The Knoxville Independent

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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

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DELEGATE TO KENTUCKY FEDERATION OF LABOR
John Jeffrey -------- Pittsburg, Ky.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR KENTUCKY
John McIlquhan ------ Pittsburg, Ky.

Plaster modelers in New York city receive a weekly wage of from $30 to $100.

Wages of bricklayers in New York city are $6 per day.

Unorganized employees of the Pacific Oil and Lead works of San Francisco have been forced to strike because of a twelve hour day and unbelievable working conditions.

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America will meet at Kansas City, Mo., on Sept. 10.

The physical well being, mental development and recreational needs of every class of population demand that under normal circumstances the working day should not exceed eight hours.

A very large percentage of the workmen in manufactures, transportation and mining, work more than eight hours per day.

New Immigration Law.

The senate repassed the immigration bill, with its long fought literacy test clause, over the president's veto by a vote of 62 to 19, and it thus becomes law without his signature. The house previously had overturned the veto, 287 to 106.

The literacy test excludes all aliens over sixteen years of age who cannot read English or some other language or dialect, including Hebrew or Yiddish. Any admissible alien, however, or any citizen of the United States may bring in or send for his father or grandfather, over fifty-five years of age; his wife, mother, grandmother or unmarried or widowed daughter, if otherwise admissible, regardless of whether such relatives can read.

A GREAT MOVEMENT.

The labor movement is a down on the earth bread and butter proposition calculated to benefit the membership now as well as in the future.

The battle of trade unionism is a battle for the home, for manhood and womanhood and a higher standard of civilization.

Organization of labor is the only thing that will secure to the individual the proper return for the labor expended in any given trade or calling.

WOULD RID LABOR OF FOREIGN FOES

Gompers Starts Movement to Americanize Trade Unionism.

TO FREE IT FROM PACIFISM

Organized Workers of This Country Are Loyal to the Government and to Its Principles and Are Prepared to Support It In Its Efforts to Maintain Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

An advisory council of the American Alliance For Labor and Democracy was organized recently in New York city by Samuel Gompers, president, and Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, and local labor leaders and former members of the Socialist party co-operating in an effort to "Americanize" the union labor movement and free it of pacifist influences.

Mr. Gompers, for whom the occasion marked the fifty-fourth anniversary of his arrival in this country from England, was announced as the chairman of the new organization, which will open headquarters in New York city and begin a vigorous campaign on national lines.

"The fight is now on to a finish," said Mr. Gompers. "The issue is straight cut—whether or not the labor movement in this country shall be American or anti-American. Our work will be to Americanize that part of the working class not yet thoroughly Americanized, and to combat those who under any name would prostitute the name of labor for the benefit of the foes of the United States and of labor.

"The labor movement in this country is loyal to the government and to its principles and will loyally support it in its efforts to carry the war for justice, freedom and democracy to a triumphant conclusion."

Asked what methods would be employed against the pacifist forces, Mr. Gompers replied:

"The chief weapon of this crowd has been publicity. That is all that is needed to destroy their movement, for once it is generally known who they are and what they represent and what they seek their power for evil will be reduced to a minimum. The only way to fight is to fight, and we are going to carry this fight right to them."

TO ALLEVIATE DISTRESS.

American Labor Association Proposes Health Insurance Bill.

Sickness and poverty are so closely related as cause and effect that they form one of the greatest social problems of today. Legislators, health workers, employers and employees have long sought a remedy against sickness and its dependency, and it is now believed that the American Labor association has proposed a health insurance bill that will be the solution of this great problem. Health workers have for some time looked favorably on health insurance legislation. As a public health measure they believe it will be a powerful factor in the prevention of sickness, particularly among the industrial population.

Some of the benefits to be derived from the health insurance bill of the American Labor association are medical, surgical and nursing attention, including necessary hospital care, medicines and supplies for both the insured and their dependents, a sickness benefit, beginning on the fourth day of illness; a maternity benefit, consisting of all necessary medical care, for the wives of insured men and a funeral benefit of not more than $100.

The cost of these benefits amounts to about 4 per cent of wages and is to be borne two-fifths by the employee, two-fifths by the employer and one-fifth by the state.

The bill makes health insurance universal for all manual workers and for others earning $100 a month or less, because experience has shown that voluntary insurance does not reach those who need its protection most. It is to be managed jointly by employers and workers under the supervision of the state.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

The trade union movement represents the desire of wage earners to improve their condition in life, says the Shoe Workers' Journal. It is a recognition that the individual worker is in no position to bargain with the employer as to the amount of his wages or the conditions of his labor, but that the whole number of employees in a given industry or in a given operation of a stated factory may, by combining as one, make what is known as a collective bargain with the employer and thus benefit themselves through their collective bargain, when acting separately as individuals they would be defeated.

This principle of collective bargaining is vital to the success of the organized wage earner. Trade unions have sought from the inception of the movement for the establishment of this principle of collective bargaining.

DUTY OF WORKERS.

We assert that it is the duty, as it is also the plain interest, of all working people to organize as such, meet in council and take practical steps to effect the unity of the working classes as an indispensable preliminary to any successful attempt to eliminate the evils of which we so bitterly and justly complain.—Samuel Gompers.

BOOST THE UNION LABEL.

It Has Done Much For the Betterment of Society In General.

The question is often asked, "What one feature of organized labor stands out most prominently in its efforts to benefit the union workers of the land?" The answer in some cases depends largely on the trade or calling of the one doing the answering. But, on the whole, boosting the union label is the outstanding activity if one is to consider the whole mass of organized labor.

The desire on the part of organized labor to give the buying public a chance to discriminate between the products of fair and unfair employers quickened into life the union label.

When organized labor first started to educate its own members and those who sympathized with the aims and desires of the trade unionists up to the point of demanding the label when purchasing goods, very little opposition to the label was brought forward by unfair employers. But after this campaign of education had taken root and the members of organized labor were made aware of the great possibilities of the label, opposition began to spring up from many sources. Of course this protest could be traced to those who were antagonistic to all that organized labor had ever proposed.

If the union label did not stand for anything—if any employer could use it without having to comply with conditions that he would not otherwise have to comply with—there would be no opposition to the union label.

The mere fact that every employer who believes in low wages and long hours is opposed to the union label is conclusive proof that the union label means better wages and less hours.

Anything that has tendency to have employers treat employees fairly is worthy of respect; hence the union label is respected by every person who respects the rights of others.

If the union label is a good thing for organized labor—and all of us realize that it is—then it becomes the duty of every member of organized labor to purchase only union made goods. Money spent in that way comes right back into the pockets of organized labor. When a person spends money for union made goods that person immediately becomes an employer of union labor.

By creating a demand for union made goods collective bargaining becomes easier. If any employer finds that his goods must bear the union label if he wants to sell them he is apt to be more reasonable when it comes to negotiating wage scales and reducing the hours of labor.

The union label is the emblem of human progress. The label has done more for the women and children of this land than has any other one thing. The label to a large extent is responsible for the partial elimination of the sweat shop; it has taken the child from industry; it has established a shorter workday; it has been of vast assistance in maintaining union conditions; it has established the superiority of the union workman in every branch of industry that it has touched.

Every member of organized labor can take part in any activity dealing with the union label. In fact, it is the layman of the organized labor movement that must boost the union label.

And the way to boost all labels is to purchase union labeled goods to the exclusion of others.

Isn't the effort worth while?—Charles E. Scott in Los Angeles (Cal.) Citizen.

Boxmakers Strike.

A general strike of paper box workers, affecting 10,000 women and about 800 men drivers, is on in Manhattan borough, New York. The union sent an ultimatum to the paper box manufacturers, but no reply was received. The strikers are demanding a forty-eight hour week, 20 per cent increase in wages, five legal holidays a year, the abolition of "cellar shops" and the recognition of the union by employers. It was announced by Morris Waldman, organizer of the union, that in case the walkout is general in Manhattan the strike order will be extended to include 20,000 workers in Brooklyn and New Jersey.

LABOR NOTES.

You are placing a premium on non-union labor every time you buy goods without a label.

Remember union men should demand union label goods and see that their dealers carry them.

The forceful democratizing agency that has been operating in the economic world has been the trade union movement.

Hundreds of men are needed on the farms of the middle west at the present time and will be needed for some weeks to come.

The greatest force for the betterment of the worker's condition lies in the worker himself—not by independent effort, but by uniting with his fellow worker and presenting a solid front.

Send us your job printing
We do job printing at fair prices.

TENNESSEE

Happenings You Are Interested In

A special soldier boys' service was held at the First Methodist church in Covington Sunday.

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The Rev. H. R. Rose, the new pastor of the Jackson First Methodist church, has assumed his duties.

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There was a reunion of Confederate Veterans of Western Tennessee and Western Kentucky in Paris.

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The First State Bank & Trust company was organibed in Colliersville, with a capital stock of $15,000 paid up.

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Rev. C. G. McIlwain preached his farewell sermon as pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Newbern.

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The public roads along the mail routes throughout Dyer county have been graded and put in excellent condition.

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Central Association of Baptists met in the eighty-first annual session with the Oakwood church, between Milan and Cades.

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The annual convention of the Tennessee State Woman's Christian Temperance union will be held in Bristol Oct. 12, 13, 14 and 15.

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While operating a joiner at the Watertown planing mill Ernest Patton, son of the proprietor, lost three fingers from his right hand.

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The southern headquarters of the Young People's Society of the Christian church has been moved from Birmingham to Chattanooga.

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Central Association of the Missionary Baptist church at Oakwood adjourned to meet in September, 1918, with the church at Medina, Tenn.

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Hard tack, old-fashioned war bread, was served at a dinner at the annual reunion of the Knox County Union Soldiers' association at Fountain City.

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Earl Graul, interned German sailor, who died at base hospital, Fort Oglethorpe, was given a military funeral and his body interred in the National Cemetery.

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Sam E. Clearge, for 12 years East Tennessee clerk to the supreme court, Knoxville, was re-elected to that position by the court for another term of six years.

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Memphis has contributed more physicians to the medical corps of the army than any other city in the United States, in proportion to its population, according to information contained in a telegram.

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The Rev. Albert Koller, the new pastor of the Mars Hill Presbyterian church in Athens, and the Rev. S. B. Ogle, new pastor of the First Baptist church, have arrived and both ministers filled their pulpits Sunday.

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Tennessee's minerals and forests will be wonderfully depicted in an imposing exhibit at the Memphis Tri-State Fair, which begins its annual seven-day run Sept 22, according to Frank D. Fuller, secretary of the fair.

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Litigation launched in the Rutherford county chancery court at Murfreesboro involves the disposition of what is known as the Boggatt place there, containing 1,400 to 1,500 acres and valued at $50,000 to $80,000.

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Rose Jackson, a prominent farmer of the Thirteenth district, 40 years old, was killed on his farm, near Palmyra, when a heavy piece of timber fell on him, breaking his neck. Mr. Jackson was hauling timber when a heavy beam became dislodged.

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Organization of farmers in various ways, in order to do their patriotic duty to their country in the war crisis, was the keynote of practically all the addresses delivered at the session of the West Tennessee Farmers' Institute in Jackson.

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In amount and quality the Sullivan county wheat yield of the present year is said to have surpassed that of any other county in East Tennessee.

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The old school building and lot known as the Newbern public school, which is located on the north side of the railroad, near the business section of the city, was sold here at auction by City Recorder Tobe Fulghum, and brought $2,600.

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The woman's committee of the national council of defense, recently organized in Paris, has sent in its first order for wool for knitting for the soldier boys of Henry county. The ladies have resorted to various methods to raise funds with which to purchase the thread. The food conservation committee, of which Mrs. J. D. Beasley is chairman, is distributing Hoover pledge cards to the housewives of Henry county.

Tribute to Workers.

The noblest men I know on earth
Are men whose hands are brown with toil,
Who, backed by no ancestral gifts,
Hew down the woods and till the soil
And win thereby a prouder name
Than follows kings' or warriors' fame.

The workingmen, whate'er their task,
Who carry stone or bear the hod,
Reveal upon their honest brows
The royal seal and stamp of God;
And worthier are their drops of sweat
Than diamonds on the coronet.

God bless the noble workingmen,
Who build the cities of the plain,
Who dig the mines and build the ships
And drive the commerce of the main!
God bless them, for their toiling hands
Have wrought the glory of all lands!

—Colonel R. M. Cochrane.

The Making of the Flag

by Wilbur D. Nesbit
Author of
"Your Flag and My Flag"

How did we make the flag?
By rule?
By compass, and square, and line?
With pattern, and thread, and the sempster's tool,
To follow the plain design?
Was it only the lore that the draftsmen knew
That gave us the red, and the white, and blue?

How did we make the flag?
Not all
By measuring stitch and seam;
For part of it came from a country call
And part of it is a dream—
Is a vision that led brave souls aright,
And gave us the red, and the blue, and white.

How did we make the flag?
In peace
We fashioned it fold on fold;
In war it was blend with the grim caprice
The drums in their summons rolled.
'Twas the courage alike of the quick and dead
That gave us the blue, and the white, and red.

How did we make the flag?
'Twas thus
It came to its grace and worth;
Through all that is good in the souls of us
The banner has had its birth;
'Twas the holier strength of the purpose true
That gave us the red, and the white, and blue.

Thus have we made the flag?
Ah, no!
By colors that will not fade,
By sinuous sweep and by deathless glow,
'Tis us that the flag has made!
And it whispers today to each star-told state:
"You must hold me high and must keep me great!"

(Copyright, 1917, by W. D. Nesbit.)

"MADE IN AMERICA"

What's the Use?

Why not pledge yourself to use "Made In America" goods exclusively?

American artisans can equal the handiwork of any other country.

There's no reason why prices should be higher and many reasons for keeping the money at home.

The billions that go to Europe will now keep all American workmen employed. You do your part.

Send Us Your Job Printing.
We do Job Printing at Fair Prices.

War Plant Closed by Strike.

While in the midst of a rush to turn out nautical instruments for the ships being built for the emergency fleet corporation and allied nations, the entire force at the plant of John E. Hand & Son at Haddonfield, N. J., struck for a nine hour day, with the same pay now being received for ten hours. Because of the refusal of the demands of the company, the entire force walked out, and the plant closed down.

Send Us Your Job Printing.
We do Job Printing at Fair Prices.
Subscribe for the Independent.

Jewelers May Strike.

A strike involving 4,000 jewelry workers in Newark, N. J., may be called by the unions as a result of the action of the leading manufacturers in publishing advertisements backing up the firm of Carter, Gough & Co. in refusing to concede the demands of their employees for a closed shop. One employee left the union, but the company refused to discharge him, and the rest of the men walked out.