. In the "patent inside" of an eastern country paper I find it, and the inference naturally is that labor-unionites are insidiously spreading this lie.

An institution (or a man) which will resort to moral intimidation and to physical force, that will destroy machinery and burn buildings, that will maim and kill if necessary to effect its ends, naturally would not hesitate to spread falsehood for the same purposes.

We admire Post. While we have no enmity toward labor unions, so long as they are conducted in an honest, "live-and-let-live" kind of a way, we have had enough of the tarred end of the stick to sympathize thoroughly with what he is trying to do. He deserves support. A man like Post can not be killed, even with lies. They are a boomerang, every time. Again, we know, for hasn't this weapon, every weapon that could be thought of, been used (and not simply by labor unions) to put us out of business, too?

I am going to drink two cups of Postum every morning from this time on, and put myself on a diet of Grape-Nuts. Bully for Post!—Editorial in The American Journal of Clinical Medicine.