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Labor Forward Movements

Are Practical and Develop Enthusiasm. — They Must Not Abandon Sentiment and Idealism.

Trade unionists should at all times encourage labor forward movements, declares the last A. F. of L. convention, on recommendation of the executive council.

These activities develop enthusiasm in the workers' cause, they unfold great opportunities for aggressive action, they equip men to defend the philosophy of trade unionism, they solidify the ranks of those who toil, and they invariably result in an increased trade-union membership.

"The labor forward movement has become an established agency in the extension of the trade union movement, and has grown increasingly in favor," says the executive council, in its annual report.

"Perhaps one of the most valuable characteristics of many of these movements is that the plans for carrying out activities begun by labor forward movements have become a permanent part of the work. This indicates the realization of the fact that some outlet must be provided for the enthusiasm and spirit aroused by the labor forward movement. This special kind of work affords an opportunity for activity on the part of all members of the labor movement. Since it has the effect of developing the ability and the desire for work on the part of individual members, it adds permanent strength and aggressiveness to the organizations.

"The educational value can not be overlooked in estimating the labor forward movement.

"As the members of the labor movement become speakers and orators for labor, they, also, become defenders of the cause of trade unionism, and they feel a more intimate concern for the success of the cause. The success equips them for larger and wider activities and greater usefulness in carrying on the work of the movement.

"Labor forward movements generate an enthusiasm and open up greater opportunities for future work. The nature of this kind of a campaign makes for closer association between members of the same and different trades and industries, and hence develops the feeling of fraternity and federation.

"We feel that the labor forward movements of the country are the means for renewing devotion to the cause of labor, which is the cause of humanity, and for arousing enthusiasm and creating new ideals for our age-long struggle for liberty and better life.

"In conducting these campaigns it is well to have in mind that anything which is vitally and intimately associated with the lives of the people must touch emotions very closely.

"The labor movement can not afford to abandon sentiment and idealism. One of the most common and primitive means for the expression of sentiment is through music. It is regrettable that there are so few labor songs now in common use. However, if each organization throughout the country will do something to supply this deficiency, out of the whole effort there no doubt will come shortly a collection of labor songs and labor music that will be of assistance in developing and directing the sentiment of our movement.

"While the effort of the trade-union movement to secure better wages, shorter hours, and better conditions is the basis of this activity, yet it reaches its highest effectiveness when associated with that which is capable of stirring the very depths of human nature. Our labor movement must not be too busy to take time for sentiment with special labor forward campaigns, but in connection with the regular meetings of all organizations there should be at least a little time devoted to the idealism that gives the labor movement purpose and direction.

MOTHERS' PENSION PAY.

Topeka, Kan.—"The public should demand that the practice of separating a mother from her children on account of poverty be stopped in every State," said President Bowman of the state conference of charities and corrections.

"It costs \$4.50 a week per child for schooling, care and maintenance at a state home. The public has to pay this bill—and later bills that might not accrue if the child has a mother's training. But even putting it on the money actually spent, why not do the humane thing and pay this money over to the poor mother who otherwise is competent to rear her child?"

President Bowman pointed out that a child reared in a state home gets what he termed the "institution" viewpoint. He gets the community idea, but from the wrong angle. The institution child is used to be waited on and provided for. When he does leave the institution he is lost, as a rule, and waits only a chance to be sent back, or to some other place where it will not take any initiative or independent thinking or working on his part to get his daily bread.

SMALL BUSINESS MEN THE RULE

New York.—This nation's business is in the hands of small concerns is the opinion of Edward N. Hurley, vice-president of the federal trade commission.

In an address before the association of national advertisers he said that there were about 250,000 corporations in this country, outside of the banking, railroad and public utilities corporations. Included in the first-named, 100,000 produce no net income, 90,000 have a net income of less than \$5,000 a year and only the 60,000 remaining make \$5,000 a year or over.

Of the 60,000 corporations in the latter class, 20,000 have sales annually of less than \$100,000; 20,000 sell goods worth from \$100,000 to \$250,000; 10,000 from \$250,000 to \$500,000; 5,000 from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000; 4,500 from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000; and only 462 corporations do an annual business of \$5,000,000 or more.

Mr. Hurley warned exporters against assuming that the European war would insure them a permanent foreign market, to be retained without effort.

"The American manufacturer," he said, "should realize that not a smokestack has been destroyed in England, Germany or Italy, and only a few in France."

Wyoming.

Wyoming is a name corrupted from an almost unpronounceable Indian word meaning "land of large plains."

CAPITAL FOR FARMERS URGED.

Washington.—In a letter to the joint congressional committee on rural credits, ex-United States Senator Marion Butler of North Carolina urged a financial system for farmers, who are declared to be "outlaws" according to the national banking law, which prohibits national banks from accepting land as a security for loans. Reference is made to the increasing trend from country to the cities, which calls for something more definite, he says, than "pallatives to check this ominous evil."

Referring to our commercial banking system, ex-Senator Butler writes:

"Our national banking law has expressly prohibited national banks from lending money on land; thus the farmers' security, which is the best in the world, has been outlawed. The six months' land loan provision of the federal reserve act does not afford any essential relief. Thus it is evident that the farmer has so far been ignored and left to shift by himself, with none of the benefits of organized society, but that he has also been discriminated against and made an outsider in our financial system; indeed, he has been penalized, apparently, for being a wealth producer, and this neglect and discrimination is driving him from the soil."

WILL "REFORM" THEMSELVES.

Chicago.—"A hot air clearing house" was the term applied by C. D. Resler, farmer, of Chanute, Kans., to a gathering of professors, bankers, editors, conservationists, rural credit and co-operative experts who have been discussing the farmer and his "rights," during the past week.

"They have made a patient of the farmer and gathered in Chicago to talk over his ills," said Resler. "And not one single practical farmer has had a chance to throw a word in edgewise for four days. They have talked, talked and talked about reforming everything under the canopy of heaven, and we actual farmers have had to sit here and take it."

RECORD FOR R. R. EARNINGS.

Washington.—The net earnings of the 187 principal railroads in the country for September, 1915, are far in excess of the earnings for the same month of 1914, says the Interstate Commerce Commission. The net earnings for September, 1915, were \$169,263,653, a net of \$447 per mile against a net of \$402 per mile in 1914.

Comparisons.

"I have a fireless cooker."
"I have a smokeless husband."—Exchange.

A. F. OF L. DEPARTMENTS ELECT.

San Francisco.—The various conventions of A. F. of L. departments have elected the following officers:

Metal Trades — President, James O'Connell, machinists; secretary-treasurer, A. J. Berres, pattern makers; first vice-president, J. W. Kline, blacksmiths; second vice-president, J. A. Franklin, boilermakers; third vice-president, J. R. Alpine, plumbers; fourth vice-president, J. J. Hynes, sheet metal workers; fifth vice president, J. F. Valentine, iron molders; sixth vice-president, W. W. Britton, metal polishers.

Building Trades—President, T. J. Williams, tile layers; secretary-treasurer, W. J. Spencer, plumbers; first vice-president, G. F. Hedrick, painters; second vice-president, John Donlin, plasterers; third vice-president, W. J. McSorley, lathers; fourth vice-president, D. D'Allessandro, hod carriers, building and common laborers; fifth vice-president, W. L. Hutcheson, carpenters.

Union Label Trades—President, J. W. Hays, typographical; secretary-treasurer, T. F. Tracy, cigar makers; first vice-president, Jacob Fischer, barbers; second vice-president, T. A. Rickett, garment workers; third vice-president, A. McAndrew, tobacco workers; fourth vice-president, Matthew Woll, photo engravers; fifth vice-president, Joseph Proebstle, brewery workers.

Metal Trades—President, James Loril, United Mine Workers' union; secretary-treasurer, Ernest Mills, Western Federation of Miners; executive board, Frank Hayes, United Mine Workers' union; Joseph D. Cannon, Western Federation of Miners; John Williams, iron, steel and tin workers.

DECLINES USE OF NAME FOR THE SENATORSHIP

Edwards Tells State Official He Is For Procter.

E. W. Edwards, vice chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Executive Committee, said Monday that Z. B. Campbell of Ada, O., chairman of the Ohio Civil Service Commission, called on him, Sunday, and suggested that he become a candidate for the Republican nomination for U. S. Senator. "I told him I favored William Cooper Procter for that place," Mr. Edwards said. "There seems to be an impression that the next senator from Ohio should be a business man, rather than a lawyer, and that he should be from Southern Ohio. If Col. Procter will become a candidate for the nomination for senator, I think his candidacy will be favorably received throughout the State."

PRESIDENT'S MILITARY PLAN.

Washington.—President Wilson read his annual message to the sixty-fourth congress last Tuesday. The chief executive's military plan provides, in effect, for:

Increasing the standing army from its present strength to 7,136 officers and 134,707 enlisted men.

Supplement the standing army by a force of 400,000 disciplined citizens, by asking 133,000 a year for three years to bind themselves to serve for the three years and to come to the colors at call at any time throughout an additional "furlough" period of three years. These soldiers would be annually trained for a period not exceeding two months.

The navy program contemplates the construction within five years of 10 battleships, 6 battle cruisers, 10 scout cruisers, 50 destroyers, 15 fleet submarines, 85 coast submarines, 4 gunboats, 1 hospital ship, 2 ammunition ships, 2 fuel oil ships and 1 repair ship. An additional 7,500 sailors, 2,500 apprentice seamen and 1,500 marines is urged.

HOME RULE THEORY.

Columbus, O.—The Ohio Supreme Court has handed down an opinion in the case of C. U. Shyrook against the City of Zanesville, holding broadly in favor of the home rule theory of the government of municipalities by means of the initiative and referendum.

JOIN FEDERATION.

Huntington, W. Va.—Delegates of the organizations which make up the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad Federation, numbering 16,000 employees, in special convention here December 10, voted to affiliate with the railroad department of the American Federation of Labor.

VIOLATE WOMEN'S LAW; FINED

Atlantic City, N. J.—District Court Judge Shinn has fined several shopkeepers for violating the state law prohibiting a work day for women in shops and factories of more than ten hours. This is the first Atlantic City conviction under this law. Complaint was made by Labor Commissioner Bryant.

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UNIQUE COPPER STRIKE; GUN MEN ARE BARRED

Phoenix, Ariz.—A most unusual strike is being waged in the big copper camps at Clifton, Morenci and Metcalf, where 5,000 employes suspended work September 11 to enforce the wage scale paid in other parts of the State for similar work, and for the right to organize. Other complaints are: The companies deduct \$1 a month from each man for water; force them to pay water rent at the house where they live, and compel single men to live in company boarding houses.

The strike is unique in that there has been no violence, because the peace officers of the State have refused to assist strikebreakers in creating turmoil. At the last meeting of the Executive Board of the Western Federation of Miners it was stated that: "The men of every craft and nationality are a unit in waging this strike. The sheriff's office has been used to keep the peace, not to break the strike."

The San Francisco Convention of the A. F. of L., in indorsing an appeal for aid on behalf of these strikers, declared:

"The powers of the Governor's office or those of the office of sheriff are not being used to demoralize or defeat the strikers, and he it said to the great credit of the Governor of Arizona and the sheriff of Greenlee county, that they have zealously guarded the honor and trust placed in their keeping by the people of that State and county."

OPPOSE ELECTRIC HEADLIGHTS

Washington.—Railroad and acetylene gas interests are opposing the brotherhoods of engineers and firemen before the interstate commerce commission on the question of electric headlights for locomotives. Hearings are being conducted by the commission on the enforcement of a rule ordering the railroads to supplant the present oil and acetylene gas headlights with the high-power electric lights.

The companies are sure that the dazzling glare of electric headlights makes safety impossible. An additional reason is the cost, which will aggregate many millions of dollars, declared a representative of the New York Central lines. The acetylene gas interests oppose the electric rule because this "would stifle competition," and would aid and abet a monopoly of which they would not be a part.

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