

## A SIMPLE REMEDY

ONE OF THE WAYS TO CURTAIL OPERATIONS OF TRUSTS.

### HOME PATRONAGE PRINCIPLES

Systems That Oppose the Advancement of Rural Towns and Agricultural Communities.

Never before have the people of the country been so awakened to the importance of home protection as they are at present. The wide knowledge spread by means of the public press as to the operations of the great trusts and how the masses are made to serve the more favored classes is having its effect. The residents of agricultural communities are beginning to realize the dangers of business concentration in sections of the country dominated by the capitalistic classes. They are fast becoming aroused to the truth that this concentration is a menace to the prosperity of the nation, and directly affects every producer, every laborer and every citizen of the country who depends upon his work for support.

The building up of great trusts commenced less than a score of years ago. At the same time there were other systems inaugurated that tended towards robbing the home towns of business and concentrating this business in the large cities. One of these systems, most notable in its injurious operations and its force to draw wealth from communities where it is produced, is the mail-order system of business. None will say that this system is illegitimate, but no economist can show wherein its principles are sound. By the system communities are impoverished and kept from progressing. He who will give study to the basis of country development will see that it is the labor employed that not alone enhances the value of the farm lands, but builds up the towns. When there is little to employ this labor, the result is depression, stagnation and non-progress. The great evil of the mail-order system which has grown up, is its taking away the means that small towns have of employing labor, and the drawing from each community the profits in commercial transactions that represents the wealth that is procured. It is sophistry to claim that the resident of a community who sends his money to a foreign town and saves the ten per cent. that may represent the home merchant's profits, is not a factor in impoverishing the community. While the saving may remain in the community the employment of labor essential to every business is given to the foreign place, and the home town is robbed of this employment giving power.

Every dollar that is sent away from a community where it is produced either by the tilling of the soil, by the growth of live stock, by the work of the day laborer, or by the storekeeper, impoverishes the community to that extent, and this dollar ceases to be any factor in the advancement of the community. Presuming that there are in a community 2,000 people, suppose that each one of these 2,000 people send away to some foreign place \$50 per year. This in the aggregate is \$100,000 per year that goes to the support of a foreign town. Suppose that each one sending his money away saves ten per cent.; the savings for a year would be \$5, and in ten years \$50. Look at the other side—\$100,000 business per year would support in the home town five good stores. Each one of these stores would give employment to a number of hands. The small percentage of profit that would be made would be retained in the community and be invested in new enterprises. Year after year there would be a continual increase in the prosperity of the town, and the building up process would add to the value of all the town property, and to the farms within the trading radius of the town. While by sending away the farmer would in ten years' time save but \$50, whereas by patronizing the home town the profits that would come to him in substantial increase in real estate values would be ten times this amount. The building up of the town would improve the home market, affording every producer on the farms better prices for all his produce.

Then there is another thing, the town supports the churches, the schools and other public institutions. The efficiency of these institutions are dependent upon the life and activity of the town. Where poor towns exist, the schools do not receive the support that is necessary to make them good, neither are the churches of the high standard they should be. Home patronage means good schools, good churches and all conveniences that add to the pleasure and enlightenment of a people.

All the residents of a community have common interests in it—the banker, the lawyer, the doctor, the merchant, the farmer, the day laborer—all have equal interests. Thus we find that a community is in reality a large cooperative assembly. What is of interest to one is of material interest to the other. But more important than all is that by a practice of the home patronage principle the possibilities of building up trusts for the control of industries of the country are reduced to the minimum; in fact, a strict adherence to this simple principle of building up and protecting home industries precludes the building up of harmful trusts and combinations.

D. M. CARR.

### SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

Two Vital Things for the Welfare of the Masses.

There is wisdom in the old slogan, "A school on every hill top and a church in every valley." Citizens of the United States may well feel proud of the great educational system which makes it possible for all classes to acquire the proper mental cultivation. They may also feel proud of the religious liberty that each and every citizen enjoys. There is no established church to interfere with the free exercise of conscience, neither is there any law that interferes with the exercise of religious belief.

The United States can be looked upon as a nation where schools and churches flourish to the fullest. The public school system is one of the most perfect that civilization has yet evolved. Of course there are communities where local conditions are not so favorable for schools as other places. It will be observed that the more important is the city or the town, the more advanced are the educational facilities offered the people. The residents of rural communities have their state or district school, the curriculums of which are restricted. It is to the nearby town that the children who are residents of the farm districts must look for their higher education, which is a necessary preparation for entry into college, and for business life. How important it is, then, to the resident of the farm district that his home town be an active place and of sufficient business importance to justify the maintenance of a high class school! It can be seen how each resident of a farming community should be interested in the home town and all that pertains to its upbuilding. If on no other account, purely on account of the educational facilities.

Running parallel in importance with the schools are the churches. The better the home town the better are the church buildings, and the greater is the talent that fills the pulpit. Both schools and churches have educational qualities that should not be lightly valued. They mean the highest mental and moral development, and upon this development depends the good citizenship and the advancement and perpetuation of the nation.

### OVERLOOKED OPPORTUNITIES.

Chances in Average Small Town for Profitably Engaging in Business.

According to the United States census of 1900 there was produced in the United States 1,293,662,433 dozen eggs. The same statistics give the annual production of poultry at 250,623,114. The butter made on farms each year is in excess of 1,000,000,000 pounds. The cheese made on farms averages about 20,000,000 pounds annually. These statistics are interesting, and with each farmer growing poultry and eggs and making butter and cheese, it hardly seems possible that such combinations as dairy trusts and egg and poultry trusts could exist, but that they do is nevertheless a fact.

Every small town in a farming district can command sufficient butter, egg and poultry trade to support a prosperous exclusive produce establishment. The practice has generally obtained in agricultural districts of storekeepers in various lines taking farmers' produce in exchange for goods. The produce thus received by merchants is forwarded to the commission houses in the large city, and these houses are factors that make it possible to maintain trusts in the produce business. It appears that if each town had its exclusive produce establishment to buy what the farmer has to sell instead of the produce going through the local stores, that better prices could be paid the farmers and the business made a most profitable one if rightly conducted.

According to the natural laws of business industry succeeds best where advantages are most abundant. Thus it seems that the produce offers a most excellent field in the majority of agricultural towns.

### GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT.

Millions of Dollars Annually Saved to the Farmers of the United States.

One of the most important movements that has been inaugurated of recent years, and which has resulted in wonderful benefit to the people is the good roads movement. Within the United States there are approximately about 8,000,000 farmers. If during a year each of those farmers can be saved \$10 in time, or in wear and tear upon horses and wagons by means of improved roads, it means a saving of \$80,000,000 annually; but the truth is that the improved roads that have been built up the past half dozen years through agitation of the good roads movement saves each farmer in the land from \$50 to \$100. Thus it can be seen that the savings brought about through this movement aggregate hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Good roads are important to the progressive town. This fact has become so recognized that wherever there exists a live agricultural town its citizens will be found to be staunch advocates of road improvement, and there is a civic pride and friendly competition in the matter of having good roads leading to the towns. The work of road improvement has only fairly begun. A number of state legislatures have taken up the work and during the next dozen years great changes will be wrought as to the building and maintenance of public highways.

### Gave Much Work to Women.

The invention of the typewriter has given work to more than 1,000,000 women.

# How Organized Labor protects the working Women and Children.



FIVE million American women and children are working in gainful occupations. Three million of these labor outside the home. These women workers are handicapped by their physical weakness and unaccustomed environment. Yet they have entered our sharply competitive industrial system, and must often take up single-handed a struggle for existence in which the warfare is no less sharp because the weapons are the tools of manufacture and the stake the supply or failure of their daily bread.

The fact that they have been able to do this without loss of virtue, and with an increasing degree of justice from the men who are their competitors and employers proves chivalry to be something more than a beautiful dream of the past.

The great army of men represented by the American Federation of Labor are pledged to the fulfillment of these vows, not only by the ties which the human heart holds most sacred, but by the fundamental principle underlying the organizations, and the stern economical necessity that gives persistence and force to all their efforts.

Whose little ones gather the spoils and watch the endless threads of the cotton mills, or run to and fro on the countless errands of the great stores? These are not the carefully protected children of the capitalist or professional man. The frail young girl who stands long hours behind the counter or sacrifices health and eyesight in some basement work room is the daughter and sweetheart of a wageworker. In proportion as the conditions surrounding the working man's life become less brutalizing, his finer human sentiments urge him to insist on the protection of those bound to him by the tenderest of human ties.

The labor organizations are not only pledged to the protection of women and children workers by these most primitive and potent of human ties, but by ideals that give deeper meaning to the movement.

Economists assure us that wages are largely determined by the standard of comfort demanded by the workers. The high standard of the American workman is threatened, not alone by the competition of foreigners, unable to adopt it, but also by the more insidious inroads due to child labor, or to some forms of female competition. How is a child whose immature mind and body have been stunted by the deadening round of machine tending to learn pride of race or attain the manly vigor necessary to claim and defend the privilege of his class? Occasionally one of exceptional strength may overcome the difficulties of his youth, but the majority grow up to reinforce that class of incompetents, mentally, morally and physically, who prove heavy burdens within the unions, or without them menace their fellow-workers more seriously by their shortsighted readiness to accept the lower standard against which the unions are struggling.

Dr. Englemann, in a recent investigation of the health of women of the professional and working classes, finds that women who have undergone the severe mental training necessary for a professional career suffer much less from the ill peculiar to women than the working girls, with their long hours of standing and confinement. Direct observers, like the Van Vorsts, lay great emphasis on the universally unsanitary conditions under which women work, and the resulting prevalence of anemic and distorted physiques. These women will be the mothers of the next generation of American workmen. The most effective and far-reaching efforts to promote class and national welfare will begin with their protection.

In the closing paragraphs of an article in the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Walter Macarthur says:

"The attitude of the American trade unionist is that of appeal to the spirit of independence and to a realization of the truth that the workers are themselves the sole repository of power to better their lot. The solemn lesson of history, to-day and every day of our lives, is that the workers must depend upon themselves for the improvement of the conditions of labor."

Aside from inherited incapacity for organization, women have been deterred from any systematic and persistent effort to better their condition

as workers by the feeling that their employment was but a temporary expedient, from which they would be released by marriage. While this must continue to be true of a large number of women workers, still as a class there can be no question of the permanence of their position in the industrial world or of the necessity of developing the higher altruism which shall prompt temporary workers to guard the interests of less fortunate sisters, whose lives depend entirely on their conditions of work.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks to organization on the part of the women, their influence has not been entirely wanting in the organizations of the past. They were admitted on equal terms with the men in the old English crafts guilds, and seem to have received full recognition, both in the control of the affairs of the guild and in the consumption of ale.

Women's unions were not unknown in the early annals of the English trades unionism. We hear of them as early as 1833. To quote from history by Sydney and Beatrice Webb: "Nor were the women neglected. The grand lodge of Operative Bonnet Makers vies in activity with the miscellaneous grand lodge of the Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Lodge of Female Tailors asks indignantly whether the Tailors' order is really going to prohibit women from making waistcoats. Whether the Grand National Consolidated Trades Union was responsible for the lodges of Female Gardeners and Ancient Virgins, who afterward distinguished themselves in the riotous demand for an eight-hour day at Oldham, is not clear."

While women have been admitted to membership in the older, more conservative men's unions for over 20 years, their greatest advance in numbers and influence has been during the last ten years. To-day women not only sit as members in the central labor unions of the great cities, but also exercise the full rights of delegates in the American Federation of Labor. They have not received such recognition in any other national organization of men.

That this great central body has complete faith in a wise use of whatever power they may help put into the hands of women is proven by the adoption of the following resolution in favor of woman suffrage, which was introduced by Vice President Duncan at the 1903 meeting:

"Resolved, That the best interests of labor require the admission of women to full citizenship as a matter of justice to them and as a necessary step toward insuring and raising the scale of wages for all."

The labor organizations have discovered that the principles of unionism are as applicable to consumption as to production; they are trying to influence the demand for the finished product, as well as the condition under which it is made. They hope to do this by means of the union label. In the recently published prize essay on the subject Macarthur says: "The union label enlists and arms in labor's cause those elements which determine the issue of every cause in civilized society, namely, the women and children."

In many places there are women's union label leagues organized to promote the demand for union-made goods.

"The instincts of woman and the interests of labor are conjoined in the union label. Both stand for cleanliness, morality, the care of the young, the sanctity of the home; both stand against strife and force. The union label makes woman the strongest, as she is the gentlest of God's creatures."

One has only to look over the records of the American Federation of Labor to realize that the labor organizations are unqualified in their condemnation of child labor. Over ten years ago President Gompers declared "the damnable system which permits young and innocent children to have their very lives worked out of them in factories, mills, workshops and stores is one of the very worst of labor grievances, one which the trade unions have protested against for years, and in the reformation of which we shall never cease our agitation until we have rescued them and placed them where they should be, in the school room and the playground." Since then the president and delegates have repeated and indorsed these sentiments so often that they are now looked upon as axiomatic, the last committee on the president's report remarking, "that the child belongs in the school and on the playground instead of in the workshop and factory as well known and recognized by those not blinded by personal interests as is the multiplication table."

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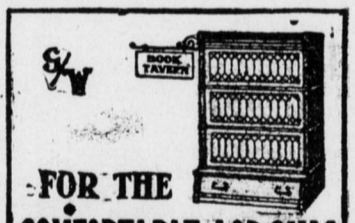
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