"MUTUAL INTEREST" POLICY TRIED.

About five years ago the "American Railway and Investors' Association" was organized. This association, created under the guise of the mutual interest between capital and labor, the railroad owners and the railroad men, was made president at a salary of $10,000 a year. Elaborate headquarters were established in Chicago and a little literature was sent out among the railroad men, expounding the beauties of the scheme. Railroad officials were given the tip to join and use their influence with the men.

Surely if these workmen believed in the mutual interest of capital and labor, as the S. L. Peers and the I. W. W. have been telling them they did, here was their chance to make good. The railroads were furnishing the money to promote the new union. All they needed was to get in and work togerher for the good of all. It was an all-inclusive union. The second hand the stockholder were to receive was the same as the union, working for the good of the other; an ideal "community of interest" affair.

Dr. H. F. Mayhew, they didn't. I'll write it again, black, they didn't.

On July 1 the association will be officially dissolved. The all-inclusive union will be more accessible to the vice-president of the C. B. & Q. He is a brainy chap and must be taken care of. But small comfort to those who desired real red revolution there is a community of interest between them and the stockholders.

The situation given by Mayhew for the failure of the project is the hostile attitude taken against it by the radical minority in the railroad unions. But the transportation itself is of a nature which will be pretty strong or the powerful influences that Mirriss had behind him would have offset the effect of the cull. There are 700,000 railroad men in the Union, he should have been able to get enough to keep things moving.

The railroad men are generally looked upon as the most conservative men in the labor movement, and if they will not stand for the mutual interest dope, what may be think of the rest.

We will have to revise our ideas about the working men, and let us do it gladly, for this is one of the most portentous things that has happened in America.

Onward Rebels, onward.

W. M. Z. FOSTER.

LABOR UNIONS AND INSURANCE.

A great number of labor unions are deviating more and more from their real object—the transformation of society now socially unorganized, a transformation which the present expression of employers and the workers now wrongly depend upon them.

In order to retain some members and recruit others, unions assume the burden of sick and death benefits—great obstacles in the path of progress. Iniquities are thus perpetuated by the unions, for being assured that they will get help during periods of incapacity, members submit to conditions which would otherwise be unbearable.

Naturally, employers encourage such deviation of the unions from their true functions, knowing full well that they can thus reduce the radical influence which exists between them and their workpeople; causes the workers to avoid any contemplation of the future. The futal path of the unions and perpetuates the abominable reign of capitalism.

From a sentimental point of view, sick and death benefits are labor unions. They are part of the remedy for industrial evils, but this supposed is based on a wrong interpretation of social evils and leads only to the abyss of suffering, servitude and pauperism.

Under present conditions thousands of workers are solitary in their fate and alone to resist the most dreadful diseases, whilst expecting to derive from their calling the means of subsistence; and for such there is no emancipation in sick or funeral benefits. They have to remain at their tasks with a clear vision of their ultimate fate.

I do not condemn mutual societies founded for the purpose of aiding the sick and the burial of the dead. That is all well and good. But labor unions certainly ought not to be sick benefit clubs. While recommending the creation of Red Cross societies who risk limb and life in attending the wounded on the battlefield, it never be for gotten that they were born to hold up the impression of war are engaged in doing far greater and more effective work.

The true working interest is to make a supreme effort to destroy the system which is undermining the health of all workers. This great work must be done sooner or later. The beginning of sickness and of disease against the workers is a social question, and incorporates such questions as those of housing, wages, hours of labor, methods of working, factory arrangement, etc. It is also a social question.

With earnest and deep thinking as to social conditions we must recognize the fact that our industrial institutions are not based upon a just principle. At every step we are faced with the contrasts, imperfections and evils in our present systems—meeting with wealth and poverty, luxury and misery, idleness and hard and grinding toil, physical and moral well-being alongside filthiness and low mentality, education and ignorance—to be found everywhere side by side; pleasure and happiness being for those who do not profit poverty and sorrow, with all their attendant horrors reserved for the proletarians.

To bring about a reign of justice and equality, the labor unions must keep up the fighting spirit of their members, not kill it by the introduction into labor ranks of labor movement unions so-called.

Let us realize that we too are entitled to feast at nature's banquet. Let us endeavor to realize the advantage of a higher phase of life, and then we shall acquire what will enable us to obtain it.

The I. W. W. and MARCELIAU,
Local Union 45, N. B. of O. P.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

Dear Comrade;—Strikes have been very prominent lately in the N. S. W. The ferries of Sydney harbor struck for an eight-hour day and succeeded within a week. Then followed the Railway workers who demanded that all railway workers should join the union; but the action of the Labor Government assisted by the Commissioner of Railways who issued an ultimatum that if they did not return to work by 1 o'clock on Thursday the places of the strikers would be filled by the blackleggs. Needless say the threat succeeded.

The most traitorous act was that of the Labor Premier, McGeorge, who permitted to jail the leaders if the strike continued. The Labor Minister referred to the strikers as "Red Raggers" who probably were in the pay of the socialists. His action had dealt a severe blow at Nationalization of the railways. The men were bullied into submission by the police and the employers.

The Railway Workers struck against the Labor Government who opposed unionism.

Another strike took place at Broken Hill, owing to the street car company refusing to recognize the union. Broken Hill is cut off from connection with other parts of Australia through this stopping of railway traffic. The situation is very grave owing to the food supply running short.

The Labor Party has been so-called and but states he can do nothing.

A resolution was carried that the unionists should seize the street railway car and take it to obtain and supplies from Adelaide, but it was revoked the next day.

So we are muddling on in Australia, everything topsy tery, all ponting to Direct Action and the Social Revolution.

J. W. FLEMING.

WASHINGTON FOR INDUSTRIALISM.

At the Washington State Federation of Labor convention the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, the dual system of capital with which we are daily being brought into conflict, are ever concentrating into fewer hands, representing greater wealth and wealthier lives; and whereas, the organizations of labor, on the other hand, in continuing their present craft form of organization, are apparently no longer in position to effectively cope with the power of organized capital to the extent of compelling recognition of the rights of the organized working class; therefore, be it;

Resolved, That we endorse the industrial form of organization as the only practical means of securing greater rights for labor; and that the American Federation of Labor use his efforts to have a similar resolution adopted by the parent body of this union, the American Federation of Labor; and that the organization along industrial lines may be substituted for the present craft form, which allows one craft in a given line to organize itself and all the allied craft unions in the same industry continue at work; a process which while emptying our treasurers, is eminently satisfactory to the gigantic corporations who are in control of modern industry.

DON'T MAKE WAR ON WORDS.

"Of the miserable, unprofitable, inglorious wars in the world is the war against words. Let men say just what they like. ** ** We have nothing to do with words, Kropotkin's thoughts, except to put against them better words or better thoughts, and so to win the great moral and intellectual duel that is always going on, and on which all progress depends."—Anson Herbert.

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