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**MEN'S AND BOYS' UNION MADE CLOTHING.**

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Our line of \$15.00 hand tailored Union Made Suits is equal to any custom make. Bear in mind if in want of an extra size, extra long, or stout suit

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who visited our store shared with the great bargains of the

**GREAT SAN FRANCISCO SALE.**

This sale will continue seven more days and give every economical buyer another chance to secure merchandise at manufacturers prices.

**Lasky's**

105 CAPITOL STREET.

"The Underselling Store."

## To Ministers of the Gospel.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.]

concern can neither sue nor be sued, so that both the employer and the trades union are on an equality before the law in this respect. Furthermore, if the trades union was to become incorporated it would be a comparatively easy matter for an unscrupulous employer to hire a spy to commit an act of lawlessness which would involve the destruction of property whereby the entire union would become involved. A successful suit for damages would practically disrupt the organization. If all employers were absolutely honest, the incorporation of the union might be insisted upon; but for the reason given above, organized labor is naturally cautious about taking a step which would bring it practically no advantage, while it would lay itself open to the assaults of its enemies.

The right to run one's business "as he pleases" must have its limitations. Great changes in the conception of personal and property rights have come as part of the democratic evolution. In some respects a man can run his business as he pleases, but in other respects public opinion, and frequently public law, steps in and limits his exclusive control. In the matter of employment it is being recognized that there are two parties instead of one. A man may do as he pleases only in so far as that liberty does not injure the well being of his fellow man. One may not set fire to his own house, nor may he sell cigarettes or whiskey, in some States because the exercise of that privilege might injure somebody.

### RELATION OF THE LABOR UNION TO THE NON-UNION MAN.

The non-union man by accepting lower wages and longer hours, sets up the standard of living for the entire craft. He may degrade the men who required years of hard work to bring themselves up to their present social and economic level. It is because of this fact that workingmen object so strongly to Chinese and Japanese immigration. But what about the non-union man who demands and receives everything that the unionist asks for? Surely, it may be said, he is not degrading the workingmen. That may be true, for the present. The time may come, however, when the workingmen of his craft may have a grievance which will require a united protest against the unfair treatment of the employer. Outside of the organization, that non-union man may become a menace to our interests, even though he is receiving union wages and working union hours. He may be used against us. Furthermore, he is receiving the benefit of the years of sacrifice and hardship of his fellow workingmen without assuming any of the obligations of the union. He is quite willing to have others fight his battles, without subjecting himself to the perils of the warfare, and frequently his "conscientious scruples" against joining the labor union consist simply of an unwillingness to assume these obligations.

### "LIMITATION OF OUTPUT."

Limitations of output is some times urged against the trades union. This is untrue, but practically no attention is given the regular meetings of manufacturers and dealers in which they openly discuss and agree upon prices and the limitation of their product in order to maintain these prices. This applies to practically every great corporation. In some industries the producer will cut off the supply of the dealer if he sells the product cheaper than the price demanded. Meanwhile the same concern will insist on the workingman's right to sell HIS labor for whatever price HE pleases. Every storekeeper despises the merchant who cuts his prices, but he will usually defend the workingman who cuts his.

We are sometimes accused of limiting the number of apprentices in a particular shop. But we have been compelled to resort to this measure at times because some employers have filled their shops with boys, who were frequently kept at work on a particular machine or on the same kind of special work, which enabled them to earn a man's wages in a year or two, thus not depriving the full fledged mechanic of his position, but, at the end of his apprenticeship, the young man found himself a specialist, unable to pursue his craft as a journeyman, and therefore replaced by another boy, who would pass through the same experience.

In the matter of piece work, when the employers found that by hard spurts their employes could earn a little more than was customary, it frequently happened that a reduction was ordered in the piecework price, so that soon this system in many trades became "the pace that kills."

In practically every instance where the rules of the labor union seem unjust or tyrannical we have been compelled, in self-defense, to establish such laws as would guarantee us some protection against further encroachments by unscrupulous employers.

The extra five minutes at the end of the day in order to "finish a job" became a regular thing, and soon lengthened into a quarter of an hour or longer, while frequently a protest brought only abuse. Hence, the apparently arbitrary ruling that under no circumstances must a man work beyond the time limit.

### MORAL AND ETHICAL VALUE.

The labor union has an ethical value which is rarely appreciated. Labor halls have become social centers. Frequently helpful lecture courses are given. Social features, uplifting in character, are often supported. The labor press educates the trades unionist in technical matters, presents higher ideals and urges better living.

There is a moral virtue in the regular meetings of the union. A man soon realizes that he cannot force a particular measure upon his associates. He must possess the facts and present them. Every man has a fair chance to present his views, no matter how unpopular he or they may be. He learns the lesson of subordination to the will of others, which is always a good discipline. He learns the value of brotherhood, of co-operation, of "team-work." He is sometimes called upon to make real sacrifices for the sake of his fellows. It frequently happens when it becomes known that a member of a labor union who has run into debt desires to "skip the town" that his union will withhold his traveling card until his debts are paid.

Very little has been said to the public about the millions of dollars which have been expended in sick and death benefits by trades unions. Rarely does a trades unionist apply to the charity organization society, or any other society for aid.

Organized labor has done much for the cause of temperance among workingmen. There is probably no purely philanthropic organization which has done more in this direction. In many instances there is a prohibition clause in the contract with the employer. The rules of the union declare that an injured man will not receive the weekly sick benefit if the injury was sustained while he was intoxicated. More and more labor union meetings are being held in halls which are free from saloons. Rarely do they meet on Sunday.

### TRADES UNIONISM AND THE IMMIGRANT.

Trades unionism is doing more to Americanize the immigrant than any other institution, not excepting the church, according to the United States Labor Commissioner in the bi-monthly report issued January, 1905. It is teaching him the nature of the American form of government. In the old country the word "government" meant oppression. He soon understands that here it means "friend." In the labor union he gets away from his clammy instinct, which even his religion has not heretofore been able to accomplish.

Organized labor has done much for the abolition of child labor, for the doing away of the sweatshop, unsanitary conditions in the shop and tenement, and the long hours, which left the workingman no time for mental or moral improvement. We realize that isolated cases may be cited which seem to disprove some of the above statements, but the principles presented are those for which organized labor as a whole stands.

For these reasons we ask for a fair consideration of our cause, and we earnestly seek your co-operation in our desire to improve the condition of the toiling masses, because we believe that in these things we have much in common.

### New Bank Launched.

Organized labor of Chicago launched a new bank in that city last Saturday. It bears the name "Commonwealth Trust and Savings Bank," and starts out with a capital of \$500,000.00, half of which has already been paid in. The by laws of the new institution provide that organized labor shall always have six of the eleven directors. The promoters expect to see the new bank the depository of all union funds, which amounts to several million dollars in Chicago alone. This advanced step taken by the union people of the "Windy City" should encourage unionists in other parts of our Country to follow their example and establish like institutions in which to place their surplus earnings.

THE LABOR ARGUS sent one year for one dollar, in advance.

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Tailors to the Masses.

103 Capitol Street, CHARLESTON, W. VA.

## NATIONAL CIGAR STANDS

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of the way the National Cigar Stands save the smoker money. Here's a full plump Perfecto, made by hand of selected seed and Havana leaf. It is just such a cigar as is sold in the average cigar store at 3 for 25c; a fragrant, mild smooth combination that pleases more smokers than any other class of cigars known to the trade. This is the name—and will be famous

## BLACK AND WHITE

This 3 for 25 cent quality at 5c is a good example of the result reached by this combination of 2000 drug store cigar stands with a single compact, powerful buying concern. It cuts out profits and expenses that have heretofore nearly doubled the cost of cigars. National Cigar Stands now give the same qualities, often at half what they used to cost, always for less.

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### A Story With a Moral.

A saloon keeper says, "Do you want to know how I happened to go into the saloon business? Well, I'll tell you. One day a man came in and he wanted to look at some cheap socks. I showed him some that were 10 cents a pair. He asked me if I didn't have something cheaper. I got down some that were 5 cents a pair. He looked at them for some time and finally insisted that they were too expensive and walked out. I happened to step to the door and see him go into a saloon, and I followed him out of curiosity. There were several persons in the saloon and the man called them up and treated. He spent 80 cents for booze. I concluded when a man kicked on buying socks at 5 cents a pair and immediately spent 80 cents for booze that the saloon business was the business I wanted to engage in, so I got into it as soon as possible."

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