PREFACE

When the research for this book began, I expected to enshrine in labor's temple a forgotten saint. After several years of collecting evidence, I found that Andrew Furuseth was in truth a forgotten man, but not a saint. He was very much of this world. He possessed human shortcomings. He made mistakes. He made enemies. And he made history.

There is no saint and there are no miracles in this biography, because the truth did not uncover them. Instead, a more dramatic story unfolded—the seamen's struggle to raise their economic and social level and the tragedy of the lonely man who led them. It became more important to use Andrew Furuseth as a symbol for the thousands of labor leaders who have led their people out of bondage, than to prove that labor has had its share of saints.

Unfortunately for Furuseth, his historical fate lies within these pages. Aside from being a trained historian with some firsthand knowledge of trade unions, I make no pretense of any special qualifications for undertaking this biography. Paul Scharrenberg, a close associate of Andrew Furuseth, frankly told me that since I had not sailed before the mast, I would fail to understand men like Furuseth. I have been around the labor movement long enough to know the universal opinion that one must have calluses to understand labor.

I hope that the skeptics will be pleasantly disappointed. I have tried to make up for my inadequacies by diligent and exhaustive research, and by writing in a manner that will meet the best academic standards. It is not the scholar, however, for whom this book is primarily intended, but the men in the sailors' union and the leaders in many unions who have a lesson to learn from the story of Andrew Furuseth.

An author who gives proper credit to all those who have contributed toward making his book possible must conclude by taking credit for nothing except the mistakes. I readily admit that, but for the help of many individuals, this volume would never have appeared.

For example, without permission to use the files of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, this would have been a superficial biography. The late Harry Lundeberg gave me unlimited access to the files. The sailors have had high regard for the judgment of history and their files are amazingly complete. To all the unnamed secretaries who kept such careful records, I am deeply grateful.
Preface

Librarians throughout the country were cooperative in describing their holdings on Andrew Furuseth, but special thanks are extended to the librarians at the University of California, Los Angeles; the Institute of Industrial Relations Library at UCLA; and the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, who did not spare themselves in complying with any fantastic request I made.

In the course of gathering material for this biography, I talked to dozens of people who knew Furuseth. Some of these people are listed in the bibliography, but to all those whose names are not mentioned, I extend my apologies. There were also a number of individuals like Silas B. Axtell to whom thanks are due for making available their private collections of materials on Furuseth.

Many hardy individuals have waded through the rough draft of this manuscript. Lou Goldowitz, my brother-in-law, made many valuable editorial changes in my first draft. My sister-in-law, Victoria Margolin, then retyped the manuscript. At this point I had the courage to take it outside my family. Anne P. Cook, editor for the Institute of Industrial Relations at UCLA, reviewed every page to eliminate clumsy errors. Archie Green of San Francisco, a human bibliography of the labor movement, made extensive notes on and criticisms of the original manuscript. Two "real" sailors who were intimately acquainted with Furuseth, Selim Silver and Paul Scharrenberg, read the document to check its seaworthiness. Harry Lang, labor editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, reviewed it carefully to see that the book caught the spirit of Gompers' labor movement. Among many others who read the manuscript, I am grateful for the comments made by Dr. Ruth Baugh, Dr. Robert Burke, Dr. Irving Bernstein, Dr. John W. Caughey, and Francis Gates.

I have taxed the patience of many people. Dr. Irving Bernstein listened for hours to my problems. Dr. John W. Caughey, my teacher for more than ten years, patiently prodded me toward completion of the book and was always on hand for advice and encouragement. But the most patient and understanding of all was my wife, who gave up her husband and her social life, and substituted as the father of our three children—all for "the cause."

My most sincere appreciation goes to the Institute of Industrial Relations at UCLA and its former director, the late Edgar L. Warren, for the financial aid that enabled me to devote all my spare time to research and writing. Association with the staff of the Institute was an additional personal reward which I shall long cherish.

H. W.