

**THE A. F. OF L. HAD A VISION AND A GOAL**

(The following editorial was published in a former anniversary edition of The Journal and on looking over it again, with condition as they are today, it appealed to us as worthy of reproduction (not by requests). The A. F. of L. has the same vision and the same goal in mind at the present time. "It's all a great story; a great theme."—Editor.

There is only one thing in life that counts—to have an aim, work for it, and either attain the ultimate goal, or lose it. The members of organized labor, under the A. F. of L. nearly 60 years ago had a goal, they saw a vision, and the pioneers set their compass accordingly. Of course storms came and they were thrown off their course, but nevertheless they were bound for a given port, namely, the uplift and fellowship of man. With no thought of self or of personal gain, the humanitarian side was the only vision they had, knowing full well that only through combined strength, in a cause that was closest to their heart, next to their God, could they obtain that which was being denied them by what was in those days known as the "aristocracy," they plugged in their feeble way, against every odd to gain recognition at the hands of the mighty. Success and defeats followed as the years rolled on; education in labor's ranks became more and more evident, an ounce of diplomacy here and there was used; the honesty of the cause they espoused was becoming more and more evident; the monopolistic press could no longer gainsay

them when it came to publicity of facts; even though they may color it as they would, it was the "reading between the lines" which gave the untruth to the story.

Samuel Gompers, sat at the table with the mighty, and helped mould the policies of the American Republic in the perilous days of Woodrow Wilson; William Green is sitting at the same table today, following in the footsteps of the lamented Gompers, following out his teachings and precepts, endeavoring to build an equitable peace between Capital and Labor along safe and sane lines.

It's all a great story; a great theme; a great subject for thought. And summed up it means that we are our brother's keeper; that man can not live by himself alone, and that in the end when the cold hand of death takes us what can we carry away of material things?

The Journal for seven lean years has labored along sane lines, or has endeavored so to do, and will continue, under its present management to strive for that which is honorable and just, holding fast to what it believes to be the right, and condemning that which it believes not to be the best for the workers, organized and unorganized. Its editor and publisher wishes to again thank those who have stood by him and The Journal, and to again assure our readers that in no way will this publication deviate from its set principle while under its present management.

**Magnolia Tree Felled,**

**Whole Town Aroused**

ALAMEDA, CALIF. — When George Washington cut down the cherry tree with his hatchet, he only had to explain the situation just to one person—his father. But when Carl Zoller, manager of a local hotel had a magnolia tree cut down in the hotel grounds he had to explain and keep explaining to indignant citizens.

He told them the tree was dead, there was danger of its falling on passersby, and in any event, the board of directors debated six months before taking the decision.

**Nazi Order Fixes Right Angle at 100 Degrees**

MUNICH.—German mathematicians, engineers and scientists must throw away several of their measuring instruments and tables as the result of a decree just published by the Reich ministry of the interior.

This decree provides for the division of the circle into 400 degrees, instead of the traditional 360, as a concession to the decimal system. Thus a right angle in Germany no longer contains 90 degrees, but 100. One one-hundredth of the new degrees will be called a "minute," and one-hundredth of this a "second."

The island of Bermuda is the tip of a very steep submerged peak in the Atlantic.

**SAMUEL GOMPER'S SON BEGINS HIS 53RD YEAR OF SERVICE AS A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE**

(From the Washington (D. C.) Evening Star.) Samuel J. Gompers, son of Samuel Gompers, famous labor leader, yesterday (April 24), entered upon his 53d year of service for the Government, at the age of 70, while under a presidential "extension" in the classified service, carrying him in active duty beyond the stipulated retirement figure, "three score and ten." In his 21 years as chief clerk of the Labor Department he has administered the oath of office from 10,000 to 20,000 times.

At his desk Mr. Gompers looked back over his long experience with the Government—perhaps one of the longest periods of any Federal worker—and recalled that one of the most unusual things he ever did was to administer the Federal oath of office "at least eight times" to William Howard Taft, after the former President had left the White House.

This strange multiplicity of oath administration took place during the World War, when the former Chief Executive of the country took over his duties as one of the two joint chairmen of the National War Labor Board.

When Mr. Taft was sworn into this new office, it was explained by Mr. Gompers, he was placed on one appropriation already available, until the new appropriation for the position itself could become available. There was so much delay in this, he explained, that the former President had to be changed from one appropriation to another every few days, and sworn in again under each different appropriation.

Soon, whenever Mr. Gompers would

see the jovial former President, Mr. Taft would hold up his right arm, as if to be sworn in again, and say, with his well-known chuckle, "Go ahead, Sam."

Mr. Gompers recently received Nation-wide attention through swearing in Elmer F. Andrews as administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department. When he had finished with formality, Mr. Gompers laid his hand on Mr. Andrews' shoulder and said with feeling: "And may the Lord have mercy on your soul."

The son of the famous former president of the American Federation of Labor looks much like his father, but the son changed his name slightly, just so he would not be a "junior." He put a middle name of "Julian" between the Samuel and Gompers, so that he is Samuel J. Gompers. The "Julian" is his mother's maiden name.

The chief clerk of the Labor Department holds his father's memory in reverence, admiring his leadership in labor—and like him, continues his membership in organized labor.

He carries a membership card in Columbia Typographical Union, to which he transferred his membership when he moved to Washington, from New York, to begin his Federal service as a printer at the Government Printing Office.

Mr. Gompers transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor in 1907, as an "editor-clerk proof-reader," went to the new Department of Labor, when the former department was split in two, and was advanced in responsibility until he became departmental chief clerk in 1918.

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**EMPLOY LOCAL LABOR**

It is by no means fostering sectionalism or klannishness to urge employment preferment for local labor. It seems to us the advice is based on economic wisdom. Local workmen are taxpayers in one way or the other, and a great deal of them are home owners. They make their money here and in turn return it to the channels of local commerce.

Of course, there frequently comes times when no employees are available in a particular field. This is understood and is economically wise as well as imperative that, under such circumstances, we seek elsewhere for a source of labor supply. But we cannot over emphasize the necessity of first utilizing the home market. Choose union labor preferably; yes; but insist on home labor.

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