

THE LABORER

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SUPPORT OF LEADERSHIP

The caption adopted for this writing causes us to reflect and it brings most forcibly to mind the cessation of hostilities in the European theatre of war which was announced two weeks ago; an example of unity of both purpose and action by the Allied-United Nations, due in the main to the unstinted support and undivided cooperation given the leaders of those nations by the citizens thereof, and especially so with the armed forces on the fields of battle for the successful termination of each campaign. Inasmuch as it is believed that one and all are familiar with the issue cited, there seems to be no necessity to dwell at length thereon. However, this citation is one to which we desire to invite the attention of all waiters, bar tenders and employees of establishments that are eligible to membership in the union, more so those who are not as yet allied with the union, but especially those active members whose only purpose on becoming members is to enjoy the benefits that may accrue to them; the sowing of bad seeds to the detriment of other members and the union as a whole, and their lack of cooperation in matters which tend to enhance the progress thereof. While it is not the policy -- a thing the union has not stooped to in the past, and which it is hoped never to adopt at any future time as a means to correcting misgiving (s) of members -- publicly disclosing their identities; nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that every lane has got a turning just as much as a coil of rope must reach its end when uncoiled, therefore, it behoves members to take caution and exert every possible interest in the welfare of the union and its several activities if it must be a fact as it is in name. Too many of us take things for granted only to regret in the end, with the remark: "IF I HAD KNOWN," which, more often than not, is too late, there being no applicable solution. It is an undeniable fact that some of us go about carefree leaving things in which we should be interested in the hands of others -- a few at that -- and when not accomplished to our satisfaction go complaining and tooting our horns in sorrow and grief; showering no end of blames on the others in whose hands matters were entrusted while, truthfully, such blames should be heaped on ourselves -- carelessness -- not remembering the adage: "AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN A POUND OF CURE." Closes the gate after the horse get out.

To the point, the officers who at present are directing the affairs of the union, without the shadow of a doubt since assuming offices, have done and are still doing their very best in steering the "ship" in the proper course, and this can be attested to by the many outstanding successes achieved within the past three months by way of conditions of employment, which includes working hours, overtime payments, lay over days, settlement of grievances between employers and employees and the enforcement of the labor laws as required by the Nation. More can be accomplished if a one hundred per cent support and cooperation is given these officers by the entire membership. Failure, not unlike success in any venture rests equally on the shoulders of each officer and member. The severing of one link of a chain causes in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, the wrecking of the best piece of working machinery, and is identical in its interpretation: "ONE BAD SHEEP SPOILS THE WHOLE FLOCK." This is true in a body of people who are striving for the successful accomplishment -- achieving of some purpose or aim, when like crabs a few of their number pull down -- tear apart plans in which labor, brawn and brain have been expended. Despite these factors that are rampant, we can, with determination, stick-to-it-iveness and the will to press forward and onward overcome all obstacles, wrought miracles, do wonders and make our union an ideal one -- the goal to which we are looking. We need your support and every effort. Attend the meetings of the union; take lively and active part in the affairs thereof; induce that inactive member to reinstate to active membership, and

NOTICE!

Reactivation Of Bar Tenders And Waiters Union Of Colon City, 10th May, 1945.

Of special interest to members of the then Bar Tenders and Waiters Union of the City of Colon, as well as the well wishers thereof, is the disclosing of the news of two trips made recently, to be exact; on the 7th and 10th respectively, of the current month, to the Atlantic Side by the Board of Officers of the Panama City Union, for the expressed purpose of looking into the advisability of re-establishing the union in that City which ceased to function approximately one year ago. The officers of the Board take pleasure to state for the information of all concerned that the missions undertaken have been successful as will be observed further down in this writing. As a result of complaints received, an intense investigation was carried out on the 7th, and the gathering of certain facts established beyond every reason doubt, gave us sufficient material for laying of the network on which to build, thus encouraging the Board to take immediate and prompt action to activate the union on the Atlantic Side without further delay. During the course of the Board's investigation, information was gleaned that all was not well in many instances in the relationship of employers and employees, as also the disparity between certain importers and wholesale establishments in their dealings with bodegas and cantines, especially those in the lower brackets, in that; these importers and establishments actually force -- compel the bodegas and cantines cited, to effect purchases beyond their requirements and in many cases above their means in making payments. In order to procure a case of whisky they are compelled to purchase at least five cases of rum or some other brand of liquor whether or not they are in need of same. Despite a publication of some three months ago by Mr. J. J. Henriquez, that his firm was in a position to supply any quantity of whisky, due to the large stock on hand, this condition still exists to the disadvantage and detriment of the small business concerns which can just barely afford to cover their current expenses; a very deplorable situation and one that requires corrective mea-

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sure. These importers and wholesalers cater to the well-to-does, select persons and cabarets with no consideration for the "under dogs" as the less fortunate businessmen may be termed. It stands to reason that had the within stated bodegas and cantines affiliated themselves with some union having interest in their welfare, this and other injustices would have been adjusted to their satisfaction upon proper representation. It is hoped that not in the too distant future steps toward the ameliorating of all discriminatory and prejudicial practices will be initiated.

On the trip of the 10th, at two o'clock in the afternoon, in pursuance to prior notice, a meeting was convened by the Board of Directors which was fairly well attended by members of the defunct union. These officers (Directors) submitted a fourteen-point program which, after a thorough, keen and careful study coupled with discussions; the sifting of every point from all angles, was adopted and finally decided to activate the union. For the time being and until such time as this union is placed on a safe operational basis, the executive functions are investigated in the Panama Union which assures all officers and members thereof fair treatment and equal rights and privileges as are enjoyed by officers and members of the Panama City Union. It is hoped that in due course of time, both unions, while working in harmony one with the other, will be independent--each having its own executive officers, etc.

Going back to the issue of investigation, it was brought to the attention of the Board of Officers that certain disadvantages meted out by some establishments to their employees, which in many instances are deplorable, are encouraged by certain officials of the local government. However, and inasmuch as it was not possible to substantiate this statement during the Board's stay on the Atlantic side, no action could be taken thereon. It is the expressed purpose of the union to do all possible in its power in seeing to it that proprietors of establishments in which Bar Tenders and Waiters, also other

last but by no means the least, influence and encourage persons who are eligible to membership to join up with us. The more the number the better the recognition we will receive and the stronger will be our representations.

Remember the story of the monkeys that had builded a bridge in order to cross from one side of the stream to the other side. A very good example to adopt. It was through undivided cooperation on the part of each which made it possible to bridge the stream, thus enabling them to cross.

Support Your Paper-Sending Your Ads to Us

While we are pleased to inform our members, friends and well wishers of the healthy sales of the past two issues of our paper the "LABORER," we must nevertheless, remind members of the Union that such sales could be more healthy if each had purchased a paper. Slight should not be lost of the fact that the getting out of the paper entails quite some labor and expense, in view of which, the wholehearted support of members is solicited. Let's support our own. In the event you have something of importance you'd like to have published in your (our) paper, do not hesitate to bring it or send it along. Space will be provided for any wholesome matters worth printing.

To our friends and well wishers, especially those who are engaged in business of some kind or other, we shall be glad for any advertisement you may care to give us, which, as you know, will help materially to cover the cost of printing our paper. Your support is also solicited. Should any of our agents fail to call on you and in event you need us, please telephone Panama 2151-L. Our office is situated on the top floor of house No. 103, Central Avenue, and our postal address is: Box No. 3127, Panama City. Give us a trial, we are sure to please you. Nothing try nothing done. In anticipation of serving you.

persons eligible to embership in the union are employed, live up to the labor laws of the country which are both obligatory and mandatory. Failure after proper interview (s) and representation (s), will result in the union resorting to the proper government agency.

Members of the union are advised and cautioned, too, not to take any disputes or other serious matters -- functions of the union-- in their own hands. Such disputes and or serious matters are generally settled by conference -- the correct channel. The union is appealing to ALL BAR Tenders and Waiters as well as ALL employees of restaurants, lunch counters, soda fountains, soft stands, fruit stands and kitchens to become members. Act now while the time is opportune. Delay is danger.

