

ORGANIZATION

The need of organization in education is shown in the fact that which occurs. It is necessary for men to be thoroughly organized. New recruits will not stick together. It is that the older trade unions are more successful in strikes than the new ones which have been lately organized. They have accumulated a fund of experience. They know they must be prepared to support themselves, if necessary, for months. They know every effort must be made to fill their places for the time that the new men are only raw recruits. They know they must rely on their own work and vigilance to counteract the schemes which will be used to break them. They are beaten. They are prepared and know they must be prepared for what is necessary. They are ready—they don't need any assistance during the first week of the strike, and employers know it too. These men put their arms into the hands of experienced men, keep cool, and do their business thoroughly.

They have also educated themselves as to what they want. They know the state of their trade, the number of men employed, the average work, what class of work is done, how it is sold, and the average price obtained. They know whether they are on stock or orders, and what the prices are in a particular place.

They establish correspondence with allied trades, and strengthen themselves before getting into trouble. They study the causes which tend to regulate wages, and are posted on all matters which affect them both in the workshop and outside.

Above all, they thoroughly discuss their grievances, if they have any, before they publish them to the world, and come to an agreement among themselves as to what is most needed. They are thus prepared to discuss their position exhaustively with a committee of employers, and are able to bring evidence as to the justice of their demands. Arbitration is their most trusty weapon, for they can show their cause is just, and they have the strength to enforce a consideration of their claims.

Such men as these do not disdain when they have won a victory. They know that without thorough organization and discipline they would only lose the results they had attained.

They seek further fields to train themselves, and build up a power which is never dispersed by their opponents, whilst honest employers recognize it as a guarantee of fair treatment.

Such is the history of nearly all of our national and international organizations. They are eminently conservative, while the education their members receive is radical enough to secure progress toward industrial emancipation.

Agitation is their servant, but it is never permitted to overcome the ripe judgment of experienced leaders. It is used to recruit the ranks, but rational methods must follow before the work is complete.

As in a modern army, the recruiting officer is but preliminary to the drill sergeant, who teaches the principles and fits the recruit for place in the ranks. The recruit has been taught what he is there for; it is his duty to thoroughly fit himself as a part of the organization, which will achieve success in proportion to its discipline and knowledge.

The agitation which filled the ranks has done its part, but more perfect education and organization have yet to follow.

So it is with the Knights of Labor—the most powerful organization of workmen the world has ever seen. Recruiting has been going on at a tremendous rate. Let us not forget that numbers are only useful in proportion to the way they are organized.

Our method of organization is far-reaching, even to remote districts where no trade union could possibly exist, but it is in the education of members that the Knights of Labor are most successful. The platform is comprehensive and the discussions which should form a part of every meeting are calculated to awaken a spirit of enquiry which can only result in the greatest good to the greatest number.

A discussion of the eight-hour question for instance, opens up a boundless field for the social economist. It will show the number of men, women and children employed, what tends to reduce wages, what proposals are made by the employers, why long hours are demanded, why long hours are better than a smaller proportion of wealth than if they were shorter hours, and above all, will show them that just in proportion as they educate themselves will they want greater opportunities for education and recreation.

If they discuss the effect of child labor, they will find that the fierce competition of the times has almost forced adult labor out of some pursuits where it formerly had been extensively employed, and they will be inclined to ask whether it is not better for children to be at school while their fathers are at work than for the children to be working while their fathers are idle. It will show that the production of great wealth is necessarily synonymous with the welfare of those who produce it—that an unjust system has been established, which requires the sacrifice of the many to appease the insatiable appetite.

If they discuss the question they will find a solution to many of the difficulties of every day life. They may learn how it is that their working men can never hope to be a week ahead of starvation, while the few who have never done an honest day's work are credited with millions of dollars, and exercise their power by making others to starve.

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SIGNS
The following from the pen of the late J. C. Holland possesses the essential elements of pathos and truth, although at variance with the practices of capitalists and monopolists: Labor is the honorable thing among men. There is not a neatly graded lawn, a pretty garden, or a well trained lawn that does not tell of it. It builds significant cities, and creates navies, and bridges rivers, and lays the railroad tracks, and infuses every part of the flying locomotive. Wherever a steamer plows the waves, or the long grand bears the nations inland wealth; wherever the wheat fields wave and the mill wheels turn, there labor is the conqueror and the king. The newspaper, wherever it spread its wings, bears the impress of toiling hands. Should not the laborer be well housed? Should he not have the best wife, and the prettiest children in the world? Should not the men who produce all that eat be honored? To us there is no true poetry about the laborer's life and lot than any other man's under heaven. It matters not in what calling a man toils, if he toils manfully, honestly and contentedly. The little tin pail should be a badge of nobility everywhere, and in the 'good time coming boys' it will be."—*Ex.*

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