

THE LABOR WORLD.

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TWO CENTS.

GALAXY OF LABOR WELCOME!

To the Minnesota State Federation of Labor:

GREETINGS: The Labor World extends its heartiest welcome to the delegates to the Minnesota State Federation of Labor. We wish you well in your deliberations, knowing full well that you will judge wisely on all vital issues presented to your honorable body. Today the labor movement has before it the most momentous questions since its inauguration. Times are most tense. Now, if ever, should labor remain calm and make every account and be deliberate in its speech. The crimes in West Virginia, the slaying of innocent men in Michigan and the wanton murder of men, women and children in Colorado should weld the labor movement into an ever more compact federation. While we are thinking of these crimes against labor, let us not forget the contemplated hanging of the machinist editor, Carl Person, in Illinois. National differences, and antagonisms between peoples are daily more and more vanishing, owing to the increase of the working population through immigration, to freedom in commerce, and the necessity of various nationalities being employed side by side in our modern industries. The working people of the world are coming closer to each other as they better understand and appreciate each other. We are becoming more amalgamated and solidified, through our organizations, year by year. At the close of this, the 32nd annual convention of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, we hope to see a greater unity of purpose and thought than has heretofore existed in the American labor movement. With the close of this year we hope to see the working class better organized, the 3,000,000 mark passed and well on our way towards the 4,000,000 mark. The political phase of the labor movement is ever before our eyes. This year being an election year there are two matters of legislation to which we should give our special attention. The first, the product of the organized labor movement in Minnesota, the initiative, referendum and recall. We do not look for a millennium by the passage of this amendment. It is a step in progress. It is an essential of self government. It will perfect our representative system. It makes for political purity. It will stop class legislation. It is in line with the general trend of modern political history throughout the world, and above all it is endorsed by all factions of the working class regardless of party faith. Every effort should be put forth by the organized labor movement towards the passage of this most important amendment at the coming fall election. The second matter we should carefully consider at this time is the workman's compensation act. This act is not perfect by any means. It should be strengthened as far as possible by the next legislature. We should make it a point to question the various candidates for the legislature as to their knowledge and attitude on this matter and then act accordingly. The amount of compensation for permanent injury and deaths under the present law is inadequate as a just reward to the injured or his dependents for the sacrifice made on the field of industry. We should insist that the maximum compensation be appreciably increased. Other matters of legislation, such as woman suffrage, minimum wage for women, convict labor, child labor, etc., will undoubtedly attract your attention, but the two foregoing measures we at this time place in first position. The American labor movement has ever taken the brunt of all progressive steps in legislation that leads to great democracy. That you will carefully consider all of these vital questions in the light of the historic labor movement there can be no doubt. Leaving with you these matters for judicious deliberation, we extend to you our best endeavors in co-operation in fighting the battles of the working class.

Yours fraternally,
THE LABOR WORLD.

MINN. FEDERATION OF LABOR CONVENES MONDAY NEXT

At 10 o'clock Monday morning the convention will be called to order by Henry Perault, chairman of the committee on arrangements who will welcome the delegates to Duluth on behalf of the local labor union. Rev. J. A. McGaughey has consented to give the invocation, after which Mayor Prince will deliver the key to the city to the delegates present. President HAN will respond to the speech of welcome and formally open the convention proceedings. The committees will be appointed and the committees on credentials and order of business having been previously appointed will present their report. After action on these reports the convention will adjourn until 8 o'clock in the evening.

Tuesday morning it has been planned to make the beautiful trip up the St. Louis river provided a suitable boat can be reserved for the occasion. In addition to this trip, a visit will be made to the model city under construction by the steel trust at Gary near Spirit Lake. In the evening at 7 o'clock there will be a grand parade of the delegates and local unions with visiting unions from the sister city of Superior. The parade will be headed by a band of 150 pieces donated for the occasion by the local musicians union. The parade will end at the armory where the meetings are to be held. A short evening session at which reports of the officers will be read and addresses by fraternal delegates from several states will be heard.

Drive Over Boulevard. The Monday session will close in the afternoon at 4:00 o'clock and an auto drive will be around Duluth's notable boulevard, the mecca

of all sight seers. From the commanding position of the boulevard on the side of the hill the entire harbor of the city of Duluth and also Superior besides miles of Lake Superior can be seen. This drive can be better dreamed of than described. It must be seen before it can be fully appreciated. Monday evening the delegates will be served at a banquet at the St. Louis hotel under the auspices of the convention committee. A big feed is assured and a glorious time will undoubtedly be experienced by all who will be so fortunate as to attend.

Wednesday's Business. Wednesday will be taken up entirely with the proceedings of the convention and the doors will close upon the body assembled with the annual election and installation of officers. At this meeting an official organ for the state federation will be chosen and the convention city for 1915 will be named. A special train has been secured on the Northern Pacific to take the delegates back to the Twin Cities in time to catch the trains to their respective homes in the southern portion of the state.

Some rivalry is expected in the matter of choosing some of the officials for the ensuing year, two candidates at last having been mentioned for the vice-presidency and several names have been presented for the office of secretary and treasurer to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of W. E. McEwen who has taken up his official duties for Uncle Sam at the post-office.

Many vital questions of organization and legislation are to be weighed and considered before the convention many of which are the most important in the history of the labor movement. This convention which will have between 200 and 300 accredited delegates will be the largest convention since the inauguration of the state federation and will go down in history as marking a new epoch in the labor movement and will be effective in bringing about greater democracy in the state of Minnesota.

This is the most important convention to be held in Duluth this summer.

DUTCHER AND JOHNSON SURE OF ELECTION

From all evidence and 'political' gossip L. M. Johnson of the Typographical union and W. J. Dutcher of the musicians' union will be elected to the school board in today's election without much opposition. Cards have been issued by local representatives of organized labor signed by A. G. Catlin urging all voters, men and women to vote for the two candidates mentioned.

COMPENSATION LAW PROVES SUCCESS

966 Cases Adjusted and Paid in Full During June in Wisconsin.

During June 966 cases under the workmen's compensation were adjusted and paid in full according to a report of the industrial commission. Speaking of the results of the last month of the fiscal year, Chairman C. H. Crownhart, who was here Monday said:

"The compensation record for June tells of the great success of the law. During the month 966 cases of compensation were adjusted and paid in full. The indemnity in these cases amounted to \$71,756.91 or an average of \$72.28 per case. In addition to indemnity, approximately \$35,873 was paid for medical and hospital bills to cure and relieve injured workmen. Total compensation for June, therefore, amounted in all \$107,634 or at the rate of nearly \$1,300,000 per annum. June payments were the largest of any month since the law was enacted.

"Compared with the old system of litigation, it will be noted that for this one month the workmen get two-thirds as much relief as for any one-year period prior to the act. Figuring the cost of administration to the taxpayers, it shows a great saving. The expense of administering the compensation act for the month of June was only \$1,154.90.

"The commission's report is a preliminary document in response to a resolution of inquiry passed by the senate some time ago at the instance of Senator Lea of Tennessee. The senate asked for data as to progress in the years 1911, 1912 and 1913, but the commission suggests that there is no necessity for compiling statistics other than those for 1913.

CARPENTERS TO MEET

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., July 17.—Secretary Proctor, of the Texas State Council of Carpenters, has issued a call for the tenth annual convention to be held at Wausatchie, beginning Monday morning, Aug. 3.

WASHINGTON, July 17.—Liberal distribution of free railroad passes to federal and state officials, judges, newspaper men and others by the Louisville & Nashville, and Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis railroads, was reported to the senate today by the interstate commerce commission. More than 34,000 passes, valued at above \$340,000 were shown to have been issued last year to individuals ranging from a United States senator whose pass showed no mileage traveled, to county sheriffs and local politicians.

The commission sharply criticized the "lack of morality revealed by these facts," as a "menace to the institutions of a free people," and announced its intention of issuing an order dealing with the situation.

Superior will very likely secure next year's convention of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor. Seven Superior boosters, members of the local union delegates, to this year's convention, which meets next Wednesday at Oshkosh, will make a determined effort to land the 1915 meeting. There is a strong likelihood that Superior will get it.

Superior made a bid for the convention last year but lost out by a narrow margin to the Oshkosh boosters. The local delegates were assured of the next convention, and it is practically certain that Superior will be the next meeting place of the organized labor unions of Wisconsin.

RAILROAD PASSES FREELY DISTRIBUTED

Transportation Given to Federal and State Officials by Southwestern Road.

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SUPERIOR MAY GET 1915 CONVENTION

Delegates to Labor Convention At Oshkosh to Resist Superior.

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WIS. FEDERATION OF LABOR EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

Second Report by the Executive Board of Wisconsin Federation of Labor Dealing With Labor Conditions Within the State Presented to Oshkosh Convention.

Interesting Data on Union Membership, Wages, Hours of Labor, Unemployment, Trade Agreements and Cost of Living in Various Wisconsin Cities.

Wednesday morning at Oshkosh, Wis., the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor opened its annual convention with an address of welcome from the mayor of the city who was preceded by the president of the trades and labor assembly who welcomed the federation to Oshkosh on behalf of the Oshkosh trades. President Weber responded to the speech of welcome and formally opened the convention. Committees were announced and reports had from the committee on credentials after which adjournment was taken until the afternoon.

During the afternoon session the reports of the various officers were heard also addresses from the fraternal delegates from other states were listened to. Among the reports received the following report of the executive board was probably the most unique and interesting.

1. Introductory

"One year ago the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor issued a report on labor conditions in Wisconsin. This report was prepared upon instructions from the delegates to the 1912 convention. At the convention in 1913 the report was received with favor and the executive board was instructed to prepare another report for the year 1913. A new schedule of questions was therefore prepared and sent to all unions affiliated with the federation. Most of the questions asked were similar to those asked in the 1912 schedule. In a few cases the questions were arranged in a more definite form and as a result the answers received will present some of the information in more precise terms.

In response to this year's requests reports were received from 268 unions with 22,382 members. Last year answers were received from 288 unions with a total membership of 22,854. Not as many reports were received as last year, but the average membership per union is about the same.

On the whole, the schedules were filled out quite satisfactorily. There were, however, a great many cases in which whole questions were left unanswered. In other cases (especially the questions relating to trade agreements) the answers were indefinite—such as "all," "95 per cent. etc." The secretaries of unions or committees having charge of filling out the schedule should bear in mind that each question is important and asked with a definite object in view, and that all questions must be answered in definite terms.

Two new questions were inserted in this year's schedule. One was on changes in hours of labor and wages and the other on extent and causes of unemployment. Both questions are of great importance. The first will

give an insight into the betterment of working conditions, the second is intended to show the extent of unemployment in the various trades. This same subject is also brought out to greater advantage by the rewording of the questions relating to actual wages earned.

The question in regard to the greatest and the less number out of work at different times of the year was so poorly answered in most cases that the results could not be used. The same word of warning must be offered in this report as in the one of last year. In studying the report it must be remembered that we have only received answers from about 75 percent of the unions. Figures and totals therefore only apply to only those unions from which we have received reports.

We are advised by the statisticians who assisted us in preparing this report that unless we can get all the unions to answer all the questions it will hardly be worth while to continue these reports. Obviously no comparisons can be made from year to year as to the progress of unionism and improvement in working conditions if the unions do not report every year.

2. Unions and Membership.

"A comparison of the reports received this year and last shows the following:

1913. 268 unions report 22,382 members. 21,029 men, 1,353 women.

1912. 288 unions report 22,854 members. 22,054 men, 802 women.

Little can be gathered from these figures regarding gains or losses in membership, because many unions which reported last year failed to report this year, and some unions reported this year for the first time.

However, if we compare the trades which reported in both years some gains are shown. The 288 unions reporting in 1912 were distributed among 72 different trades. This year 268 unions represent 75 different trades. Of these, 67 were listed in the report last year and 8 are new. When we compare unions and membership in the 27 which reported last year we get:

1913. 259 unions reported 21,940 members.

1912. 280 unions reported 21,728 members.

Despite the smaller number of unions reporting the membership is greater by over 200.

As was the case last year the building trades lead in the number of unions as well as in membership. Of the 163 unions reporting 78 or 29 per cent belong to these trades, while 5,552 or just about one fourth of the members reported are building trade workers. This represents a slight gain over last year.

The next largest group of organized