

ENEMIES OF UNIONISM

Anti-union Employers and Revolutionary Socialists.

TWO IRRECONCILABLE FOES.

Both These Forces Oppose the Program of the Civic Federation For Industrial Peace Because of Their Hatred of Organized Labor.

Organized labor in this country is beset by two vindictive and unrelenting enemies. These forces are marshaled in two strangely contrasting groups. One is composed of certain organizations of employers, who, while pretending friendship for "properly conducted and well regulated unions," at the same time make demands upon them which they themselves know would work their destruction. These employers' organizations regard as "well regulated" only such labor unions as are so formed that their members will always abide by the rules and regulations of the employer, with the strike an acknowledged impossibility, no matter what strain and stress may be the lot of the employees at any time.

Their literature is a consolidated mass of citations of brutal or dishonest or unfair actions of isolated unions or the blunders, criminal or otherwise, of some of the minor radical national unions, which every good citizen, union man or nonunion, deplors. The intent, of course, is to give the impression that these represent the spirit and sum total of organized labor's efforts. They do not explain that there are 25,000 local unions in the United States and that it would naturally be no difficult thing to find a few instances of unjust and regrettable incidents. A book was published some years ago by the Free Thought Publishing company, entitled "The Crimes of Preachers," with a view to proving that the church was rotten to the core. Such a collection might be made detailing crimes committed by physicians, farmers, lawyers, merchants, manufacturers or any other group in the professions and occupations.

The anti-unionists never hint at the truth that many of the most violent strikes are by nonunion men, such as the recent McKees Rocks and some of the Paterson silk mill strikes, where the strikers were mostly Socialists and anarchists, but try to convey the idea that they are all union men. They viciously attack as un-American and brand as illegal and infamous the "closed shop" policy of the unions, entirely ignoring that all the great railway brotherhoods are open shop organizations, and for these they have as little good will as for the other labor organizations.

These anti-union employers ignore the constructive, benevolent and educational work of the unions. They never mention the fact that the unions pay out more money every year for death, sick and other benefits than they do for strikes. They never recognize the educational value of the unions, whose official trade journals contain each month technical articles designed to educate the members in their trades and improve their skill.

The other active foe of organized labor is the revolutionary Socialist body. The Socialists fight organized labor because the American unions will not support their revolutionary class hatred program.

The Socialists oppose the unions because they are securing shorter hours, better wages and better conditions for the workingmen, achievements which are fatal to Socialist philosophy and its desire to make things worse as fast as possible in order to pave the way for the social revolution.

The unions may differ from the employers as to the division of profits, but they seek equitable and reasonable contracts and agreements with them and while standing firmly for their own interests do not regard all employers as parasites, as do the Socialists.

Organized labor recognizes the rights of property and the wage system. The Socialists would wipe out the whole wage system and with it the employers as well. With them whatever is wrong. The unions, struggling with the facts of life rather than with the mouthings of theorists, have generally repudiated the whole Socialist program.

These two foes of organized labor have obviously very little in common, but their hatred of organized labor forms a bond between them. They are frequently seen throwing bouquets at each other. This exchange of compliments seems ludicrous at first, but it has its inspiration in something easily comprehended. This hatred of the unions shown by these two groups of men extends to any and all movements which include in their objects the helping or encouragement of organized labor. The National Civic federation, being composed of large employers who recognize the worth and value of organized labor and believe in dealing with it as to wages, hours and conditions of employment and of officers of leading unions and men representing the great body called the public, is engaged in a movement to bring about the best possible relations between capital and labor and is therefore logically attacked by both the enemies of labor unions—the employers' associations, which are anti-union, and the Socialists.

The union smashing employers' organizations represent a very small proportion of the employers of the country, but what they lack in numbers they make up for in venom in their attacks upon either the American Federation of Labor or the National Civic Federation.—Raiph M. Easley in National Civic Federation Review.

Tire Builders' Mass Meeting.

(Continued From First Page.)

one representing the Rubber Works Co. was present. It was stated that 20 of the tire builders had gone back to work and that about 100 had secured employment elsewhere.

Unfortunately, one of the strike-breakers was assaulted at a late hour on Saturday night, 15th inst., and one of the strikers was arrested charged with the offense. The accused person denies the charge and claims he can prove an alibi. In the court on Monday morning he was placed under \$500 bonds to await the outcome of the injuries of the assaulted strike breaker.

Officers and organizers of the Tire Builders Union regret exceedingly that any violence has occurred during the strike, no matter by whom the rash act was committed. Many believe the assault was committed by others than strikers, probably by hasty-acting sympathizers of the strikers.

A Church For Laboring Men.

Hope chapel, on the lower east side of New York city, owned by the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian church, after a series of troubles, including the sudden dismissal of its minister in charge by the mother church, has been turned over to the board of home missions of the Presbyterian church for a term of five years at an annual cost of \$5,000. The purpose is to build up a church for laboring men and their families, with services in several foreign languages. The Rev. Charles Stelzle, superintendent of the labor department of the board, is making the plans. He was a Sunday school pupil at the chapel years ago and more recently the pastor.

LABOR DOINGS IN THE SILVER CITY

Cigar Makers Union Active on Patronize-Home-Industry Suggestion.

In anticipation of the C. F. of L. convention to be held in Meriden, January 18, 19, 20, 21, members of organized labor are putting on their "best bib and tucker" and making preparations for the event. William J. Buckley will represent the Central Labor Union at the convention, and delegates from the various local affiliated Unions have all been named.

Along the lines of booming Meriden as suggested in the annual message of Mayor Rellly, the Meriden Cigar Makers' Union, Local 484, is and has been for some time doing good work.

It has issued a letter addressed to all business men who deal in cigars signed by President Charles Stremlau and Secretary W. F. Pfitsenmeir, that fully covers the patronize-home-industries problem. Part of the letter is herewith given:

"To make a city progressive and prosperous, every encouragement should be given by the business men and consumer to all form of home industry. This means growth and development to a city and an added number of employes in our factories, stores and workshops.

"The above are undisputable facts and we the cigarmakers of Meriden, firmly believe that the majority of business men who handle cigars are not doing their duty to our city or to the local cigar industry. If they did, there would be at least three times the number of cigarmakers in Meriden which would mean an added increase in the pay roll of at least \$50,000 annually.

"This means, there are now thousands of dollars sent to all parts of the country that should be kept in circulation in Meriden.

"There are over seventy-five brands of cigars made in various factories of our city and they all bear the blue label of the C. M. I. U. of America.

"Now, as a business man, we want to ask you: Is it not to your interest to buy more Meriden made cigars and thus lend your assistance to advance the local cigar industry?"

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