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BY OSCAR NEWFANG

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THE ROAD TO WORLD PEACE

HARMONY BETWEEN LABOR AND CAPITAL

22 OCT 1927

Harmony Between Labor and Capital

An Essay on the Welfare of Nations

By

Oscar Newfang

Author of "The Road to World Peace"



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PREFACE

With the exception of international war, there is no cause of disturbance to the welfare of nations so widespread and so destructive as industrial warfare. Not only has it completely destroyed responsible government in two of the great nations of Europe and established in their stead the dictatorship of a minority, but in all other great commercial countries the effect of industrial strife has been extremely disturbing and destructive to the economic welfare of the average citizen and of the entire nation. The recent experience of England with a general strike is only an exceptionally severe example of the destructiveness of the continuing antagonism and strife between labor and capital in all industrial countries.

An attempt is made in this volume to lay bare the basic causes of this strife and to present a comprehensive and final solution of the problem of establishing harmony between labor and capital. The plan presented will doubtless be considered by

many readers rather complicated; but it must be remembered that the problem itself is very complicated. If this were not so, the solution would have been found and applied long ago.

Ultimately, we feel, there must be found some method of relating standards of living to social usefulness, or production service, though under present industrial management this has not yet been found possible on any just basis.

Unquestionably the welfare of any people as a whole is directly related to the productivity of that people. The difficulty is encountered when it is attempted to apportion returns on the basis of individual productivity.

American Federation of Labor,
Executive Council Report, Proceedings, 1921.

Organized labor of America may be said to be inspired by four great purposes:

First—To obtain a compensation for service rendered comparable with that received by any other group or factor in industry;

Second—Security of employment, freedom from discharge from work and unemployment;

Third—Democratic participation in all the forces, all the factors and powers that influence or affect their direct means of livelihood;

Fourth—To improve upon the processes and manufacture of production in which they are engaged, for we realize that

markets for the products of labor must be safeguarded and must be advanced if labor itself is to protect itself.

Matthew Woll, Vice President, American Federation of Labor, to the Convention of the National Association of Credit Men, New York, 1926.

What we all want from this economic system is greater stability, that men may be secure in their employment and their business; assured returns to savings, with less hazard and speculation; increasing standards of living to all of our people, not only through increased stability of employment and business but through constant application of invention and steady elimination of industrial waste; an increasing diffusion of wealth; greater independence of business from external control earned by greater responsibility of business for internal control; a protection to the public from tyrannical action, monopoly, and unfair practices by the minimum of necessary governmental action and the maximum of responsibility to public interest from those who direct industrial organization and who lead labor.

Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce of the U. S., American Review of Reviews, February, 1926.

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