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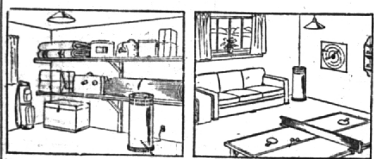
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Swedish Employers Form Their Own 'Union' to Deal With Labor Groups

By ROBERT BALL
 Special Correspondent for The Eccentric

STOCKHOLM, Sweden. Swedish employers think they have found the answer to strong, centrally-organized labor unions. The answer is simple: a strong, centrally-organized employers' association.

Like the powerful Confederation of Swedish Trade-Union, the Swedish Employers' Confederation had its beginning in the stormy early days of labor-management strife. As the labor confederation (comparable to a unified AFL-CIO) grew to the large number of capitalists and voluntary membership of any labor organization in the world, and by means of its chosen party, the Social Democrats, even gained control of the government, the employers kept pace. Of the more than one-half million trade union members out of a total working force of one and a half million, over 700,000, or virtually all of the industrial workers, are employed in member enterprises of the Employer's Confederation.

The RESULT of this centralization is that all labor-management problems fall to the two national organizations. Whenever a member on either side is in trouble, he calls his big brother. In the handsome employer headquarters on Stockholm's seaside Strandvagen, Confederation Secretary Hyden was more anxious to talk about labor peace than labor conflicts.

"Since the war we have had no



ROBERT BALL

important strike," he said. "A general 5 per cent raise for all industries in January, 1948, brought wages into line with post-war living costs, and since then we have held the wage front."

"The last big strike was in the metal industry in 1945," Hyden continued. "120,000 workers were out for five months. The total time lost was greater than in the General strike of 1919."

"Since no strike or lockout can occur while a contract is in force, the danger time for disputes is each year in January, when the one-year collective bargaining agreements expire."

"YES, JANUARY is our busy month," Hyden smiled. "Most of the negotiations take place here in this building."

"When you realize that every important Swedish industry must have a new contract at the same time, you can appreciate how we must hustle."

"We and the trade-union confederation do not negotiate directly, but we supervise the negotiations of the industries and individual unions and provide expert advice."

"We also have the right to approve or reject contracts which they make."

Efforts are made to reduce the disadvantages of centralized bargaining by making allowance for plants in low cost-of-living areas and providing for ratification by the union members.

A surprising provision of most contracts is for piece-work wage scales.

"The unions want piece-work in Sweden," Hyden explained. "The workers claim they can earn 30 per cent more than on hourly rates."

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NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

City of Birmingham taxes due July 1, 1950 are payable through next Thursday, August 31, without additional charge.

Starting September 1, and on the first of each month thereafter, until March 1, 1951, interest will be added at the rate of 3/4 of 1 per cent per month.

R. T. BERGER,
 City Treasurer.

August 24, 1950

Birmingham Escaped Brunt of Electrical Storm Last Thursday

If last Thursday's storm was as violent in this area as Detroit newspapers indicated, then Birmingham must have been lucky. One paper reported widespread havoc in Royal Oak.

A check with the Detroit Edison district manager on Friday morning brought an amused reply of "little damage."

Two small residential areas were without lights for awhile, three transformers lost, and a few fuses blown (replaced immediately).

Head of Birmingham's DPW, Marx Pall, said he had received no reports of fallen trees. "A few branches—yes," he admitted. "But nothing unusual."

Pall said that Birmingham had missed the main part of whatever storm there was.

WHILE INDUSTRIAL peace has prevailed since the war, the Employers' Confederation has no intention of letting its weapons become rusty.

"At present we are trying to increase our strike fund," Hyden admitted. "If a member employer has his plant closed by a strike, he is paid out of the fund for six days, to receive from 50 cents per worker per day to enable him to hold out for five months. The total time lost was greater than in the General strike of 1919."

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Revive Summer Scorched Lawns

Nature provides ideal weather, in late summer and early fall to build beautiful lawns. It's a simple task at little cost. Feed with TURF BUILDER and sow SCOTTS SEED.

Announce New Hours For Sheriff's Office Auto License Bureau

The operators license bureau of the sheriff's department is now open from 8:30 to 5 daily, including Saturday and until 9 p.m. Wednesdays, according to Sheriff Clarence L. Hubbell. These hours are for license renewals.

Road tests are given each week from 8:30 to 4.

Rural and township residents are required to secure their licenses through the sheriff's department. Hubbell said he hopes in the near future, that the hours of the bureau can be extended six days a week for both road tests and licensing.

The sheriff's department is located at the county jail, 104 Wayne street, Pontiac.

Memorial Tourney To Be Played Sat.

This Saturday, August 26, is the date set for the fifth annual Ted Powers Memorial Golf Tournament. It will again be held at Pontiac Country Club on Elizabeth Lake road and is open to two-man, best-ball teams of players of all handicaps.

A large field of players is already assured, according to Frank Syron, pro-manager at Pontiac Country Club. Most of the district's top-flight amateurs are already entered. Entries will be taken up to the day of the tournament, he said. A horde of prizes will be given.

Wayne Beals and Jim Hanes will be on hand to defend the title they won in last year's tournament.

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