

# THE LABOR WORLD.

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS.

VOL. 21. No. 55.

DULUTH AND SUPERIOR, JUNE 20, 1914.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TWO CENTS.

## DEBS DELIVERS TALK TO A PACKED HOUSE

Socialist Apostle At His Best In Speech Last Night

SOCIALIST PARTY FOR THE W.

The Only Political Party Which Aids Workmen on Strike Says Debs.

Before an enthusiastic audience of close to 2,500 people, Eugene V. Debs of Terre Haute, delivered a most powerful address in behalf of the striking miners in Colorado and the socialist movement, of which he is recognized as America's most forcible exponent, last Monday night at the Auditorium.

When Mr. Debs entered the hall he was greeted with a rising cheer from the audience, which lasted fully five minutes.

Debs Introduced. W. E. Towne the socialist candidate for congressman at the primary election acted as chairman and introduced the speaker as "the most loved and the most hated man in the United States."

In opening his address, Mr. Debs pointed out the evolution in society, stating that "never in the world's history has there been a self-governing people. Aristocracy, monarchy and republic have all been governed by a minority. The working class has always been in some form of slavery or servitude."

Continued on Page 3.

## CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE QUIZZED

Politicians Must Express Their Opinions Or Lose All Hope of Being Elected.

California politicians will be closely quizzed by the organized workers of that state as to their position on various measures in which the workers are interested.

Among the questions which the office seekers will be called upon to answer are the following:

- Do you favor the initiative and referendum?
- Do you favor the recall of Judges?
- Do you favor an extension of the Chinese exclusion act so as to exclude all Asiatics?
- Do you favor the literacy test for all immigrants?
- Do you favor stringent State regulation of private detectives and private armed guards?
- Do you favor protective legislation for those engaged in the manufacture and handling of Portland cement?
- Do you believe that the State should provide work for residents during periods of general unemployment?
- Do you favor a State constitutional amendment to regulate and limit the practice of courts to declare laws unconstitutional?

## BERGER PREDICTS A SEVERE CRISIS

Former Congressman From Milwaukee Fears "Hard" Times for Coming Winter.

SUGGESTS TAKING OVER COAL MINES

Could Buy the Mines and Operate Them for Benefit of the People.

That the present business depression is more than merely "psychological," as termed by President Woodrow Wilson, is the opinion of Victor Berger, former Socialist Congressman from Milwaukee.

The business if this country is now facing a very serious crisis, he thinks, and conditions much worse than those of 1893 may be expected before the next winter is over. The seriousness of the condition is greatly intensified by the high cost of living, preventing many thrifty workers from saving during the summer even if they have jobs. This, he thinks, will cause a great deal of suffering during the coming winter.

"I do not wish to don the toga of a prophet," he said, "nor do I wish to appear as one spreading evil news, but the present condition is more than just psychologically bad. There is a real industrial crisis which is being keenly felt all over the country. Not only are workmen feeling its grip, but business men all over the country are complaining of the great business depression."

Bitter Crisis Coming.

"The conditions at present, however, are not half as bad as they are to be in the coming winter. Usually workmen are able to save a little during the summer, if they are thrifty, and in such a manner prepare themselves for the hardships of the winter. This will not be possible this summer. The prices of food products have gone up to such an alarming extent that no workman can save anything, no matter how frugal he is. It is impossible for him to do so. The prices of food are 50 per cent higher today than they were in 1893. This must be taken into consideration."

Berger's attention was directed to the recent outrages in Colorado and to the lack of measures taken by the government in bringing about an equitable adjustment of the struggle. Reminded of the loss of human life, the horrible massacre of children and women, he said: "I am not a silent nor a loud mourner. I believe in action."

"Would Have Demanded Action. If I were in Congress, I would have advocated that the Congress investigate the cause of the bitter strife which caused so much unnecessary bloodshed. That, however, is not all. I would have also advocated that a commission take over the mines and operate them for the people, while the investigation was in progress. I do not mean that the mines should be confiscated, no! I would have a commission fix the price of the mines, the real value of them, and Mr. Rockefeller would be justly compensated. Unlike President Wilson, I would not send any one to see Mr. Rockefeller. I would act in behalf of the people."

"However, at present we cannot dictate to Mr. Rockefeller what he should and should not do. The mines belong to him, he owns them, and we have no legal right to dictate a policy to him."

Continued on Page 3.

## BEAUTIFYING "RIGHT OF WAY" A STUDY IN CITY PLANNING

In a survey of commission governed cities, Mr. Bruere of the bureau of municipal research and the present comptroller of New York City, said that "underlying all public improvement activities in progressive city management is comprehensive city planning."

City planning involves public hygiene and sanitation, housing, municipal art and design, parks, playgrounds, social centers, etc., city beautification, transportation problems and education.

City planning according to F. C. Howe, "extends further" than this. "It protests," says Mr. Howe, "against ugliness, against discomfort, against dirt and disease."

"It means the control of property in the interests of humanity. It means planning cities for people to live in as well as to work in."

One thing of interest to which The Labor World draws the attention of its readers in the plans for the beautification of Duluth and Superior is the work of art and beauty along the rights-of-way of railroad companies. What a contrast we have, between the

lawns that are being developed by some of our citizens near Fond du Lac, and the muddy cess-pools of putrid and greasy water just across the way or with only a beautiful barbed-wire fence stretched between, possibly to prevent the lawn from intruding. Then there are those picturesque piles of old and rotting ties or the scented fumes of burning tie piles (to ward off mosquitoes, so as not to annoy the passengers?)

Many citizens are watching with the deepest concern for the decision of the interstate commerce commission, in hopes that a possible increase of revenue will bring in sufficient returns to warrant a clean-up on the "right-of-way."

"European Cities at Work," a recent publication of F. C. Howe, has a most interesting chapter on city planning in Germany. As a contrast between the policies adopted by German and American cities, let us quote Mr. Howe: "When a city undertakes a harbor project, the railway administration co-operates (in the U. S. they issue injunctions—Ed.) with it. There is no conflict be-

tween the city and railway over streets, stations or terminals. (Contrast this with Superior's fight on the Belknap viaduct and the Soo Line crossing—Ed.) The railway is not an eye-sore, a source of annoyance, dirt and smoke. It is part of the city plan."

To quote further, in order to point to possibilities for both Duluth and Superior, where hideous docks of various construction have not yet been built, Mr. Howe says, "Nor do we utilize our water fronts as do European countries for beauty and recreation. They should be the center of the city's recreational life."

"The city (in America) has lost its sovereignty, it has become subordinate to a thousand property rights, each of which sacrifices the whole to its individual self interests. And we cannot have a city; we cannot build for comfort, convenience, joy, until public opinion assumes and the legislature and the courts accept the assumption that the claims of all the people, of all property, of all business, are superior to the rights and claims of any individual property, business or special privilege."

## SENATE SEEKS TO DELAY CLAYTON BILL

Senator Kern Believe Senate Will Concur in Labor Provisions in Clayton Bill.

WASHINGTON, June 19.—The Democratic leaders of the Senate are looking to President Wilson for guidance in handling the program of anti-trust legislation.

Despite the President's statement that he believes it to be the duty of Congress to remain in session until the legislation, embodied in the House bills, is enacted, Senate leaders are hoping for an agreement that will bring about an early adjournment.

The trust program in the Senate will be arranged upon the passage of the tolls repeal bill. Senate leaders will then confer with the President and ascertain just what he wants done with the trust bills. He will be strongly advised to let the Clayton bill, which contains the labor exemption provision and other controverted questions, go over until December.

If the President insists upon the passage of the three bills, either separately or under one cover, the Senate leaders will return to the task prepared to stay in Washington until September 15, or even later.

Senator Kern of Indiana, the Democratic leader, indicated today that the Senate would undoubtedly concur in the labor provisions of the Clayton bill or amendments of like import. The administration will stand pat in support of the labor provisions as they are adopted by the House, and will not, it is understood, consent to any substantive changes by the Senate.

## VOSS SAYS PROPERTY OWNERS MUST PAY

Commissioner Objects to Bonding the City to Benefit a Small Faction.

"As long as I am commissioner, I will never vote for a bond issue to finance improvements that should be borne by owners of property benefited by them."

Commissioner Voss yesterday made this statement in connection with the attitude of several New Duluthians who urged a bond issue at the meeting of the council Monday when they appeared to seek an order of the council for paving the road to New Duluth.

"It is not fair," Commissioner Voss said, "if the bonds are issued, every taxpayer in the city will be obliged to pay his share of the cost of an improvement that does not benefit him in the least. It is not unreasonable that those who benefit by it should pay."

"If we issued bonds in this case," he added, "where could we draw the line. Other sections would demand the same procedure and refusal would result in criticism. The New Duluth road could be built half-width until such a time as funds for its completion could be raised. Such a plan certainly would not prove a burden on the owners."

Another alternative offered provided for the direction of the work by the council without petition from the property owners, the cost to be assessed against the latter. Voss' objection to this was that, within 60 days, a reimbursement of 25 per cent of the owners could halt the improvement. This is a provision of the charter.

## COMMITTEE PLANS CONVENTION BALL

Local Organized Labor to Give Big Dance at Fairmont Park July 9.

The committee having in charge the arrangements for the convention of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor to be held in Duluth one month from today decided at a meeting held last evening to give a dance at the Union Labor pavilion, Fairmont park, July 9. The proceeds of the dance will be used in the entertainment of the delegates attending the convention.

The committee has met with a fair degree of success in soliciting funds to defray the expenses of entertainment. Contributions have been received from several organizations or merchants, from trade unions and from the proceeds of a dance given at the Armory during the winter. There is, however, a considerable amount to be raised to enable the committee to give the kind of entertainment expected from a Duluth organization. It is up to the people of Duluth to patronize the dance liberally. Tickets will be sold at 50 cents each. They may be procured from the following members: Henry Percuall, A. G. Catlin, Peter Schaefer, Fred Barnard, W. J. Dutcher and W. E. McEwen.

## FAVOR LITERACY TEST.

WASHINGTON June 19.—At a convention of the District Epworth League, resolutions approving the Dillingham-Burnett immigration bill and especially the literacy test, were adopted. This bill is being strongly urged by the American Federation of the senate.

## CARL PERSON GAINS FREEDOM ON BOND

Labor Editor, Who Faces Trial for Murder Gained His Liberty on Bail.

COURTS OF DE WITT COUNTY ARE FEARED

Labor Leaders Fear Prejudice Would Hang the Accused Editor from Clinton.

CHICAGO, June 19.—Carl Person, the labor editor, who faces trial for murder in Clinton, Ill., and federal indictment in Springfield, has gained his liberty on bail. Judge Charles M. Walker in the circuit court accepted \$120,000 worth of sureties pledged by Mrs. Jane Comerford and Frank Shindberg for the required \$12,000 bond.

The proceeding has been closely followed by attorneys all over the state, who realize that the action of the Cook county court is without precedent in the legal records of Illinois. It is declared the first time that a prisoner, denied a writ of habeas corpus in any of the country districts has been liberated on bail by a court 200 miles away.

Reverses Customary Procedure.

Attorney Frank Comerford for the defense also reversed the customary procedure when instead of subpoenaing witnesses for the defense he subpoenaed all of the state's witnesses and won the appeal for bail on the testimony on which the prosecution hopes to convict. In doing so Comerford came into possession of a stenographic record of the state's entire case.

In reviewing the evidence Judge Walker declared the testimony indicated that Person had been lured from his office and assaulted by a man who had to have him pointed out. State's Attorney C. O. Williams and Lett Herick of DeWitt county, contended that Person had not taken advantage of the chance to get away from his assailant, as he should have done.

Labor Leader in Court.

John C. Flora, John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of labor, and other labor leaders were in court. They declared that although the evidence indicated that Person killed Tony Muser in defense of his life, the editor would be hanged if tried in DeWitt county, which they characterized as "a nest of prejudice, owned body and soul by the Illinois Central."

Person and Comerford left for Centralia, Ill., where a demonstration has been arranged by the coal miners of central Illinois. Person said that he intends to return to Clinton and the editorship of his labor paper to "renew the war of publicity against the crimes of the Illinois Central railway."

## SECRETARY WILSON SEES PROSPERITY

WASHINGTON, June 19.—Predicting that within a month's time there would be more jobs in the United States than men, Secretary of Labor Wilson hopes to solve the problem of getting men to fill the places. His forecast is based upon the bumper wheat crop, revival of the iron trade, mining and textile industry. The secretary already has received requests for more than 30,000 laborers in the bread belt of the west and south and he plans to arrange with the railroads special excursions from the east to get the men to the wheat fields.

## COMMISSION HOLDS HEARINGS ON STORES

Average Wage in New York Department Stores Less Than \$7 per Week.

OWNERS ARE OPPOSED TO LABOR UNIONS

Department Store Managers Opposed to Organizing the Retail Clerks.

The average wage of department store workers in New York is less than \$7 a week.

This fact was established as the result of an investigation based on conditions in seventeen department stores. The investigation was conducted by Miss Gertrude Beeks, who is the director of the Welfare Work department of the National Civic federation, and was instituted by and paid for by the department stores themselves, through the Retail Dry Goods association.

Miss Beeks told the commission she did not see how it was possible for any one to live in decency on a salary of less than \$8 and declared she favored a law fixing this amount as the minimum wage for workers in the stores.

When asked if she considered the department store owners hostile to the organization of their employees, the witness managed to avoid making a direct answer, taking a noncommittal position.

Among the witnesses were also such magnates of the department store world as H. C. Blomfield, Jacob Gimmel, P. P. Lynn, general manager of the John Wanamaker company, and Louis Stewart, who, besides being the general manager of James McCreery & Co., is also the general adviser to the thirty stores.

Continued on Page 5.

## MACHINISTS ARE WINNING STRIKE

Detroit, Mich. Machinists Being Aibly Supported by Brewery Workers Union.

The International Association of Machinists is meeting with excellent support in its strike for better conditions against the Universal Bottle Washing Machine Co., Twelfth and Marenette streets.

The company, which depends for the most part on the patronage of breweries, is not able to ship out its machines and the breweries are shipping machines back to the firm, according to the strike leaders.

This strike, which began almost three weeks ago, was called because the company refused to treat with the men regarding the hours, wages and alleged discriminations. It has declared an open shop.

The Turner Cartage Co., which was notified the first day of the strike by Business Agent Mitchell of the I. A. M., that a strike was on, continues to move machinery and castings, even though requested to refrain from handling the Universal. Mitchell agreed that the machinists would insist on the Turner people doing the cartage after the strike if only this concern would stand by the men in their time of trouble.

# THE CASE FOR THE MINERS OF COLORADO

By FRANK J. HAYES.

The Colorado strike, without doubt, is the greatest industrial conflict ever waged by any body of men in this North American continent. It is not only a fight for industrial justice, but it is a fight for the civil rights of the people of Colorado, as well.

I was assigned to Colorado by the president of our national union, last July, for the purpose of endeavoring to establish our organization in that state, and for the purpose of being helpful in bringing about a settlement of the strike in northern Colorado that had been in existence for almost four years.

I did not go to Colorado for the purpose of fomenting trouble or bringing on an unnecessary strike, but, rather, with the thought of working out a satisfactory settlement in the northern part of the state and with the hope of organizing the miners in the southern part, and seeking a joint conference with the operators and a fair adjustment of the many grievances of the miners without resorting to a strike.

And so, our first endeavor was to try and secure a conference with the coal operators of Colorado, and, in accord with this policy, we addressed a letter to every coal operator in that state, inviting them to meet with the representatives of our union in joint conference for the purpose of adjusting all the grievances complained of by the Colorado miners. And, so on Aug. 26, 1913, we wrote them in part, as follows:

"We are no more desirous of a strike than you are and it seems to

us that we owe it to our respective interests, as well as the general public, to make every honest endeavor to adjust our differences in an enlightened manner.

Let us meet now as friends and propose to settle this entire controversy, with honor to ourselves, with credit to our people and with faith in each other."

Request Ignored.

After waiting a reasonable length of time, and receiving no answer to this very fair request, the miners of Colorado became insistent that something be done, and that their grievances be heard, and so answering the voice of the miners of Colorado, we decided to call a convention of all the mine workers in that state, and we also decided to again invite the coal operators of that state to meet with us in conference and to attend that convention, and so, on Sept. 8, we wrote them in part, as follows:

"We are making this last endeavor to settle our differences peacefully, with the hope of preventing a strike. If you will kindly meet with us we feel sure that we can adjust all points at issue between our respective interests in a satisfactory manner."

The operators again did not even give us the courtesy of a reply, and not a single operator attended that convention. The convention, however, was the largest attended convention of coal miners ever held in the state of Colorado. And so, after seeing all plans to have their grievances adjusted in a peaceful way had failed, the Colorado miners, themselves, in convention assembled, outlined a program, prepared a scale and

declared a strike of all the coal miners in the state of Colorado, the strike to begin on Sept. 23, 1913.

The Miners' Demands.

The following are the demands of the Colorado miners:

- First. We demand recognition of the union.
- Second. We demand a 10 per cent advance in wages on the tonnage rates and day wage scale, practically in accord with the Wyoming day wage scale.
- Third. We demand an eight-hour work day for all classes of labor in or around the coal mines and at coke ovens. (State law but not enforced.)
- Fourth. We demand pay for all narrow work, which includes brushing, timbering, removing falls, handling impurities, etc.
- Fifth. We demand checkweighmen at all mines to be elected by the miners without any interference by company officials in said election. (State law but not enforced.)
- Sixth. We demand the right to trade in any store we please, and the right to choose our own boarding place and our own doctor. (State law but not enforced.)
- Seventh. We demand the enforcement of the Colorado mining laws and the abolition of the notorious and criminal guard system which has prevailed in the mining camps of Colorado for many years. (State law but not enforced.)
- Eighth. The operators said, through their subsidized press, that only 10 per cent of the miners of Colorado would respond to the strike call. They thought that was true because they had hundreds of paid gunmen, in all

the coal camps of Colorado, who had successfully intimidated the miners for years, but, on the first day of that strike, 95 per cent of the coal miners in the state of Colorado laid down their tools, and they propose never to take them up again unless they can do so as members of the United Mine Workers of America.

Miners Are Heroes.

I shall never forget, as long as I live, the first day of that strike. It was a miserable day, snow, sleet and rain falling, and yet at every coal company town, as I was making the rounds in the various camps that day, I saw wagon after wagon of miners and their families coming out of the company huts, half-starved and half-frozen, but with a light in their eyes that betokened the dawn of a brighter day, satisfied to make any sacrifice that some semblance of liberty might be their portion.

The political power of the state of Colorado is owned by Rockefeller and associates, and constitutional government is a myth in Colorado. A state of practical anarchy exists, and the miners suffered keenly for years, until patience finally ceased to be a virtue, and out of all this suffering and all this oppression the present war (for that is what it is) has resulted.

At the beginning of this strike, and even at the present time, thousands of paid gunmen are in evidence. A great many of them joined the militia, supposed to be an organization to preserve the peace and enforce the law impartially between all classes of citizens.

also imported several machine guns, one of the most modern instruments of death. This particular gun shoots 250 shots a minute and has a range of two miles. The jobs of these gunmen depend upon violence. If there was no violence during the strike there would be no use for a thousand gunmen, and so the gunmen started a reign of terror for the express purpose of holding their jobs and making the operators believe that their services were required in combating the miners. In spite of this, the strike went on very peacefully for a while, and the gunmen were afraid they would lose their jobs if it continued in that way, so they took their armored automobile to the little tent city of Forbes, Colo., one day, and turned a deadly machine gun loose on that little camp, completely riddling every tent in that little city.

Miners Helpless.

The miners were absolutely helpless, they had no guns and were unable to defend themselves and their families. They knew what it was done for. They knew that the company guards wanted anarchy to exist so that they could better earn their pay. The guards wounded a boy 16 years of age, shooting him nine times in the legs and making him a cripple for life, and killed one man in this attack—it was one of the first attacks in Colorado. I shall never forget looking upon the face of that martyr to our cause as he lay in the morgue at Trinidad, and, as I looked at him, stretched stark and cold on a rough marble slab in that dismal house of death, I thought of

the barbarity of it all. Here was a man, a foreigner, it is true; a man who came to America seeking liberty, seeking a larger degree of industrial freedom, and they jailed him for his presumption. He asked for bread and they gave him lead—here in free America. He asked for a little home that he could call his own, and they gave him six feet of earth in the Trinidad graveyard, and, as I looked at him, I thought of the mother, or sister, perhaps, across the sea, waiting for the letter that would never come, telling of his success in this "land of opportunity," and receiving in its stead a message announcing his death, announcing his murder in the "land of the free and the home of the brave," and yet John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and his associates have the temerity to talk about law and order and about the vicious miners that are arrayed against them in the present struggle.

Miners Helpless.

In view of these conditions it became necessary for the miners to arm themselves in order to protect themselves and their loved ones from the murderous attacks of the subsidized militia and the murderous gunmen, and where is the man who will not protect his own home?

A Natural Result.

The culminating effort of the subsidized militia was the massacre of the women and children at Ludlow. They opened an attack upon our camp at Ludlow, for the express purpose of destroying it, for the express purpose of driving every striker and every inhabitant of that camp out of the state of Colorado, and they made the bones shiver, and they

scores of affidavits to prove it, that when they were through with the massacre at Ludlow, they were going to move on to Trinidad, and drive every agitator and every union man in that town out of Colorado.

For years the local coal companies have voted the miners like cattle and denied them every constitutional guarantee. There are more men killed in the mines of Colorado than in any other coal mining state in the nation. In the year 1910, out of every thousand men that went into the bowels of the earth, 26 gave up their lives. In the little country of Belgium the death rate is only one in one thousand, and in the union fields of America the death rate is only about three in one thousand. But take it on the whole, the death rate in the non-union mines is three times greater than it is in the union mines, and I could render no more powerful indictment against the evils of non-unionism in coal mines than to point to this death rate, as it is given to us by the federal government.

They have paperized the coal miners of Colorado for years, and yet, some people are very indignant because Huerta refused to salute the flag. I say it is high time for the president of the United States, as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, true to the traditions of this republic, to give heed to the ideas of our forefathers. It is time for the federal government to give heed to the voice of the miners in Colorado, to give heed to the death cries of the men, women and children slaughtered by the paid agents of that Wall Street Huerta, John D. Rockefeller,