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# Mission Statement of *Työmies* (From the Debut Issue — July 20, 1903).

By Victor Kosonen

Translated by Donald G. Wirtanen

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The American Finnish *Työmies* shall be the voice of the Finnish working people in America. It will devote what strength it may have to become the most ardent promoter of the spiritual and physical endeavors of the Finnish working people. As much as possible we will foster all progressive endeavors for the happiness and success of our people.

Our dearest obligation is to make clear the problems of the working people. In clarifying these important social problems we will adhere to the staunch principles of the international working people's movement.

These principles embody so broad a program that we cannot present all of them specifically at this time. In the future we will clarify in detail this program. Let it be briefly stated: we demand human dignity and justice for the oppressed peoples. To achieve this goal, we strive by all peaceful means through our representatives to influence our society and our government; we wish to make our voice heard by the oppressor class and we will shout until we are heard.

We take an open liberal stand on religion. We will help our readers understand the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and help relate them to our everyday practical life.

We will pay particular attention to our fraternal organizations, the temperance movement, and the youth movement. We hope to get strong support for both these noble causes from their leaders here and in

our native land.

The women's rights movement is already one of the most important planks in our platform. In promoting this endeavor we hope to receive support both from the talented women writers in our native land and from our like-minded energetic sisters in this country.

To the best of our ability we will pay attention to the cooperative movement, which we consider a transitional method for the underprivileged to join together and thus little by little extricate themselves from the exploitative system.

Briefly put: we will monitor the interests of the underprivileged. We hope that the Finnish working people of America will be aroused to work together in a huge organized effort against the might of the cruel moneyed powers.

Only the working people themselves can improve their miserable conditions. We hope for enthusiastic support from working people not only as readers of our paper but also as its correspondents. Since this paper is to be the working people's OWN PAPER, it naturally follows that in writing to us they will freely express their uninhibited "opinions" without concern for the oppressive politics of our capitalist society.

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The Editorial Staff

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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