

# THE LABOR WORLD

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS.

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### W.C. UNITE ALL LABOR UNIONS

Invite and Urge Outsiders in Its Ranks.

### Spirited Discussion Favoring City Owned Street Cars Heard On Floor.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 20.—The resolution which Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, attacked in convention yesterday as a declaration of war on the railroad brotherhood and other unaffiliated unions, and which was recommended to the committee on organization, was again reported in modified form and adopted. Instead of instructing the executive council to organize unions in those organizations which refuse to affiliate with the federation, the resolution was amended to instruct the executive council to "invite and urge" all unaffiliated national and international unions to join the federation.

### Amendments Defeated.

Two amendments to the modified resolution were defeated. One provided that a committee of three be appointed to visit unaffiliated unions, and the other sought to insert in the resolution that only eligible unions be invited.

J. B. Connors, of the Switchmen's Union of North America, in the debate on the resolutions, explained that in his address in favor of the original resolution yesterday, he did not mean to criticize all the railroad brotherhoods, but that he had particular reference to the policy of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen in so far as it attacks the Switchmen's union.

### Came From Connecticut.

The resolution had been introduced by a delegate from the Central Labor Union of Hartford, Conn. It recited that at the present time there were national and local unions not affiliated with the federation; that they were a menace to some of the unions and that efforts to have them affiliate had failed. The resolution instructed the officers of the federation to "proceed to organize such local or national unions, if such is possible."

President Gompers took the floor and declared the committee on organization had misapprehended the importance of the resolution when it recommended its modification. He gave his opinion that the resolution permitted the setting up of rival unions, and declared it amounted to nothing else than a declaration of war. He believed in the solidarity of the labor movement in the United States, he continued, but he would not for a moment think of invading the sovereignty of a national labor union.

### Forewarn Disaster.

During the last few years, he continued, there has grown up a better feeling between the brotherhoods and the federation, with the result that the railroad organizations had been of material and effective assistance in getting certain labor legislation through congress. The adoption of the resolution, he declared, would be the most disastrous action against the existence of the federation the convention could take.

President Walker of the miners' union opposed the resolution, declaring there was a growing sentiment in the ranks of the brotherhoods and the national organization of brick-

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## COMMISSIONER VOSS URGES 4C LIGHT RATE

### Gives Out Statement Pleading 4c Rate Profitable to Duluth Edison Company.

Clear profits of \$172,000 can be realized annually by the Duluth Edison Electric company on a 4-cent rate for commercial lighting according to a statement prepared by Commissioner Voss in connection with his alternative ordinance presented to the council at a special meeting last week. This profit leaves out of consideration the natural increase of business that would follow the reduction from the present rate of 8-cents.

### His Statement.

The statement given out this morning follows: "A recent ordinance has been under consideration for six weeks, and was suggested by me before there was any talk of the 6-cent contract submitted for the company. In all matters that have come up for consideration regarding the lighting proposition, the commission before acting wished to be sure of its ground, and that any contemplated move was fully warranted, practical and beyond question for the advantage of the city and its citizens.

"It has been freely charged in the press by strong partisans of the electric company, that the commission has acted hastily on some of these lighting matters. Such charges are without foundation. No move has been made without full investigation and the most careful consideration, and it is only fair to the commission that citizens should realize this. The sole object of the commission is to act for the best interests of the city and its citizens, and to carry out the wishes of the people. Any man or body of men may err in judgment, but it is only fair to the commission, working single-heartedly for the best interests of the city, that everyone in doubt as to the wisdom of their course, should find out direct from the commission the reasons for their action before passing judgment. It has been stated often that the public can be induced to sign any kind of petition. This has been evidenced by the petition for the initiative for a 6-cent contract. It is safe to say ninety-nine per cent of the signers had no accurate information as to the real facts which I will try to outline.

"First the commission had a painstaking appraisal of all the property of the Duluth-Edison company made by two of the best known experts in the country, men who often act on the side of corporations. After several months work the physical value of the Duluth-Edison plant was placed at \$200,000 additional, and this appraisal has not been successfully attacked in any manner as to its correctness by the company. The same experts made careful plans and estimates as to cost of a new modern plant for the city, capable of competing for all the business now handled by the Duluth-Edison plant which would cost \$244,100, and a careful estimate of operating expenses, interest, maintenance and sinking fund, and from such figures the city is satisfied that it

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## Water and Light Department vs. Duluth-Edison Electric Company

In view of the fact that at the meeting of the Public Affairs committee of the Commercial club, every sarcastic reference to the management of the water and light department of the city was met with applause, we propose this week, to give a few comparative figures on the financial management of the city water and light plants as compared with that of the Duluth Edison Electric company.

It must be remembered, that the city acquired its gas and water plant after a long and bitter struggle, in which practically the same people were arrayed against the city as are now fighting for the Duluth Edison. Mayor Truelson was obliged to commence building a separate water system, before he could convince the Hartmans and the allies that he really meant business. The price he finally paid was probably really more than the old plant was actually worth. It came about, therefore, that when the city had its supplementary system completed and had paid for the old plant, the outstanding bonded indebtedness was \$2,456,000. This was almost 16 years ago. Since that time, and up to the present date, the city has expended for construction purposes, \$2,151,651. Of this amount \$1,045,000 has been taken from the surplus earnings of the plant. In addition to this construction work, a great deal of replacement work has been done, which has been charged to maintenance, and this has placed the old plant, in a much better condition, mile for mile, than it was, when purchased by the city.

In 1902 the Duluth Edison company had an outstanding capitalization of approximately \$1,800,000 on its plant. In that year its bonded indebtedness was so heavy that the business did not pay interest on its second mortgage bonds, and, as a result, the Commercial Light & Power company, which was the name the Hartmans then used, went into the hands of a receiver, and the entire assets of the company was sold to John W. G. Dunn, of St. Paul, for \$815,000. It will be seen, therefore, that in 1902 the city started out with an outstanding capitalization of \$2,356,000, while the Duluth Edison's investment was \$815,000.

The construction account of the Duluth Edison Electric company, assuming that a figure claimed by them to be the aggregate construction account up to the end of 1910, is correct, and adding the figures given in their official reports for the years 1911, 1912 and 1913, and allowing them \$60,000 for this year's construction, all of which undoubtedly has been strongly padded, was \$1,058,013. During that same time, their capitalization increased from \$815,000

to \$3,003,000, or a total increase in 12 years of \$2,188,000.

In other words, while the city spent \$2,151,651, it increased its capitalization only \$1,045,000, while the Duluth Edison Electric company in spending only \$1,058,013, increased in capitalization \$2,188,000, and yet it is the water and light department which is sneered at by our business men, who, as a business proposition, are supporting the Duluth Edison Electric company.

These men wish the citizens of this city to assume this extravagant capitalization of the Duluth Edison, and also wish the voters to repudiate the safe and sane financing of the water and light department.

Just for convenience let us restate these facts.

### City Water and Light Department

12 years construction account	\$2,151,651.00
12 years increase in bonded indebtedness	1,045,000.00
Duluth Edison Electric Company.	
12 years construction account	\$1,058,013.00
12 years increase in capitalization	2,188,000.00

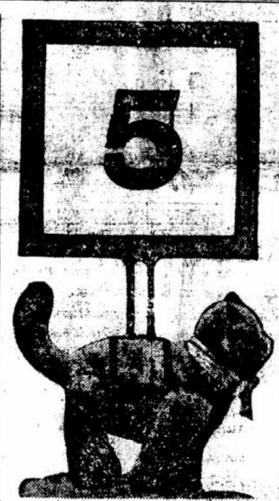
Mr. Tax Payer, in view of this record, who would you prefer to handle a business proposition in which you are interested. If you vote for the unit plan for an electric light plant, as proposed by the city commission, you vote for a safe and sane system of financing, and you vote to repudiate the frenzied financing of the Duluth Edison Electric company.

## GOVERNORS ASK NEW LAND DEAL

### Western Executives See Injustice in Present Taxation Laws.

MADISON, Wis., Nov. 20.—A new governmental policy with respect to disposal of the public domain was advocated before the governors' conference by Gov. William Spry, Utah. Speaking on "State Control of Natural Resources," he declared that throughout the west removal of vast tracts of federal lands from taxation by their lease to private parties has increased the burden of taxation for wage earners to such an extent that the limit must soon be reached, and he called on congress to take early action to remedy the situation. What started out to be an arid subject eventuated into a highly interesting discussion.

Gov. Ammons, Colorado, declared that the same situation exists in his state and Gov. Stewart, Montana, said that the Utah executive had stated the case correctly with respect to the general situation throughout the large states or the far west.



### WEEKS TO CHRISTMAS

A Holiday HELP—The Thought That Your Shopping Is Done

Eight Weeks to Christmas

## PREDICTS BOOM IN ENTIRE U. S.

### Bankers Look for Wave of Prosperity Unprecedented in Nation.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 20.—"The United States is on the verge of the greatest prosperity the country has ever known. We have reached the bottom after a period of decline, and things are now getting better every day." With this spirit of breezy optimism, George B. Caldwell, Chicago, president of the Investment Bankers' Association of America, greeted Philadelphia.

Mr. Caldwell came to attend the annual convention of that organization. About 350 bankers from all parts of the United States were in attendance.

"Many of the new laws on our statute books are untried tools," added Mr. Caldwell, "but the opposition which was born of fear has now given way to a feeling that it is only fair to try them out and a belief that they may prove more beneficial than anticipated.

"Investment bankers are not opposed to the proper supervision of corporations or business."

## "FATHER OF LABOR DAY" EULOGIZED

### Memorial Services Held Sunday By A. F. of L. Convention to Honor Dead.

After a week of routine work, in which committees were appointed, addresses of welcome heard and numerous resolutions presented, the second week's session of the A. F. of L. convention opened with memorial services in Horticultural hall in Philadelphia last Sunday. The following account of Sunday's services is taken from the Public Ledger:

"The American Federation of Labor chose yesterday, the Sunday of its convention period, to do honor to labor's illustrious dead. With Philadelphia are associated three names which the federation found worthy of the highest reverence. For two hours yesterday afternoon, at the convention meeting place in Horticultural hall, President Gompers and the great leaders of organized labor spoke in affectionate remembrance of Peter J. Maguire, William H. Sylvius and George Chance.

"Maguire, the 'father of Labor Day,' and the founder of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, loomed largest in the talks. The services were under the auspices of his own union. When Peter Maguire, in Staten Island, was courting a little girl, who afterward became his wife, said President Gompers, it was my privilege often to go with him. And when Peter Maguire's old mother came to the end of her beautiful life, it was in my arms that her last breath was drawn—I knew Peter Maguire! In the entire stillness the crying of women could be heard. It was the widow and daughters of Maguire, weeping at the memories that the aged labor leader had stirred.

"I know how the last years of Maguire's life were filled with tragedy, continued the president. I know how he was revived, and persecuted because though once a Socialist, he had the courage to speak out against the sophistries of socialism when he had detected them to be sophistries. I know how illness shadowed him. I know how he suffered and yet was brave. For I know that as long as there was breath in the body of Maguire, he was fighting for the right, fighting for humanity.

"Lavi Farvis, a member of the local carpenters' union, and Frank Duff, international secretary of the Carpenters' Brotherhood, spoke briefly of Maguire's work for labor. James Kirby, president of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, was chairman of the meeting.

John Fry, editor of the Molders' Journal, gave an historical and eulogistic account of the work of Sylvius who founded the International Molders' Union in this city in 1855. James Dungan, second vice president of the federation, gave a brief talk in reminiscence of Maguire and other labor leaders of the past, concluding with an account of George Chance and his leadership in establishing the printers' union in this section of the country.

"At the federation headquarters, in the Hotel Walton, yesterday preparations were being made for the launching of the active session. Many committees are ready with their reports, and it is believed that practically all of the minor resolutions and propositions on which the federation is united can be dispensed with today. On the more debatable questions, however, committee chairmen said yesterday that hearings were still in progress.

## M. & M. TO IGNORE MINIMUM WAGE

### Call for Funds to Fight Law in Courts Sent to Duluth Merchants.

### "Tax" of 50c for Each Boy Under 21, and Girl Employee Asked for.

Duluth merchants, wholesalers and manufacturers are to be taxed the sum of 50 cents for every person in their employ under 21 years of age, and a like sum for every woman employed. This is not a government war tax, but a levy made by the "Advisory committee for the Merchants and Manufacturers of Minnesota," for the purpose of defeating a \$9 minimum wage required by the state of Minnesota.

"The following Duluth firms are members of the 'Advisory committee,' which includes firms from all the important cities in the state: Bridgeman-Russell company, Christenson-Sentzell-Graham company, De Witt-Seltz company, Duluth Boiler Works, Duluth Candy company, Duluth Glass Block store, I. Freimuth, Gowan-Lanning-Brown company, Geo. A. Gray & Co., Johnson Thygeson Co., Kelley-How-Thomson company, John J. Lee & Sons, Northern Shoe company, Northern Shoe company, F. A. Patrick & Co., Rust-Parkinson company, Schulze Bros. company, Silbstein & Bondy Co., Stack & Co., Stone-Ordean-Wells company and the Union Match company.

The treasurer of the committee is H. H. Bigelow of St. Paul, of the Brown & Bigelow firm, notorious in their opposition to all legislation intended to help and promote the interests of labor. They take pride in "helping" their employes through schemes of "welfare," which are repudiated by liberty-loving workingmen and women everywhere. If employes are required to pay their employes living wages there will be no need for welfare schemes. They will provide comforts and pleasures for themselves.

"The 'Advisory committee' seems fearful lest a minimum wage of \$9 a week will be detrimental to employes. Indeed, the committee believes it will be disastrous to both employers and employes, although the Labor World has not heard of any complaints coming from employes.

The following is a true copy of the letter which was received yesterday by every employer of labor in Duluth: "The Advisory committee for the Merchants and Manufacturers of the state of Minnesota representing the firms whose names appear on this letter, write to ask your co-operation in efforts to protect the interests of all employers of the state.

"The legislature of 1913 passed what is known as the 'Minimum Wage Act.' Under this act, the Minimum Wage commission on Oct. 23, 1914, promulgated orders fixing minimum wages varying from \$8 to \$9 per week for women and minors in the various employments in Minnesota and designated Nov. 23, 1914, as the date when they should go into effect.

"Recognizing the disastrous effect that the enforcement of this order would have upon both the employers and the employes, members of the committee have engaged as counsel the following law firms:

"Brown, Abbott & Somsen, Winona, Minn.; O'Brien, Young & the legality of the orders of the commission, St. Paul, Minn.; Durmont.

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# EUROPEAN CATAclysm OR DEMOCRACY—WHICH?

By SAMUEL GOMPERS.

The centuries that have passed have witnessed the breaking down of artificial barriers that separated that nations of the world and the welding together of human hearts and minds through common interests and inter-related influences that effect the lives of all peoples. In this twentieth century he who understands the things that are must speak and think in world terms. No longer do the people of one country live unto themselves alone. What effects one effects all in some degree. The markets in which we buy and sell are organized on a world scale. Money, the medium that gives life to the markets, responds to international influences and laws. The intellectual life of the people is concerned with universal interests. Knowledge, culture, education, recognize no national barriers. In amazing their priceless stores. None of these is the exclusive possession of any nation. The quickening of the social conscience has been in response to a keener appreciation of the value of human life. The expression of this conviction in practical form has resulted in world-wide organizations of the workers and of students, international associations of hygienists, social insurance, medicine, and fraternal organizations.

But political organization has not kept pace with the newer and larger concepts. It has lagged behind the intellectual and moral development of the peoples. Political institutions to serve international purposes have not yet developed much beyond the em-

bryonic state. International political strain or emergency affords an opportunity without consciences to set the nations adrift. Such men are responsible for the practically universal war that is turning land and sea into places for butchering human beings and is desolating hearts and lives. Despite our boasted political ability and progress, yet a few men have power to say unto millions "Follow me, I demand your service even unto death." And the affairs of the whole world are stayed that men may go to shoot and to be shot!

In our sinner moments we have held it truth that the degree of civilization of a people may be judged by the valuation it places upon human life. But a few weeks ago the trend and the impulse of the peoples of the civilized world were to discover the highest development, physical, material, and social, and to stimulate the realization of that possible development for all the people. Men and women were devoting their time and their ability to the quest for knowledge that mental and physical health might be conserved and that disease and death might be robbed of their former rich harvest. All the thought, and the knowledge of all the ages were devoted to the highest development of individual ability that the individual might contribute his greatest service to society and civilization.

But what manner of civilization is this that so recklessly sacrifices the work of centuries to the terrible destructiveness of modern warfare and wastefully orders the mobilization of the heirs of all the ages? What manner of civilization is this that takes no heed of the priceless value of human lives? Human life means sacrifice, suffering, effort at every stage of its

development and advancement. What manner of civilization is this that orders men whose marvelous music has gained them entrance to the hearts of all peoples, men who by word of pen or mouth can shape the thought of the world, men who by stroke of brush can bear the depths of the human soul, men who understand even the secrets of life, men who give bone and sinew to industry and commerce, men who bear the weary burdens and in justice of society—orders all these and more to march out to be targets for the most destructive and perfect guns mind has devised? Military and naval armament is now so highly developed and so diabolically destructive that its effectiveness precludes prolonged war. Consider the worth of the men who serve as targets for these life destroying machines. Consider the issues involved—are they of sufficient moment to justify the butchery of so many men?

This butchery of men is vividly described in the words of Charles Dickens:

"There will be the full complement of backs broken in two, of arms twisted wholly off, of men impaled upon their bayonets, of legs smashed up like bits of firewood, of heads sliced open like apples, of other heads crunched into jelly by the iron hoofs of horses, of faces trampled out of all likeness to anything human. This is what sulks behind a splendid charge. This is what follows, as a matter of course, when our fellows die of them in style and cut them up famously.

The cruel stupidity and the brutality of this war are appalling. The waste and the suffering it entails are sickening. The proof that it brings of the imperfections of our civilization is chastening. And yet there is

encouragement in the fact that those two countries that have made greatest the free exercise of activities to progress in democratizing their political institutions were most unwilling to be drawn into this needless war. They realized the meaning of this statement by the greatest warrior the world has ever known, Napoleon Bonaparte:

"The more I study the world, the more I am convinced of the inability of force to create anything durable."

The conditions that made this devastating conflict possible are automatic power in the hands of agents not responsible to the people governed and competitive armament among nations—both conditions are survivals of ages when men's thoughts were less wide and their understanding less complete. Though the war is in a sense of radical struggle yet it was planned and precipitated by the representatives of autocracy who saw the forces of democracy constantly displacing the power and institutions of reaction that have fastened themselves on the backs of the peoples of Europe.

To bolster up tottering thrones and policies of self-aggrandizement, European monarchs have sacrificed social and economic welfare to the ominous waste involved in militarism and competitive armament. Regardless of the protests of those whose backs were already bending under heavy burdens and whose lives had been made joyless by sordid cares and privations national resources have been squandered upon agencies of destruction. The waste and the suffering from militarism and war are most keenly felt by the working people. War touches them in the quick and most earnest and most

vehement in opposition to it. The organizations of the workers are practiced by votes, by the universal suffrage of nations, by the venerable and the only organizations that continue their protest even in the presence of war. The Church Peace Conference to be held at Constance vanished before the sound of musketry. All of Europe has quickly abandoned intellectual dissent from war and reverted to animal instincts and lower ideals. Yet war is not necessary as William Ellery Channing has well stated:

"The doctrine that violence, oppression, inhumanity is an essential element of society is so revolting that, did I believe it, I would say let society perish, let man and his work be swept away and the earth be abandoned to the brutes. Better that the globe should be tenanted by brutes than by brutalized men."

Had the nations of the world endorsed the naval holiday policy proposed by Winston Churchill, the first Lord of the Admiralty of England, and urged by the American labor movement, there would have been set up a tendency to counteract the eternal preparedness for war which is an incentive to unnecessary conflict. But the war lords were in the saddle. They were planning the destruction of forces that were democratizing the laws and governments.

In Germany the working people of Prussia were conducting a systematic campaign for free speech. They were insisting upon democratic principles in the Reichstag. Russia was confronted by open manifestation of discontent among her working people. The Cossacks were suppressing strikes for greater freedom. In Austria-Hungary a movement was developing for

the purpose of securing the working people the right of association and of the free exercise of activities to better their conditions. Large accessions had been made to the labor representatives in the national legislatures. In England the Home Rule and home rule for Ireland had been accomplished, demonstrating the constant tendency toward further democratization of British institutions. Autocratic government sought to overwhelm these democratic movements by international war.

But reactionary autocracy can not permanently stay progress. The peoples of Europe will emerge from the carnage and smoke of battle with renewed determination to establish principles and institutions that are in harmony with industrial, political, and social development. This war will constitute a more urgent reason to destroy monarchial institutions, autocratic power, and to abolish militarism—a reason forced upon consciousness of all by dead and maimed bodies of fathers and sons, husbands and brothers, by the starved underdevelopment of women and children, and by the terrible holocaust brooding over the continent like an evil spirit. War was ever brutal but it has been made a thousandfold more so by inventions and modern skill.

The time to avert war is the time of peace by educating the people to the horrors and futility of war, and by creating a universal demand for international peace and for political agencies to perpetuate it. Such efforts will bring about that day of which Victor Hugo wrote:

"Day will come when the only battlefield will be the market open to commerce and the mind open to new ideas. A day will come when bullets and bayonets will be re-

placement of a great sovereign senate, which will be to Europe what the Parliament is to England, what the Diet is to Germany, what the Legislative Assembly is to France. A day will come when a cannon will be exhibited in public museums, just as an instrument of torture is now, and people will be astonished how such a thing could have been. A day will come when these two immense groups, the United States of America and the United States of Europe, shall be placed in presence of each other, extending the hand of fellowship across the ocean."

A world federation is no idle dream. In the olden times individuals depended upon brute force and swords to enforce their claims to justice. Newer and better ideas supplanted primitive methods by institutions established to secure to all society such protection and justice as accord with the most intelligent concepts. The time has now come for establishing permanent political institutions which shall stand for peace and justice between nations. Such institutions would be a big step toward the abolition of war. There is developing an international morality that will be satisfied with nothing less than world federation.

For the accomplishment of this great ideal, the establishment of justice in all the relations of all people, do power is so potent as the organized labor movement of the universe. When the working people finally determine that international war shall cease the world will be forever rid of fratricidal strife.

Then and then only will be realized the goal of William Lloyd Garrison: "The best country in the world, our own."