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**A HISTORY OF TRADE UNIONISM
IN THE UNITED STATES**

SOCIAL SCIENCE TEXT-BOOKS

EDITED BY RICHARD T. ELY

OUTLINES OF ECONOMICS

By RICHARD T. ELY, PH.D., LL.D. Revised and enlarged by the AUTHOR and THOMAS S. ADAMS, PH.D., MAX O. LORENZ, PH.D., ALLEN A. YOUNG, PH.D.

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A HISTORY OF TRADE UNIONISM IN THE UNITED STATES

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A HISTORY OF TRADE UNIONISM IN THE UNITED STATES

BY

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THE present *History of Trade Unionism in the United States* is in part a summary of work in labor history by Professor John R. Commons and collaborators at the University of Wisconsin from 1904 to 1918, and in part an attempt by the author to carry the work further. Part I of the present book is based on the *History of Labour in the United States* by Commons and Associates (Introduction: John R. Commons; Colonial and Federal Beginnings, to 1827: David J. Saposs; Citizenship, 1827-1833: Helen L. Summer; Trade Unionism, 1833-1839: Edward B. Mitelman; Humanitarianism, 1840-1860: Henry E. Hoagland; Nationalization, 1860-1877: John B. Andrews; and Upheaval and Reorganization, 1876-1896: by the present author), published by the Macmillan Company in 1918 in two volumes.

Part II, "The Larger Career of Unionism," brings the story from 1897 down to date; and Part III, "Conclusions and Inferences," is an attempt to bring together several of the general ideas suggested by the History. Chapter 12, entitled "An Economic Interpretation," follows the line of analysis laid down by Professor Commons in his study of the American shoemakers, 1648-1895.¹

The author wishes to express his strong gratitude to Professors Richard T. Ely and John R. Commons for

¹ See his *Labor and Administration*, Chapter XIV (Macmillan, 1913).

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

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S. P.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
PART I. THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL	
CHAPTER	
1 LABOR MOVEMENTS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR	
(1) Early Beginnings, to 1827	3
(2) Equal Citizenship, 1827-1832	9
(3) The Period of the "Wild-Cat" Prosperity, 1833-1837	18
(4) The Long Depression, 1837-1862	29
2 THE "GREENBACK" PERIOD, 1862-1879	42
3 THE BEGINNING OF THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR AND OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR	68
4 REVIVAL AND UPHEAVAL, 1879-1887	81
5 THE VICTORY OF CRAFT UNIONISM AND THE FINAL FAILURE OF PRODUCERS' COÖPERATION	106
6 STABILIZATION, 1888-1897	130
7 TRADE UNIONISM AND THE COURTS	146
 PART II. THE LARGER CAREER OF UNIONISM	
8 PARTIAL RECOGNITION AND NEW DIFFICULTIES, 1898-1914	163
(1) The Miners	167
(2) The Railway Men	180
(3) The Machinery and Metal Trades	186

CHAPTER	PAGE
(4) The Employers' Reaction	190
(5) Legislation, Courts, and Politics	198
9 RADICAL UNIONISM AND A "COUNTER-REFORMATION"	208
10 THE WAR-TIME BALANCE SHEET	226
11 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS	245

PART III. CONCLUSIONS AND INFERENCES

12 AN ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION	265
13 THE IDEALISTIC FACTOR	279
14 WHY THERE IS NOT AN AMERICAN LABOR PARTY	285
15 THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT AND TRADE UNIONISM	295
BIBLIOGRAPHY	307
INDEX	309

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The first seven chapters of the present work are based on the *History of Labour in the United States* by John R. Commons and Associates,¹ published in 1918 in two volumes by the Macmillan Company, New York. The major portion of the latter was in turn based on *A Documentary History of the American Industrial Society*, edited by Professor Commons and published in 1910 in ten volumes by Clark and Company, Cleveland. In preparing chapters 8 to 11, dealing with the period since 1897, which is not covered in the *History of Labour*, the author used largely the same sort of material as that in the preparation of the above named works; namely, original sources such as proceedings of trade union conventions, labor and employer papers, government reports, etc. There are, however, many excellent special histories relating to the recent period in the labor movement, especially histories of unionism in individual trades or industries, to which the author wishes to refer the reader for more ample accounts of the several phases of the subject, which he himself was of necessity obliged to treat but briefly. The following is a selected list of such works together with some others relating to earlier periods:

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308 TRADE UNIONISM IN THE UNITED STATES

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INDEX

A

- Adair Case, 202.
Adamson Law, 232.
Agrarianism, "equal division," 13; homestead movement, 35.
Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union of America, 220, 247, 255.
American Anti-Boycott League, 195.
American Federation of Labor, departments, 223; eight-hour movement, 1890, 131; international labor movement, 242; politics, 139, 203; origin of program, 77; Reconstruction, 242; shorter hours by law, 199; socialism, 140; structure, 119, 122; Trade Union International, 261; unskilled, 116, 216; use of government, 202; World War, 233; see Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada.
American Labor Union, 214.
"American Plan," 252.
American Railway Union, 137.
Anarchists, Chicago, 79.
Anthracite Coal Strike Commission, 176.
Arbitration, see Collective Bargaining; see Railway Men.

B

- Banks, complaints against, 11, 28.
Bargaining Theory of Labor Movement, 266.
Barnett, George E., 164.
Bascom, John, 72.
Benevolent Societies, 7.
Berger, Victor, 212.
Black International, 79.
Blacklist, laws of, 154.
Bolshevism, in Russia, 295; in America, 301.
Boycott, in the eighties, 85; law of, 155, 258; the Theiss, 101.
Brisbane, Albert, 29.
British Trade Union Congress, 111.
British Unions, 139.
Brook Farm, 29.
Bryan, William J., 141, 205.
Buck's Stove and Range Company Case, 202.
Building Strikes, 255.
Business Cycles, effects on coöperative movement, 277; effects on labor movement, 276.

C

- Carey, Mathew, 20.
Carnegie Steel Company, 133, 196.
Carpenters, first strike, 3; strike in 1825, 8; national eight-hour strike, 132.
Central Competitive Field, see Miners.
Check-off, 169 *note*, 178, 179.
Chinese, agitation against, 62.
Cigar Makers' International Union, 68, 76, 78, 117.
Citizens' Alliances, 195.
City Central Labor Bodies, first on record, 9; in the thirties, 20; in the sixties, 43.
Clayton Act, 226, 227.
Cleveland, Grover, 135, 139.
Closed Shop, early, 6; in court, 151.

- Collective Bargaining, 176; in stove molding, 142.
 Commonwealth v. Hunt, 151.
Communist Manifesto, 73.
 Compulsory Military Service, 12.
 Concerted Movements, 183.
 Conspiracy, early cases, 6, 8, 25, 147, 155; see Injunctions, Sherman Anti-Trust Law, and Clayton Act.
 Cooper, Peter, 58.
 Coöperation, consumers' in Europe, 64 *note*; effect of business cycles upon, 277; consumers', early, 32; consumers', Sovereigns of Industry, 62, 63, 64; consumers', causes of failure, 65; producers', early, 30; producers', in the sixties, 52; and the Knights of Labor, 71; producers', in the eighties, 125; producers', Minneapolis Coöperators, 56; producers', causes of failure of, 127, 128.
 Coppage Case, 257.
 Coronado Case, 259.
 Cost of Living, rise of, in the thirties, 19; during Civil War, 43.
 Courts, see Conspiracy, Incorporation, Injunctions, Sherman Anti-Trust Law, and Clayton Act.
 Craft Autonomy, 122.
- D
- Danbury Hatters' Case, 195, 202.
 Declaration of Independence, effect on labor movement, 279.
 Debs, Eugene V., 137, 156, 159, 212.
 DeLeon, Daniel, 210.
 Duplex Printing Case, 258.
- E
- Earle, William H., 69.
 Education, early conditions, 14; industrial, 14; "State Guardianship," 15.
 Eight-Hour Leagues, 46.
 Ely, Richard T., 72, 290.
 Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 29.
 Employers' Associations, early, 6, 8; in the thirties, 25; in the sixties, 43; in the eighties, 94; in stove industry, 142; open-shop movement, 194, 222.
 Erdman Act, 183.
 Each Cummings Law, 253.
 Evans, George Henry, 35.
- F
- Factory System, early reaction against, 16; early strikes, 24.
 Factory Workers, first organization of, 7.
 Farmer-Labor Party, 261.
 Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, 111.
 Fourierism, 29.
 Frick, Henry C., 133.
- G
- George, Henry, campaign for mayor, 102.
 Gompers, Samuel, 71, 112, 117, 119, 135, 140, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 208, 209, 210, 291; characterization of, 76.
 Gould, Jay, 84, 86, 96.
 Grant, U. S., 46.
 Greeley, Horace, 29, 36, 57.
 Greenbackism, parties, 58, 60; philosophy, 51, 222.
 Greenbacks, 42.
- H
- Haywood, William D., 214, 303.
 Hewitt, Abram S., 103.
 Hitchman Case, 170, 257.
 Homestead Movement, 281; philosophy of, 36.
 Homestead Exemption, 39.
 Homestead Strike, 133.
- I
- Immigration, 85, 179, 291.
 Imprisonment for Debt, 11.
 Incorporation, 112, 152.
 Industrial Government, see Collective Bargaining.

Industrial Unionism, 137, 217.
 Industrial Workers of the World, 208, 212, 214, 303, 305.
 Injunctions, 138, 169, 170;
 "blanket," 160; legal theory of, 156; bills, 201; planks, 204; see Clayton Act.
 Intellectuals, in the forties, 29; rôle of, 290.
 Interchurch World Movement, 254.
 International Building Trades' Council, 222.
 International Industrial Assembly, 43.
 International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 220.
 International Workingmen's Association, 72, 73.
 Interstate Commerce Act, 156.
 Iron and Steel Workers, Amalgamated Association of, 130, 133, 142, 163, 197.

J

Jackson, Andrew, 27.
 Jacksonian Democracy, influence on labor, 9, 10.
 Jefferson, Thomas, 279.
 Johnson, Andrew, 38, 48.
 Jurisdictional disputes, 223.

K

Kansas Industrial Relations Court, 252.
 Knights of Labor, and alien contract labor law, 89; coöperative program, 71; "First principles," 70, 125; "one big union," 106, 114; preamble, 70; producers' coöperation, 125; ritual, 68; secrecy, 69; skilled in, 123; structure, 113, 121; and unskilled, 84, 115, 118, 122; water-front strike of 1887, 98.
 Knights of St. Crispin, 56, 115, 274.

L

Labor Management, 247.
 Labor Politics, in the twenties,

17, 21; in the thirties, 28; policy of pressure, 37, 289; National Labor and Reform party, 37; in the eighties, 102, 105; in the nineties, 139; see American Federation of Labor.
 Labor Press, 8, 21.
 Lake Carriers' Association, 190.
 Lassalle, Ferdinand, program of, 51, 73, 74.
 League of Nations Pact, 242.
 Lobbying, early, 21.
 Lumber Carriers' Association, 190.
 Luther, Seth, 17.

M

McGuire, P. J., 75, 140, 152.
 Machinery, effect of, 115.
 Machinists and Blacksmiths, national union of, 41.
 Manhood Suffrage, 9.
 Market Theory of Industrial Evolution, 268.
 Marx, Karl, 72, 265, 296.
 Mazzini, Giuseppe, 73.
 Mechanics' Lien, 12.
 Merchant-Capitalist, 11, 270, 271.
 Miners, anthracite, early union, 69; strike in 1888, 130; agreement system in eighties, 167 *note*; eight-hour movement, 132; strike in 1894, 136, 168; strike in 1897, 168; anthracite strike of 1900, 175; of 1902, 176; bituminous strike of 1919, 251; anthracite strike of 1920, 251; Interstate agreement system, 169; West Virginia situation, 168, 170.
 Mitchell, John, 171, 176, 202.
 Molders, and coöperation, 54; national union, 41.
 Molly Maguires, 69 *note*.
 Moore, Ely, first labor congressman, 22, 24.

N

National Association of Manufacturers, 125, 200, 252.
 National Council of Defense, 233, 236.

- National Founders' Association, 186, 194.
 National Industrial Congress, 57.
 National Labor Congress, 57, 111.
 National Labor Federations, see National Labor Union, National Labor Congress, Knights of Labor, and American Federation of Labor.
 National Labor Union, 45, 51, 56, 111.
 National Metal Trades' Association, 189, 194.
 National Trades' Union, 36, 107.
 Nationalization, causes of in union structure, 109.
 New England Protective Union, 34.
 Newlands Act, 183.
 "New York Agreement," 187, 189.
 "New Unionism," 220.
- O
- Open-Shop Movement, 193, 253, 256.
 "One Big Union," 106, 218.
 "Outlaw" Strike, 254.
 Owen, Robert Dale, 15.
- P
- Packing industry, 97, 240, 256.
 Paine, Thomas, 13.
 Phillips, Thomas, 53.
 Phillips, Wendell, 57.
 Pinkertons, 134.
 Plumb Plan, 253, 259.
 Powderly, Terence V., 60, 71, 125.
 Preponderance of Social Power
 Theory of Social Revolutions, 295, 302.
 President's Industrial Conference, 249.
 Printers, early societies of, 4; national trade union, 40; eight hours, 166.
 Prison Labor, 21.
 Pullman Strike, 136.
- R
- Railway Employes' Department, 185, 224.
 Railroad Labor Board, 253, 254, 261.
 Railway Men, Adamson Law, 232; arbitration cases, 183; eight-hour movement in 1916, 231; first organizations, 41; "National Agreements," 246; Plumb Plan, 253, 259; seniority, 161, 182; see Railway Employers' Department.
 Railway Strikes, of 1877, 58; of 1884-1885, 86; of the Southwest, 95; of 1888, 130; on Great Northern, 137; Pullman, 136; injunctions in, 159.
 "Republican Education," 281.
 Restriction of Output, 191.
 "Reward Your Friends," 289.
 Rochdale System, 71, 73.
 Roosevelt, Theodore, 104, 176, 198.
 "Run-of-mine" System, 169 *note*, 173.
- S
- Samuel, John, 116.
 Schulze-Delitzsch, 74.
 Self-employment, 280.
 Seniority, 181, 182, 192.
 Sherman Anti-Trust Law, 154, 156.
 Shoemakers, early societies of, 4; see Knights of St. Crispin.
 Shorter Hours, first strike for, 3; ten-hour movement, 22; eight-hour movement, 50, 91, 131, 231; eight-hours philosophy, 45; first effective law, 50; State eight-hour laws, 49; on government work, 24, 26, 47; on government contract work, 199.
 Single tax, 102.
 Skidmore, Thomas, 13, 35.
 Socialism, 57, 140, 208, 212.
 Socialist Labor Party, 209, 211.
 Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance, 211, 283.
 "Standards of Production," 255.
 Steel Strike, 248, 250.

Steward, Ira, 45.
 Strasser, Adolph, 75, 76, 117, 140, 152.
 Steel Corporation, United States, 171, 196, 254.
 Stephens, Uriah Smith, 68, 71.
 Strikes, first on record, 3; sympathetic, first on record, 5; see Carpenters, Miners, and Railway Men.
 Structural Building Trades' Alliance, 222.
 Structural Erectors' Association, 190.
 Sylvis, William H., 42, 54.
 Syndicalism, 79.
 System Federation, 185.
 Sweatshop System, 271.

T

Taft, William H., 159, 201, 205, 238.
 Tammany, 28, 38, 104.
 Trade Agreements, 275; see Collective Bargaining.
 Truax case, 258.
 Typothetae, United, of America, 166, 190.

U

United States Commission on Industrial Relations, 228.
 Unskilled, 90, 95, 101, 115, 122, 165, 216, 219, 224.

V

Van Buren, Martin, 27.

W

Walsh, Frank P., 228, 238.
 War, Civil, 42.
 War Labor Board, 235, 238, 247.
 Webb, Sidney and Beatrice, 293.
 Weitling, Wilhelm, 32.
 Welles, Gideon, 48.
 Western Federation of Miners, 213.
 Wilson, William B., 206.
 Wilson, Woodrow, 206, 237, 242, 249, 253.
 Wolman, Leo, 164.
 Working Men's Protective Union, 34.
 Women Workers, 20.
 "Working Rules," 191.
 Wright, Frances, 15.