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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ORGANIZED LABOR

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## A UNION SEES THE LIGHT

The American Federation of Teachers has apparently finally thrown off the Communist grip and as consequence faces the opportunity for greater usefulness in the American labor movement than ever before.

At its recent Buffalo convention, the teachers' union elected a set of anti-Communist vice-presidents and re-elected its president, Dr. George S. Counts, who has made no secret of his hostility to the Communist influence in his organization. The action is hailed by Mark Starr, one of the new vice-presidents, as proof that the members want a "genuine trade union working in conjunction with the American Federation of Labor and with a policy corresponding to the needs of the American labor movement."

The temper of the convention was also revealed by its action in condemning all dictatorships, including that of Communist Russia.

Due largely to the Communist incubus, the American Federation of Teachers has fallen far short of its opportunities for betterment of the condition of teachers. Now that the Communist officials have been kicked out, the organization should take its rightful place in the labor movement.

## GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRACY

The establishment and preservation of a strong, effective, aggressive trade-union movement constitutes the best guarantee for the preservation of democracy, both in governmental affairs and in human relationships. Through the establishment of our trade unions we are seeking to erect a barrier against the invasion of Fascism, Communism, Nazism—and for the perpetuation of democracy, democratic principles and democratic procedure.—William Green.

## GOOD MOVE

Spread of knowledge among the people of the working of government makes for better understanding and co-operation between government and citizens, with consequent benefit to both. So the International City Managers' Association brings good news when it reports that American cities are making greater efforts to inform their citizens about local government and the way it is run.

In addition to issuing more detailed and informative annual reports, many cities are using motion pictures and the radio as mediums for bringing the city hall and citizens closer together, the City Managers' Association finds.

Of the 100 or more annual municipal reports studied by the association, some were merely financial statements, while 87 include discussions of

## COMMENT ON WORLD EVENTS

In summers past, Copenhagen's residents enjoyed watching thousands of visiting country children gazing in rapture at points of interest as they were being expertly guided through the city's streets, while Danish farmers chuckled over the inept attempts at milking made by children reared in the capital.

This interchange, during summer vacations, of city and country children has done much to further the democratic ideals of Denmark and to broaden the vision of the children of the nation.

Whether these children of Denmark will continue their carefree happy holidays depends entirely on the effect of the present Nazi invasion of that peaceful little country.

The origin of what is now known by the unwieldy name of the Copenhagen Communal Teacher's Society's Colonies started in the cholera year of 1853, when humane and hospitable farmers all over the country invited poor city children to vacation with them. Since then the idea has grown to such proportions that until today vacation time has meant mass migration of school children from city to country and from country to city.

Teachers of Denmark both sponsored and supervised the plan. Contributions were gathered through the Copenhagen press. The state railways gave transportation, for which the city paid 10%; private railways and steamship companies granted large reductions in fare.

The Society for Provincial Children's Holidays in Copenhagen has been able to send approximately 25,000 country children to Copenhagen each summer at almost no cost to the children. School dormitories, other

expenditures and services performed.

The typical 1939 report, the association said, was a 6-by-9-inch printed publication with a picture of a landmark or a view of the city on its cover. It contained charts which outlined the municipal organization, and the relationships between city departments. The written report discussed all phases of municipal activity. Financial data were presented on the final pages.

## WHAT NEXT?

A new paint, designed for use in industrial plants, is said to take the "slip" out of slippery floors. The paint can be applied to any type of wood, metal or concrete floor, says the manufacturer, and forms a durable, granular surface. It is not abrasive, contains no sand or ground glass, but is tough and resilient.

## WISDOM

Democracy must be progressive or die.—Samuel Gompers.

Miss Perkins Reports  
Employment Gains

Boston, Mass.—Secretary Perkins, reporting an increase of more than 1,000,000 in non-agricultural employment in the last year, asserted that "this employment is some 9,000,000 greater than it was seven years ago, exclusive of some 2,000,000 additional men and women engaged on W.P.A."

She forecast that employment and payrolls will rise in the coming months "as industries expand under the comprehensive defense program."

In her Labor Day address Miss Perkins reported that the year had seen a marked improvement in industrial relations and that wage earners and business were co-operating wholeheartedly in carrying out defense tasks.

## EYE ACCIDENTS

Eye accidents in industry entail a cost far greater than the direct monetary cost. The accumulated social cost of such accidents is tremendous and the cost to the individual worker in pain and both physical and psychic suffering is devastating in many cases. By no means available at this time can the total cost of eye injuries be evaluated with any degree of accuracy.—Dr. Leonard Greenburg.

wise closed for the summer, were made available, and although the trips were short—from three days to a week—the itinerary was so carefully planned that the more important educational institutions were visited.

About half of Copenhagen's 60,000 school children spent several weeks of their vacation in the country either at holiday colonies or at private farms. And if their outfit was not all that could be desired for sturdy country living, the Children's Bureau gave a helping hand.

Year after year the teachers' organizations expanded their holiday colonies until there were special colonies for a large number of weakly children. In various parts of the country where the colonies were situated, local people displayed warm-hearted sympathy through gifts to the commissariat, and local doctors gave freely of their professional services. The holiday places have usually been at the seaside, and each group was in charge of two teachers.

After three weeks of fun and frolic the child was returned home, but records kept of increase of weight during the holiday acted as a guide for the school doctor. The questions of nutrition and hygienic care were considered just as important in the Danish school as was the instruction, and it is in this regard that the holiday colonies made one of their great contributions.

"Holiday Homes" among the farmers of the country has become an institution in Denmark. This, too, was organized by the teachers. Often a child returned to the same farm year after year, and was followed by a younger sister or brother.

## The Cherry Tree

Where with our Little Hatchet we tell the truth about many things, sometimes profoundly. Sometimes flippantly, sometimes recklessly. . . . .

Of course it's just about all over now, but that doesn't prevent a good husky yell of rebellion in the manner in which the United States Congress has been behaving itself, while the world tottered.

There have been few political exhibitions worse than the exhibition of political partisan jockeying for place than we have been going through.

The universal selective service bill, one of the most important pieces of legislation ever written in America, has been debated on a level with the worst mud gutter politics.

Rank isolationists and lame ducks have made a crazy holiday out of what should have been a very solemn proceeding. Names have been called and blows have been struck by men who ought to be out of their diapers, but who have given us an exhibition of mental infantilism—or worse.

And the worst of it is that we shall, because nothing better is available, have to vote for some of these men again!

If it is to be said that the President resorted to devious procedure to make the trade with Britain for naval and air bases, what is to be said of the devious reasoning, for example, of Hamilton Fish, the great, big strapping New York ex-football player who slid the sixty-day clause through the House?

That amendment just about marks low tide for politics, unless it can be claimed that some of those who followed him hit a lower level.

The excuse for all of the antics is that a campaign is on.

So that's it. Because a campaign is on, legislators have to show the voters how foolish they can be. They have to show how afraid of their own shadows they can be. They have to show how little sense they have, fearing that if they show some sense they will lose some votes. THEY OUGHT TO LOSE VOTES.

A choicer brand of monkeyshines isn't to be found, even in the biggest of zoos.

If Congress has been silly about the provisions governing selection of men, it has been as silly about the provisions relating to industry—perhaps sillier.

As a matter of fact, neither the House provision nor the Senate provision was an actual draft of industry, even though the political snake charmers, anxious to cater to supposedly intelligent voters, sought to make it appear so.

One proposal was tantamount to confiscation; the other was the equal of a proposal to rent—on a compulsory basis, it is true, but to rent, just the same.

## THE MARCH OF LABOR



The House provision was the equivalent of saying, "We have a capitalist economy, but by this amendment we will change it to a state socialist economy, and nobody will know it until they wake up."

Neither house has been any too honest about telling the people just what the proposals were intended to do, if indeed, they knew.

Of course the defense program will go on, in spite of all obstacles.

The Defense Advisory Commission, working honestly without political partisanship, is doing a whale of a good job.

But somehow, a lot of men who are elected to office think the main issue is that they get re-elected.

Whether any member gets re-elected is the least important of all the issues.

Whether America gets her defense machinery built is the one really big issue.

There are plenty of reasons for saying that, with all possible speed, there may not be time enough.

Democracy can work with speed and efficiency, if office-holders can be made to understand that the people really want speed and efficiency and will tolerate nothing less.

It might be a good idea for OUR Congressmen and Senators to show, next time, how wise they can be, how fast they can act, rather than how stupid they can be.—C. M. W.

Wisconsin City Helps Pay  
Employees' Hospital Care

Chicago (ILNS).—Reported as the first city to contribute municipal funds to a group hospitalization plan for employees, Two Rivers, Wis., through recent council action, voted to pay 50 cents a month of a \$1.12 premium charge for this insurance, the International City Managers' Association says.

Under the plan, the employee is entitled to 31 days in the city hospital, plus a provision for X-rays, anesthetics and surgical fees. For an added fee, employees can cover other members of their families. Two Rivers also allows employees seven days' sick leave a year with full pay.

## FARM SAFETY IGNORED

Washington, D. C.—Despite the fact that many accidents occur in agriculture, especially where machinery is used, no state has issued a code of safety regulations especially designed to apply to farm machinery, the U. S. Labor Department says. Records show that machine operation on farms, such as threshing and hay baling, rank with the most hazardous industrial work.

## AGREEMENTS MADE

St. Paul, Minn.—Minnesota is the third state to sign an agreement with the Wage and Hour Division and the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor to co-operate in making inspections and investigations under the Wage-Hour Act. Similar agreements have also been made by Connecticut and North Carolina.

## MAINTAINING LIBERTIES

As one of the few industrial countries of the world where labor is not on a war footing or deprived of the right to organize by government control, this year we must give serious thought to maintaining our liberties. We still have those rights and material advantages that have made the United States a land of opportunity

The Social Security Board's report on employment-service activities for July showed, according to McNutt, that more private placements were made by public employment offices than in any previous July; this total was, however, 10 per cent below that for June. Due chiefly to the reduced demand for agricultural labor, there was also a decline, the first in five months, in the number of supplemental placements—those in which the employment office takes some, but not all, of the steps to complete placement.

For the first seven months of 1940, the public employment offices completed more than 1,700,000 placements in private employment, a gain of nearly 27 per cent over the corresponding period of 1939. Only five states filled fewer private jobs during January-July of this year than in the same months last year.

Board To Investigate  
Rail Dispute Asked

Rutland, Vt. (ILNS).—Governor George D. Aiken has asked President Roosevelt to appoint a fact-finding board under provisions of the Railroad Labor Act, to investigate the situation leading to a threatened strike on the Rutland Railroad.

Appointment of such a board would allow 60 days of grace before the strike could get under way. The governor said that both the workers and the railroad management were agreeable to the plan.

Employees of the road voted to strike September 11 in protest against a 10 to 30 per cent wage cut.

The wage cut, announced by the railroad receiver, was scheduled to become effective September 12.

Workers In U. S. Rubber  
Company Plant Organize

Winnboro, S. C.—Employees of the United States Rubber Company's textile plant here have formed a local union and applied to the United Textile Workers of America for a charter. Gordon L. Chastain, president of the Southern Cotton Textile Federation; John W. Pollard, first vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, and other U. T. W. of A., have assisted the employees of the plant in forming the new local union which promises to become one of the strongest textile locals in the state.

## LABOR LED THE WAY

Legislation recognizing labor's legal right to bargain collectively and to organize is an outgrowth of the labor movement's efforts to prove they could be trusted at the council table, and the public's recognition of the soundness of labor's program. In other words, the law followed the trail which labor had blazed.—Matthew Woll.

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