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**Perils of
Trade
Unionism** Labor has caught the fever of trade unionism,
and, without knowing what it means, or realiz-
ing how it may be of real service to the world,
has turned its power and energy in the direction of building up
organizations. Unless this force is turned to substantial meth-

ods of bettering industrial conditions, rather than to gaining temporary or personal advantages, then all this great movement must be for naught.

When all is said and done, the power of public opinion is the one controlling power in the world. A sufficient public opinion will preserve trade unionism. A strong enough hostile public opinion will destroy it. Trade unionism has fought its long battle and won its well-earned victories because it stood for something more than individual selfishness; because it really meant the upbuilding of the race. If it should lose its moral force and descend to pure selfishness it is bound to fall to pieces."—*Clarence S. Darrow, in Speech to the Henry George Association of Chicago.*

Mr. Darrow's address is the earnest remonstrance of a thoughtful man against the follies into which workingmen have drifted and which menace them and the social structure with disaster. It needs courage for a friend of the laborer to rebuke his selfishness, ignorance and recklessness, and only a true and wise friend, an unselfish friend, could dare so much and speak so plainly. A crisis in the life of organized labor in the United States is impending. It is foreshadowed in aimless strikes, in irrational unrest, in the seething turbulence of masses of men who can give no lucid reason for their turmoil, in the defensive drawing together of harassed employers in the growing hostility of public opinion to purposeless disturbers of business. The need for sane counsel, sharp rebuke and earnest remonstrance against foolish action is great and the man who supplies that need takes his courage in both hands if he values the friendship of those whom he would save from their own folly. Clarence Darrow has dared greatly. Will organized labor understand him and heed him? Will its leaders stand by him and tell their followers that "faithful are the wounds of a friend"?—*Philadelphia North American.*

No one expects altruism in business affairs, nor is it to be supposed that Mr. Darrow had in mind any notion of a Utopia in which employer and employee shall devote their energies to any one's welfare except their own. What he meant and what is obvious to all observers of present tendencies is that in the greed which has caused the strife which he deprecates there is danger of self-destruction rather than promise of self-betterment. As greedy combinations of capital are foredoomed to failure, so greedy labor unions are bent on ruin of their own interests. Already on both sides there are signs that this element of weakness is making itself

felt. If the warning is not soon heeded while the machinery of business is still going the lesson will be learned in bitter suffering when it is too late to avoid serious and lasting consequences.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

Mr. Darrow rendered a very great service to organized labor in his conduct of the case of the anthracite strikers, and is rendering it a scarcely less important service in warning it against radical and destructive action, and the disregard of the public welfare. Mr. Henry White, one of the most eminent labor leaders, has uttered a similar warning to his followers. Some of the labor leaders have done their cause great harm by inciting general attack on the trade of a whole community, and the members of the organizations will do well to reflect on Mr. Darrow's statement that in the long run public opinion controls, and movements hostile to the interests of the community as a whole can not succeed, whatever may be the forces back of them.—*Philadelphia Record.*