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Labor Day

Labor Day, Sept. 6, 1920, finds the forces of labor in the United States facing a more bitter and determined opposition from the exploiting interests than ever before in its history. Labor Day, this year, is no time for the mouthing of meaningless platitudes concerning the dignity of labor but should be made a day for taking stock of ourselves.

Strike after strike has been lost, strikes of a magnitude hitherto unknown in America. The steel-workers, the coal-miners, the railwaymen, have all felt the iron heel of the employer and have been confronted with the political power of the state in the guise of injunctions and armed force. From coast to coast, the capitalists, through the National Chamber of Commerce and their manufacturers' associations, have organized themselves in a compact body to teach labor that the semi-prosperity it enjoyed during the last two or three years was only a fleeting thing conceded by the employers because of necessity and winked at because of the enormous profits made from the blood of millions who died in the war.

Competition no longer exists between the employing groups, though it still flourishes among the workers' organizations. The period of competitive capitalism is past, it has been replaced not only by national but by international associations of exploiters. Finance-capital owns not only banks but governments. It bends to its will every social agency. It recruits armies and wages war.

Contrast the position of labor in the United States. Divided into dozens of units, without national unity or coherence, rent and torn by internal dissension and jurisdictional disputes, officered by individuals without vision and often without honesty, living in an era that passed away twenty-five years ago, labor has much to do before it can hope to contest for supremacy with the capitalist on anywhere an even footing.

To say that the present system of craft organization has proven a failure, is merely to be true without seeking the true cause of the weakness of labor in this country.

Craft unionism was not a failure in the days of handicraft or individual production, when production was carried on by thousands of small industrial organizations in competition with one another. Craft organization does not function for the workers today, not because there is something inherently wrong in craft organization, but because industry itself has advanced beyond the individual stage, has developed and expanded until the modern factories and workshops, mines, mills, smelters and railroads, like those owned by the Steel Trust, have absorbed the individual owners and now dominate their particular field.

Craft organization, in other words, is obsolete, no more compatible with modern conditions than the spinning-wheel is compatible with the modern cotton-mill.

It is because the employers see that craft organization enables them to easily conquer the workers; that their publicity-agents, the press and the myriad avenues of information that capital controls constantly hammer into the worker's mind the danger of change. Capital has succeeded in keeping the minds of the workers of this nation at the same stage they were twenty-five years ago, in maintaining issues in the minds of the workers that were logical and helpful when industry was in the competitive stage. The capitalists themselves have not adhered to these worn-out ideas. Immensely productive machinery has replaced the crude apparatus of a quarter-century ago. No longer in competition with one another, the industrial capitalists have pooled their interests and with their surplus profits established huge financial institutions without whose good-will no enterprise can succeed.

In one thing only have they over-reached themselves. They fomented and caused the workers to fight a war that has all but wrecked the complicated system of production and exchange that it required two and one-half centuries to establish.

As a result of the misery and suffering inflicted upon the masses of all lands, an awakening has taken place. The workers are demanding, loudly here and freely there, but are still demanding a place in the sun.

Capitalism trembles, and it seeks what has always been its last recourse when the masses grow resentful of oppression—war and more war. It seeks to crush the working-class movement so far into the grime that it can never rise again, so it can make no effective stand against the rape of its liberties. It seeks to create a race of industrial serfs, chained to the machines of production owned by a few.

In America, we are cursed with the most brutal and arrogant ruling class in all the world. They have not been ruling for long and they have not learned tolerance. They are ruthless and domineering, as are all who are unused to power. They, themselves, are not cunning, but their hirelings are. They have bought the brains of the most brilliant of the working-class and they use them against us. They play cleverly upon our passions and prejudices and they keep us divided. They pit worker against worker and organization against organization. They tell us lies that we believe to our undoing. They enslave our minds and thereby enslave our bodies.

This, then, is the thought for Labor Day. Let us free our minds from the spell which the apologists of a system of society that breeds war and pestilence, unemployment and poverty, crime and ignorance, have cast over them. Let us recognize that the workers have but one enemy—capitalism, wage-slavery with its recognition of the right of the few to live on the labor of the many.

Let this Labor Day mean what it should mean—a day when labor takes stock of itself and lays plans for the future—the future that belongs to labor, the future when labor must assume the responsibility for the conduct of society or see civilization blotted out in a welter of blood.

Precocious Child

We are in receipt of a communication addressed to "The Citizens of Butte" but which is unsigned. The writer, however, gives a clue to her identity by stating, in conclusion, "I am only a young girl and my first name is Mary."

The communication shows, that for a young girl, Mary possesses an astonishing knowledge of the bootlegging and moonshining industry and deeply resents any interference with her right to imbibe red or yellow liquor.

After predicting the victory of Bolshevism, unless the official interference with the manufacture and sale of moonshine is stopped, Mary concludes with these wise words of advice to the trade:

"Bootleggers, Moonshiners and Customers, beware of the star and gun! Every other man is an agent of the law, in every rooming-house are girls employed by the government to help stamp down the liquor trade. We must be careful to whom we sell. Do not sell to any stranger, for he is apt to be one of the star and gun bunch."

Mary also says that she is a Bolshevik since "they have taken our liquor away," and they would probably forfeit her sympathy if she only knew that their first act was to destroy all the intoxicating beverages in Russia.

It will henceforth be one of the regrets of our life that we cannot publish this young girl's letter in full, expressing as it does the earnest yearning of a tender young heart for the dear days that are dead and gone. Seldom are we favored with a communication on one of the burning questions of the day in which the writer—young as she is—expresses herself with such ease and facility and that intangible thing called "punch."

We predict a great future for Mary if she does not inadvertently partake of a wood-ale-dial concoction prepared for her by unappreciative friends whom she seeks to protect from the clutches of the "star and gun bunch."

The earnings for the New York Federal Reserve bank for the half year ending June 30 amounted to approximately 10% per cent, or at the rate of 208 per cent for the year.

Under the law a very large part of this excess profit reverts to the government, and will be used by it, it is said, to add to the gold reserve.

Nothing comparable to the profiteering the government is guilty of through the Federal Reserve system has ever before been witnessed in this or in any other country.—Manufacturers' Record.

Is there a world plot to bring about the downfall of the British Empire? A lot of Englishmen are inclined to think so. Among those who are inclined to this opinion, and who are much in the public eye, are such men as Lord Sydenham and Sir Edward Carson, along with many others. British labor recently called on Lloyd-George and notified him in very plain language that if the British government declared war on Soviet Russia there would be a general strike that would not only paralyze the industries of England, but it would put a complete stop to the manufacture of all war material and the transportation of it. This would bring about a revolution that would certainly end in the overthrow of the King of England and of the Emperor of India.

Comment

To pull off a splendid pageant like that of Children's Day is much better for a community than to pull off a stunt like that of Bloody Wednesday.

Who says that Butte people are not well behaved? Thousands and thousands of people—half of them children—jammed together on the grass among the flower borders, and they did not molest or injure them. All that the children and the good folks of this community need is a chance to live like the decent people they are. And just think of it, the crowd was made up almost entirely of "common" working people.

Children's Day, at Columbia Gardens, was a beautiful and uplifting sight. Such occasions are in strange contrast to the Bloody Wednesday, and shows clearly what the human family would be like if the profit system was done away with. But it is better that such things are the result of the people's self-activity than the result of one man's "generosity."

Turkeys at Christmas are not so good as enough in the paycheck to supply your own wants.

Albert Hubbard, too, was generous in providing a musical and artistic "atmosphere" for his workers, rather than be generous just in the pay-envelope. He was a union fighter; and so his son. No one could marry and establish a home on the Roycroft musical "atmosphere", but they could on enough pay, and so have a generous atmosphere at home. The idea must be made to dawn on the people that they are IT, so they can take charge of their own affairs.

"REPORT ME AND MY CAUSE ARIGHT."

We think our subscribers will take some little satisfaction in knowing that the Americanism that the Bulletin represents is being presented to a thoughtful Montana public.

More and more our pretended civilization is becoming not a civilization of free men, but one of moral cowards. Conscience makes cowards of us all. We are constantly acting differently to what we know to be the actual truth.

What is the use of having "freedom of speech, freedom of conscience," and such like, if we never practice any of them?

"Adaptation to environment is the law of a race of slaves who are too childish, who have been in too great a measure arrested in their development, to guess what freedom means."

"We are a herd that depends for its existence upon protective coloration."

"I tell you, the American people are the most docile, the most easily led, the least individualistic people in the world," says an English visitor.

We have deluded ourselves into believing we are free.

"What is a gentleman but a man with a free mind?"

When a Girl Is Young

WHAT GOOD IS THE UNION LABEL?

By MIRIAM ALLEN DE FORD,
Staff Writer the Federated Press.

(Questions to the writer should be addressed care The Bulletin.)

A girl who reads this department has asked me by opinion of the recent action taken by a certain labor council in ordering that all delegates be stripped and inspected by a committee at every meeting, to be sure that their clothes bear the union label. She is evidently afraid that some day her Central Labor Council may make the same rule, and that the woman delegates may have some embarrassing experiences!

Seriously, the girl who belongs to a union and then doesn't care enough about its principles to ask for and purchase only goods bearing the label, isn't much of a union member at heart. She is organized only for better hours and better pay for herself, and not for the welfare and progress of all workers. The place to make the boss feel the power of the workers is in his pocketbook—nerves, and the way to make him realize the advantage of a "closed shop" is by boosting the profits on label goods and cutting them down on the non-label variety.

I have had people say to me: "Oh, I know that article is unimportant, so it doesn't matter whether it bears the label or not." That is like saying, "I know that bank clerk is honest, so we don't need to have him bonded." It would be an extensive faith in human nature for the average bank. Make the union-made article bear its name on its face, like any straightforward goods, and don't be ashamed, yourself, to wear and use things that tell the whole world they were made under decent conditions, by class-conscious workmen.

The Consumers' League conducts a White List and a label, and its members ask for and buy only the goods thus listed, because they know they are safe in doing so, and are not inadvertently patronizing sweatshops or child-labor factories. If these middle-class women can take so much trouble for your sake, can't you take just as much for your own?

There is one really serious objection I have heard to asking for label goods, and that is that they are not so good as other brands. That is not true: they are as good as any other articles of the same size and grade. And if you want them to be better, and to equal the best in the market, then more than ever you must ask for the label, for by so doing you are encouraging the unionized makers to turn out workmanlike, satisfactory manufacturers, showing in their very making the pride and solidarity of the kind of men and women who construct them.

It seems sometimes as if it weren't worth while to take pains for consumers who as a whole are only intent in keeping down the workers' wages to their own advantage, but goods bearing the label carry the reputation of the union on their faces; and besides, they are very likely to be the things used by our own selves and our fellow workers. So if you are

engaged in manufacturing articles, whether of clothing or otherwise, in a union shop using the label, keep up the standard as much as an individual can.

You can't treat yourself too well, you know—and the best way to convince the boss that the unions are a good thing is to make his product so good that there will be a great demand for it. Then some day when the workers control the industries and get full product for their labor, they will be treated to high standards of production, and all the public will reap the benefit. So buy label goods, if only to encourage the less good ones to be better, and to show your appreciation of the ones already good. And pretty soon there will be such a demand for the label that means justice and fair play and collective bargaining, that there won't be any money for a store selling anything that doesn't bear it.

BULLETIN IS PRAISED IN 'TRUTH' EDITORIAL

The bosoms of The Bulletin editorial staff swelled with a pardonable pride the other day at reading an editorial in The Truth, Duluth, Minn., wishing this Godspeed on its second birthday. Comrade Jack Carney, editor of The Truth, one of the most inspiring militant working class weeklies of the land, is the author of the editorial, and The Bulletin staff considers it an honor to thus be spoken of in The Truth, Carney is in Butte today, renewing old friendships, and it is not an inopportune time to reprint a squib from his editorial:

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY

The Butte Daily Bulletin has just celebrated its second year of existence. We desire to extend to The Bulletin staff our heartfelt greeting.

The Butte Daily Bulletin is by far the best daily paper in these United States. The word compromise is not found in their dictionary and at all times they can be found fighting with the working class.

MUST BE "CONGENIAL"

(Special United Press Wire) Chicago, Sept. 4.—Demand that railway workers have the right to select congenial working partners was made to Federal Judge Samuel Aleschuler by A. Werner, representing the Brotherhood of Railway Car Men. No two men must be required to work together as partners for more than three days unless agreeable to both, the arbitrator insists. Aleschuler, as arbitrator, is considering demands for 35 cents an hour for skilled workers, while others ask for 65 cents an hour for all.

LABOR DAY

(Continued from Page One.)

body, undergone partly or wholly with a view to future good. When we labor, we make a physical or mental effort to accomplish some end; we exert the powers of body or mind for the attainment of some good result; we work; we strive. At certain times we are burdened with labor; we are oppressed with difficulties, we proceed or act with great difficulty, so we have a Labor day holiday, which is a very good thing.

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Labor day is set apart as a holiday, when those who toil may cease from their labors for one day. Before the time that the Anaconda decided to attempt to destroy all unions by its crushing coils, the slimey kept press of Montana that represents the rock-snake used to spill over with fulsome praise about organized labor and the splendor of the parades of the mighty army of the workers; then Labor day was turned into a festival, with the crash of bands and the marching of the multitudes; then the stores were busy for a week prior to the day, selling the goods to be used; and everybody was radiant with happiness. Today, all is changed! The rock-snake decided it would crush organized labor, and so we have the spectacle of another kind of Labor day—a day when labor has turned upon the Anaconda, for the purpose of destroying its political power. The Anaconda may not be out of business, but it is well on the way to be out of the control of politics. A new Labor day has burst forth! The laborers in the fields, in the forests, and in the mines have discovered their political strength when united.

The laboring man could have discovered no stronger single factor to help him in his struggle than a labor press to kill the poison spit out by the Anaconda kept press. Every working man and woman in Montana should send a day's pay during the month of this September to the paper fund to help keep the labor press at work. Laboring men and women must make a supreme sacrifice so that the voice of labor shall not fail and perish. The battle is only half won, for next November will come the supreme test between the rock-snake and the people. From now on subtle poison will be disseminated broadcast from the three Butte fangs of the Anaconda. Get your antidote ready!

STRIKE FOR UNION SHOP IS ILLEGAL, SAYS JUDGE

(By the Federated Press.)

Newark, N. J., Sept. 4.—A decision just handed down by Vice Chancellor Backus that a strike to enforce the union shop is illegal, provides another weapon in the anti-union fight which is raging in the east. The ruling was made in the case of the Atlantic Smelting and Refining company, which is having a plant constructed here by the Lehigh Structural Steel company.

Work was halted, completed, when a strike was called by Local No. 11 of the International Brotherhood of Bridge and Iron Workers, because non-union labor is being employed. An injunction was issued against the union, and against one of the officials of the Atlantic company, who refused to allow strike-breakers to complete the work.

Labor union was brought by the Lehigh company against the union and the Atlantic company to prevent cancellation of the contract, and the court ruled that the union shop principle was unlawful.

REFUSE TO RELEASE

(Continued From Page One.)

The London Daily Herald, led to her recognition of General Wrangel on the condition that she be given priority in the payment of the czar's debts.

The second reason is that there is much Red Cross personnel and equipment in France that is frankly in need of a job. The care of nearly 800 children of all ages from 3 to 20 would employ a considerable force.

Through an embarrassing accident the Red Cross was forced to alter its official reasons for changing its route. The original excuse was that the parents had not been heard from, and it was necessary to stop in France and get in touch with them before proceeding.

Unfortunately Major Allen's official report of the expedition stated that direct communication had been received from the parents as late as May, declaring that conditions in Russia now warranted the return of the children. Faced with this report, Major Allen was inclined to give something like the real reason for the shift in the plan.

So after indecisive sufferings and peril, the little Russian hostages in a world at war, are to be requested "indefinitely." They left the Petrograd district early in 1918 because their parents and the Soviet officials knew they could get more food in the farming districts of western Siberia. Some of the children were from wealthy families, and some were from institutions. They were in charge of teachers and nurses.

When the Kolchak offensive collapsed, and the children were directly in the path of the retreating armies, the Red Cross stepped in to rescue them from horror. The only safe direction was eastward, and the colony was finally established in Vladivostok. The children studied and played and sewed and learned many of the things American children are taught. Like American children, they were not informed about the political situation of their own country.

In spite of this intellectual boycott which has been thrown around the children, they were free and pointed in being Russian visitors to Fort Wadsworth, so that they thought about the whole matter. The general cry was: "If we can't go home right away, why don't they leave us here in New York where there are many Russians to look after us?"

Some of the older children are drawing up formal protests at being "deported" to France, in Russia they were the cornerstone of the state. In America they are being moved about like pawns on a chessboard in a game they do not understand.

Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, representative of this country of the Russian Soviet government, has sent a letter to the Red Cross headquarters in Washington demanding that the children be sent directly to Russia, and that if the Red Cross cannot immediately decide to seek contact with the Soviet government through him, that the children be kept in New York until the question of their return is solved.

"It is cruelty to the children and to their parents not to return them to their homes, and it is an indication of the grossest neglect of the interest of the children, and of the utmost indifference to their fate, to undertake to forward them to France, the last country in the world that will pay any attention to the needs of the children who are citizens of the Russian Soviet republic," says the letter.

The France which is egging on the Poles to crush the Soviet republic is not a country that will show much solicitude for the welfare of Russian children who are eager to reach their homes in Soviet Russia.

I am ready to make every effort to get in touch with the Russian Soviet government without delay, in order to arrange for the return of the children to their home in Petrograd, in which the Russian Soviet government, ever solicitous of the welfare of the rising generation, will be more than anxious to aid me.

FIGHTERS ARE

(Continued from Page One.)

Reddy claims that Miske has suffered from a curvature of the spine for years but now is completely cured. Miske, he says, gained only inch in height and added 15 pounds to his fighting weight. Both men are expected to enter the ring at from 190 to 200 pounds. Both have been married. Miske has a wife and two children in St. Paul.

Dempsey is from Chicago. Miske is the son of a St. Paul policeman.

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