VOLUME FIVE NUMBER SIX

THE ASBESTOS WORKER

OCTOBER NINETEEN TWENTY-SIX



THIS MONTH:

Reports of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer

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One art is the expression of beauty in whatever form it may appear,—in the home, in the shop, in daily life, in thought and work. It is something infinitely deeper and broader than the form through which it manifests itself. Its measure of Beauty is directly proportioned to the sincerity of purpose and the fineness of the ideals that give it form. The conscious effort to understand and appreciate a work of Art strengthens our own ideals; and in striving to express our ideals, through whatever task comes to our hands, we may make our own life and the lives of others happier, more worthy, and more beautiful.—Ernest A. Batchelder.

Build upon resolve, not upon ruinous regret, the structure of thy future. Grope not among the shadows of old sins, but let thy soul's light shine upon the path of hope and diligence. Shed no tears upon the blotted records of lost years, but turn the leaf and study, study to see the fair white pages that remain to you.

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The Asbestos Worker

The Official Monthly Journal of and Published by the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers

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E. A. Johnson, Editor and Publisher, 66 Walker St., West Roxbury

Volume V OCTOBER, 1926 Number 6

The Report of the General President

GREETINGS: This quarter's activities began with a conference with Business Agent Mulligan of Local No. 17 on a subject matter of importance to Local 17. Next came a conference with International Vice President Johnson of Boston that had to do with the welfare of our Official Journal. Then came Cleveland where in company with International Vice President Holland your President attended a meeting of Local No. 3 and heard the protest and appeal of Brother Henry J. Oliver, the official decision of which appeared in the August number of our Journal. Local No. 3 has been represented by President Harpp as Business Agent until recently when Brother Dalton was declared a mechanic in accordance with trade law, he is now in possession of a mechanic's card and serving as the Business Agent of Local No. 3.

Cincinnati came next in line where your President attended a special meeting of Local No. 8 on a Shop Agreement understanding in connection with "outside" work. Then on to Pittsburg where a conference was held with President Hennig and Business Agent Mansfield in addition to attending the meeting of Local No. 2.

Next came a conference between the officials of the J-M, K & M, and Armstrong Shops and a committee of Local No. 2, which your President attended on the subject of Trade Agreement. Local No. 2 is now in line with the $12 cities in addition to a straight International form of "Trade Agreement." The next jump was to Toronto at the call of Local No. 20, where the conference as requested by the Local showed the Employers very conspicuous by their absence.

The next stop was Montreal and business of an executive nature. Then came Atlantic City and appearance before the National Board of Jurisdictional Awards on the subject matter of Slab Cork Insulation. This proved to be a re-hearing granted the Roofers and not, as your President expected a general hearing for final disposition of the subject. It proved

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to be a farce as the Carpenters, Bricklayers and Laborers failed to put in an appearance. The decision of the National Board for Jurisdictional Awards in the Building Industry as it relates to Slab Cork Insulation continues, all "cork slab" work in the possession of the Bricklayers, Carpenters, Plasterers and Laborers, except on roofs when laid in tar or asphalt, in which case it is the Roofers work.

Then came attendance at the New York Prison Labor Commission hearing. This was followed by attendance at the convention of the New York State Federation of Labor at Niagara Falls. Baltimore was next in line, where your President journeyed in company of Business Agent Murtha of Local No. 14 Philadelphia and conferred with Business Agent Bruhlman and Secretary Mohsberg of Local No. 11 and later appeared with them before the Baltimore Building Trades Council in connection with certain non-union work in Baltimore, being performed by a Philadelphia general contractor. This as also another out-of-town trip in connection with certain business of an executive nature that has engaged some of the time and attention of your President during the past two months concludes his report.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph A. Mullaney

General President.

September 8, 1926.

PASSAIC STRIKERS JOIN TRADE UNION

The United Textile Workers of America has issued a charter to the striking textile workers of this city and vicinity. The charter will be officially presented by President McMahon of the international union at a mass meeting.

The employers' stubbornness has awakened interest in the suggested investigation by congress of the textile tariff schedule. President McMahon has repeatedly shown how these employers gouge the people and exploit workers through special privileges accorded them by the tariff act.

It is proposed to organize a committee of 100 citizens to promote a congressional investigation of this industry when congress convenes next December. The probe will include wage scales.

Henry T. Hunt, vice-chairman of a citizens' committee that is aiding the strikers, said:

"I would advise the textile barons to put their house in order before this investigation, as they are in no position to go before the public now." He said that the 74 per cent tariff imposed on imported textile goods, together with the low wage scale, enables American textile manufacturers to make a 100 per cent profit.

REGARDING THE MAILING LIST

Every member of our International Association in good standing, is entitled to and should receive a monthly copy of "The Asbestos Worker". The Editor mails copies to all names and addresses of members furnished him by Local Union Secretaries. The following Local Union Secretaries have not as yet furnished us with a list of their membership: Locals No. 5, 21, 22, 25, 30, 31, 34, 36, 42, 45, 50, 52, 64, 70, 71.

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Principles Underlying Freedom

WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

ALL have watched with deep concern the developments which have taken place with reference to the actions of the executive officers of Mexico in the enforcement of that part of the constitution of Mexico relating to religious matters.

While the situation may be viewed with apprehension, the American Federation of Labor has refrained from interfering in the internal and domestic policies of the Mexican nation. We regard the domestic and internal policies of another nation as their own problem. Whatever wrong may exist and whatever injustice may be practiced can only be remedied by the people who make up the nation.

In claiming the right to deal with our own domestic and administrative problems without interference from outside sources, we must concede the exercise of the same right to other nations.

But in considering the exercise of this right, it seems quite pertinent to reiterate the attitude of the American Federation of Labor toward the principle of religious freedom. This is a fundamental principle with the American Federation of Labor.

We have steadfastly fought for liberty of conscience, for non-interference in the religious beliefs of the membership of organized labor.

We guarantee the exercise of freedom without interference from the American Federation of Labor to every member in his choice of religious belief and in the exercise of his right to worship in accordance with the dictates of his conscience.

The success of the American Federation of Labor has been largely due to a strict adherence to and a rigid observance of the great fundamental principle of religious freedom.

The interest of the American Federation of Labor in the Republic of Mexico has been confined exclusively to economic and industrial affairs.

We have endeavored to instill in the hearts and minds of the Mexican working people the principles and philosophy of the American Federation of Labor. We have sought to extend such assistance as we might be able to give to the Mexican working people in promoting their standards of living and in the advancement of their economic and industrial welfare.

The American Federation of Labor does not control or direct the work of the Mexican Federation of Labor. The Mexican Federation of Labor is an autonomous body, a purely Mexican organization of labor, and constitutes only a unit of the Pan American Federation of Labor.

While both the Mexican Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Labor are units of the Pan American Federation of Labor, neither exercises any authority or jurisdiction over the affairs of the other.

The American Federation of Labor has nothing whatever to do with the policy pursued by the Mexican Federation of Labor in its disposition of matters and questions in Mexico.

The American Federation of Labor has nothing whatever to do with the

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policies pursued by the Mexican Federation of Labor in its relation with the Mexican Government.

We have no right to interfere in either the work or the policies of the Mexican Federation of Labor within the Republic of Mexico.

Neither do we grant to the Mexican Federation of Labor the right to interfere in the work of the American Federation of Labor within its jurisdiction.

If the Mexican Federation of Labor decided to give its support to the Mexican government in the enforcement of the Mexican constitution affecting religious matters, the American Federation of Labor has no power or authority to interfere with such decision.

We have not given approval or support to the Mexican Federation of Labor in any policy which it may have adopted or in any decisions which it may have made to support the government in the present situation.

The American Federation of Labor is committed to the principles of peace and the promotion of peaceful solution of national and international controversies.

For that reason we greatly deplore the present situation existing in Mexico. Only the exercise of reason, of toleration and sound judgment, can bring about a settlement.

Let us hope that a basis of accommodation may be found, so that a constructive and satisfactory program may be agreed upon and peace and tranquillity may be established between the contending forces in Mexico.

BALDWIN PENNED "MEAN DOCUMENT"

Premier Baldwin's letter to America in which he minimizes the suffering of miners' families, is "the meanest document ever penned by a minister of the British government," said former Premier Lloyd George, following a private tour of the coal fields.

Premier Baldwin made the statement just as a delegation of British unionists started for America to solicit funds to aid the locked-out miners' dependents.

In a manifesto issued by the general council of the British Trades Union Congress and the Miners' Federation, the unionists say:

"Actual starvation has invaded the miners' homes. The women and children are suffering through the action of the poor law authorities, with the connivance of the government, in cutting down the scale of relief and through the curtailment of school meals. In trying to bring the miners into subjection the government has not scrupled to endeavor to check the generous impulses of the public in voluntarily subscribing to the relief funds by which the worst consequences of the tragedy in the coal fields have been partially alleviated."

MEMORIAL TO SAMUEL GOMPERS PLANNED

Plans to erect a monument at Washington in memory of the late Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor for 40 years, were discussed at the recent meeting of the Executive Council of the Federation.

The committee having the matter in charge will make a detailed report to the next meeting of the Executive Council and collection of funds for the monument will be undertaken.

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E. A. JOHNSON
Vice-President
Editor *The Asbestos Worker*

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The Report of the General Secretary-Treasurer

TO the Officers and Members of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, Executive Board:

Greeting:—I hereby submit for your consideration my report since the last Convention, but inasmuch as my report appeared in the issues of the Journal from time to time, it would be a waste of time to again go over in detail.

CHARTERS ISSUED

Since the last Convention we have issued charter to Winnipeg, Canada, which is re-organized, and shall be known as Local No. 15.

Also have issued a charter to Charlotte, N. C., which shall be known as Local No. 77.

PROSPECTIVE LOCALS

We have prospective Locals at Birmingham, Ala., Cedar Rapids, Ia., and Dayton, Ohio, and no doubt charters will be issued to these cities.

CHARTERS REVOKED

Erie, Pa., known as Local No. 76. This was done on the recommendation of our International President and concurred in by the Executive Board.

FINANCES

The Finances of the International Association remain about normal.

VISITS

In February I visited the City of Cincinnati, and attended the meeting of the National Board for Jurisdictional Awards, at which time the jurisdiction dispute between several of the International Organizations was being aired, and it looked as though if some settlement had not been entered into the life of the Building Trades Council in St. Louis would be very short, and our Trade was vitally interested.

MEMBERSHIP

The numerical strength of our International Association is increasing, as you will note from the circular letter which I have forwarded to each Local, giving them the total membership of our International.

WAGES

I have also sent to the various Locals a list of the wages as paid by our Contractors in each town, and which makes an average wage of $1.12½ an hour.

OFFICIAL RECEIPTS

Since the last Convention practically my entire time has been taken up in perfecting the new register system, which will no doubt be in working shape after the next Quarter. Would request that the Financial Secretary of each Local when making out the Quarterly receipt slips for members who pay for 1, 2, 3 or 4 months that they make out slips for the current Quarter; that is to say, if a member has paid his January dues, and has been issued a receipt slip for his dues in January and in March he wishes to pay for three months, that the Financial Secretary make out a receipt slip for February and March and make out an extra slip for April, as this will help out the General Office in getting the total membership for each Quarter more correctly. Would also request that the Financial Secretary be sure and check off the months in which the dues are paid.

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OLD MEMBERS ON WITHDRAWAL CARDS WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED SAME

As there are quite a few of the membership who have been issued withdrawal cards and who have not up-to-date renewed same, the General Office will send out a circular letter to each Local with the names of these members and the date that their withdrawal card was issued, so that the Locals may, in turn, notify these members of the action of the last Convention and the new law relative to renewing withdrawal cards.

APPLICATION BLANKS

As there has been quite a few applications sent to the General Office after a year from the time the applicant was taken into the Local, would respectfully request the Recording Secretary when sending in application blanks that they see they are filled out in their entirety and are sent to the General Office as soon as possible.

TRAVELING, TRANSFER AND WITHDRAWAL CARDS

As I have received several reports from various Locals that members have deposited their transfer or traveling card before the triplicate has been sent to the General Office by the Local which has issued same, would respectfully request that the triplicate of all traveling, transfer or withdrawal cards be sent to the General Office immediately upon the Local issuing it.

GROUP INSURANCE

The result of the Referendum on the Group Insurance shows that it was overwhelmingly defeated, and the following is the tabulation, although not complete and have repeatedly kept after the Locals to report on same, but up to this date (Sept. 4th) I have not heard from the following Locals with report, and have wired them:

Local 4—Buffalo, N. Y.
Local 7—Seattle, Wash.
Local 11—Baltimore, Md.
Local 21—Dallas, Texas.
Local 30—Syracuse, N. Y.
Local 31—Providence, R. I.
Local 34—Minneapolis & St. Paul.
Local 38—Wilkesbarre, Pa.
Local 40—Albany-Troy.
Local 42—Wilmington, Del.
Local 45—Toledo, Ohio.
Local 50—Tacoma, Wash.
Local 52—Duluth, Minn.
Local 64—Tulsa, Okla.

RESULTS OF REFERENDUM ON GROUP INSURANCE

LOCAL	YES	NO	YES	NO
1	0	86	0	1
2	10	42		
3	0	98	0	1
4				
5	0	66	0	1
6	35	10		
7				
8	0	40	0	1
9	11	0	1	0
10	0	23	0	1
11				
12	0	479	0	1
14	0	246	0	1
15				
16	34	0	1	0
17	0	240	0	1
18	0	28	0	1
19	6	24		
20	0	28		
21				
22	0	29	0	1
23	0	28	0	1
24	8	17		
25	0	150	0	1
26	2	17		
27	16	1		
28	0	16	0	1
30				
31	0	47	0	1
32	0	111	0	1
33	0	54	0	1
34				
35	0	22	0	1
36	0	28	0	1
38				
39	13		1	0
40	0	10	0	1

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LOCAL	YES	NO	YES	NO
42				
43	24	0	1	0
44	0	12	0	1
45				
50				
51	0	17	0	1
52				
64				
70	0	7	0	1
71				
72	0	11	0	1
73				
74				
75	0	10	0	1
			4	24

WAGES OF VARIOUS LOCALS

LOCAL	PER HOUR
1 St. Louis	$1.25
2 Pittsburg	1.43¾
3 Cleveland	
4 Buffalo	1.12½
5 Los Angeles	1.12½
6 Boston	1.25
7 Seattle	1.12½
8 Cincinnati	1.23¾
9 Norfolk and Portsmouth	1.00
10 New Orleans	1.00
11 Baltimore	1.12½
12 New York	1.50
14 Philadelphia	1.05
16 San Francisco	.98⅛
17 Chicago	1.50
18 Indianapolis	1.10
19 Milwaukee	1.00
20 Toronto	.85
21 Dallas	
22 Houston	1.12½
23 Montreal	.75
24 Washington	1.12½
25 Detroit	1.25
26 Rochester	1.15
27 Kansas City	1.00
28 Denver	1.00
30 Syracuse	1.12½
31 Providence	1.10
32 Essex and Hudson Co.	1.50
33 Connecticut	1.18¾
34 Minneapolis and St. Paul	1.00
35 Youngstown	1.25
36 Portland	1.25

LOCAL	PER HOUR
38 Wilkesbarre	1.05
39 Omaha	1.06¼
40 Albany-Troy	1.25
42 Wilmington	1.05
43 Springfield	1.10
44 Columbus	1.25
45 Toledo	1.12½
50 Tacoma	1.12½
51 Louisville	1.15
52 Duluth	
64 Tulsa	1.12½
70 Mare Island	.88
71 Sacramento	1.00
72 Bremerton	.88
73 Portland	1.10
74 Des Moines	1.00
75 South Bend	1.00

NEW MEMBERS

REG. NO.		LOCAL
5832	Walter James Hall, Jr.	2
5810	Frank Van Scooter	4
5811	Wm. Toal	4
5812	Allen M. Lamker	4
5833	D. G. Folck	4
5834	Christopher Fryer	4
5835	John Foisset	4
5836	John H. Farrell	4
5780	Chas. L. Brown	5
5781	H. J. Morgan	5
5782	James A. Dunham	5
5783	D. W. Foster	5
5784	M. S. Holroyd	5
5785	Sam DeMatale	5
5786	A. M. Patterson	5
5787	Edgar J. Monk	5
5838	Albert Wells	5
5801	Norman Blackadore	6
5807	Martin Kelly	6
5808	James K. Schaufert	7
5809	W. T. Stewart	7
5837	Clarence Fiduccia	10
5792	Victor Raner	12
5793	Wm. Hutton	12
5830	Geo. Wilson, Jr.	12
5831	Nils Langreen	12
5791	Wm. Stark	14
5803	F. S. Danley	16
5795	Chas. Lynch	17
5806	Tim. McCarthy	17
5799	Roy Hines	22
5800	Allen DeVillier	22

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REG. NO.		LOCAL
5839	Arthur Mantha	23
5796	Frank Symczak	25
5797	Jos. Mailloux	25
5813	George Grasser	25
5814	John A. Winters	25
5815	George Carson	25
5816	Edwin Harris	25
5817	Alex. Miller	25
5818	Lynn Jewell	25
5819	Henry Harris	25
5820	Walter Hartwell	25
5821	Al. Miller	25
5822	Jos. McBride	25
5823	G. V. Woods	25
5824	Sid. Beck	25
5825	Roy Hamilton	25
5802	Geo. Butler	27
5827	W. E. Berry	27
5826	W. M. Wright	31
5798	Jesse B. Mellor	35
5788	Wm. Tinker	38
5789	Ellis D. Williams	38
5790	Wm. Collins	38
5828	T. E. McHale	38
5794	R. R. Russell	39
5804	J. G. Scott	64
5805	Lawrence L. Guthrie	64
5829	Rex M. Sproat	72

SUSPENDED MEMBERS.

4795	Casper A. Schain	5
515	Alex Goodwin	5
3137	Fred A. Tri	5
5419	Harry C. Coburn	5
337	J. Young	8
998	T. Davies	12
4243	H. Minerly	12
4715	Frank Berndt	19
2911	William Wild	20
2835	R. Osborne	20
5636	Harry Baugh	75

LAPSED MEMBERS

5246	Robert Demers	10
5692	Raymond Zacks	33
4721	Paul Weegand	35
4756	C. T. Peters	72

EXPELLED MEMBERS

2184	Jack Shelton	22
4580	O. A. Leman	23

Thomas J. McNamara

Secretary-Treasurer.

St. Louis, Mo., September 11, 1926.

Did you give him a lift? He's a brother of man,
And bearing about all the burden he can.
Did you give him a smile? He was downcast and blue,
And the smile would have helped him to battle it through.
Did you give him your hand? He was slipping down hill,
And the world, so I fancied, was using him ill.
Did you give him a word? Did you show him the road,
Or did you just let him go on with his load?

Did you help him along? He's a sinner like you,
But the grasp of your hand might have carried him through.
Did you bid him good cheer? Just a word and a smile
Were what he most needed that last weary mile.
Do you know what he bore in that burden of cares
That is every man's load and that sympathy shares?
Did you try to find out what he needed from you,
Or did you just leave him to battle it through?

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The Editor's Page

THE ASBESTOS WORKER
E. A. JOHNSON - - - Editor

The Official Journal of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers

JOSEPH A. MULLANEY.....President
HENRY H. HOLLAND..Vice-President
E. A. JOHNSON.....Vice-President
HENRY J. OLIVER.....Vice-President
THOMAS J. McNAMARA..Sec'y-Treas.

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and Building Trades Department, American Federation of Labor

The Asbestos Worker is devoted to the interests of our craft, and we earnestly solicit correspondence, but disclaim responsibility for opinions or views expressed under that heading.

All articles for the correspondence columns of The Asbestos Worker must be in the hands of the Editor not later than the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Address all communications to
E. A. JOHNSON, Editor
66 Walker Street, West Roxbury, Mass

Editorial

THE "Asbestos Workers' Journal" has received favorable comment from several of our local unions, and we are still striving to earn and deserve honorable mention for every issue. At the risk of being called a parrot, we repeat, that "The Asbestos Worker" is your Journal and it will succeed to the extent that we receive co-operation and support from our membership, and we regret that some of our local unions cheat their members out of the monthly issue of the Journal because they lack interest and have not got enough energy to even supply us with their members' addresses.

We suppose that the average member relies upon the Secretary of his local union to keep us informed on trade news, etc., and a "Let-George-Do-It" spirit prevails. Well, the only person that ever succeeded by letting George do it was George Washington, so we ask that some snap and spirit be injected into your Local Union, appoint yourself the press agent of your Local and tell us what's going on and what you think. Do it yourself—don't expect the other fellow to do it for you.

If you have criticisms to make, praises to bestow, comments of any kind, we all will be glad to hear them and answer them too, through the columns of our Journal.

Maybe it's true, the oft repeated story, that the Asbestos Workers are asleep, we have to be convinced of that, we still have hope and faith, time will tell whether or not the story is a libel or the truth. Get busy.

The Editor

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First Annual Picnic of the Asbestos Workers at Springfield, Massachusetts

Dear Editor: I have sent you under separate cover a picture of our first annual picnic held at King Phillips Stockade, Springfield, August 22, 1926, and hope that same will be shown in the next issue of the "*Asbestos Worker*," so that our brother Locals can see that Springfield No. 43 is still in existence and enjoying both prosperity and good health. The picnic was called for 10:30 A. M. and at about 11:00 "everybody knew everybody" and the events that the committee had arranged started with a bang. At 1:00 sharp a picnic dinner of "huge dimensions" was enjoyed. Immediately following the dinner the picture was taken, after which the remainder of the program consisting of races, sports and games was continued. The feature event of the sporting card was a special 200-yard dash between "Mike" Mulverhill and his former working mate and "Convention Pal", Nels Johnson. Sure it was nip and tuck all the way but the "fleet footed" Holyoke Mikey" won by a yard or so and was rewarded with a special privilege or so called key to the liquid refreshments. All in all the affair was a huge success and the membership look forward to its next one as far bigger and better than the one before.

Fraternally yours,

C. R. JOHNSON, *Secretary*.

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Dr. Charles W. Eliot, Famous Educator is Dead

DOCTOR Charles William Eliot, for 40 years president of Harvard University, died in his summer home in Maine. He was 92 years of age. In 1909 he resigned as president and became president emeritus.

His success as an educator and scholar did not continue when he entered the economic field and discussed labor problems. He was subjected to sharp attacks by organized labor. In 1902 he classed the strikebreaker as "a hero", and in 1904 said that trade unionism brought "less liberty than the American enjoyed in 1776."

The Boston Central Labor Union challenged him to a joint debate and the unionists selected Frank K. Foster, a member of the Typographical Union, to discuss this question: "Resolved, that the non-unionist has the moral right to work, how, when and where he pleases." Foster took the negative.

Dr. Eliot's affirmative was never published, but the American Federation of Labor still circulates Foster's repudiation of strike breaking morality.

With his logic, his invective, idealism and appeals to every recognized moral code, Foster riddled Dr. Eliot's defense of the strikebreaker and non-unionist.

"The trade union cordially welcomes the scrutiny of thoughtful students and the criticism of honest and fair-minded men," said Foster, in closing his speech. "It has even tolerance for those dilettante and superior people who examine its structure in much the same spirit as they look through a microscope at the antennae of a rare bug or at some new species of mollusk brought up from the depths of the ocean.

"The trade union says, 'In union is strength.' The 'moral' strikebreaker replies, 'In disunion is morality.'

"The trade union says, 'We owe each other a duty.' The strikebreaker says, 'temporary self-interest is stronger than duty.'

"If there be such a thing as moral responsibility, it should prevent a man from heaping up the burdens upon the shoulders of those who do the hard work of the world; it should appeal to his sense of chivalry not to interfere with the uplifting of little children; it should debar him from playing the part of the sycophant and mercenary in the greatest struggle of the century in which we live.

"Yet the non-unionist who works how, when and where he pleases, does all these things and more.

"Clothe him, if your heart so moves, with the mantle of the law, adorn him with Philistine approval, but shame on the hypocrisy that seeks to cover his moral obliquity with the stolen garment of righteousness."

THE number of square people, not the number of square miles, makes a country great.

IT takes a brave man nowadays to be a burglar. He never knows when a woman will mistake him for her husband and shoot.

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Labor Mission to Russia is Disowned

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has issued a warning against the sending of a so-called labor mission from the United States to visit Soviet Russia in the name of American labor.

THE attention of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has been directed "to certain efforts which are being put forth by some labor men and others to form a commission to be composed of representatives of organized labor for the express purpose of visiting Soviet Russia, and incidentally other nations in Europe, for the ostensible purpose of making an investigation of economic, industrial, social and political conditions," declares the Council.

"In order to correct any wrong impression which might prevail among the membership of organized labor and within the public mind regarding the formation of such a commission, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor deems it advisable to issue the following statement:

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor is opposed to the formation of any commission, composed of labor representatives, having for its purpose a visit to Russia, and incidentally other European countries, unless authorized to do so by the American Federation of Labor.

"We do not feel that any good purpose could be served through such action. In fact, we seriously doubt the good faith of such a self-constituted commission. We can not believe that any representative or officer of organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will accept membership upon such a commission.

"Under no circumstances can we approve or look with favor upon the action of any officer or representative of any organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor who would accept membership upon such a commission. We are gratified to learn that a number of officers and members of organized labor have declined invitations to serve on this proposed commission.

"This opposition of the Executive Council to such a commission going to Soviet Russia is based upon the fact that no tribunal of the A. F. of L. has authorized the creation of a labor commission to visit Russia and other countries in Europe.

"Only last October a convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Atlantic City, N. J., considered the question of investigating the situation in Russia and by a practically unanimous vote declared itself in opposition to such a proposal.

"No situation has arisen which would seem to require a change in policy on the part of the American Federation of Labor.

"Until such a change takes place it becomes the duty of both the Executive Council and the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor to carry out the decision of the Atlantic City convention of the American Federation of Labor.

"If this course is followed no officer, member or representative of organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will accept appointment upon any self-styled labor commission which is now being formed for the purpose of visiting Russia and other European countries. The cost of sending a commission to Russia

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would be great. It would require a substantial sum of money with which to pay the expenses of a commission. Where would the necessary funds come from?

"We can not, under any circumstances, approve the action of any officer or representative of any organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor in undertaking the creation or management or both of a fund for the financing of such a commission. We likewise recommend that no affiliated union contribute in any way to a fund for such a purpose or to give aid or encouragement of any kind to such an undertaking.

"The members of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor are curious to know why an attempt is being made at this time to create a so-called labor commission to visit Soviet Russia and why such action is being taken without the authority and approval of the American Federation of Labor.

"Until such time as the American Federation of Labor, through its legally constituted tribunals creates a commission and clothes it with authority to visit Russia and other European countries, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor will oppose the organization of any self-constituted commission which would assume to represent labor and to create the impression that it speaks for labor, while visiting in Soviet Russia and other European countries."

Anti-Union Suit is Recalled by Loewe Bankruptcy

THE D. E. Loewe & Co., famous non-union hat manufacturer, is bankrupt. The plant is closed and Dietrich E. Loewe, head of the concern, who was dined and feted by manufacturers' associations and chambers of commerce, has been confined to his home for several months by illness. The firm's liabilities total $240,000 and suggestions are made that the creditors accept a 60 per cent settlement. A portion of the factory has been rented by a union hat manufacturer to handle his increased business.

Little publicity is given the collapse of this concern that was in the forefront of a country-wide anti-union campaign a quarter of a century ago. Loewe's leading attorney was Walter Gordon Merritt, whose family was connected with the C. H. Merritt Hat Company, the cheapest non-union hat plant in Danbury, and which has also passed from the industrial stage.

The Hatters' union attempted to unionize the Loewe concern. Loewe refused to recognize the union and the hatters asked organized labor to not buy that product. In September, 1903, Loewe filed suit against the union in the Connecticut federal district court. He asked $80,000 damages, which would be three-fold under the Sherman anti-trust law. A state court levied on the hatters' homes and their bank accounts. This levy was under an antiquated Connecticut law which permitted attachment before judgment was rendered.

The A. F. of L. took up the fight, which was carried to the United States Supreme Court. When the decision was affirmed the A. F. of L. issued an appeal for funds to pay the judgment and $222,911.20 was raised. As a result of the agitation the A. F. of L. secured the passage of the Clayton amendment to the anti-trust law.

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Labor Injunction Ignores the Labor Question

HON. JOHN R. FORD
Justice of the New York State Supreme Court

THE labor question presents new problems unknown to courts of equity when our government was founded.

Equity rules appertain for the most part to property rights—the rights of capital. Today the courts persist in stretching these rules to crush labor organizations on the theory that labor is a commodity, without the slightest recognition of human souls and American homes which the term labor connotes. By legislative acts labor has been declared not to be a commodity or article of commerce. Yet the courts refuse to give recognition to this obvious truth.

The fact is that the labor question is a law by itself and should be so treated by the law because of the human elements composing it.

I have quoted from the Daugherty (railroad) injunction, so-called. Do not forget that the United States of America itself was the complainant in that suit. And bear in mind that the Constitution forbids congress to make any law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. Also remember that that injunction was granted without notice to the labor unions or their members. There was nothing before the judge except such papers as the attorney general saw fit to submit. Yet this injunction was so issued which, by a stroke of the pen, turned into crimes acts which before that were innocent and unpunishable.

I say it turned innocent acts into crimes. It may be said that they were not made crimes, but only contempt of court. To that I answer that to the citizen who finds himself in jail, it makes little difference what the act is called for which he is being punished.

Furthermore, he would be better off if it were called a crime because then his rights would be protected by the ample safeguards provided by the ordinary criminal procedure which, with exceeding care, protects the rights and liberties of the humblest.

Call his offense a contempt and he is haled before the judge and without trial by jury summarily condemned to fine and imprisonment, or both.

THE building trades unions now actually control between 45 and 50 per cent of the 2,250,000 wage earners in the construction industry, and the wages and working conditions that they have obtained are generally accepted as the basis of compensation for all building mechanics. Union organization of the skilled trades is most highly developed, and it is estimated that approximately 70 per cent of all the skilled craftsmen in the building industry are members of labor unions. Efforts to organize common labor, however, have not been so successful, and it is estimated that less than 20 per cent of the 625,000 unskilled workers in the industry are unionized.

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Is Trade Unionism Doomed?

"IS trade unionism doomed in America?"

This is the rather startling question that appears at the top of an article in the July issue of Current History, and seven pages of the magazine are devoted to an answer to the query. The article was written by Abraham Epstein, research director of the Pennsylvania old age commission, who was formerly connected in a secretarial capacity with the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor.

We have said that Mr. Epstein's question is "startling," and it is. His interrogation should make every loyal trade unionist sit up and take notice. While his article pertains to trade unionism all over the country, it is particularly applicable to our own state, where the writer lives and with which he is especially well informed. Much of his composition, moreover, relates particularly to the present status of trade unionism in Pennsylvania and is based not on his own opinion but on a recent official survey made by the department of education of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, of which R. W. Hogue is director.

Too much space would be required in this editorial to discuss in detail every point brought out by Mr. Epstein in his article and every phase of the labor situation revealed by Mr. Hogue's survey. Such intensely interesting and vitally important publications should be read in their entirety by every sincere, earnest and 100 per cent trade unionist. Each in itself is a cry of alarm—the cry of a sentinel at the gates of trade unionism, which should arouse the followers of that great and noble cause to the dangers that are confronting it. Trade unionism can not stand still; that it must either move forward or move backward was asserted only a short time ago in a timely and forceful address by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

The gist of Mr. Epstein's article is to the effect that trade unionism in America seems to be doomed on account of the friendlier relations now existing in this country between capital and labor—because of company welfare associations, employe-stock ownership, company "unions," company pension systems, etc. He says:

The new relationship between employer and employe is quietly but persistently shaping its way in American industry. On the one hand, employers of labor are increasingly assuming obligations and responsibilities such as were hitherto undreamed of. What was formerly characterized as "sentimental foolishness" or "wasteful philanthropy" has now come to be an essential in "service work." On the other hand, all evidences seem to indicate that the organization of wage earners on a belligerent basis is gradually becoming a thing of the past. More and more the worker is enjoying wages and conditions such as the average labor leader had not hoped to obtain for his followers except by generations of struggle.

"Labor Examines Itself" is the title of Mr. Hogue's survey, which consists of twenty-four pages, the subtitle being "The Present Situation as Seen by Representatives of Organized Labor in America." It is based upon answers return by labor officials of high rank to a questionnaire, which included the following query:

"Does your experience reveal a rather general state of indifference on

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the part of the rank and file of organized workers?"

Twenty-two of the twenty-six answers received from labor leaders unequivocally declared that their experience reveals a general state of indifference at the present time more pronounced than ever before. In explaining this inertia in trade union circles, the labor chiefs blamed the stagnation on various causes. They did not exclude themselves from blame, but the principal causes appear to be the automobile, radio, movies and the desire for pleasure. The list is long, but it indicates in a most emphatic manner that if trade unionists wish to save their great cause from ruin they must show more active interest in it.

You cannot hide any secret. We are all physiognomists and penetrators of character, and things themselves are detective. There is no privacy that cannot be penetrated. No secret can be kept in the civilized world. Society is a masked ball, where every one hides his real character, and reveals it by hiding. If a man wishes to conceal anything he carries, those whom he meets know that he conceals something, and usually know what he conceals. 'Tis as hard to hide as fire. He is a strong man who can hold down his opinion. A man cannot utter two or three sentences, without disclosing to intelligent ears precisely where he stands. The universe protects itself by pitiless publicity.—*Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

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