

COMMISSION PLAN BEST FOR DULUTH

Cannot Be Plutocratic Government Where Initiative, Referendum and Recall Obtain.

LAST COUNCIL MEETING EXPOSED WARD SYSTEM

Special Interests, Once Chained by Commission Form, Are Against "Duluth Plan."

The Labor World believes that the commission form of city government would be the best thing for Duluth.

We have come to this conclusion after long and studious thought on the subject.

We admit that we were at first prejudiced against the proposed plan. We entertained fears of a plutocratic government. We believed in the old ward system, and we thought there was something to the argument that such a system kept a city government close to the people.

But we have changed our mind of late, and we thank God we have a mind to change. Study and analysis have brought us to the honest conviction that whatever of evil there is in our city life it is traceable to the ward system of representative city government.

We Don't Want Office.

We are not, nor do we expect to become a candidate for any office under the new plan, should it be ratified by the voters. We are only interested in the welfare of the city and the people.

Under the ward system at last Monday evening's session of the common council a long delayed housing ordinance was passed, but only after it had been slashed to pieces by the real estate interests of the city.

The saloon ordinance was defeated because of real estate interests saw in it probable loss of considerable high saloon rent money in case the saloon-keeper occupants of certain premises were convicted for the violation of the license law.

The motorman's license ordinance was defeated at the request and through the subterranean lobbying of the organized real estate interests of the city.

Ward System Indicted.

What stronger indictment can the workmen of Duluth bring against the present ward system than the action of the aldermen at last Monday's meeting? Surely the members of a commission, elected at large, and owing their positions to all the people, could not do worse. Over in Superior the commission passed the motormen's license ordinance after but one day's deliberation.

No person need have any fears of a plutocratic government in any city where the initiative, referendum and recall obtain.

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LABOR GETS READY FOR NEXT CONGRESS

American Federation of Labor To Push Its Claims For Labor Legislation.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—At the opening of the short session of congress, which will occur in the early part of December, the American Federation of Labor is actively making preparations for the purpose of securing the passage of several laws in which it is interested.

The employer's liability and workmen's compensation bill, which passed the Senate at the last session, is under consideration by the House Judiciary Committee. While this measure is perhaps far from a perfect bill, yet it is a long step in advance and recognizes the principle that the employer must assume in certain cases, the liability for the safety of workmen employed, and also recognizes further the humanitarian principle that when a workman is injured he is entitled to consideration, in that he should not be forced to assume all the risk to which industry is liable.

Numerous other measures which have passed the House are now before Senate committees, and strong efforts will be made to secure the passage of these bills, notably the injunction limitation bill and the Department of Labor bill.

NAVY YARD EMPLOYEES AWAIT WAGE ADJUSTMENT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—A commission composed of officers of the navy yards and Navy Department have had under consideration the wage question affecting the employees of the naval arm of the government. The employees were represented by officials of their various unions and a presentation of the reasons why an increase should be granted were placed before the wage board.

Up to this time no decision has been rendered, although the presentations were made during the summer. Considerable unrest is now being manifested among these employees by the delay in the adjustment of the wage scale.

It is understood that the report of the commission is in the hands of the secretary of the navy, but, as stated, no conclusion has as yet been made.

MAN WHO PUT UNCLE JOE IN SCRAP HEAP



FRANK T. O'HAIR.

Frank T. O'Hair, of Harris, Ill., is receiving much prominence on account of his victory over former Speaker Cannon for congress. It was organized labor that started the fight on Uncle Joe, and its members take pride in the fact that the former speaker has been retired to private life.

UNION LABOR MAKES GAINS IN CONGRESS

Labor Group Augmented With One Senator and New House Members.

Unofficial reports are to the effect that the labor group in congress has been augmented by two additional members.

Unfortunately two of the labor group were defeated in the recent contest—W. B. Wilson and Victor Berger. It is given out at Washington that if the Senate passes the bill providing for a secretary of labor which will provide for a new cabinet officer, the appointment will be tendered to Mr. Wilson.

In the 62nd congress the labor group consisted of 15 members, while in the 63rd congress the labor group will consist of 17 members, one of these being a United States senator, William Hughes of New Jersey, having been successful in the primary campaign, and the legislature being in control of the party to which the aspirant belongs.

The labor group will consist of the following in the House of Representatives:

Isaac R. Sherwood, Ohio; John R. Farr, Pa.; Edward Keating, Colo., and Albert Johnson, Washington, who are members of the Typographical union; James McDermott, Ill.; W. J. Cary, Wisconsin; Charles B. Smith, N. Y., members of the Telegraphers' union; Frank Buchanan, Illinois, of the Iron Workers' union; David J. Lewis, Md., of the Coal Miners' union; James P. Maher, N. Y., of the Hatters' union; Robert E. Lee, Pa., of the Blacksmiths' union; E. E. Roberts, Nevada, of the Metal Miners' union; John I. Nolan, Cal., of the Iron Molders' union; John A. Key, Ohio, of the Stenographers' union; John J. Casey, Pa., of the Plumbers' union, and G. T. Helvering, Kansas, of the Street Carriers' union.

OLD AGE PENSIONS FOR BELL EMPLOYEES

Sick and Death Benefit Fund To Be Created By Great Wire Trust.

The Bell telephone system will make available a fund of nearly \$10,000,000 for pensions, sick benefits and life insurance for its 175,000 employees, beginning on January 1 of the coming year.

The fund will be added to from year to year by appropriations from the American Telephone and Telegraph company, the associated companies, the Western Union Telegraph company and the Western Electric company.

The insurance and benefits will be provided without cost to the employees, the only requirement being faithful service. Pension will be given to those male employees who have reached the age of 60 years and who have been in the service of the company 20 years or more. Any employee who has been in the service of the company for a period of 35 years may retire with a pension no matter what the age.

In case of accident occurring in and due to the performance of work for the company, the employee will receive full pay for 13 weeks and half pay for the remainder of the disability up to six years.

Employees who become sick from any cause after ten years or more of service will receive full pay for 13 weeks and half pay for 39 weeks. In case of death resulting in and due to performing work for the company, insurance amounting to three years' pay, will be given to the relatives of the deceased. The maximum, however, is \$5,000.

TO PUT CRIMP IN STREET RAILWAY

People of Superior to Get 4-Cent Fare—Duluth Continues at 5 Cents.

COMPANY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT STARTLING

Excessive Capitalization and High Bonded Indebtedness Means of Robbing People.

The people of Superior are to enjoy the blessings of six street railway rides for a quarter. The company promises to appeal from the decision of the state rate commission of Wisconsin, but in the meantime it will be obliged to sell six tickets for a quarter. One of the tickets is to be of a different color than the other five, and will be made redeemable by the street railway company if the court upholds the decision of the commission.

However, while the people of Superior are getting a 4-cent car ride we are still paying a straight 5-cent fare in Duluth. The common council has taken the first step toward ascertaining the monopoly right of the Duluth Street Railway company to occupy the streets of the city. The sum of \$15,000 has been appropriated to engage counsel to test the validity of the Duluth franchise in the courts.

In the meantime the street railway company will continue to charge the passengers on its lines 25 per cent more for a ride in Duluth than will be paid in Superior. And this in spite of the fact that the financial statement of the company shows it to be one of the best paying propositions in the country.

According to the "Financial World" the Duluth-Superior Traction company is a bonanza. Its capital stock amounts to \$3,500,000 of authorized and outstanding common stock, and \$1,500,000 of authorized and outstanding preferred stock which draws a cumulative dividend of 4 per cent.

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STREET CAR COMPANY BARS "CAMPHOR COLLARS"

BRISTOL, Pa., Nov. 21.—Conductors on the local street railway system have been forbidden to wear celluloid collars because of the fact that several conductors have been burned by the blowing out of fuses on the back platforms.

Under the Sherman anti-trust law this public service corporation is liable to be charged with "forming a conspiracy to boycott the business of the manufacturers of celluloid collars," and it might be incidentally noted that this sort of haberdashery does not bear the union label.

WOMEN MAY ENTER BUILDING TRADES

Master Builder's Association Opens School To Train Women for Building.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—The first general advent in this country of women in industries formerly considered the economic province of men only occurred when women were employed as coremakers in Massachusetts in a pump manufacturing establishment. That it is the purpose of employers to crowd women into all industries is indisputable.

In line with the above statement, the following is an item which was clipped from an Eastern publication and is indicative of the condition of affairs which the workmen of this country will be compelled to face in the future:

"It won't be long before the sight of a woman specialist in steel construction directing the work from the dizzy height of several hundred feet will be an ordinary one, while the women builder with her cohorts of feminine bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters, and steam fitters, will have lost its novelty in the eyes of the public, for a new trade school for women, named in honor of Fire Commissioner Johnson at Winfield, Long Island, is almost an accomplished fact.

"The school is expected to open the last of this month with a splendid enrollment of 135 pupils. Ninety was the original limit of the school's capacity, but so many applications have come to the Master Builders' association, which is backing the scheme, that it has been decided to add two more stories to the original plan in order to accommodate 250. Otherwise the school would have been opened October 15.

CIVIL SERVICE LISTS GIVEN NEXT MONTH

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—Two civil-service examinations are to be held in this city in December. The first will be to secure eligibles for appointment as teacher of metal work and mechanical drawing to fill a vacancy at the Haskell Indian School in Kansas, at \$720 and quarters. The other examinations will be for aids in the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce and Labor, at salaries ranging from \$600 to \$720 a year.

GRAND OLD MAN TO SUCCEED HIMSELF



SAMUEL GOMPERS.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, will be re-elected for the 32nd time at Saturday's session in Rochester. While there has been wide division of thought over the policies that Mr. Gompers represents in the trade union movement, all agree that he is the logical man to head the American trade union movement. Mr. Gompers has devoted his entire life to building up the labor movement. He has been characterized as the "Grand Old Man," and no doubt understands the philosophy of the movement better than any living person in America.

LUNDEEN AND NOLAN IN SPEAKER'S FIGHT

Two Prominent Progressives Mentioned For Leaders of Minnesota Legislature.

Ernest Lundeen of Minneapolis, a progressive member of the legislature, is being boomed for speaker of the House. Mr. Lundeen was the author of several labor bills at the last session of the legislature among which were the \$7,000 bill for death by a wrongful act and the woman's eight-hour bill. Mr. Lundeen has always been a true and consistent friend of labor legislation.

W. I. Nolan, of Minneapolis, another progressive, is also being groomed for the speakership. Mr. Nolan is an old-time progressive, and during all of his career in the legislature has maintained a consistent position in favor of progressive legislation.

It is to be hoped that Lundeen and Nolan will pool their interests against their common enemies. A division will mean the election of a reactionary, and the organization of the house will be again turned over to the special interests.

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT IN SUPERIOR AND DULUTH

Superior has the commission form of government. Duluth has the old ward system. In Superior the commissioners, after less than 24 hours' deliberation, passed an ordinance licensing motormen and requiring the Street Railway company to employ only competent, sober and prudent men to operate the street cars.

In Duluth a similar ordinance was introduced and was held up by the aldermen for almost two months. The final vote on this ordinance was taken last Monday night, and it failed of passage.

Mr. Workingman, how do you like it? As a matter of fact is not the present boss-ridden aldermanic system more plutocratic and less responsive to the popular will than would be the commission form of government fortified by the initiative, the referendum and the recall?

GOVERNMENT BEATS PRIVATE SHIPYARDS

New York Navy Yard Outworks All Private Firms—Makes Rapid Progress.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—The tradition regarding the slowness of navy work has been smashed by the New York Navy Yard in the construction of the big battleship New York.

The progress report just issued shows that the work on that vessel has been advancing almost twice as fast as on similar ships in the hands of private shipbuilding concerns. November 1, the New York stood 62.5 advanced toward completion, which was a gain of more than 5 per cent for the month of October.

The construction of the three other dreadnaughts, Texas, Nevada and Oklahoma, advanced during the same period about 2 1/2 per cent.

The construction of the ten destroyers, now under way, dragged during October, about four points being the highest record in the case of any of them.

The same statement applies to the fourteenth submarines now building.

TO AGAIN CHOOSE SAMUEL GOMPERS

Few Changes If Any On Executive Council—Hot Fight For Next Convention.

BRITISH DELEGATES ADDRESS CONVENTION

Many Important Resolutions Proposed By A. F. of L. John Mitchell Favored.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Nov. 21.—The American Federation of Labor will wind up its business in Saturday. The election of officers has been set for Saturday morning. President Gompers will be re-elected without opposition. There will be one or two changes on the Executive Council. Frank Morrison will succeed himself, as secretary. John Lennon of the Hatters' Union, who has been treasurer for 25 years, has some opposition. The delegates from Michigan have started a fight against Mr. Lennon because of his activity in the Anti-Saloon movement. It is believed, however, that they will muster sufficient strength to defeat him.

Seattle, Washington, Milwaukee and Richmond are candidates for the next convention. Seattle is said to have the best chance. The Socialist wing of the labor movement is putting up its usual fight against Mr. Gompers and his policy. Efforts are being made to commit the Federation to a general policy of industrial unionism.

Fraternizing Delegates. The speeches of the fraternal delegates from Great Britain early in the week were most interesting. The delegates dwelt at length on the new industrial insurance law in Great Britain. The new law provides for payment for sickness, accidents, old age and death. They also devoted considerable time to the work of the movement for peace. As one of the delegates put it:

"We stand for the total abolition of war. We say war as conducted today is simply an adjunct to profit."

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LANSING IRON MOLDERS ARE DETERMINED TO WIN

LANSING, Mich., Nov. 21.—The struggle of the Iron Molders in this city for shorter hours and an increased scale of wages is still going on and has been since May 18.

After five months the ranks of the strikers remain unbroken and although ten of the strikers have been sent to prison for contempt of court for the alleged violation of an injunction, yet this has failed to break the spirit of the strikers.

The iron molders' union will continue this contest until justice can be secured.

ITALY STILL LEADS ON IMMIGRANT LIST

In September 21,133 Southern Italians Landed in America. Polish Are Next.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Department of Commerce and Labor, has just issued its September Immigration Bulletin.

As was the case in many preceding months, the influx of Southern Italians continues to head the list, and it is a matter of some conjecture as to how much time it will require to depopulate the southern portion of Italy at the present rate of immigration.

During the month of September 21,133 Southern Italians landed on our shores. Next in point of numbers came the Polish, with 11,895; Hebrew, 9,678; German, 7,504; Greek, 6,838; English, 5,401; Irish, 4,336; Croatian and Slavonian, 3,460, the balance being scattered between thirty-two nationalities. The total immigration for the month amounted to 105,611. During the same month 23,728 emigrant aliens left this country.

Out of the number of immigrants for September 22,299 were farm laborers, 19,812 unskilled laborers, 14,610 servants. In the skilled trades there were admitted 2,151 tailors, 1,367 clerks and accountants, 1,018 carpenters, 1,008 shoemakers, the balance of the skilled trades being scattered among all known trades.

The states which received the largest portion of this immigration are New York, 31,062; Pennsylvania, 16,034; Massachusetts, 9,786; Illinois, 9,153; New Jersey, 5,229; Michigan, 4,200; the balance being scattered throughout the various states of the union.

PIANO WORKERS STRIKE FOR EIGHT-HOUR DAY

BOSTON, Nov. 21.—The piano workers of this city and vicinity went on strike recently for an eight-hour day without reduction in pay and the abolition of piece work. Agents from the New York Piano Manufacturers, whose employees are now on strike, are endeavoring to induce the strikers in this city to go to New York to help break the strike in that city, offering a three years' contract at \$18 per week.

SOCIALIST MAYOR IS RELEASED ON BAIL



MAYOR LUNN.

Mayor Lunn, Socialist chief executive of Schenectady, N. Y., who was found guilty of "obstructing" sidewalk while delivering a soap-box speech in Little Falls, has been released on bail. His case is exciting country-wide interest.

O'CONNELL ELECTED METAL TRADES HEAD

Former President of Machinists Makes Good Label Department Prospering.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Nov. 21.—The convention of the Metal Trades Department opened in this city on Monday and concluded its work today.

The deliberations of the convention were largely devoted to formulating plans whereby the metal trades in various portions of the country may be increased by the organization of the unorganized, and also the prosecution of a campaign to secure the eight-hour work day wherever it is possible to secure the same.

The Los Angeles situation was thoroughly discussed, and special efforts are to be made to secure increased membership and effectiveness on the entire Pacific Coast. James O'Connell was re-elected president; Joseph Valentine, first vice president; James W. Kline, second vice president; Joseph F. Franklin, third vice president; T. D. Daly, fourth vice president; John R. Alphonse, fifth vice president; M. O'Sullivan, sixth vice president; A. J. Berres, secretary-treasurer.

The offices of fifth and sixth vice presidents were created at this convention. The Union Label Trades Department also convened in annual session on Monday and concluded its work Wednesday evening.

Action was taken to press forward the work of education in the patronizing of the union label, and also for the purpose of securing the affiliation of unaffiliated label trades.

John F. Tobin was re-elected president; J. W. Hayes, first vice president; Jacob Fischer, second vice president; Thomas H. Reickert, third vice president; A. McAndrew, fourth vice president; Mathew Wolf, fifth vice president; Thomas F. Tracy, secretary-treasurer.

UNION LABOR HEADS TICKET IN COLORADO

Governor and Several State Officers Are Members of Organized Labor.

Colorado has probably elected more members of organized labor to office than any other state in the union. The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, and superintendent of public instruction are all members of organized labor.

Colorado sends a member of the printers' union to Congress. The state senate consists of 10 union men, while the house of representatives will have 12 members of organized labor on the floor.

Through the initiative and referendum Colorado adopted at the recent election the woman's eight-hour law, and also the Miners' eight-hour law, defeating a fake measure that the mine operators had placed on the ballot by petition. A measure was also carried dealing with constructive contempt, so that a judge cannot impose punishment for constructive contempt except it be committed in the court room, and charges of constructive contempt must be tried by jury.

Colorado has taken the lead in other legislation affecting the judiciary. A procedure law was adopted by the referendum, permitting no other legal tribunal save the Supreme Court, the authority to declare laws passed by the state legislature unconstitutional, and even decisions by the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of a law can be sent to the referendum, so that the people in this manner can reverse even a Supreme Court decision.

GILLETTE FIGHTS LABOR MEASURES

Makes Cowardly Attack on Officers of Minnesota State Federation of Labor.

AVOIDS ARGUMENT; RESORTS TO ABUSE

Attempts to Lead Members of the Legislature to Believe Organized Labor Has Blacklist.

The Minnesota Employer's association, with George M. Gillette as its president, has been circulating the state for the purpose of belittling and discrediting the efforts of organized labor to secure from the legislature of Minnesota fair legislation in the interests of the working classes.

Early in September and pursuant to instructions given by the Brainerd convention of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, every candidate for the legislature was asked how he stood on certain bills to be introduced in the legislature in which labor was interested.

These bills covered such subject matter as the initiative, referendum and recall, a workmen's compensation, a minimum wage for women and children, eight-hour day for women workers, state insurance for the victims of industrial accidents, protection for labor in the payment of wages, state aid in the crusade against tuberculosis, a more efficient system of boiler inspection, limiting the power of courts in declaring certain laws unconstitutional, extending the eight-hour law to the inmates of state penal institutions, and favoring home manufacture in supplying goods and material for the state.

Labor's Fair Position.

The only question above mentioned to which the group of employers represented by Mr. Gillette would be justified in taking exception is that providing for workmen's compensation. In this matter organized labor tried to be fair. In the question submitted to the candidates for the legislature it says: "If elected, will you vote for a workmen's compensation act that will be fair to the state, to employers and employees, and particularly will you support and vote for the bill that will meet with the approval of the workmen of Minnesota generally?"

Added to this question was the following notation: "There will undoubtedly be several measures on this subject presented to the legislature. Committees of the Minnesota Employers' association, the state senate, the Minnesota State Bar association and this federation are working independently on workmen's compensation bills. We do not ask for your support at this time of any specific measure, but we do respectfully request that you agree to

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CHARGES ADMITTED BY SUPREME COURT

Frank Morrison, Secretary of A. F. of L., Pleaded With New Equity Rules.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—When the United States Supreme Court issued its recent code of rules as a guidance for the equity courts under the jurisdiction of the United States, Secretary Morrison gave out the following to the public press:

"I am pleased with the published statement in regard to the rule of injunctions issued by the supreme court of the United States. The fact that the supreme court, on its own motion, has formulated a rule eliminating some very objectionable features in the issuance of injunctions, against which labor organizations have been protesting, should make it patent to the minds of the public that the supreme court recognized them as abuses, and for that reason has issued a rule which will prevent these abuses in the future.

"The contention of labor organizations is that the injunctions issued were without authority of the law. The action of the supreme court is proof positive that the contention of the labor organizations is well founded. It is a step in advance and will do much to assist in securing the passage of the Clayton anti-injunction bill, which passed the House and is now awaiting action by the Senate."

DRAG ARBITRATION IN RAILWAY DISPUTE

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 21.—Fred A. Burgess of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and C. A. Wickersham, president of the Atlanta and West Point railroad, arbitrators in the Georgia railway strike, have failed to reach an agreement on the choice of the third member of the arbitration board.

Judge Knapp, of the commerce court, and Charles P. Neill, commissioner of labor, have been requested to name the third man. The disagreement between Mr. Burgess and Mr. Wickersham came after the time allowed in the Erdman act had been extended, and the agreement to end the strike was reached about two weeks ago.