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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ORGANIZED LABOR
OF HAMILTON AND VICINITY

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MERCHANTS SHOULD KICK

To make them earn their salary the Butler county commissioners should be made to drive over the pike from Seven Mile to Somerville at least once each day. This stretch of pike is certainly in a fierce condition—the worst ever, and the commissioners ought to be ashamed to leave it so without doing everything in their power to remedy the situation. Hamilton merchants are losing thousands of dollars in trade because of the terrible condition of this pike. The people north of Seven Mile simply won't drive into Hamilton to do their trading so long as the pike remains in the condition it is. They are trading elsewhere. The worst of it is that they will become accustomed to going somewhere else to do their buying and the local merchants will never get this trade back, and goodness knows our merchants can ill afford to lose the outside trade which the city has been getting in the past. It is said too, that even the bus men plying between Hamilton and Eaton, and who do much for bringing trade into Hamilton, say that unless the road is soon improved, that if it gets much worse, they will have to discontinue hauling over the road; that as it is, it is dangerous to the bus and to traffic. The local merchants certainly have a big kick coming in this instance, and they ought to get together and demand action on the part of the commissioners—instanter. It might be added too, that it is with a little feeling of shame that a resident of Butler county, driving from the north, leaves the fine Preble county road and enters his home county.

"BOB"

In the passing of Senator Robert M. La Follette the United States has lost more than a picturesque figure who has many times brought the United States senate up standing. The country has lost a great statesman and public servant who, during a long and arduous career as congressman, governor and senator, gave of



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his strength and devotion with a prodigious hand.

It ought not be particularly creditable to any man to say that he was incorruptible—all men ought to be that way. But all men are not and Senator La Follette was. And he was forever hunting down those who were hostile to public welfare, forever seeking ways in which to bring new freedom and new happiness to the masses of the people.

Senator La Follette was not a mere muck-raker, not a mere hunter of bad men and bad measures. He was an inveterate seeker of remedies for ill and evil. But he realized always that the first job was to drive out the forces of evil—and at that tremendous task he was the country's most able public official, beyond doubt.

There will not be agreement as to La Follette's political program, but more than any offering of our time, his proposals, his political creed, epitomized the desires of those who want to move forward. His passing brings a personal sorrow to untold thousands.

WHO DO YOU MEAN?

Editorially speaking, the other night the Hamilton News commented on the proposed amendments to be submitted to the people this fall on the extension to four years of the terms of county and municipal officials. And then it said:

"With good people in public office, the plan would be a relief to business interests and the people in general, but how about some of those who have held office in Hamilton and elsewhere for whom any tenure of office is really too long for the good of all concerned?"

No doubt the News knows just what it is talking about in this instance, it is in a position to know. But just who does it mean? For once the Press agrees with the News, without mentioning names. Experience the past few years has taught much—to the people of Hamilton. Whether they profit by it—that is different.

POLITICAL PARTIES

No political party is responsible for good times or bad times, says C. F. Hughes, financial authority, writing in the New York World.

The notion that prosperity can be traced to politics, Mr. Hughes says, has been proved to have not the slightest foundation; it has merely gained its wide acknowledgment through repetition.

The two big political parties have an equal split of good and bad times to their account.

"If the half year's developments in business have emphasized anything it is that no political party has a monopoly on prosperity. The year was ushered in with exaggerated optimism, based on the election result. Industry quickly reached a state of over-production in many branches and has languished in all but a few lines. Trade, in the main, has been disappointing."

Mr. Hughes' repudiation of this theory has often been recorded before, but many wage earners and farmers will refuse, as usual, to face facts in future campaigns. Instead, they will cheer at the prospect of good times some office seeker solemnly predicts.

WAGES HERE AND ABROAD

The currencies of the world have changed so greatly in the last ten years that most of the discussions on relative wages in various countries have been rather fruitless because of lack of a common denominator.

It has, of course, been quite obvious that wages in America were higher than in any other country, but

with comparisons made in dollars as against pounds sterling, francs, liras and marks, it was impossible to determine the actual differences.

Now an English economist has undertaken to establish the value of real wages in various countries, the wages being figured on the basis of buying power rather than in terms of money.

On this basis it is shown that taking London at 100 the wage in Philadelphia is 220; Ottawa, Canada, is placed at 160, Amsterdam at 84, Stockholm at 80, Paris at 75, Berlin at 64, Rome at 50, and so on down to Lisbon at 30.

Just how authoritative the figures are may be open to question, but they show that the general trend is not much different from what it was before the war.

There may be greater divergencies now than in pre-war days, but then, as now, America paid the highest wage, with England second and the continental countries running rapidly down the list.

AN OLD PLAN IN NEW GARB

The company "union" has a double value to trade union opponents.

It permits these employers to retain as complete control of working conditions as in the days of the so-called "open" shop, and it drugs employees into the belief that they really own themselves.

The so-called "open" shop plan often aroused resentment among unorganized. It was avowedly based on the principle of individual bargaining. It ignored the group instinct of every human being.

Forced to fight against the spirit of the age, the so-called "open" shop employer has abandoned his frontal attack on the trade unions. Now he makes a flank movement.

He has concluded there is nothing crafty or cunning in opposing trade unionism with gunmen and spies. This method is vulgar and crude in an age of efficiency and social engineering. So he substitutes honey for open antagonism.

He presents his company "union" and sells a few shares of common stock to his employees on the installment plan.

The company "union" plan is bedecked with every alluring term and catchy phrase that skilled advertisers and trained psychologists can invent.

The employer prepares the constitution and by-laws. He pays all expenses. His superintendents and foremen take an active part in the election of "union" representatives, who meet in the employer's office.

Trade unionists should be alert to the new method of noiseless attack by employers who have awakened to the value of posing as a "friend."

Organized labor must continually point out that members of a company "union" have no more control of themselves than they had under the so-called "open" shop plan.

Now, as then, they are deluded by phrase mongering.

FACING NEW CONDITIONS

We have left behind forever the world in which things were cheap. Land and property values have doubled. Living conditions have doubled. Wages and salaries therefore must also be increased to maintain a normal average and relationship.

Twenty years ago it was estimated that the cost of raising a child to its sixteenth year was \$2,500. Today the cost is \$5,000.

Twenty years ago the average cost of a college education for a boy or girl was \$2,000. Today the cost is \$4,800.

The average man who wants his boy or girl to have a fair chance in the world, must begin to sacrifice and save with the birth of the child. A "good time" now may be at the expense of your children's future happiness.

WISDOM

I hail the labor movement. It is my only hope for democracy. Organize and stand together.—Wendell Phillips.

POPULAR EXCURSION

SUNDAY, JULY 12th
ROUND-TRIP FARES

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\$2.75 Lima
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Leave 7:45 A.M. Central Time
Leave Lima 6:15 P.M. Central Time
Consult Local Ticket Agent for further particulars
BALTIMORE & OHIO

ALIEN SMUGGLING

Into U. S. Called Leading Cuban Industry

By International Labor News Service. Indianapolis, Ind.—In an article in the American Legion Weekly, published here, Leighton H. Blood asserts that the smuggling of aliens into the United States is one of the leading industries in Havana, Cuba. Blood says that gigantic syndicates are smuggling thousands of aliens into this country and making fortunes out of "human contraband."

Mr. Blood has just completed an investigation of the "traffic," and his report says that a high Cuban official is the silent head of one of the syndicates. The investigation was made in company with inspectors of the United States immigration service, who were successful in being accepted by the smugglers for illegal entry into this country.

Riff-raff from all parts of the world is finding entry into the United States through the instrumentality of smugglers, says Mr. Blood. "If aliens are willing to risk the danger involved as tentative guests of the smugglers, who do not hesitate to toss them overboard if there is danger of being caught with the 'goods' on, they will reach the United States—provided, again, that they are doing business with a 'reputable' smuggler who will set them down on United States soil instead of on some lonely Florida key to starve, as is done by some of the less reputable smuggling 'firms.'"

Mr. Blood points out that dope running is a profitable side line with alien smugglers. "If we are to dump the main cargo overboard, a paid or two of dope will be as profitable as it yields a nice profit for the smuggler," he says. "The way the smuggler described it to Mr. Blood."

CLUB WOMEN

Hope For Child Labor Victory at Next Legislative Session

By International Labor News Service. Chicago.—Gratification that the child labor amendment was not turned down by the Illinois legislature, recently adjourned, was expressed at a meeting of the joint committee representing 30 Illinois women's organizations.

The hope was expressed that the amendment would be ratified at the next session, and the continued support of Illinois club women was pledged.

Governor Len Small submitted the amendment to the legislature several months ago, but it was not reported out of committee. This was in compliance with the wishes of representatives of the women's organizations, who feared to risk a vote on the amendment at the 1925 session, particularly after a sufficient number of state legislatures had turned it down to make ratification impossible this year.

The above outcome was forecast by International Labor News Service last March, when the exclusive story was published telling of the action taken by the women's organizations in reference to the matter and concurrence therein by the executive board of the Illinois State Federation of Labor.

It was then decided to "mark time" until 1927, when a vigorous fight for ratification will be made.

IGNORE LAWYERS' ETHICS

Atlantic City.—Too many lawyers are devoid of the ethics of that profession, said Judge Francis Neal Parke, president of the Maryland State Bar Association, in an address in this city.

Omer F. Hershey, of Baltimore, said: "It requires amazingly little learning or skill to be an average lawyer and prosper at it."

Eugene, Ore.—Culinary workers have organized. They were assisted by officers of the State Federation of Labor.

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"100% AMERICANISM" CALLED MISUSED TERM

Providence, R. I.—The misuse of the formula "100 per cent Americanism" was objected to by John H. Clarke, former justice of the United States supreme court, in an address at Brown University.

"In a word," the speaker said, "it seems to be used chiefly to express an attitude of self-sufficient superiority to our neighbors which is not calculated to promote harmony at home and in foreign relations to cultivate an exaggerated nationalism."

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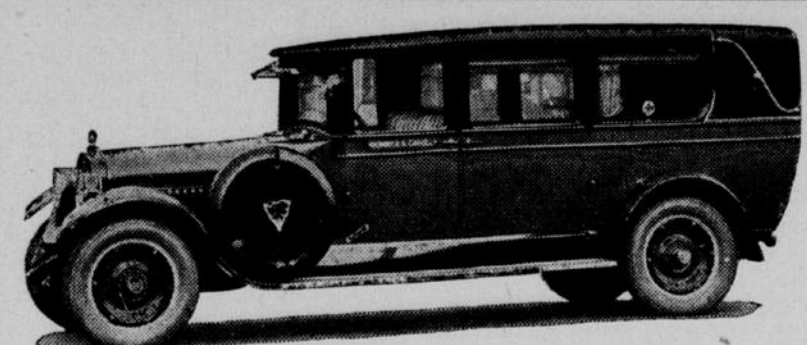
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