

## CHAMPION OF THE OPEN SHOP

Opinions and Plans of C. W. Post, the New President of the Citizens' Industrial Association of America.

Special Correspondence of The Washington Post.

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**C.** W. POST, the new head of the Citizens' Industrial Association of America, has removed its headquarters from Indianapolis to New York, and has started in to make its work more effective. The association has affiliated with it 500 or 600 citizens' alliances and other organizations throughout the country, and its great purpose is to advocate the open shop.

Mr. Post has arranged to devote practically all his time to the association. His private business he will intrust to his assistants. He has come to the East to live permanently and has his home in Greenwich, Conn.

He comes to this city every day to spend several hours at the headquarters of the association on the seventh floor of the St. James Building, Twenty-sixth street and Broadway.

Tall, slender, wiry, alert in manner and quick of movement, with clean cut features, and frank blue eyes, Mr. Post looks the typical successful hustler and man of affairs. He has thrown himself into the movement for the open shop with characteristic energy and a conviction that he is right and that it will succeed.

### Adopted Lincoln's Ideas.

"As a small urchin running about the streets of Springfield, Ill., where I was born," he said, "I knew and had a boy's reverence for Uncle Abe Lincoln, and he was always ready to drop a kindly word of advice to us. Naturally, the precepts of men loved by boys sink deep in their minds and the homely teachings of Mr. Lincoln had much to do in forming my ideas on men and things.

"Freedom, liberty, and equal rights for all men flavored the milk the children were suckled on before and during the civil war. Mr. Lincoln said one time, 'I believe in the common people; there are so many of them.' It was to protect the common people that the Citizens' Industrial Association was organized.

"Between organized capital trusts and organized labor trusts the citizens suffer. This central body has affiliated with it various citizens' associations, employers' associations, alliances, and similar organizations all over the country.

"The local citizens' associations are made up of all classes of workmen, merchants, doctors, lawyers, &c., organized to prevent the local dealers from being crowded to the wall by the labor or any other trusts. More than all else the citizens' association in each town insists upon

the right of every man to sell his labor, butter, wheat, cattle, &c., when and where and to whom he pleases.

### For Industrial Freedom.

"This national campaign for industrial freedom demands that all industries be assured continuous operation, without interference, and that the differences between employers and employes be settled while the works are running. Yes, there is a practical way to do this.

"An industrial jury, composed half of employers and half of employes, hears the testimony and publishes its findings in the local papers. The public thus knows all the facts and the reasons for the decision of this jury, which is expected to voice the opinion of the citizens.

"No force is used to compel obedience to this decision, but the tremendous power of public opinion is sufficient to insure compliance in the great majority of cases, and will ultimately rule in all cases, for it is the dominating power of this republic.

"Statistics show that about seven hundred and eighty citizens out of eight hundred are free from either capital or labor trusts. This great majority, the common people, will easily rule, preserve the peace, uphold the law, and insure liberty for every man wherever they are organized, but until they join together they are subject to the will of a minority who are organized.

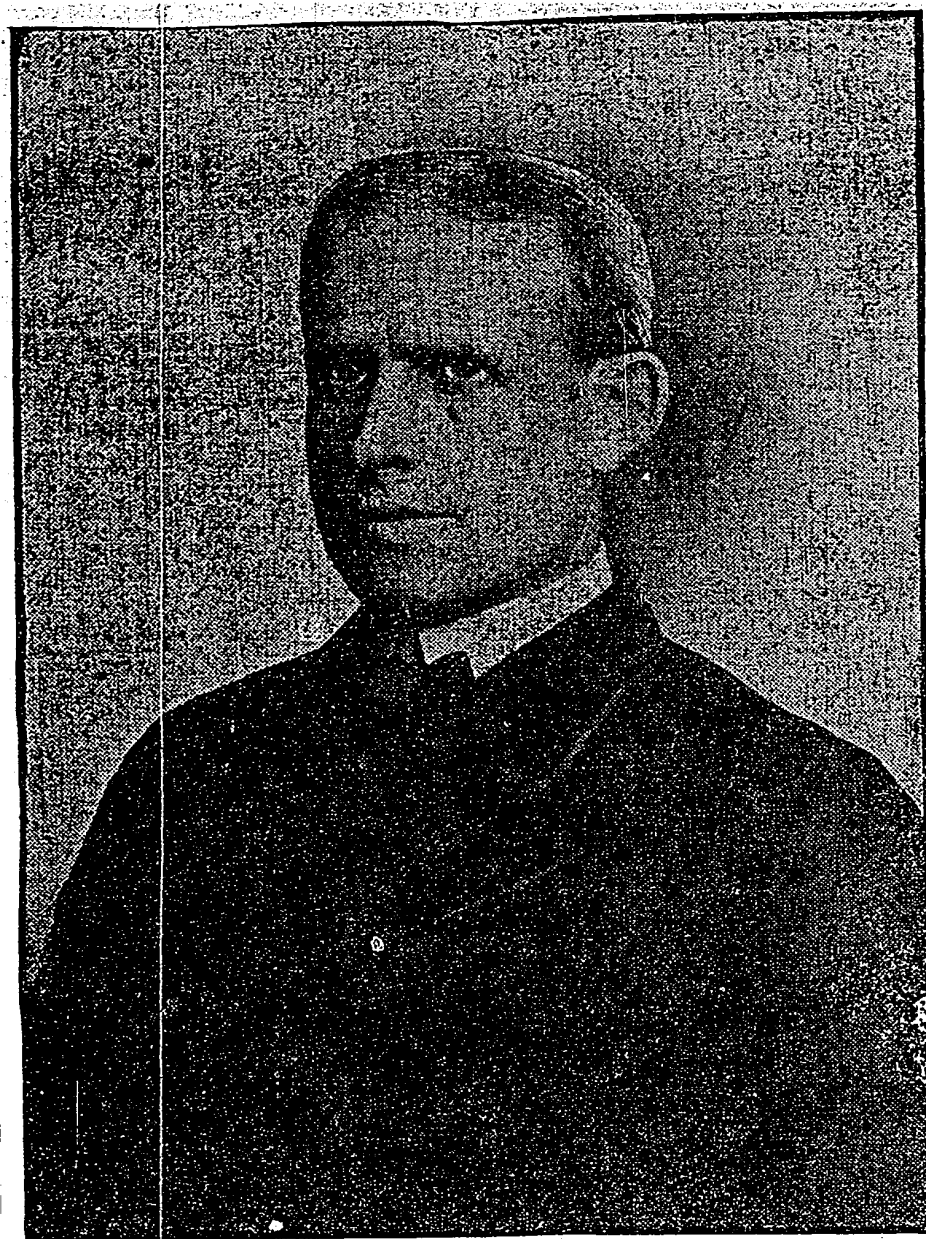
### Associated for Defense.

"Labor union bosses easily tyrannize a community under present conditions, but their reign of oppression ends when the citizens' associations assume form. Remember, these associations are purely defensive and stand to protect every member of the community, union, or independent. There is no thought or purpose of destroying capital trusts or labor unions. Our object is to protect the common people against oppression by either."

"While interference with industries in cities like Chicago caused great losses to the people, he said, they often meant ruin in smaller towns. Neither the employer nor the thrifty wage earner wanted warfare.

The plan of the association supported by the public sentiment meant the assurance of fair treatment and no tyranny. It meant good wages without the misery of strikes.

Walking delegates and other paid employes of the unions would naturally object to and protest against the citizens protecting themselves, as would also the organs of the unions. They would have to work when industrial peace was estab-



C. W. POST.

Photo by Strauss, St. Louis.

lished. Personal abuse by the unions and their organs was the punishment of the man who tried to protect the people from those who preyed on them.

"I have been denounced," he continued, "as one of the most dangerous of hyenas, vipers, jackasses, toads, and many other things, and lately one man slipped into criminal libel. On the other hand, the great mass of our correspondence shows that the bulk of the people are with us.

### Favored by Labor Unions.

"As an instance of the way even the labor unions are coming to regard our movement I may mention that the New York State Association of Stationary Engineers has under consideration the ques-

tion of joining the Citizens' Industrial Association. By joining the association they affiliate with citizens for the best interests of the community, secure public support when members of the association refuse to desert their posts at the behest of labor leaders, backed by threats, and would have the respect and confidence of employers."

Through misunderstandings and clashes between labor and capital, he said, the people as a nation had let slip hundreds of millions of dollars that might have been distributed among them. President Roosevelt's square deal would be the actual working rule of this country if the aims of the Citizens' Industrial Association were carried out.