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THE 1932 CONVENTION AT LOS ANGELES

By C. L. BAGLEY

THE Thirty-seventh Annual Convention of the American Federation of Musicians will be held within a commonwealth that is rich in tradition, romance and colorful history.

When Hernando Cortes and his hardy conquistadores landed at Vera Cruz in 1519, the rule of cross and sword extended over Mexico and ultimately embraced "Alta California," where lies the city of Los Angeles.

To establish the origin of the name "California" is not easy. The valiant Cortes, reporting in 1524, described it as an island of great wealth, abounding in pearls and precious gems and inhabited only by women. The source of this strange idea was undoubtedly the romance "Las Sergas de Esplandian," a popular Spanish novel of about 1510. Therein readers are told that the Island of California is entirely peopled by black women, ruled by a queen called "Califia," and that gold is the only metal in use. Various other fantastic tales endeavor to account for the name, but the "island" story is a good illustration and the subject need not be pursued further.

All that was known of this land prior to 1769 is in the reports of five explorers: Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo (1542-1543), Sir Francis Drake (1579), Francisco de Gall (1584), Sebastian Rodriguez de Cermenon (1595), and Sebastian Vizcaino (1602-1603). Cabrillo was the "Christopher Columbus" of the country. He and his companions, entering the bay of San Diego, September 28, 1542, were the first Europeans to set foot on California soil. About 160 years passed before the next visitation.

In 1768, Carlos III, King of Spain, mindful that other nations looked longingly toward Alta California, determined to occupy that territory. Accordingly, in July, 1769, seven years before American colonists promulgated their Declaration of Independence, Governor Gaspar de Portola, commanding a few soldiers, accompanied by Padre Junipero Serra (O. F. M.) and other priests, located in San Diego, where, on the 10th of that month, was founded the Mission "San Diego de Alcalá," first of about 21 similar institutions finally established along the coast.

It may well be doubted that either Cabrillo or Vizcaino were ever in Los Angeles County. To Gaspar de Portola, Priars Juan Crespi and Francisco Gomez,

Lieutenant Pedro Fages (later Governor), soldiers, muleteers and Baja California Indians, numbering in all 64, then belongs the distinction of being the earliest arrivals. Marching from San Diego, they reached, on August 1, 1769, the site of

season when no rain falls. Vegetation was scarce and found only in the vicinity of streams. The hills and vales were brown, dry and dusty—there were no orange or walnut groves, no vineyards, fields of alfalfa or eucalyptus trees.

who practiced no agriculture and subsisted as best they could by digging roots, gathering acorns, hunting and fishing. The Franciscan Friars eventually Christianized these people through the Missions erected by the side of "El Camino Real" (the King's Highway) which wended its way tortuously to the north.

September 8, 1771, the Fathers set up the Mission "San Gabriel Arcangel" about six or eight miles out from Yangna. Ten years thereafter, on September 4, 1781, Governor Felipe de Neve, carrying out a preconceived plan, came over from San Gabriel with 44 persons, sent as colonists from Mexico, and with appropriate religious ceremonies (the Spanish never did anything without the sanction of religion) brought into existence "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora La Reina de Los Angeles" (The Town of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels). Subsequently, as the little community grew, "El Pueblo" became "La Ciudad" (The City). Custom has abbreviated the name to "Los Angeles."

In 1800 the Pueblo had 315 inhabitants—in 1810 the number had increased to 415. About 1811 began the widespread revolutionary movements in "New Spain" which gave independence to Mexico by 1822. Americans and other foreigners began to enter the country. Then followed a most romantic period—that of the great ranchos on which horses, cattle and sheep were raised in vast numbers. The social life of the people was gay, easy and brilliant—feasting, dancing, racing and gaming were the principal amusements. Hospitality among all classes was warm and spontaneous. Many are the tales of beautiful señoritas in shimmering gowns, mantillas and rebozos—of dashing caballeros on prancing steeds, with gold and silver ornamented saddles, bridles and other equipment often costing thousands of dollars. But, as in all frontier communities, a rough criminal element developed and there was much political unrest.

War

Was was declared between the United States and Mexico, May 13, 1846. Though most of the fighting took place on Mexican soil to the south and east, a series of miniature battles, to which I now briefly call attention, transferred California to the Americans.

Far to the north, in June, 1846, American settlers (Continued on Page Three)



THE BILTMORE HOTEL, SOUTH OLIVE STREET, FACING PERSHING SQUARE, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.—WHERE THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS WILL CONVENE ON MONDAY, JUNE 13TH, 1932.

the City of Los Angeles. The next day, being the feast of "Nuestra Senora La Reina de Los Angeles" (Our Lady the Queen of the Angels), mass was celebrated. One can easily imagine the barrenness of the spot, for it was in the

Scattered here and there were Indian villages. That at the place where the expedition halted was known as "Yangna," and consisted of a considerable number of insubstantial huts, inhabited by dirty, indolent, vermin-infested aborigines.

ican soil to the south and east, a series of miniature battles, to which I now briefly call attention, transferred California to the Americans.

THE 1932 CONVENTION AT LOS ANGELES (Continued from Page One)

captured the town of Sonoma with General M. G. Vallejo and a few soldiers. The "Bear Flag" was raised—a gesture constituting practically all of the so-called "California Republic."

August 6, 1846, Commodore Robert F. Stockton, commanding the U. S. Pacific fleet, arrived at San Pedro (about twenty miles from Los Angeles), landing sailors and marines. On the 11th, headed by the brass band of sixteen pieces from the frigate "Congress," he began the march inland with about 400 men. Major John C. Fremont and approximately 150 men of the "California Battalion of Volunteers" joined Stockton and on the 13th they entered Los Angeles without opposition.

Leaving a garrison of fifty men under Lieutenant Archibald H. Gillespie, Stockton and his ships went to Monterey and Fremont marched toward Sacramento. In September the natives revolted—Gillespie surrendered to them on the 29th and was allowed to march back to San Pedro with the honors of war.

October 7, 1846, Captain A. H. Mervine of the fleet landed 350 men at San Pedro (Gillespie among them) and started toward the Pueblo. Mexican forces were encountered the 8th at the Dominguez ranch—there was a short conflict in which the Americans suffered some losses and then returned to their base.

General Stephen W. Kearny, U. S. A., with a small force of Dragoons came into California early in December. Some of them were attacked by Mexicans at San Pascual (about 80 miles from Los Angeles) December 6th and a number of soldiers were killed and wounded. The Dragoons proceeded to San Diego, where came also Commodore Stockton and the sea.

December 29th, 1846, Stockton and Kearny in command of 600 men were on the march to Los Angeles. January 8, 1847, at San Gabriel River, ten miles south of the Pueblo, a battle was fought. To Kearny, quicksands in the river seemed an insurmountable obstacle for the artillery, but Stockton laconically ejaculated, "Damn the quicksands," a crossing was made, the band played "Hail Columbia" and the Mexicans retired in haste. Another minor scuffle took place at La Mesa on the 9th and January 10th the little army entered Los Angeles, which has since been American territory. January 13th, a Mexican force surrendered to Lieut.-Col. John C. Fremont at Cahuenga, a short distance away, and all opposition was ended.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, proclaimed July 4, 1847, restored peace and gave sovereignty over Alta California to the United States.

Gold January 24, 1847, James W. Marshall, at work on the American River not far from Sacramento, discovered gold. A great rush of people started for the coast. There were no railways, but multitudes came over the plains, around "The Horn," and via the Isthmus of Panama. Population increased rapidly and cities grew up almost over night. These were "the days of old, the days of gold, the days of '49."

Constitutional Government A convention adopted a state constitution October 10, 1849, and it was ratified by the people November 13th following. A bill admitting California to the Union became a law September 9, 1850.

In 1850 Los Angeles had 1610 people and became incorporated. The Civil War came, but touched the state very little. Albert Sidney Johnson, Winfield Scott Hancock, John B. Magruder, and other army officers of the coast departed to achieve fame in the conflict.

October 8, 1860, telegraphic communication with the world was opened through San Francisco. The Southern Pacific Railway entered in 1876, the Santa Fe in 1895. Then followed the great "boom" which lasted two years or more and ended with many financial disasters.

In 1880, nearly a century after its beginning, the city had a population slightly in excess of 11,000. Census figures for 1890 show over 50,000. And the government enumerators of 1930 fixed the number of inhabitants at more than 1,250,000.

The Modern City

The old Spanish Pueblo has vanished and Los Angeles is the metropolis of the southwest. Situated in a picturesque valley, to the west the Pacific, eastward the mountains, its place is secure among the great municipalities of the continent. Here is a deep, commodious harbor with vast and increasing commerce, magnificent buildings, both public and private, numerous factories and industrial enterprises, not forgetting the "movie" studios which are the center of that marvelous industry. Outside, within easy distances, are the smaller communities of Long Beach, Pasadena, San Bernardino, Santa Ana, Riverside, Santa Barbara. Nearby mountain resorts abound. Catalina Island is three hours away—San Diego, Tijuana and Agua Caliente (the last two in Mexico) are within 150 miles. In addition there are miles of beautiful beaches—thousands of acres of oranges, lemons, walnuts, grapes and other fruits, as well as staple agricultural projects. Interwoven is a system of highways which makes travel by automobile an all-year-round delight.

The Convention Hotel

The Biltmore Hotel on South Olive Street, opposite Pershing Square, and extending through to Grand Avenue, will furnish living accommodations, committee rooms, assembly hall and everything necessary for the convention. This splendid hostelry has 1,500 rooms, all with bath, is centrally located in the business district, and accessible to all car and bus lines. The most fastidious will find within it every comfort—there is nothing finer anywhere.

The Host—Local No. 47

Two organizations of instrumental musicians have been formed in Los Angeles. The first, known as "The Los Angeles Musical Protective Association," was instituted April 1, 1888, and chartered as Local No. 19, National League of Musicians of the United States. It lasted about three years.

October 30, 1894, "The Los Angeles Musical Association" came into existence—in the beginning also known as Local No. 19 of the National League. Later the name was changed to "Musicians' Mutual Protective Association" and under date of March 15, 1897, arrived a charter designating the organization as Local No. 47, American Federation of Musicians. Local No. 47 is today in its own five-story reinforced concrete building at 1417 Georgia Street, and is the third largest local of the Federation.

Every effort will be made to provide for the comfort and entertainment of delegates. It is hoped that when the convention is called to order June 13, 1932, there will be more delegates present than at any one preceding.

To Beulah Land

"Is this the speedometer?" asked the pretty girl, tapping the glass with her finger.

"Yes, dear," he replied.

"And that's the clutch?"

"That's the clutch, darling," he said, jamming on his brakes to avoid a fast approaching taxi.

"But what on earth is this?" she inquired, at the same time giving the accelerator a vigorous push with her foot.

"This, dear," he said in a soft celestial voice, "is heaven." And picking up a harp he flew away.—Miami Ha Ha.

Intended Compliment

"Darling," she said, "will you love me when I grow old and ugly?"

"Dearest," he replied tenderly, "you may grow older, but you will never grow uglier."—Black & Blue Jay.



Two Ways to Select Drums Wisely



THERE are two sure ways of getting the best drummers' equipment. First, if you are an expert drummer and competent to pass judgment on an instrument yourself—call at music dealers' stores where well known drums are sold and ask to try out the new models. Test them for brilliance of tone, for quickness of response, for perfect balance and ease of playing. You'll know at once, of course, which drum is best for you.

Second—if you are not an expert—there is no more satisfactory way to choose than to follow the lead of the outstanding artists in the professional world. Play the same drum that they play if you want to duplicate their success.

No matter which method you follow your choice will be a Leedy. Leedy Drums sell themselves to those who know and their record of professional endorsement is over-

whelming. For more than 35 years Leedy Drums have been the choice of America's greatest drummers. The entire percussion section of the United States Army Band shown above is Leedy equipped. The personnel of this drum section ranks high among America's best and every man is an enthusiastic Leedy advocate. Left to right, they are John Baumann, Joseph L. Young, Chas. D. Hershey, Willis Hutton, Clyde J. Bowman and Friedrich, Tavernick.

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Local Reports

LOCAL NO. 2, ST. LOUIS, MO.

Officers for 1932: President, Samuel P. Meyers; vice-president, Fred L. Oatman; recording secretary, D. K. Howell; financial secretary, Edward G. Timponi; treasurer, Hy. J. Falkenhainer; chairman of trustees, Francis Gersner; executive committee, Benj. L. Rader, James H. Farrell, Walter A. Rau; sergeant-at-arms, August Schwendener; delegates to Central Trades and Labor Union, Samuel P. Meyers, D. K. Howell, Vincent C. Wolf, W. H. Williams, Fred P. Beck, August Schwendener; delegates to American Federation of Musicians' convention, Samuel P. Meyers, Hy. J. Falkenhainer, Harry E. Hoffman; delegates to Missouri State Federation of Labor convention, Samuel P. Meyers, W. H. Williams, Hy. J. Falkenhainer.

New members: Edmund L. Detering, Chas. D. Glock, John F. Kiburz, Jr. Admitted to full membership: Carl Steppi, Edward Brauer, Ernest Harsy, W. E. Thomason.

Transfers deposited: H. van der Burg, 77; Rene Corne, Scipione Guidi, 802; Robt. B. Little, 103; Richard E. Powell, 3; W. S. Roehrborn, 10; Carl Steppi, 802; Sol Turner, 10; Garry White, 325; Elmer G. Klass, 568.

Resigned: Chas. L. Edwards, Miss G. K. Graham, Mrs. Beulah R. Jackson, Brooke Johns, Mrs. Lottie Kippel, M. J. Seymour, Alex. J. Thiede, Mrs. Elizabeth Farmer, Ben Harkins.

Traveling members: Luke Ehrgott, 1; H. Moore, A. R. Thorsen, H. H. Plummer, R. Enolander, Eugene Knott, Gerald O. Boune, H. L. Lykins, L. H. Fleming, A. Warren Louis, Horace Heldt, O. Moore, all of 6; Bob Downey, 9; Davis P. Cady, Herman Bobene, Chester Center, Geo. F. Marquette, Irma M. Heinz, all of 10; Herbert Keahme, 66; Harry Budner, 73; Boyd Senter, 88; Jack Russell, 104; Wm. Stang, 400; Harry Poole, 408; Geo. Keller, P. Harry Spagnola, Jules Raymon, Charles Gregory, William White, Carl C. Gray, Boyd Doris, Harry H. Carney, Jr., William Greer, John C. Hodge, Arthur Park-Whetsel, Wellman Brand, Fred L. Guy, Freddie Jenkins, Edward K. (Duke) Ellington, Juan Tisel, Joseph Nanten, Charlie Williams, Albany Bigard, Charles Preble, Dick Morgan, all of 802; Hal J. Gilles, cond. 5857; Henry E. Moeller, cond. 5858.

LOCAL NO. 3, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Transfers issued: Robert Edison, Tim Crawford.

Transfers deposited: Zack Whyte, 814; Fred Jackson, 533; Earl Tribble, Clarence Paige, Melvin Oliver, Edw. Savage, Melvin Hampton, Wm. Benton, Wm. King, Wilbur Cartwright, Victor Dickerson, all 814; Madison Lennon, cond. 637.

Transfers withdrawn: Morrey Brennan, 1; Chas. Fitch, 1; True Smith, Kenneth La-Bahn, Robert F. James, all 683; Gordon Grandy, 18; Geo. Sabbach, 15; Scott Doup, 676; Oscar Huebner, 8; Donald Wellmark, 58. Traveling members: Zack Whyte, Earl Tribble, Clarence Paige, Melvin Oliver, Edw.

Savage, Melvin Hampton, Wm. Benton, Wm. King, Wilbur Cartwright, all 814; Fred Jackson, 533; Madison Lennon, 637; Victor Dickerson, 637; Irene Scott, Marguerite Roemair, Rose Rishbein, May Taylor, Joseph Sears, Nathan Rosen, I. Falbisoff, Johan Cherlin, Aron Pressman, Palman Schlossberger, Sidney Rosen, all 802; Larry Rich, 58; Nat Sax, 48; J. C. Maguire, 174; E. F. Larson, 657; Rosario Masson, 51; Larry Casselman, 51; Gordon Robertson, 149; Fred Campbell, 295; Sidney C. Austin, 802; Ronald Runswick, 104; Leonard Ohlson, 147; Joe Bell, 147; Henry Goodenough, 443; Joseph Kirkham, Jr., 104; Lorene Andrews, 73; Max Fisher, Arthur Lombardi, Morrey Darr, Larry Wright, Lloyd Carlson, Robert Thilman, Don Short, Walter Welker, Ed. M. Barnes, all 47; E. H. Ginsberg, 11; Jerry Barrett, cond. 5794; Don Abbott, cond. 5793.

LOCAL NO. 4, CLEVELAND, OHIO

Erased: Charles Lesko, Elaine Stone. Account closed: Arthur Shaw.

Resigned: Alfred D'Auberge.

New members: Marvin Aaronson, Thomas Beresford, Merwyn A. Bogue, George K. Emerson, James R. Hess, Ray E. Johnston, Richard D. Kissinger, Irvin Marblestone, James Noble, Earl Zeller, Red Ballard, Joe Bishop, Arthur W. Byl, Thomas F. Flynn, Nic Hupfer, Truman (Jack) Jenny, Wallace Lagason, Frank X. Malcor, Glen W. Roeger, Jack Barron, Jack Blanchette, John Carlson, V. J. Hanprich, V. Frank Jacobs, Isham Jones, M. L. Mansfield, Richard Moeller, W. B. Scott, Jr.

Transfers issued: H. C. Barron, Truman (Jack) Jenny, Nic Hupfer, Harold Moeller, John Carlson, Eddie Narovec, Red Ballard, Joe Bishop, M. L. Mansfield, J. Blanchette, W. B. Scott, Jr., Leonard Benedict, V. J. Hanprich, Isham Jones, Wallace Lagason, Richard Kissinger, James Noble.

Transfers deposited: Amerious Bono, Milton Yaner, F. Ford Leary, Louis Mucci, Ralph La Guardia, all of 43; Wallace Brown, 154; A. J. Tripp, Bert Sager, Roy Cox, Russell Jones, Lawrence Sloat, all of 5; Gene Austin, 802; Oscar Huebner, 8; Donald Wellmark, 58; Charles Fitch, 1; George Sabbach, 15; H. Mantz Kilgore, John Sedola, William J. Wuilen, Carl McCarthy, Harold Wolf, all of 43; Stan Bowers, Franklin Wagner, Morgan H. Gareau, William C. Schafner, all of 5; Kenneth La Bahn, 683; Robin Gardner, 146; Robert F. James, 633; Scott Daup, 576; F. True Smith, 683; Morrey Brennan, 1.

Transfers withdrawn: Carl Kirchner, 5; Wilbert C. Welch, 24.

Traveling members: Bennett Lester Carter, Hilton W. Jefferson, Rex Stewart, Billy Taylor, David Brown, Adolphus Anthony Chestham, all of 802; James Dudley, Todd Rhoads, 5; Quenton Jackson, 814; Adam Carroll, A. V. Lupo, Jack Chernis, Hildeng Anderson, Harry Hershkowitz, all of 802; Prince Robinson, Edward Cuffee, Cube Austin, all of 5; Harry Poole, 408; Perc Launders, Rene Du Plessis, Fred McMurray, all of 47; L. E. Wood, cond. 109; Alan Jones, 76; Lan Wood, cond. 107; Ray Allen cond. 108.

LOCAL NO. 5, DETROIT, MICH.

New members: M. C. Buyers, S. C. Hoffman, Henry W. Siegl, Ernie Holst, William A. Melquist.

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The Way Out

BY MATTHEW WOLL

AMERICA must adopt permanently a short work-week. It must pay a higher average wage. Unless these things are done unemployment will be permanent and will become worse.

Permanent unemployment would mean violent action in resentment and in desperation.

Social blindness does to society what individual blindness does to the individual. It shuts out light. Objects and objectives cannot be seen.

It is probably correctly estimated that if we had a four-day work-week all men could be put to work. But unless we had an annual wage commensurate with production purchasing power would be absent and unemployment would return.

Less work-time, more wages—these must come together.

From 1919 to 1929 population grew, while numbers employed decreased!

We rushed into trouble, blinded by what looks like prosperity. Unless our nation takes drastic measures, we shall find that even as we emerged from this depression we were creating another.

Unemployed workers will not go away to die in weak-kneed peace.

Employers as a whole may be inclined to fight the idea of drastically shortened work-weeks and materially higher average wages. But to fight those measures means more disaster. It means postponing cure for unemployment.

Industry is not more important than men and women and children.

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, where wealth accumulates and men decay." The truth of those lines never fades.

Bankers squabble about export trade and continue to send money abroad for investment in factories where they can manufacture at starvation wage levels.

There are a number of bankers who need a social vision and they will have to get it or we may find a way to get along without bankers.

Many industrial managers are as bitter as any worker could be against the wanton misconduct of some of our big bankers.

America was founded to give humanity first chance. Big business, growing like some phenomenal thing on the crest of a great surge of invention, forged ahead and put money first.

America must return to the idea that humanity is first, its welfare paramount.

American labor does not deny the right of men to earn a profit, but it declares that as compared to humanity profit is of no consequence whatever. Profit is distinctly a secondary aim and it must always be so.

To create the necessary relation between hours and wages and production there must be more of democratic practice in industry. There must be organized machinery for the making of right decisions and labor must share in the making of those decisions.

Industry must organize from end to end, from worker to management and in its own councils it must make the decisions that will stabilize America and keep it stable.

Higher wages, shorter hours, democratic machinery for constant revision, these are the necessities of the time.

It is necessary to carry the America idea of self-government into the shop to make permanent justice possible. There is no other way.

We Cannot Send Idle in United States Back to Land

NEW ZEALAND recognizes the existence of an unemployed problem. In this country it has been the policy of the administration to ignore it or to imply that it does not really exist. All we had to do was to adopt a formula, recite an incantation saying that all is well and chant that prosperity, which would mean a resumption of employment, was just around some mysterious corner.

In that far-away country they seem more practical in their dealing with a problem as real as hunger and want for millions of people. J. G. Coates has been appointed Minister of Unemployment in the new National government and his first care will be to provide some means for employment of the 50,000 registered unemployed. The new minister says that he believes that in the long run there will be but one solution. He would send the idle back to the soil to develop 100,000 acres of crown land.

It may be all right to send former industrialists on uncultivated and untamed lands, but it will require quite a financial outlay to carry them through even the first crop that would enable them, even in part, to feed themselves and families.

No such solution could be found here. We hear cries of pain on every side that there is a glut of food products now. The problem here is not caused by lack of productivity in agriculture or in the industries, but by a breaking down in the distribution. Centralization of wealth, frozen and congested, is the cause, or one of the greatest of the contributing causes of the present difficult situation. When this most apparent fact becomes known and steps are taken to change them we shall see the beginning of a new era and a system under which there will be no panics and no depressions.

Labor Must Save Democracy

EVERY examination of facts and figures brings forth one main point:

Wealth is being concentrated in fewer hands.

There is a growing number of billionaires and millionaires and growth of the fortunes of those who now are billionaires and millionaires.

There is growth in the wealth controlled by a small group of giant corporations—some 200 of them.

The rise in the status of the worker does not nearly keep pace with the growth of concentrated wealth.

The average wage of workers is but a little over \$1,300 per year.

An astounding number of persons making income tax returns have no tax to pay.

Buying power—which is living power—is not being distributed among those whose work creates commodities.

Progress toward decent wages and proper working hours is too slow for the progress being made in production.

Change will not come by voluntary action of those who hold the bulk of wealth and power.

Change will come by and through the ability of the workers to bring it about. ORGANIZATION is the need of the hour. More and stronger unions! This, plus an understanding of the facts by EVERY MEMBER.

The salvation of democracy is a task for LABOR!

Labor Queries - - -

Questions and Answers on Labor: What It Has Done; Where It Stands on Problems of the Day; Its Aim and Program; Who's Who in the Ranks of the Organized Toilers, etc., etc.

Q.—What principle of taxation did the Vancouver convention of the American Federation of Labor set forth?

A.—The convention declared that "Taxation should be aimed at acquired wealth and not at the consuming power of the nation's workers."

Q.—Who is head of the National Women's Trade Union League?

A.—Rose Schneiderman is president. Mrs. Raymond Robins is honorary president.

Q.—In how many cities are building workers now on the five-day week?

A.—According to the latest statistics, which are only partially complete, the five-day week is now in existence for one or more of the building trades in 97 cities and towns. In seventeen of these cities, all building trades are on the shorter work week.

Q.—What is the official organ of the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' International Union?

A.—The Lather, published monthly.

Out Beyond the Surf--

Where thought, unhastened by necessity or trepidation, sometimes penetrates to truth. Here, where the shallows throw no spray, let us ponder and enjoy the lessons of the art and the work and play of life.

"Oh, that mine enemy would write a book," is not as good a retort, or epigram, as it used to be.

The bankers and the big hijackers of finance and business are not yelling their heads off to have their enemies write books.

Their enemies have written too many books for their comfort already.

Book store men say that wage earners don't read a whole lot of books and that may be true enough. Books are too expensive and there isn't any too much money in the purses of workers. Those that are at work mostly come home too tired.

But for their own salvation American workers cannot escape the reading of a growing number of books. Only in books can we get full and carefully compiled information.

Newspapers do their best from day to day and week to week and magazines do their best from month to month.

* * *

The permanent records are in books and books we must have.

Writers of books have been tearing the money-making machine apart to see what makes it turn out so many millionaires and so many unemployed.

In "Wages and Wealth" Roy Dickinson has put between covers a barrel of facts that every wage-earner should have in his head. These facts are weapons to use in wage negotiations. Dickinson, associate editor of Printers' Ink, hammers away with facts. For the job he has done he deserves a Medal of Honor.

Then there's "Scapegoats," a book by a Texan, who first had to go out and have his work printed at his own expense, whereupon he was "discovered" by a regular publisher.

This "Scapegoat" writer, Julian Sherrod, has most surely thrown a banana peel under the "security" selling gentry. What he has to say about the stock and bond racket is astounding. He knows. He was in it.

* * *

Then there's "Business Adrift," by Dean Wallace B. Donham of Harvard—a mine of information and a chart of progress.

The chances are that if Harvard understood Donham's ideas he'd be thrown out on his ear.

These are just three out of a dozen or more that should be read by working men.

Those who serve on wage negotiation committees can talk rings around the employers if they will arm themselves with the facts that are available.

The robbery and loot and hijacking that has been done by the gentlemen of the high hats and limousines is nothing short of scandalous.

But it does no good merely to keep grouchy about it. It does good only if there is a way offered to correct the evils.

Trade unionism has the program—the soundest program on earth.

But even with the soundest program on earth, advocates are weak unless they have the facts.

Too many people say they "can't find time to read," or they are too tired, or they have some other fool excuse.

Reading is not a sissified occupation. It is mighty serious business and mighty necessary.

Compulsory reading would be good for what ails a lot of people.

Civilization today is a complicated thing. It is to be understood only by reading, studying and thinking.

Those who will neither read, study nor think are in a bad way.

They probably will be out-guessed by those who do those things.

Fitting Recognition of Labor

APPPOINTMENT by the President of I. M. Ornburn to be a member of the United States Tariff Commission is fitting recognition of organized labor and is, in addition, an appointment that stands on merit as a first-class appointment.

Mr. Ornburn has been an active trade unionist for a great many years. There are few who are better equipped for their tasks. Schooled in that organization that gave Samuel Gompers to the labor movement, he holds to the fundamental philosophy of American trade unionism. He is that constructive, energetic type of forward-looking trade union leader who, because of his firm grasp of trade unionism, has a similarly firm grasp of almost every factor and problem in American life.

Mr. Ornburn is to be congratulated, but so also is the nation to be congratulated.

OVER FEDERATION FIELD

(By Chauncey A. Weaver)

Under the spell of holiday hopeful impulsiveness, in the course of our December contribution to the International Musician, we extended seasonable greetings to members of the American Federation of Musicians—which well-intentioned gesture has inspired the following unsigned postal card, which reached our desk a few days later:

There are thousands of musicians who do not want your Christmas and New Year's greetings. Aren't you ever going to take a tumble to yourself? Those of the common herd are disgusted with your "Over Federation Field" stuff. We know you are royally entertained, but quite a few are wondering where the next meal is coming from.

Doubtless the writer of this card was created in something like human form, but the subject-matter contained therein suggests a mental pervert. If among the multitudinous outlines in which life is manifested this creature had been cast in reptilian mould he would undoubtedly have been a rattle-snake. Had he sprung from any one of the genus Mephitis he would have been a first-class skunk. Had he developed as a quadruped he would have been an ass. Had the ornithological tendency come into play he would have been a buzzard. Had the tribe *Pediculnia* asserted itself he would have been a louse. In trying to complete the job, however, nature became confused and fumbled and the result is therefore a composite abnormality beyond the scope or possibility of definite classification. In his enfeebled conception of the functions of government he is an anarchist. He is so constituted that to see or hear an expression of good-will from whatever source, adds fresh fuel to the flames of his insensate hate. For fear of shriveling in the sunlight he hovers in ambush and fires away. This is not the first time we have heard from him. His slimy exudations have been spilling in this direction at regular intervals for several years; but this is the only occasion in which we have ever paused in a somewhat busy career to subject him to a careful analysis. He is an alleged member of the musicians' union. What a contribution to the world of harmony he must have made! As he is doubtless the only specimen of his kind in captivity his public exhibition, under a reasonable admission fee, might prove quite a source of revenue with which to assist in relieving the current depression unemployment situation. If we have omitted anything in the way of *descriptio personae*, we trust he will not hesitate to write.

Nevertheless and notwithstanding we are going to reiterate the wish that 1932 will prove a happier and more prosperous year than the present generation has ever known.

Federation business recently took me to Dixon, Illinois, the home of Local No. 525. We found a membership of sixty—all active and determined to keep the Federation flag flying—no matter what sacrifices might be involved. The citizens have recently voted a one-mill tax for municipal band purposes and, of course, the open shop contingent is trying its best to dominate the situation. The Local members, however, have matters well in hand; and after having voted the tax we believe they will insist that the musicians who are citizens and taxpayers shall have the dominant word in musical administration. The Local officers are: Ned Smith, president; Wm. Shank, secretary; Earl Seniff, vice-president; Harry Heintz, treasurer; Local Executive Board, Harry Heintz, Dudley Freidline, Ralph Grimes and Paul Brockner. We are indebted to Brother Ralph Grimes for courtesies extended in the way of opportunity to see the sights at Dixon.

The Central Orange Courier (sounds like California), of Washingtonville, Orange County, N. Y., devotes considerable space to the labor situation at Middletown and observes that: "George A. Keene is among the reasonable and farsighted men who show their willingness to do team work, and have brought labor into civic and charitable enterprises as it was never brought into them before." Brother Keene is also complimented upon the manner in which he has helped to promote the Middletown symphony orchestra and established Music Week as a fixed festival in community cultural affairs. Men of the Keene type can always find plenty to do. Capability and willingness make a happy combination for effective service.

Washington dispatches tell us that the first bill to pass the Senate upon the opening of Congress was one to "regulate wild life." Someone is always taking a shot at Hollywood.

Heavy snows are reported in the vicinity of Los Angeles. However, the one hundred and fifty thousand Iowans who have migrated to that country as a place in which to spend their corn-field generated wealth will teach the Sons of the Golden West all the arts of plain and fancy snow-shovelling.

Mixing business with politics will have its supreme try-out this year.

Those who visited in Boston during 1930, when the great New England historic celebrations were in progress will be interested in reading that during that year conventions attracted to Boston people who spent \$24,000,000. The number of visitors from outside New England was 687,996, and to that number was 2,000,000 who come to Boston annually. There were big crowds, but all were taken care of—Local No. 9 having been one of the Local organizations to give an impressive demonstration of how it could be done.

Another pleasant feature of the New Year period is the opportunity to pay your dues once more.

This is a political year and one which will witness the casting of more independent votes than were ever before canvassed in our national history.

The share-plan dance is usually the entering wedge to a general crusade of open shop demoralization.

It is safe to say that the vast majority of the American people crossed the threshold of the New Year with what might be termed "mixed emotions." The American citizen is normally buoyant—inclined to an optimistic view of things if given half a chance; but for more than a year now multitudes have been called upon to battle an increasing volume of adverse circumstances. At the time the Labor Convention convened at Vancouver it was reported there were seven million unemployed men in the United States. These figures have varied slightly from time to time. What is the cause of it all? Why is America, concededly the richest and most affluent territory on the face of the earth, fairly prostrate with industrial paralysis? An epidemic is always a thriving time for quacks and cure-all proclaimers, which with thunderous detonation are now being heralded from a multitude of empirical throats.

Men may theorize as they will, but there are two dominant factors which cannot be ignored.

First—we are in the devitalizing and palsying shadow of world-war demoralization.

About all the war accomplished was to plunge every national participant into abysmal debt.

If the reaction from such a holocaust would be a whole-hearted determination to end all war forever more, the wreckage might be contemplated with some degree of hopefulness; but the nations one would suppose to be most weary of war are the

ones which are already taking new plunges into the morass of debt as though increasing armament in all coming years were the sole aim and object of national existence.

European nations are in many respects profoundly indifferent and frequently very touchy upon the question of paying their indebtedness to the United States—notwithstanding the fact this country entered the war at a crucial hour and helped to turn the tide and bring the tragedy to a close.

Some figures recently compiled by the Washington Post from War Department records are both startling and disconcerting. Everyone can make their own analysis of the prospect as to when the European war debts to the United States will be paid.

When it is recalled that the only thing the United States realized from World War participation was an indebtedness saddled upon her own people in round numbers, interest included, of fifty-two billion dollars, the dullest of mathematicians will not have trouble in figuring out the primal source of present-day "hard times."

In the second place, the people of this country have got to awaken from ballot box lethargy, attend to their political duties, and drive professional grafters from places of official power or else witness the downfall of popular government.

Several of the leading cities of the United States are perilously near municipal bankruptcy already. Taxpayers in many localities are beginning to revolt, and that type of insurrection will spread unless taxation relief comes soon.

There is plenty of handwriting on the wall. It can be read without the aid of a skilled interpreter by those who have eyes to see.

Eternal debt contraction, beyond the capacity to ever pay, is as fatal to public as it is to private business.

No governmental Utopia is ever reached over the highway of governmental extravagance.

World war, political grafting and governmental extravagance—supplemented by public indifference, is the secret of the ills from which the American people are suffering today.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer contains the following French criticism of present-day movies:

"I am especially bitter toward voiced movies in America, because they have taken so much and given so little in return. Voicing a coffered, one-eared clotheshorse or a tough gangster is not enough—what pictures and ideas to broadcast over the world as representative of the best we are or can do! 'Mickey Mouse' is our greatest achievement for smiles; add 'News Events' and that is about all there is worth mentioning. The talkies have lowered the mental atmosphere of our theatres; they have emptied them of beauty and realities, leaving lifeless, bleak, black chasms reverberant with canned squeaks and bellows. Even the beauty and thoughtfulness of the silent pantomimes, as found in such a picture as 'Peter Ibbetson,' is missing. . . . Our orchestra pits are empty and silent—covered tombs of music, dead. This was the great at building force our cinema houses possessed—and now it is gone. Selfish exploiters of greed and gain for the few at the expense of the mentality of the many—and the livelihood of countless musicians. Prohibitionists of music for the masses. If you want my opinion of these money-grabbers—they are a damn dumb lot! (Have I captured the tune?)"

It will be a strange chapter in the history of human psychology if the unparalleled greed which has characterized the present era fails to awaken the hearts and minds of the masses to a desire for a more wholesome measure of all things artistic than they have recently enjoyed. Adversity often breeds contrition. Perhaps the scourge so graphically described by the French commentator will prove the forerunner of an entirely new order.

All Locals will be ambitious to be represented at the national convention to be held in Los Angeles in the coming June. The prosperity which we are told is just around the corner may arrive in time to make this desire possible.

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SHORT STORIES ON WEALTH

By IRVING FISHER

Professor of Economics, Yale University

PEACE AND PROSPERITY

Our next problem is that of "wealth and poverty." What can be done by way of improving the situation?

We may divide the subject into three heads:

Raising the average of wealth and income.

Raising the lowest levels.

Lessening the inequalities.

First, as to the average: Anything we can do to raise the average economic well-being, we may count as economic gain. This is equivalent to saving waste. So this first problem is the problem of "How to save waste." I have listed here seven great waste-saving movements. We may save economic waste:

- (1) By reducing or abolishing war;
- (2) By reducing or abolishing disease;
- (3) By the conservation of natural resources;
- (4) By the promotion of scientific research and invention;
- (5) By the promotion of scientific management;
- (6) By stabilizing monetary units;
- (7) By reforming our tax systems.

One of these, the stabilization of monetary units, has already been discussed. Let us next take up the problem of how to reduce or abolish war. War is very wasteful economically, to say nothing of its other evils; practically everyone today is agreed that war not only ought to be reduced or abolished, but can be.

To my mind there are two wrong ways proposed. One is that of the pacifist, who wants to get people to agree never to bear arms—never to fight.

This is a religious tenet on the part of orthodox Quakers and some other sects; when war comes it is often a matter of individual, conscientious objection and very often such people are excused from going to war, or are given something else to do than actually fighting—some service behind the lines.

In other cases these people resist any kind of service that would help win a war, and accept imprisonment instead, so that every war results in a certain number of high grade, conscientious, even courageous, people being put in jail, because they have this pacifist dogma by which they swear.

I think pacifism as a doctrine is quite admirable—something to be respected—not laughed at or despised or twisted into an accusation of cowardice. But it is not a very practical solution of this problem of war, for two reasons:

In the first place, you can't get enough people to agree on that solution.

In the second place, to be even more practical, to the extent that any one country should get a pacifist philosophy, to that extent that country is apt to be taken advantage of by other countries.

In a sense, of course, we are all pacifists—but someone said, "I am a pacifist—with the emphasis on the 'ist'."

This leads us at once to the opposite alleged solution—and that is the solution of "preparedness."

I believe in adding to armament if you can't get an agreement not to. Especially I believe in it for the United States, because the United States is so powerful, and so rich, that if we have got to have competition in armaments—if we have got to have a showdown as to the biggest, most fearful navy and army, to make other nations afraid—we have already the strongest potential position in the world.

But preparedness of one nation leads to the preparedness of others, and in the end this competition invites war and makes the war bigger when it comes. There is simply more ammunition to shoot off.

The World War was largely caused by that very thing—rivalry between France and Germany with respect to armies, and

rivalry between England and Germany with respect to navies.

That's what made the World War so fearful. And yet such competition can't be avoided if you have complete individualism among the nations. As long as you don't have agreement, each nation has got to be individualistic, just as in cut-throat competition between railroads in old-fashioned rate wars.

If nations start that sort of thing, they have to keep it up, even though they see it is going to ruin everybody. Yet, inasmuch as each step helps at first the nation which takes it, they are led right on, enticed, lured to destruction.

So that immediately suggests the true method, which is not competition, but combination. There is always this dilemma.

Either we must compete with other nations in armaments or combine with them in disarmament.

Such combination takes on several forms which will be discussed in our next Short Story.

"The Moving Finger Writes"

About Labor Events

MINIMUM FOOD FOR NEEDY URGED

—The Minneapolis Central Labor Union has urged the Minneapolis Board of Public Welfare to adopt a minimum of \$15 a week for groceries for families of five dependent upon the city for relief. R. D. Cramer, representing the central body, told the welfare board that it was misleading for the board and similar bodies to tell State and national governments that everyone was being taken care of when those seeking relief were receiving only a scanty food allowance.

BIRMINGHAM MOVIE STRIKE ENDED

—The strike of motion picture operators in Birmingham, Ala., has been ended by agreement. The settlement was a compromise between the demands of the operators and those of the management.

LABOR ORGANIZER BLAMES BANKERS

—Speaking at a big mass meeting under the direction of the Rochester, N. Y., Central Trades and Labor Council, William Collins, American Federation of Labor organizer, charged that international bankers were largely responsible for the present depression and called upon capitalists and manufacturers to accept organized labor's program for the relief and prevention of unemployment.

PAY CUTS GAINED IN SEPTEMBER

—According to "Facts for Workers," published by the Labor Bureau, Inc., New York City, "A conspicuous rise in the number of wage decreases recurred in September with 376 recorded as against 238 in August. The figure for the latter month (subject to revision) is the highest since the depression began. Accompanying the outburst of wage cuts there has come a notable increase in strikes. The building industry appears to lead the list, indicative of the concerted attack now being made by building trades employers on the wage scales in their industry."

OLD AGE PENSIONS SAVE CITIES MONEY

—A saving of \$500,000 in municipal relief expenditures for aged persons in need will be affected through the inauguration of the old age security law recently enacted in New Jersey, according to a report of the State Pension Survey Commission.

The Cherry Tree

Where with our Little Hatchet we tell the truth about many things, sometimes profoundly, sometimes flippantly, sometimes recklessly

As a propaganda stunt the red ride to Washington is the best thing the Communists have thus far staged.

They succeeded in getting the parade called a hunger march, which it was not.

They succeeded in throwing the bluff from start to finish. And they generally got non-Communists and even municipalities to house and feed them on the way.

William Z. Foster in New York and Stalin in Moscow can get a good laugh out of the red ride to Washington.

And so can we, for it has come and gone and what of it.

The country everywhere seemed to "lay itself out" to be nice to the reds, treating them sometimes like waifs out in a storm, sometimes like some queer sect, but never like revolutionists.

It bears repeating that the Communists who ran this big show are definitely hostile to American government and American institutions. They would destroy American government and institutions tomorrow, if they could.

Better yet, they would like to do it tonight.

They have no compunction about methods. The methods suit the situation, always. Murder, if murder is the winning way.

Not in Moscow could anti-Communists hold such a demonstration and look for anything but death in reprisal. Nor in any Russian city.

There is something elastic about democracy—something that even Communists must appreciate, or would if they were capable of it.

Democracy is not perfect today and perhaps never will be. But it responds to the will of the people whenever the people determine to express their will.

If this does not seem to happen as often as it should, who can the people blame?

There are some things that people learn slowly, as a mass. Government is one of them.

Considered in perspective—in relation to all history—democracy has come through nobly.

Certainly the red ride to Washington has taught us nothing, except that fanatical devotees of what they deem a cause will do a lot for that cause.

And we knew that long ago. Men and women have done much more for better causes and possibly for worse ones.

Not every person is able to see through far enough to know whether today's cause is any good. A great many already have been disillusioned about communism.

The red ride has come and gone and whatever else may be said, it did give a lot of people a chance to see Washington and the capitol.

In history Coxe's famous march probably will hold its place securely. The red ride was an interlude in the growth of a nation. At that and as such it passes into the past.

There remain those who will be fooled by communism and those who will still play the three-shell game.

The greatest sport in Washington just now is mutual party-baiting.

Each party baits the other, taunts it, tries to sting it in a vital spot.

Are statesmen thinking out a plan on which all can unite to end unemployment?

There are some statesmen who are doing this, or trying to.

But the statesmen are few; the politicians are many. And the politicians are playing chess, trying to put the other fel-

low's party in a hole on the eve of the coming campaign.

The great game is to get the other party in a hole, not to get the unemployed out of the hole.

Senator Borah, meanwhile, having convened and got into action, drags out the soviet recognition issue once more.

Washington, D. C., is a great place—but not for the discovery of statesmen.

Organized labor has shown more statesmanship throughout and in all its divisions than either political party.

Who can look upon the recent action of the railroad organizations without pride in the labor movement?

Who can observe the steady head shown by the building trades without pride in the labor movement?

Just a little bit of lunacy or loose talk and the nation would have been plunged into chaos, with who knows what outcome.

The labor movement is on an even keel, thinking every minute, holding steady, looking forward and moving on in spite of depression.

The world has seen fewer examples of cool headedness and sound judgment. Trade unionism vindicates itself richly.

But the political figures—what a sorry mess most of them cut.

It is all typified by a story about Hoover, told by those that don't like him.

Hoover and Andy Mellon were walking down the street. Hoover, putting his hand in his pocket and finding it empty, said to Andy, "Give me a nickel. I want to call up a friend."

To which Andy, fishing out a dime, replied, "Here, call 'em both."

That yarn is probably getting more attention than unemployment.

Oh, well, politicians are human beings and humanity backs away from its tragedies as far as it can.

It is human to hunt for the laugh. Who knows but it is better so.

Who knows? Who knows ANYTHING today?

One thing that shouldn't escape notice is the fact that the multitude of "plans" proposed by the bright young men, the Academeclians of the cloisters, haven't got to first base.

Some of them came out with a lot of stage setting and noise.

They have gone into the limbo, which is a big, dark place where things are buried and forgotten.

Most of them served their temporary purpose, which was to advertise the author. And then they passed out.

Meanwhile we wobble along, moving inexorably nearer to the end of the depression, through a sea of misery that grows deeper each month and through which we cannot perceive the end, even though we know there must be and will be an end.

It is human, too, to carry on!

A Clever Thought

Old Sinner—"If you will answer me one question, I will come to church."

Minister—"What is the question?"

Old Sinner—"Who was Cain's wife?"

Minister—"My friend, you will never be able to embrace religion until you stop bothering yourself about other men's wives."—Ex.

These Lawyers!

Lawyer—"Now, sir, did you, or did you not, on the date in question, or at any other time, previously or subsequently, say or even intimate to the defendant or anyone else, whether friend or mere acquaintance or, in fact, a stranger, that the statement imputed to you, whether just or unjust, and denied by the plaintiff was a matter of moment or otherwise?" Answer me, yes or no."

Witness—"Yes or no what?"—Ex.

List—Erine

Doremifa—"I'll tell you something if you'll promise to keep your mouth shut."

Solasido—"What is it? I will."

Doremifa—"You've got halitosis."—Ex.

