

American Labor Union Journal

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THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1904.

When the Manufacturers' Association, some time since through its secretary, declared that the western unions must be crushed, and that Samuel Gompers would be invited to come in to build on the ruins of the W. F. M. and the A. L. U., it gave the keynote of the future methods to be followed in fighting organized labor in the Rocky mountain region.

The average workman now accepts the trade and labor union idea as a necessity. He agrees that a union is a "good thing," because "it aims to better the condition of the working class."

The government of England has sanctioned in South African mines that which The Pilot (London) says is a return to the slave trade of other times, the only difference being that it is Chinamen who are now being enslaved.

"A little pasteboard card does not make one a union man," says a Chicago correspondent. It's queer how many appear to think that it does, however. To some little minds, union principle contemplates nothing beyond the regular payment of the monthly dues.

"Why don't you endow a chair of economics at our university," said a distinguished educator to a millionaire.

Justin McCarthy in his "History of Our Times," in speaking of conditions during our war of the rebellion, says that Louis Napoleon at that time was beginning to feel the necessity of stirring up trouble with some

nation in order to divert attention of his people from troubles at home. In this the French monarch followed in the time honored footsteps of rulers everywhere. Whenever the oppressed begin to show signs of unrest a quarrel is picked and the dupes are sent out to slaughter or be slaughtered in the name of patriotism.

The union or the labor paper that is entirely satisfactory to the employers of labor is not worth a tinker's damn to the working class.

Did you read of the splendid success of the U. B. of R. E. on the Rock Island system of New Mexico? Somebody wake up the organ of the Order of Railway Trainmen.

"There are lots of men who are opposed to Socialism in the unions," is an expression frequently heard. This is another way of saying that the working men are satisfied with their lot and are opposed to anything which aims at the betterment of that condition.

Is the passage of an eight hour law a fit subject for discussion in a labor organization? Is the question of how to obtain an increase in pay a fit subject for debate? Do you believe the union should exert all its power to better the lot of its membership? If you believe these things why, then, do you oppose Socialism? It covers every single demand that the most advanced trade union has ever made and goes FURTHER THAN MANY UNIONS HAVE DARED TO GO and every single one of its demands are in the interest of those who go to make up the membership of the unions.

Governor Dockery of Missouri, in a recent address, is reported to have said that the hoodlums of that state had not cost the people anything. If by the people he means the working class he is probably correct. The robbery of the working class takes place at the time he sells his labor power. The hoodlums were, perhaps, merely appropriating to themselves that which had been stolen from the working class by other hoodlums who carry on their work in a legal manner under the name of the Wage System.

By the way, does the editor of the Cigar Makers' Journal remember when Samuel Gompers was organizing scab cigar makers at Lang & Urey's shops in St. Louis into dual unions in opposition to the Cigar Makers' International Union? Has Editor Hoehn of the St. Louis Labor ever heard of it? In days gone by was not the organization of dual unions as great a diversion with Slimy Sam as it is today? Mr. Hoehn is on the ground and can investigate. General David Hombrecht, who was president of the executive board of old 44, can throw some light on the matter.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM

A correspondent inquires the difference between the A. L. U. plan of organization and that of the A. F. of L. There is a radical difference not alone in the plan of organization, but in their teachings as well. There is a point of similarity, also. For instance, both organizations take the position that each union shall be permitted to manage its own affairs. On almost every other point they are in opposition to each other.

The A. L. U. takes the position that unions are organized to resist the aggressions of the capitalist class and that since capitalism combines, not by states, not by piecemeal, but by industries, the workers must combine in the same manner. The A. L. U. plan is that one union must support another. Formerly in carrying this plan out assessments were levied on the membership in support of strikes. Latterly it has established a strike fund which is rapidly growing.

a time while the others stand with folded arms. The A. F. of L. is the unionism of twenty years ago during the era of the small manufacturer. The A. L. U. is the unionism found necessary by the magnitude of those in opposition to the workers—the multi-millionaires. Neither the A. F. of L. nor the A. L. U. attempt to control or compel the support of any particular political platform, but both indulge in advice to their membership. The A. L. U. has said through its conventions that in its opinion the only hope for the workers was to wrest the powers of government from the capitalist class who were using it to butcher the worker; that this seizure of governmental powers could only be accomplished by united class conscious political action.

Official Department

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 20, 1904.

To the General Officers and to Local, National and International Unions—

Greeting: In accordance with Article II. of the General Constitution, and upon application of Women's Protective Union No. 148 of Butte, Mont., endorsed by unions representing not less than six per cent. of the membership embraced in local unions, I herewith submit an amendment to the General Constitution:

"To Amend Article IX., Section 2, of the General Constitution, to read as follows:

Sec. 2. All members of local and federal unions, united with the American Labor Union, shall pay into the treasury of the American Labor Union 20 cents per member per month to be segregated and applied as follows:

"Eleven cents per member per month to be turned into the general fund and used in conducting administration; 4 cents per member per month to be turned into the general fund and used in conducting the American Labor Union Journal, and 5 cents per member per month to be turned into the defense fund and used only for the purpose of conducting strikes and paying strike benefits when such strikes have been duly and legally approved by the general executive board.

"Female members of local and federal unions, united with the American Labor Union, shall pay into the treasury of the American Labor Union, 10 cents per member per month to be segregated and applied as follows:

"Three cents per member per month to be turned into the general fund and used in conducting administration; 4 cents per member per month to be turned into the general fund and used in conducting the American Labor Union Journal, and 3 cents per month to be turned into the defense fund and used only for the purpose of conducting strikes and paying strike benefits when such strikes have been duly and legally approved by the general executive board.

The above amendment is endorsed by the following unions: Workingmen's Union, No. 5, Butte, Ont. Teamsters' Union, No. 15, Butte, Mont. Barbers' Protective Union, No. 21, Butte, Mont. Shoemakers' Union, No. 27, Butte, Mont. Federal Labor Union, No. 43, Missoula, Mont. St. Regis Lumbermen's Union, No. 50, St. Regis, Mont. Quartz Labor Union, No. 57, Quartz, Mont. Hamilton Federal Labor Union, No. 109, Hamilton, Mont. Deer Creek Labor Union, No. 161, De Borgia, Mont. Beer Drivers and Bottlers' Union, No. 71, Butte, Mont. Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union, No. 204, Missoula, Mont. Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union, No. 285, Great Falls, Mont. Women's Protective Union, No. 148, Butte, Mont. Butte Office Employees', No. 149, Butte, Mont. Federal Labor Union, No. 385, Park City, Utah.

A form is enclosed herewith for the vote of your local. After the local has voted, record the vote on this form and mail to headquarters in the enclosed addressed envelope. Be sure the seal is attached to the form before it is mailed to headquarters.

Vote closes at headquarters April 20th. Result will be published in the American Labor Journal on or before May 1st, and if the amendment is adopted will become effective May 15, 1904. Fraternalty yours, CLARENCE SMITH, General Secretary-Treasurer American Labor Union.

WHAT THEY ORDERED.

Colorado union men are bellyaching because the daily papers seem to be "in a conspiracy to maintain silence toward the Cripple Creek strike." The Colorado union men make us tired. They permitted the best labor paper in the country to starve to death—they supported the daily paper (which is right)—and now they whine because the daily papers do not become labor papers.

In the matter of papers as in matters of government the Colorado brothers are getting what they ordered. When they voted for Poa, body they voted for capitalism and they are getting it in doses. A democratic party can build bull pens as cleverly as the republicans and will do so to protect the mine owners whenever needed. The issue in Colorado as it is everywhere is capitalism vs. collectivism. When they voted for the first they must expect to get it.

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GET A COPY. Write to your congressman or senator—beg pardon, your employer's congressman or senator—asking for a copy of the statement of the Western Federation of Miners...

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April 24th to May 2nd inclusive the SHORT LINE will sell tickets to San Francisco and return \$50.00, Los Angeles and return \$60.00.

The Chicago & Alton railroad has announced a 10 per cent. reduction in pay of section hands.

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NEWS NOTES FROM THE FIELD OF LABOR

SHEARERS, TAKE NOTICE!

Butte, Mont., April 2, 1904. This is to certify that J. E. Gibbs of Welter, Idaho, has this day been expelled from the Haad and Machine Sheep Shearers' Union.

Notice is hereby given by the Newport Lumbermen's Union, No. 332, A. L. U., that for the period of six days from date of March 19, 1904, new members will be received into the organization for the nominal fee of one dollar.

THANKS TO THE UNION.

Mother of Charles Krigbaum Expresses Gratitude to A. L. U. Local at Revelstoke, B. C. The Journal is in receipt of the following letter from Mrs. Mary Krigbaum of Gem, Idaho.

And I also wish to say that I more than thank the union of which my son was a member at Revelstoke, B. C., for the trouble they took to send me \$59.75 that my son had in the bank.

AFFILIATION JEALOUSY.

The jealousy existing in some labor unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. is worth commenting upon. The local Musicians' Union, No. 6, A. F. of L., asked the question in the labor council.

The question was referred to the executive board of the council, who in turn, called on a committee from the executive board of the Street Car Men's Union to answer the question.

The A. L. U. constitution stands for industrial organization and to vote for men who stand for the principle of giving to each worker the full product of his toil.

Now, when the ultimate end of each is the same, why not adopt the quicker method to gain the desired result? It would be much better for all concerned.

Remember, we all cannot hold cabinet jobs, nor can we all get a whack at those fine Civic Federation bayonets. So think again and think again.

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BINDERY GIRLS STRIKE.

The number of bindery girls on strike in Chicago has been increased by 700. Strike committees visiting the printing and bindery establishments controlled by the Chicago Typothetae and insisting that the union's demand for a 10 per cent. increase be considered.

ELECTRIC WORKERS WALK OUT.

Eight hundred employees of the General Electric company of Schenectady, N. Y., have struck because the company refused to discharge a union man who had been fined for violation of a union rule and failed to pay his fine.

Eloquent Speakers Will Give a Series of Lectures on Socialist Classics in San Francisco.

Beginning on April 5th Arthur and Lena Morrow Lewis, well known lecturers of California, will deliver a series of lectures on the classics of Socialism at Turk Street Temple, San Francisco.

PLUMBERS STRIKE OFF.

Matters are finally settled between the bosses and the plumbers of the city of Butte, Mont. The fight has been a long drawn out battle in which each side made a splendid display of patience.

Two hundred iron bed makers are on strike at Chicago.

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