

**THE SOCIAL CREED  
OF THE CHURCHES.  
[NEW YORK]**

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The Social Creed of the Churches. [New York] by Harry F. Ward

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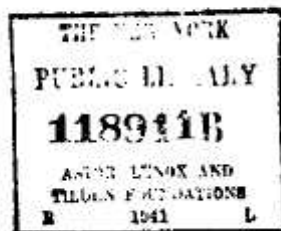
BY  
HARRY F. WARD

Secretary Methodist Federation for Social Service, Associate Secretary  
Federal Council Commission on the Church and Social Service.



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THE FEDERAL COUNCIL COMMISSION  
ON THE CHURCH AND SOCIAL SERVICE

COMMENDS

this volume for the purpose of bringing to the churches a thoughtful consideration of the questions involved in the utterances of the Council which are here considered.

For the Commission,

CHARLES S. MACFARLAND,  
Secretary of the Council.



## HISTORICAL

THE declaration of principles, which has come to be popularly known as "The Social Creed of the Churches," was adopted in its present form at the quadrennial meeting of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America at Chicago, December, 1912. It is, therefore, an expression of the social faith of thirty-one Protestant denominations comprising some seventeen million members.

At the first meeting of the Federal Council of Churches at Philadelphia, 1908, the common life and common program of Christianity found expression in the first statement of this "social creed." This was confined almost entirely to the field of industrial relations. The later form covers the whole field of social action.

The statement of industrial and social principles formulated by the Federal Council of Churches in 1908 was a part of the significant report of its committee on "Church and Modern Industry," and reproduced, with some additions, a declaration adopted at Baltimore in May, 1908, by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This action, taken a few months before the assembling of the first Federal Council of Churches, was thus the first crystallization into concrete demands of the common conviction of the Protestant churches concerning their duty in the field of social and industrial relations.

## THE SOCIAL CREED OF THE CHURCHES

ADOPTED DECEMBER 4, 1908

*The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America stands:*

For equal rights and complete justice for all men in all stations of life.

For the abolition of child-labor.

For such regulation of the conditions of toil for women as shall safeguard the physical and moral health of the community.

For the suppression of the "Sweating System."

For the gradual and reasonable reduction of the hours of labor to the lowest practicable point, and for that degree of leisure for all which is the condition of the highest human life.

For a release from employment one day in seven.

For the right of all men to the opportunity for self-maintenance, a right ever to be wisely and strongly safeguarded against encroachments of every kind.

For the right of workers to some protection against the hardships often resulting from the swift crises of industrial change.

For a living wage as a minimum in every industry, and for the highest wage that each industry can afford.

For the protection of the worker from dangerous machinery, occupational disease, injuries, and mortality.

For suitable provision for the old age of the workers and for those incapacitated by injury.

For the principle of conciliation and arbitration in industrial dissensions.

For the abatement of poverty.

For the most equitable division of the products of industry that can ultimately be devised.

## THE SOCIAL CREED OF THE CHURCHES

ADOPTED DECEMBER 9, 1912

For equal rights and complete justice for all men in all stations of life.

For the protection of the family, by the single standard of purity, uniform divorce laws, proper regulation of marriage, and proper housing.

For the fullest possible development for every child, especially by the provision of proper education and recreation.

For the abolition of child-labor.

For such regulation of the conditions of toil for women as shall safeguard the physical and moral health of the community.

For the abatement and prevention of poverty.

For the protection of the individual and society from the social, economic, and moral waste of the liquor traffic.

For the conservation of health.

For the protection of the worker from dangerous machinery, occupational disease, injuries, and mortality.

For the right of all men to the opportunity for self-maintenance, for safeguarding this right against encroachments of every kind, and for the protection of workers from the hardships of enforced unemployment.

For suitable provision for the old age of the workers, and for those incapacitated by injury.

For the right of employees and employers alike to organize and for adequate means of conciliation and arbitration in industrial disputes.

For a release from employment one day in seven.

For the gradual and reasonable reduction of the hours of labor to the lowest practicable point, and for that degree of leisure for all which is a condition of the highest human life.

For a living wage as a minimum in every industry, and for the highest wage that each industry can afford.

For a new emphasis on the application of Christian principles to the acquisition and use of property, and for the most equitable division of the product of industry that can ultimately be devised.