

Successful Trade Unionism Means Continuous Work

By JOHN P. FREY
Editor, International Molders' Journal.

The story is told of two farmers owning adjoining farms. As the years went by, one of them harvested larger and much more profitable crops than the other. The less successful one spent much of his time finding fault with the weather, the political party in power, Wall Street, and everybody in general. He believed that only fools became farmers, and also that his neighbor had purchased fertile soil, whereas the land on his own farm was poor and valueless. If he only had the soil which his neighbor owned, then he might be able to accumulate money instead of continually paying interest on a mortgage.

The difference between the methods of the two men was that the unsuccessful one took everything he could out of the soil without putting something back in return. He was unwilling to go to the expense and the labor of putting fertilizers into the soil. He was trying to get all that he could out of his land and put nothing into it.

We find the same condition which existed between these two farmers among trade unions, the members of some continually complain that their organization is no good; that it does nothing for them; they blame their officers; they feel that their constitution is unsatisfactory, and that the general policy of the organization is all wrong. They see other local unions securing higher wages, better shop conditions and establishing more friendly relations with employers. They do not credit these more successful unions with having established these conditions through their own efforts and good judgment, but imagine that they were merely more fortunate, and that the better conditions which they enjoyed were purely a matter of good luck.

But the trade union movement, like farming or like business, does not give good returns unless something worth while is put into it. The trade union movement can accomplish but very little for men who look upon it as something which entitles them to get all they can, out of it without putting anything back in return. The successful local unions in any organization are always those who are continually putting something into their organization, something more than dues, for dues of themselves can accomplish but little.

There is no royal road to success. There is no political, industrial, or social system which will give something for nothing. We can't eat our cake and keep it; we can't get something from the trade union movement unless we put something back in return. The more energy and interest which members put into their local trade union movement, the more prosperous it will be and the better conditions it will establish for its members. Successful trade union results, like good crops, require a continual fertilizing of the soil.

BETTER BRAKES URGED.

Washington, Aug. 14.—Improvement in the operation and maintenance of air brakes for passenger and freight cars are necessary, rules the Interstate Commerce Commission.

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Typos Raise Wages; Heavy Strike Costs

Toronto, Ontario, Aug. 14.—In his report to the annual convention of the International Typographical Union, President Howard said that the gross earnings of all members increased the past year approximately half a million dollars a month.

This estimate is based on returns under the one per cent assessment. The returns for the months of March, April and May, last year, indicated average earnings of \$11,200,779 per month. For the corresponding months of the present year the gross earnings averaged \$11,760,657 per month.

During the period June 1, 1920, to May 31, 1924, the international expended the enormous sum of \$15,391,342.76 for strike benefits and special assistance to local unions in connection with the successful 44-hour strike.

In connection with agitation for a "national" union in Canada, and withdrawal from the international, it is shown that 19 printers'

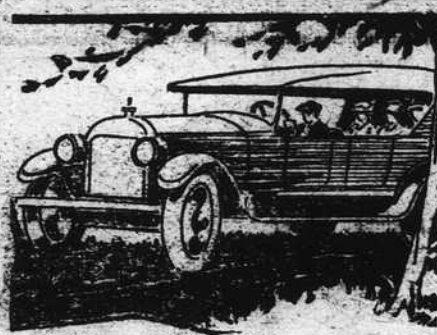
unions and two mailers' unions in Canada drew from the international treasury \$4,422,251.91 during the three-year period ending May 31, 1924.

Simple Distribution Is Urged By Hoover

Washington, Aug. 14.—Secretary Hoover has declared war on the wasteful system of distribution in vogue in this country. He says it is "the most luxurious distribution system in the world," and has called a national conference of distributors who use public warehouses to be held in this city for the purpose of adopting simple methods.

VIRGINIA FOR LA FOLLETTE.

Richmond, Va., Aug. 14.—Vice-President Conlon of the International Association of Machinists is chairman of a committee that has issued a call for a La Follette-Wheeler state conference in this city, Saturday, August 30, at the Labor Temple. The purpose is to select presidential electors and perfect a state organization. All labor and farmers' organizations and women's progressive clubs are invited.



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