

into an agreement. The agreement was evolved to protect club owners in their contracts with players—to make sure that a skillful player would live up to the contract he made, and that he might not play elsewhere without the consent of the original employer.

The last baseball "war" between players and owners came about when the American League was founded as a competitor of the National League; the leagues were then continuously in court over players who "jumped" their contracts, but finally a general compromise was effected. Trouble then followed with the smaller organizations until finally the entire country was brought into one general scheme under the control of a so-called National Commission. The formation of the new Federal League this year again introduced a discordant note into the business harmony of the baseball world.

Once a player has joined a club which is a party to the National agreement, he loses his personality and becomes an object to be traded about, much as were the slaves in the olden times. Of course he is paid, and paid fairly well, although the salaries are by no means so high as they are often reported to be. He may be sold from one club to another at a high figure and have himself little or nothing to say about it. He becomes a part of the great organization and must obey the rules which the employers' union has promulgated.

To combat the club owners, the players organized into the Players' Fraternity, which is merely a trades union of baseball players. Under able guidance they have considerably modified many unfair conditions, and their relations with the associations have been fairly harmonious.

The last break came, curiously enough, over a comparatively obscure first-base man. He had originally come from Nashville to Brooklyn; from Brooklyn he went to Boston, and again back to Brooklyn. Then he was transferred to Newark. When the last transfer came to the ears of the Nashville owners, they claimed the man, and the National Commission decided that to Nashville he must go. This meant a large reduction in salary, for the smaller leagues have much smaller salary limits than the larger organizations. It was purely the case of a man being forced to work for less money than he had been offered. Of course he protested, and the Players' Fraternity took up the case. The

National Commission did not seem disposed to take other action, and the players decided to use the workman's weapon of a strike.

The strike did not happen, for the man was purchased from the Southern city; opinion is equally divided as to whether or not the strike would actually have taken place.

The pronounced commercial aspect of baseball is admittedly hurting the game with the public; the players clamor for far more money than their importance warrants, while the owners have large investments which must be made to yield interest. Clashing is inevitable, and the consuming public is of course the eventual sufferer.

THE COMMISSION ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The United States Commission on Industrial Relations held a series of public hearings at Chicago during the week of July 20–25. The Commission is to hold hearings in many of the large cities of the country, and to summon to them men and women practically experienced in dealing with industrial questions. The testimony they give will have its weight in the settlement of the problem before the Commission, which is to discover the underlying causes of dissatisfaction in the industrial world of to-day, and to present constructive measures which may help to improve conditions and modify the industrial unrest throughout the United States.

On the Commission three members represent the general public, three the manufacturer's point of view, and three that of the Labor party. Mr. Frank P. Walsh, of Missouri, is Chairman. Professor John R. Commons, of the University of Wisconsin, and Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, complete the first group of members. Representing the employers of labor are Frederic A. Delano, of Chicago; Harris Weinstock, of California; and S. Thruston Ballard, of Kentucky. The labor group includes John B. Lennon, of Illinois; James O'Connell, of the District of Columbia; and Austin B. Garretson, of Iowa.

The first witness to be called before the Commission in its Chicago hearings was Charles Piez, President of the Link Belt Company, a large corporation with works in Chicago, Philadelphia, and Indianapolis. He runs an open shop, and gave his reasons for this fact in detail. Mr. Piez did not object, he said, to organization as a principle, either by workmen or by employers of labor, but he

felt that absolute fairness must rule in an organization of either sort.

The necessity for comprehension was the keynote of the testimony of the next witness, John H. Walker, President of the Illinois State Federation of Labor. Workmen and employers should be required to organize. And beyond this a thorough knowledge of the absolute conditions on both sides should be made a first requisite of any plan. Trouble arises from misunderstanding, said Mr. Walker. Bring about a thorough airing of all questions, and the problems will go far to settle themselves.

This idea was in the background of all or almost all of the testimonies presented. The fact was brought out that the ultimate aims of employers and employees are not different or mutually exclusive. Education and publicity will go very far toward a solution of the biggest problem in the country to-day. Organization is to be encouraged for definite and proper ends, but no organization is to be manipulated for ends which are personal and malicious. The constructive plan which the Commission on Industrial Relations is to present to Congress is to embody these ideas.

As far as this plan has yet been worked out, it will provide for the creation of a Federal Industrial Council, with full powers of investigation, to mediate in industrial disputes and to try to bring about a fuller mutual understanding on the part of capital and labor. The Council would be composed of representatives of both industrial parties, and non-partisan members mutually agreed upon.

Dudley Taylor, counsel of the Employers' Association of Chicago, told of the service which the legal department of such an association could render its members in time of strike. John Fitzpatrick, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, also testified at the Chicago hearings, as did Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck & Co.; Miss Mary E. Macdowell, of the University of Chicago Settlement; and many other well-known representatives of interested and disinterested workers in the field of industry.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF FOLLOWERS

A correspondent of the New York "Churchman" emphasizes the significance of a recent article by Mr. F. Herbert Stead on the "Labor Movement in Religion." Mr. Stead reports a notable change of mind among the leaders

of the laboring people in England in their attitude towards Christianity, and says that there is now a strong tendency to recognize in the personality and teachings of Jesus the only hope for the full and final success of the endeavor to uplift the laboring classes of the world.

Labor Day in England, May 1, marked the beginning of a week of prayer and preaching, the meetings being addressed by leaders of the labor movement both in England and Australia. Prominent among these leaders was Mr. Keir Hardie, who was at one time regarded as inimical to the churches, but who is now quoted as saying that Labor Week, "by bringing laboring men and Christian men and women together, may easily prove the nucleus out of which the real reformation of Christianity may come." With Christianity in practice, he went on to say, there would be neither armies nor navies, probably neither wealth nor poverty, but liberty, equal fraternity, and love. The participation in the meetings of an Anglican bishop was supplemented by warm expressions of interest and approval from such distinguished Churchmen as the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of London, who is reported as saying that in England the labor movement is avowedly and definitely religious, and as demanding that the whole tone and texture of the Church be so changed as to meet it. One of the settlements in London has organized an association known as the Fellowship of Followers, of which any person may become a member, regardless of church connections or of the lack of them, who will sign a declaration consisting of the words of Christ, "If any man will come after me, let him take up his cross and follow me." This movement, as yet in its initial stages, is likely to have great prophetic significance; the churches must go to the workers, and the workers must go to the churches.

AFTERMATH OF THE "RITUAL MURDER" TRIAL

Although more than six months have passed since the Chamber of Justice in Kiev found the Jew, Mendel Beilis, not guilty of murdering the Christian boy, Andrew Yushchinski, and although the acquitted prisoner has been released and has emigrated to Palestine, the so-called, "ritual murder case" is still before the Russian courts and continues to be a subject of comment and discussion in the Russian press. The persistent