

CHEERFUL HEADLINES

The headlines of Monday's Observer, especially the two fronts, are certainly of a gloomy nature to start the week. The first front brings us discouraging war news, for London undergoes its "fifth" attack, with Italy promising a War Surprise for Britain, but, that's over there. The second front draws us closer home, and the Heads run something like this: "Fear Three Drowned;" "Fred Anderson Injured In Wreck;" "Local Woman Dies In Wreck;" "Mike Grier Killed In Crash;" "Charlotte Woman Ends Life With Gun;" "Rock Hill Man In Fatal Wreck;" etc. The "Friendly City" and adjacent community is doing fine. There were the usual number of cuttings, shootings, etc. But it takes it all to make up a Cosmopolitan City and you must remember Charlotte no longer is in the crossroad village class, but past the 100,000 mark. We have more churches than any city its size in the world outside of Edinburgh, Scotland—and we have, we gain-say, as many sincere christians, pro-rating population, but it is also the melting pot for many different assortments of American citizenship, and our crime ratio runs high up with the "Firsts."

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THE HELPING HAND



... **A Labor Day Message** ...

By I. M. ORNBURN Secretary-Treasurer

Union Label Trades Department American Federation of Labor

Every Labor Day definitely marks an advance in the steady progress of the organized labor movement in America. The rapid improvement in wages, hours and working conditions is just one of the achievements accomplished by collective bargaining of Labor Unions.

It would be uncharitable even to compare the standards of American workers with those of the enslaved toilers of the Old World. Dictatorships have destroyed trade unionism throughout Europe.

Our task, the task of American Union Labor, is plain. We must help to lift the workers of the Old World onto the plane of our American standards, instead of allowing their deteriorated standards to drag us down to their levels. Europe's workers will always have our sympathetic and cooperative action in their struggle for better conditions.

America will face a new problem after this second World War. The goods made by Europe's regimented and despot-ridden workers will come into competition with American-made products. We must protect the American market for American workers, farm and industrial.

To maintain American Labor standards every member of every Labor Union and his family should pledge on this Labor Day 1940 to buy only Union Label goods and employ only Union services.

There is no other way to maintain the gains already made by years of heroic effort, no other way to protect the position of the American worker as a self-respecting citizen of a free country.

For American workers the lessons of the present are clear as daylight. We know that the wretchedness of our brothers overseas is the direct result of their surrender or the robbery of their rights as citizens and individuals—their right to organize, their right to say how they shall be governed and by whom, their right to the product of their own toil.

We must keep the faith. We must resist and defeat every move, every effort, to undermine the edifice of Labor Unionism. We must resist and defeat every suggestion, on any pretext, that the times justify the relinquishment, however, temporary, of our established union principles and practices.

War and threats of war are ever a convenient cloak for the profiteer and exploiter, chanting patriotism and the common good.

Eternal vigilance indeed is the price of liberty. Patriotism of the true and highest sort demands that Union Labor in America remain steadfast to its ideals whatever happens here or elsewhere.

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