

REPRESENTATIVE WORKERS OF THE NATION SOLEMNLY VOICE PROTEST OF THE PEOPLE

Conference Will be Memorable for the Declaration and Action Looking Toward the Upholding of the Rights of all of Our People.

No Harsh Criticisms Were Heard, But all Agreed that Sherman Law Should be Amended as to Confine it to Purpose Originally Intended.

All Determine Not to Cease Effort Until Liberties Which Have Been Imperilled Shall be Restored and Safeguarded for all Time.

At the protest conference of the representatives of the workers of our country which recently assembled in Washington, D. C. there were gathered together the responsible executive officers of 118 National and international trade unions; and assembled with them in hearty agreement were representatives of the Farmers' American Society of Equity, and also officers of railway brotherhoods. It is said that no more representative and responsible gathering of the men of labor, was ever brought together in the effort to voice the just protest and laudable aspirations of the workers of our country.

Deliberations of Conference. President Gompers in his address to workers said of the conference: "Our consideration of the circumstances which made this conference imperative was characterized by the utmost freedom of expression. It was felt that in the consensus of opinion and feeling brought forth by the representatives of so many trades and callings from all sections of the country there could not fail to be much that would be helpful in guiding our deliberations and of service to our fellow workers. It is our hope that every worker and every friend of the workers will realize and feel as we do the seriousness of the crisis which we now face and that all will be animated by the earnestness, the loyalty, and enthusiasm which was so marked among the representatives assembled.

While the Supreme Court or other institutions may be able to temporarily retard and seriously embarrass the growth and action of our movement we hold that no power on earth can destroy, successfully out-law, or disrupt the trade union movement."

Sense of Responsibility. "In this conference we, your representatives, realized the serious responsibility resting upon us, not only to voice adequately the feeling of outraged indignation on the part of the workers at the deprivation of their rights and liberties involved in the law as interpreted by recent court decision, but the even more important task of initiating and aiding in carrying toward a successful fulfillment the constructive and active work which shall deliver the workers from

MEMORIAL PRESENTED TO CONGRESS. Specifically the memorial favors the enactment of laws "which shall restrict the jurisdiction of courts of equity to property and property rights, and shall so define property and property rights that neither directly nor indirectly shall there be held to be any property or property rights in the labor of the future power of any person or persons;" and it submits the amendment to the Sherman anti-trust law also, urges passage of the Pearce bill, to regulate and limit the issuance of injunctions, the employers' liability bill, extending the application of the eight-hour law to all government employees.

The present and impending danger and insure them the restoration of their rights and liberties and secure enjoyment in the future power of any person or persons guaranteed by our constitution. "A large part of our deliberations were naturally devoted to a discussion of the Supreme Court's action in applying the Sherman anti-trust law to labor.

"All agreed upon the necessity of immediate congressional action if the serious consequences and threatened dangers to labor and the wealth producers of our country are to be averted. "Sherman Law Amendment. "The following amendment to the Sherman anti-trust law had already been drawn up and agreed upon by the Executive Council, acting with the legal advisors of the American Federation of Labor. This is designed to relieve labor from the harmful operation of the Sherman anti-trust law which was never intended to apply to it:

"That nothing in said act (Sherman anti-trust law), or in this act, intended, nor shall any provision thereof be enforced, so as to apply to organizations or associations not for profit and without capital stock, nor to the members of such organizations or associations."

"That nothing in said act (Sherman anti-trust law), or in this act, intended nor shall any provision thereof hereafter be enforced so as to apply to any arrangements, agreements, or combinations among persons engaged in agriculture or horticulture made with a view of enhancing the price of their own agricultural or horticultural products. "This amendment was carefully considered in conference and met with enthusiastic, hearty, and unanimous approval. "It was the unanimous feeling that some special steps should be taken to impress upon Congress the necessity of prompt action upon the Sherman anti-trust law amendment and upon other important labor legislation now pending in conference and met with enthusiastic, hearty, and unanimous approval. "The bill to regulate and limit the issuance of injunctions—"Pearce Bill." "Employers' liability bill. "The bill extending the application of the eight-hour law to all government employees, and those employed

Large Part of Conference Deliberations Devoted to Discussion of Supreme Courts' Action Applying Sherman Anti-trust Law to Labor.

Decide Upon Taking Prompt and Vigorous Action to Obtain Relief from what Seems to be an Intolerable Situation at the Present Time.

Unanimous Expression That While Growth and Action May be Temporarily Embarrassed no Power on Earth Can Disrupt Trade Movement.

upon work for the government whether by contractors or subcontractors.

Gravity of Situation. The Supreme court decision applying the Sherman law to labor makes the crisis an especially grave one, for under that decision every normal, peaceful, and helpful activity of the workers, whether exercised individually or in association, may be construed as a "conspiracy" of a combination in restraint of trade and commerce, and punished by fine and imprisonment or both, and damages may be inflicted to the extent of each individual's possessions.

Every legitimate pressure must be brought to bear upon Congress in the effort to secure the passage of our amendment to the Sherman law. "Hold mass meetings in every city and town in the United States on the evening of the third Sunday or Monday in April, 10th or 20th, and at that meeting voice fully and unmistakably labor's protest against the Supreme court decision which strips labor of the rights and liberties which we had supposed were guaranteed by the constitution. Resolutions should be adopted urging upon the present Congress the passage of the amendment to the Sherman law and warning Congress that it will be held responsible for failure to enact such legislation. "Labor should spare no activity to impress upon Congress its insistent demand for the passage of this amendment.

Write to Congressman. "In addition to the holding of the mass meeting of April 19 or 20, and on such dates as may be fixed in future and the forwarding of resolutions expressing labor's protest and determination every member of the labor movement should write a personal letter to the Congressman of his district and to the two United States senators of his State insisting that they use their efforts and cast their vote for the passage of our amendment to the Sherman law and other legislation mentioned in labor's protest, and warning them that labor and its friends will hold them responsible. That labor proposes to be represented in congress by men who will do justice

(Continued on Page Five.)

CITY FATHERS UPHOLD STATE OFFICER WALSH

Questionable Practices of Certain Employment Offices Given Another Rebuke.

Mr. Walsh's Action as Member of Committee of Citizens Fully Vindicated.

At a meeting of the common council of this city held March 30th the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, since the investigation conducted by a committee of this council on the questionable practices by employment agents upon charges presented to this council by a committee of citizens, a number of licensed employment offices have protested to the governor of the state against the action of one of the committees which presented such charges, viz: James Walsh, in charge of the State Employment office in this city, in which protest the following paragraph appears, viz: "He has gone before the city council and made the most vicious charges, but at all times refrained from stating the names of agents he has in mind, but carrying the idea that all employment agents are dishonest," and

Whereas, this council heard said charges, and did not understand that the charges made by Mr. Walsh were made against all employment agents, but against the practices of a portion of such offices; therefore

Resolved, that in the opinion of this council the charges made by Mr. Walsh were well founded and that the result of the investigation had by this council, based upon the charges preferred by the committee of which Mr. Walsh was a member, has been to modify to a large extent the methods pursued by employment offices of the city in the conduct of their business, to the benefit of the people patronizing the same; and we regret the disposition shown by proprietors of the employment offices in representing an investigation of methods of doing business, and express it as our opinion that the methods heretofore employed by some of the officers have merited a most searching investigation, and have caused the officers of the city incessant trouble; and we express to the aforesaid committee our appreciation for their efforts in behalf of the welfare of the people who find it necessary to patronize such offices. Resolved further, that the city clerk is hereby directed to certify a copy of this resolution to his excellency, John A. Johnson, Governor of the State of Minnesota; and to W. H. Williams, Labor Commissioner of the State of Minnesota. Alderman Shartel moved the adoption of the resolution, and it was declared adopted by a unanimous yeas vote of all present, on roll call.

SUPREME COURT DECISION OF FAR REACHING EFFECT

"Intelligent men everywhere recognize in the labor movement an institution of the highest value, and would regret its destruction. However, the greatest mistake that could be made in the present circumstances would be to assume that the labor movement is one to be destroyed by the supreme court's decision. Translated into terms of ordinary use and understanding, the decision against the Hatters is a decision against free press, free speech and trial by a jury, those "palladiums of our liberties" which are the common heritage of all, and which can not be denied in one quarter without being endangered in every quarter. Public opinion on the decision in the Hatters' case, to be effective in securing an adequate remedy for the dangers thereby created, must be based upon an appreciation of public danger, not upon mere sympathy for the other fellows' ox."—Coast Seamen's Journal.

DISEMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED.

There has been a good deal written and a good deal more said this cold winter about the unemployed. Mills have shut down. Factories have closed their doors. Thousands of men have been thrown out of work. Hungry, gaunt, empty, white hunger has looked across with the poor. Huddled masses of men have marched from the public squares to the city halls of America and begged for work. Sometimes they have been given it. Work! Something to do! Some way to earn a dollar with which to buy food and warmth and shelter! Armies of citizens—rough, perhaps, and ill-clothed, some with hacking coughs and others with pale enough faces, but American citizens for all that. What is the tragedy of these men? It is that they are unemployed. . . . A fleet of ice yachts piloted by rich young men. A gorgeous ball, where women blase with amethysts and pearls and diamonds. Brilliantly illuminated restaurants, where corks pop and gold bubbles rise in thin glasses of matchless ware. The swishing horsehoe of a fashionable opera house, crowded with those whose names will be listed reverently in tawny columns, with the stores of their costumes which cost thousands and their jewels which cost tens of thousands. Who are these? They are also the unemployed?—Cleveland Press.

ABSOLUTELY FREE.

All goods bought at the "Fitwell" Clothing Parlors, 112 West Superior street, are kept pressed and repaired two years free of charge.

DECISIVE ACTION BY POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINNESOTA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

Proceedings Were Marked With the Utmost Harmony and Every One Present Evincing a Determination to Conduct a Vigorous Campaign.

The unanimous Election of Henry Perrault of this City as President was a happy choice for Henry has a Habit of Always "Making Good."

American Society of Equity Invited to Co-operate in the Effort to Secure the Enactment of Laws Befitting all of our People.

We are indebted to the Minnesota Union Advocate, for the following account of the first meeting of Labor's political committee recently held at Minneapolis.

The political committee appointed in accordance with the order of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, to look after the interests of the labor movement in matters of legislation, held its first meeting in Alexander's hall, Minneapolis, last Sunday and organized by electing Henry Perrault, Duluth, chairman, and G. W. Deacon, Minneapolis, secretary and treasurer. The committee is made up of one representative from each congressional district of the state and for the state at large, and all who have been appointed so far were present at the meeting. These were: First district, Thomas H. Botham, Winona; Second, Garfield E. Morrison, Mankato; Third, John W. Kirby, Red Wing; Fourth, W. C. Van Brunt, St. Paul; Fifth, John Walquist, Minneapolis; Sixth, S. W. Roth, Brainerd; Eighth, Henry Perrault, Duluth; Ninth, R. K. Straub, Fargo, N. D. At large, W. P. O'Heron, Rochester; G. W. Deacon, Minneapolis, and M. T. Connell, St. Paul.

President Howley of the State Federation of Labor announced that an appointment for the Seventh district would be made as soon as desired information on the subject was secured from the district. In addition to the members of the committee there were present Messrs. Frank Fisher of Duluth, A. E. Kolington and Michael Moyan of Minneapolis and representatives of the labor press in the Twin Cities.

Howley's Gavel Starts the Work. President Howley of the State Federation of Labor called the meeting to order, and after stating the purpose for which the committee had been appointed and reviewing the work of the preceding committee, in which he was assisted by G. W. Deacon, its secretary, he announced that the first business before the meeting was the election of a president and a secretary and treasurer. Henry Perrault, president and G. W. Deacon, Minneapolis, secretary and treasurer. Political Aspirations Barred. The following resolution offered by Mr. Perrault was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, that any member of this

NO MORE HOODWINKING OF THE LABOR VOTE.

Labor proposes that in the future it shall support for office only such men as give positive assurance that they will give justice to the workers and all the people. It proposes to exercise every political and industrial influence every political and industrial activity by its people and oppose and defeat its enemies, whether they be candidates for president, congress, or other offices, whether executive, legislative or judicial. Each candidate is to be questioned and pledged as to his attitude upon all subjects of importance to the workers, in factory, farm, field, shop, or mine, and especially with reference to his attitude upon such remedial legislation as labor desires.

committee who seeks or accepts a political office, either elective or appointive, shall immediately resign from the committee, and if he does not do so his resignation shall be demanded.

Assessment to Raise Funds. A resolution of Mr. Morrison it was decided to make an assessment of five cents per capita on all unions affiliated with the State Federation, and to request the unions not so affiliated to contribute a like amount for the purpose of supplying and with which to carry on the work of the committee. The secretary was directed to officially notify the unions of this action, and the members of this action, and the members of the committee were urged to give the matter their personal attention in their several districts.

Correspondence Read. Secretary Deacon read letters from Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, urging vigorous and continued efforts in behalf of the enactment by congress of a proper employers' liability law and a satisfactory law defining and limiting the power of the courts in granting injunctions. On motion of Henry Perrault, the secretary was directed to correspond with the senators and representatives in congress from this district on the subject, and the members of the committee were urged to do the same with the members of congress from their respective districts.

Mr. Deacon also read a letter from Hon. Frank M. Nye, member of the Fifth congressional district, in which Mr. Nye declared himself strongly in favor of the eight-hour law and an employers' liability bill, and stated that he was carefully considering the subject of anti-injunction legislation. For Plank in Each Party's Platform. In accordance with instructions from the Federation Council, it was determined that an earnest effort to have a pledge in favor of labor legislation inserted in the platform of each political party in the state by the coming state conventions. A committee, consisting of M. T. Connell, John Walquist and Garfield E. Morrison, was appointed to draft the pledge and leave it with the secretary.

Strong Efforts will be made to Secure Legislation That Will Accord With the Laudable Aspirations of the Workers of Our Country.

An Adequate Employers' Liability Law and Eight Hour Work Day for all State Employees Are Among the Enactments Desired.

Organized Labor Shall Spare No Activity to Impress Upon the Law Makers its Insistent Demand for the Toilers' Rights.

tary as soon as convenient, and he was directed to send the same to all the members by mail for ratification or amendment in time for presentation at the various state conventions. Society of Equity's Aid Desired. On suggestion of Mr. Howley it was decided to invite the American Society of Equity to unite in the activities of the committee by sending representatives to its meetings to take part in the proceedings, and the secretary was directed to open correspondence with the president of the Society in an effort to affect such an arrangement.

Desired Labor Legislation. After considerable discussion the committee decided to limit its efforts to securing legislation containing provisions which would be of benefit to the workers, covering all questions of dangerous machinery and contributory negligence. A system of initiative and referendum legislation. A state printing plant. An eight-hour day for all employees working for the state.

A semi-monthly payday for employees, provided certain conditions are complied with on the part of the persons most interested in the matter.

Legal Advice to Be Sought. In order that the bills designed to cover these provisions may be so drawn as to escape a decision by the courts that they are unconstitutional, the committee decided to take good legal advice concerning them, and the secretary was instructed how to proceed in the matter.

Financial Assistance. Frank Fisher of Duluth, president of the Electrical Workers' District Council for this territory, generously offered the committee all the assistance he could render the organizations and members of his craft. His offer was cordially accepted with the thanks of the committee.

Next Meeting at Winona. At the conclusion of its labors the committee adjourned to meet in Winona on the Sunday morning preceding the meeting of the annual convention of the State Federation of Labor, in order that whatever it may be put in proper shape for consideration by that body.

CONGRESS URGED TO TAKE SOME ACTION

President Evidently Weary of the Dilatory Tactics of Republican Leaders.

Reminds Them of His Having Repeatedly Suggested Action on Several Matters.

President Roosevelt's latest message to congress is needed and timely. It is very evident as openly charged by Mr. Williams on the floor of the House, that the majority does not intend to do anything at this session of congress Mr. Williams said:

"I have waited like a Democratic lamb ready for the slaughter, waiting for the Republican party to do something. I have finally come to the conclusion that the Republican party in this House has forgotten how to do anything; it has become the party of negation, of passivity, and, as far as I can see, has no idea of doing anything. From the tone of the president's message he must entertain the same opinion.

Reminder to Congress. The president reminds congress that he has "repeatedly suggested action" on most of the matters now brought to the attention of the Republican majority, and certain people think that "thus, perhaps inadvertently, he suggests to the country that if a Republican majority will not enact needed legislation, the people should elect a Democratic congress."

Injunction Rule. He says that "no temporary restraining order should be issued by any court without notice." The fact is, there should be no temporary or permanent restraining order affecting free speech, free writing and free publication, either with or without notice, in labor disputes or in any circumstances.

Speaking of sentences for contempt, the president suggests that "the issue should be decided by another judge than the one issuing the injunction, except when the contempt is committed in the presence of the court or in other cases of urgency."

Employers' Liability. "I renew my recommendation for the immediate re-enactment of an employers' liability law, drawn to conform to the recent decision of the su-

preme court. Within the limits indicated by the court the law should be made thorough and comprehensive, and the protection it affords should embrace every class of employe to which the power of the congress can extend.

"In addition to a liability law protecting the employe, a common law remedy, the government should show its good faith by enacting a further law giving compensation to its own employes for injury or death incurred in its service. It is a reproach to us as a nation that in both federal and state legislation we have afforded less protection to public and private employes than any other industrial country of the world.

Trade Agreements. "It is important that we should encourage trade agreements between employer and employe when they are just and fair. A strike is a clumsy weapon for righting wrongs done to a worker and we should extend so far as possible the process of conciliation and arbitration as a substitute for strikes.

"Combination of workmen have a peculiar reason for their existence. The very wealthy individual employe, and still more, the very wealthy corporations, stand at an enormous advantage when compared to the individual workman; and while there are many cases where it may not be necessary for laborers to form a union, in many other cases it is indispensable for otherwise the thousands of small units, thousands of individual workmen will be left helpless in their dealings with the one big unit, the big individual or corporation employer.

Child Labor Evil. "Child labor should be prohibited throughout the nation," says the president. That is, child labor is a moral wrong against the children and against the nation.

Sherman Anti-Trust Law. He asks that the Sherman anti-trust act be amended in certain particulars—notably in giving the Interstate Commerce Commission power to make public and pass upon the issuance of all securities hereafter issued by roads doing an interstate business. The law should be amended, also, so that the federal courts can not use it to break up labor unions and loot their treasuries.

On the Wrong Track. You're on the wrong track if you have your spring suit made to order. Come to the "Fitwell" Clothing Parlors, and they will save you just half your tailor's bills.

WILL FORGE ACTION ON CHILD LABOR LAW

Senator Beveridge Determined to Bring the Measure to an Issue Soon.

Will Make A Determined Fight For the Passage of the Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, the champion of regulation of child labor by national legislation, one of the great national legislative acts sought by the American Federation of Labor and all of its affiliated bodies, is again in the limelight with his pet measure. Discussing his bill introduced at the last session of the Fifty-ninth congress and which was killed by parliamentary tactics, he said:

"Ten thousand children are killed every year, and 25,000 are turned out degenerate by the mills and factories of this country. "If you want this kept up, why wait for senate regulations to stop it and hold off passing your national law."

Senator Beveridge will force consideration of his bill in the senate at an early day and will have some interesting things to say in its advocacy. "I do not care to use my ammunition just now in advance of the fight in Congress," said the senator. "As to the number of children that are yearly killed and made degenerate by work in the mills, there can be no question. I have made a careful investigation of the subject and used the figures advisedly in a speech on the floor of the senate."

RUN BY GOVERNMENT.

Canada Will Acquire All the Railroads in Nova Scotia. HALIFAX, N. S., March 31.—A resolution calling on the Dominion government to acquire all the railroad lines in Nova Scotia and add them to the inter-colonial system as branches has been unanimously passed by the Provincial legislature. The resolution suggests that the purchase of the roads be on a basis of their original cost and present earning capacity.

Nobby Vests At the "Fitwell" \$2 to \$5.

CONDITION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA

Subject Derives Its Importance to the Working People of This Country

From the Fact That Russian Jews Constitute One-Tenth of Our Immigrants.

The following extracts from a bulletin issue by the Department of Commerce and Labor Bureau throws much light upon the economic condition of the Jews in Russia.

Russian Statistics. According to the latest Russian official statistics (those of 1897) the five and a half million Jews in Russia constituted about 4 per cent of the total population. Largely because of the legal restrictions upon the right of domicile, 94 per cent of them live within the so-called Pale (a territory representing less than 20 per cent of the area of European Russia), where they constitute 11.8 per cent of the total population. "Even within the limited area of the Pale the Jews are largely concentrated in urban communities (also because of legal restrictions), nearly 80 per cent of the entire Jewish population of the Pale living in cities and towns, where they constitute 37.7 per cent of the population.

In the most congested provinces of the Pale, from which the Jewish immigrants to the United States largely come, the proportion of Jews is much greater, constituting 37.9 per cent of the population in the cities of north-western Russia.

Occupation of Jews. The occupation of the Jew in Russia is much more largely manufacturing and less largely commercial than is commonly supposed. According to Russian official statistics 37.9 per cent of all Jews gainfully employed were engaged in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits, 19.4 per cent in personal service, and only 31.6 per cent in commercial pursuits. Moreover, these 31.6 per cent serve the interests of a large surrounding agricultural population, so that the strictly commercial class represented less than 4 per cent of the population of the Pale—an unusually small proportion.

The report of the United States Cen-

CARPENTER'S UNION VERY SUCCESSFUL

Some Statistics Showing the Benefits Derived from Membership in the Organization.

Brotherhood a Benevolent as Well As a Protective Trade Union Society.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America was founded in the convention at Chicago, August 12, 1881. At first it had only 12 local unions and 2,042 members. Now, in twenty-six years, it has grown to number 1,703 local unions in 1,275 cities, and has over 161,200 taxpaying members. It is organized to protect the carpenter's trade from the evils of low prices and botch work. Its aim is to encourage a high standard of skill and better wages; to establish an apprentice system, and to aid and assist the members by mutual protection and benevolent means. It pays a wife funeral benefit of from \$25 to \$50; member's funeral benefit, \$100 to \$200, and disability benefit, 100 to \$400. In these general benefits \$216,842.25 has been expended the past two years, and \$1,132,371.76 since 1884, while \$1,683,000 has been spent in the period for sick benefits by the local unions, and \$486,190.47 donated locally by the general office for striking purposes. This is over three and one-half millions of dollars expended for benevolent and charitable purposes. Such an organization is worth the attention every carpenter. The Brotherhood is also a protective trade union, as well as a benevolent society. It has raised the wages in hundreds of cities and placed fully six and a half million dollars more wages annually in the pockets of the carpenters in those cities. It has reduced the hours to eight a day in 480 cities, and nine hours a day in 791 cities, not to speak of the many cities which have established the eight and nine-hour system on Saturdays. By this means 50,000 more men have gained employment. This is the result of thorough organization.

And yet very few strikes have occurred, and very little money has been spent on strikes by the society. It is not a secret, tight-bound organization. All competent carpenters are eligible to join.

Hours of Work. While accurate wage statistics are lacking for Russia, the data in regard to customary wages of factory workers and earnings of independent artisans show a very low level, even if the cheaper cost of living be considered. While the earnings of artisans are naturally subject to wide ranges, yet the figures show that the majority earn only from \$103 to \$154.50 a year, that even smaller earnings are quite frequent, and that an income of over \$200 is quite unusual for an artisan family. Wages of workmen range from \$1.55 to \$4.12 a week, while women or girls work for from \$0.77 to \$1.03 a week. Until recently, long hours went hand in hand with these low wages; 12 to 14 hours was a very usual working day down to the end of the past century, and a day of 16 hours was not rare.