

Workers in the Iron and Steel Industry

Organize! Reduce Hours! Increase Wages!

Hundreds of thousands of workers in the iron and steel industry are practically held in subjection by powerful and merciless corporations.

The wages paid make American standards impossible and workers are compelled to live in a poverty that shortens life, degrades manhood and destroys home.

Hours of labor range from ten to fourteen per day. These long hours sap the energy and vitality of low-wage workers, who become an easy prey of accident and disease, and vigorous men become physically broken down at an early age.

The sanitary working conditions are of the worst and preventable diseases are common. Authorities agree that the number of injuries and deaths are largely due to the unprotected machinery in these mills and to the brutal driving and speeding up by officials.

These conditions must be changed. The price being paid by toilers in blood, bone and self-respect is too great for the mere chance to work under inhuman conditions.

The time to act is now! Crystallize the present discontent against long hours and low wages by joining with your fellows under the banner of the American Federation of Labor.

Organize, unite and establish the Eight-Hour Day in the iron and steel industry of this country!

Over two million men and women toilers are now organized under the American Federation of Labor. They comprise every industry, trade and calling—both skilled and unskilled.

Regardless of politics, color, nationality, religion or sex these toilers have united, reduced hours, increased wages, and protected life and limb in shop, mill, factory and mine.

Street sweepers and teachers, hodcarriers and cigarmakers, janitors and machinists, common laborers and printers, molders and building trades workers—these and others are united in one grand fraternity under the American Federation of Labor.

Workers in the iron and steel industry, you can change your life of drudgery and toil! The American Federation of Labor stands ready to help you organize and secure an eight-hour day, a living wage and improved working conditions.

Meetings will be held in your locality and you are urged to attend and join the union. Get in touch with the representatives of the American Federation of Labor who will confer with you and address meetings. Learn how to organize and how to use your collective strength.

Never before has there been such an opportunity to organize and improve conditions. If you would protect your own rights and promote your own interests, the time and opportunity is NOW!

Fellow workers, give heed. Let the spirit of unity and fraternity sink deep into your hearts and minds. Demand the Eight-Hour Day. Organize, Unite, Federate!

Fraternally,
SAM'L GOMPERS,
President, A. F. of L.
FRANK MORRISON,
Secretary, A. F. of L.

DON'T DISCUSS MOTIVES.

When you argue a case with a man don't deal too much with his motives, lest he impugn your own, and when it comes to that one simply dives down to the depravity of the human heart which is too deep for the truth to reach. The only way to argue is to assume your opponent is honest and sincere and when you do that you show respect for your own logic. One gains nothing if he argues about motive; for then he only gets into a mire where he himself sticks among the poisonous weeds and mud pythons. So if you think your opponent is governed by bad motives let him alone. Even if you prove that he is under the sway of bad motives, where does it leave you? With a weakened faith in human nature, and that is never to one's advantage.—Ohio State Journal.

Never be dismayed at the failure of your plans; find the reason, and attack the problem with stronger weapons next time.

LET WORKERS CONTROL THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.

Let the workers keep in their own hands and under their immediate control regulation of matters that vitally affect industrial welfare. Organizations of workers aware of their own interests and alert to further that which promotes their own welfare are more capable of steadily securing wider opportunities and better things than any outside agents to whom this responsibility can be delegated. The way to industrial betterment and progress and freedom lies in our well-tried policy—Educate! Agitate! Organize!—President Gompers.

MORE UNIONISM; LESS LAWS.

The editor of a western labor paper recently said that President Gompers was one of the first to see the danger of depending on legislation for things that organized labor should get by its own power, and that many experiences have shown his warnings were well grounded. There is a lot of opportunity for reflection in this statement. The more law makers are encouraged to interfere by making special laws, the more complicated the laws are apt to become, the more liberty will be restricted, the more boards and commissions there will be to support, and the less able wage earners will be to work out their own salvation in their own way, through their own organizations. If wage earners are loyal to each other, through their trade unions, they will not need to call upon the outsiders so often for assistance, which is very often of a doubtful nature.—Oklahoma Federationist.

MACHINISTS WIN STRIKE.

East Chicago, Ind.—A change of management by the Edwards Valve and Manufacturing Company has resulted in a settlement of the machinists' strike at that plant. Wages are increased 15 per cent and shorter workday provisions are agreed to. The new manager has promised to recommend that an injunction secured against these workers be dissolved and that the expense of same be borne by the company.

LIFE AND LIMB DANGER IN INDUSTRY A MENACE.

The increasing danger to life and limb involved in the pursuit of industrial occupations has become so great that the necessity of doing everything feasible to keep it within the narrowest possible limits is clearly evident. We are living in a constructive era. Articles are being manufactured in greater numbers and variety than ever before in the world's history. More and more machinery is constantly being used, and more and more persons are being employed in factories, mills and workshops.

The toll of human life and limb being exacted by modern industry has reached such startling proportions as to be a serious menace to our national welfare. That it is so recognized is evidenced by the increasing number of laws made to protect life and health, and the marked tendency shown to fix the legal responsibility for accidents.—Harry C. Hoffman, in Wyoming Weekly Labor Journal.

SPIRIT OF UNIONISM NEEDED.

The labor union is an assembly of individuals. Unless its members are imbued with the spirit of unionism, how can the union prevail? A thousand geese could not produce one ostrich plume. A thousand union members seeking only their own selfish interests could never inspire a single spark of unionism.

Constitutions, resolutions, programs, propagandas and puerile paraphernalia are of little use unless utilized by earnest union adherents.

The man who carries a union card he does not respect, or who makes no effort to get others to join his union, or who stays away from the meetings of his union without good reason, or who shirks any duty he owes his union, or who buys non-union goods when he can get the union kind, is as useless to his union as a goose in an ostrich farm.—West Virginia Federationist.

A Restful Place.

The office boy in our printing office this morning rushed in with the information that a very much excited lady waited outside.

"Take her to the composing room for a minute, boy," said the boss.—Louisville Herald.

CALMNESS A POWER.

The most potent and beneficent forces are the stillest. The strength of a sentence is not in its adjectives, but in its verbs and nouns, and the strength of union men and of unions is in their calm, sane, meditative moments. In a time of noise and hurry and materialism the gospel of the still small voice is always seasonable.—Ex.

REAL PHILANTROPY.

The best kind of philanthropy is that which helps people to help themselves. In this sense organized labor is practically philanthropic. It cultivates self-dependence, self-efficiency and self-aspiration.

THE SWEAT SHOP.

The sweat shop saps the vitality of the humblest worker in the industries; it deprives him of fresh air and sunlight; it is a breeding-place of contagious disease. The white plague, known as tuberculosis, flourishes in these dens of iniquity.

The sweat shop reduces the worker to a condition of servitude, and robs him of the last vestige of independence. It means long hours and low wages, combined with poor sanitary conditions; it is a species of wage slavery based on industrial injustice.

The sweat shop robs childhood of sunshine and the playground; it retards the mental and physical development of the children. It is a national disgrace and a reproach on modern civilization.

The work in the sweat shop commences early in the morning and ends late in the evenings; there is no closing hour. It is a perpetual grind engulfed in a helpless and hopeless industrial abyss.

The trade union movement has an imperative duty to perform. The wage slaves toiling in the sweat shops of the country have to be rescued from the inferno in which their spirits are crushed, their health sacrificed. The lowest paid and hardest pressed workers in the social scale are entitled to full consideration. It is of equal importance to the general welfare to save the sweat shop workers from destruction and raise their wages as it is to raise the wages of the best paid workers.

In the State of New York, where the sweating system in the tenement houses is growing constantly, the adverse decisions of the courts in past years have nullified legislation tending to eliminate this growing evil. Nothing short of a constitutional amendment by the legislature and organization seems to be able to prevent the continuation and extension of these dens of infamy and degradation.—Cigarmakers' Journal.

ENVY.

Envy is about the most silly and useless of all the vices. The envious person is the most miserable of all human beings. He nourishes vipers which sting and devour him, is the enemy of all and inflicts mortal wounds on charity, outrages nature, which produces only that which is good, and grace, which can not act in concert or ally itself with any evil.—Ex.

RAPS STATISTICAL WORK.

Columbus, O.—State Superintendent of Public Instruction Pearson is opposed to too much ado about report and score cards and other statistical work by teachers.

"It is far better to be a maker of statistics than a mere gatherer of statistics," he says. "Indeed, this whole matter of statistics is incidental to the big work of teaching. It is one thing to be a technician and quite another to be a leader and a teacher. Our best service to the schools will come when we exalt the teacher and the teaching to the highest degree and reduce the machinery to the last degree of simplicity."

Advising a Beginner.

"So you're going in for public speaking?"
"Yes."
"Well, make up your mind that you can say more in half an hour than you can in two hours."—Detroit Free Press.

The Lure.

"How can she marry him, knowing that he's dissipated?"
"But his fortune isn't."—Boston Transcript.

Her Request.

He—I want to tell you a joke about mistletoe.
She—Be sure it isn't over my head.—Cornell Widow.

Cutting Expenses.

Knicker—Are you cutting down expenses?
Mrs. Knicker—Yes; I am paying only half the bills.—Puck.

Apt.

Teacher—What is the feminine of nobleman?
Smart Girl Pupil—Heiress!—London Tit-Bits.

Wisdom.

The wise man moves next door to a family whose income is less than his.—Chicago Herald.

RAILROADS NAME COMMITTEES.

Chicago.—Railroad managers have named their conference committees who will meet representatives of the four railroad brotherhoods in New York, June 1, to discuss the eight-hour demand of freight service employees. The managers' committees will consist of seven members, including six representatives from the Western railroads, six from the Eastern and five from the Southeastern.

LOW WAGE WORKERS' STRIKE.

Baltimore, Md.—After negotiating with an employer for nearly three weeks, sixty-eight members of the Pad Makers' Union, No. 15,908, were forced to suspend work. Cutters are paid as low as \$10 a week, and girls receive on an average of \$4.50 for a ten-hour day.

Born Tired.

"He wuz ho'n too tired ter git outen his own way," said the old colored brother. "De only exercise he ever gits is fallin' from grace, an' after he falls he's too tired ter git up!"—Atlanta Constitution.

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