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The open shop crusade as a noted rabbi sees it, 1926.

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THE CINCINNATI POST-EDITORIAL PAGE

THE OPEN SHOP CRUSADE AS A NOTED RABBI SEES IT

By Rabbi A. H. Silver

Minister of the Temple, Cleveland.
The CRUSADE is on foot to universalize the open shop. Manufacturers have organized locally and nationally and propagandists have been employed to establish the open shop. The sad condition of unemployment and the dire neces-

sity of millions of men today are being exploited by the enemies of union labor.

In this attempt to destroy organized labor and to give organized capital complete control, the public is concerned vitally, for in the long run it is the public which pays the bill for every industrial dispute.

The protagonists of the open shop have appropriated the name American. Theirs is the "American Plan," implying that any other is un-American. All the talk about the open shop being American and patriotic is unmitigated balderdash and particularly pernicious at this time.

I believe the issue of the open shop versus the closed shop is not the real issue. It is only the projected issue. The real issue is collective bargaining and the right of the representation of labor in the management of industry.

In practice the open shop destroys the value and the effectiveness of all labor organizations. The open shop would destroy trade unionism in the United States.

Until some other agency is devised for the adequate protection of the working man, the laborer's sole safeguard against exploitation.

The working man knows that all gains touching higher standards of living, better wages, better hours and better working conditions have been won solely thru the efforts and struggles of organized labor, and he

will fight in defense of his organization.

The right of labor to organize is, of course, beyond question. At a time when business men are organizing, when farmers have their unions, it would be folly to expect the working man to intrust his destiny to the mercies of altruistic employers.

From the point of view of public welfare, I believe the crushing of trade unionism would be a calamity of the first magnitude.

I believe, however, that union labor must begin a thorough housecleaning in order to regain the confidence

and good opinion of the American people. It must fight not only the enemy without, but the enemy within; the irresponsible agitator, the demagogue, and, above all, the spirit that has been all too manifest in recent years of getting as much as you can and doing as little as you can.

The greatest enemy of organized labor is the man who loafers on his job.

The crusade today against organized labor is ill-advised. Capital can gain nothing from it. It may work a great deal of harm. It may drive working men in sheer desperation into the ranks of radicalism.