

THE LABOR WORLD

Advertising Rates Made Known on Application. Postoffice at Duluth, Minn., as second class matter. Published Every Saturday. Established in 1896 by Sabrie G. Aikin.

TO THE ADVERTISER. Printers Ink, the highest authority on advertising mediums makes the following statement: "A Labor Paper is a far better advertising medium than any ordinary newspaper in comparison with circulation."

A BIT OF HISTORY. Strange, doesn't it seem that with all the enlightenment the readers of Duluth dailies have been receiving lately on the "science" of private ownership of the Duluth-Edison Electric company and the "unreasonableness" in the "political" activities of the municipal ownership advocates, that the historical aspect of the Electric company's "investments" has been carefully avoided?

The Labor World has already mentioned briefly of how through the apparent machinations of the Duluth-Edison company every move for civic betterment when it had to do with electric lighting, was blocked and two or three times defeated.

Duluth citizens will well remember how in 1905 a bill allowing the people of Duluth to say whether or no they should buy the lighting plant, was killed in the legislative committee in the legislature; again in 1907, how the "Mueller Law" was emasculated so as not to apply to Duluth. In 1909 after the city council had repeatedly endorsed an enabling act, you will remember that the St. Louis county delegation on a mere pretext refused to support such a measure.

The influence of the company over local politics has been told often, and its apparent influence with the press is too noticeable to need any comment. Since the "dailies" have failed to tell their readers of the origin of the Duluth-Edison a brief survey of the history of the lighting system will probably answer the question, "why?"

Up to 1902 the light plant was owned and operated by the Commercial Light and Power company. This company through a failure to pay interest on its bonds was forced into bankruptcy; action being brought by the United States Mortgage & Trust company as trustee for the holders of the first mortgage bonds of the company.

On February 19, 1902, after the court had ordered the plant sold at public auction, the plant was sold to the Duluth General Electric company for \$815,408.92. The president of this newly organized company being A. W. Hartman, while R. R. Dunn was treasurer.

Through an error in playing their cards, this newly organized company, the Duluth General Electric company notified the Court that the real purchaser was J. W. G. Dunn, a relative of R. R. Dunn. Notice now how the game was worked. After the court had changed the record of sale to agree with the contents of the communication, the Duluth General Electric company then bought the plant from J. W. G. Dunn for the sum of \$1,292,000 in bonds and stock of the company. DO YOU GET THAT? This is one of those "investments" the people of Duluth are asked to uphold.

Then came 1906. It became evident to these eminent "business" men that it was necessary to reorganize. February 28, 1906, according to sworn statements, the Duluth General Electric company with A. W. Hartman as president and R. R. Dunn as treasurer owned the plant at a valuation of \$1,458,283.79, which includes the \$476,591.08 watered stock, aforementioned. Now came the Duluth-Edison Electric company, with A. W. Hartman, president and R. R. Dunn treasurer, who purchased the plant on March 1, 1906, 24 hours later at a valuation of \$2,418,019.60. DO YOU GET THAT?

This is another "investment" the people of Duluth are being asked to protect. \$959,735.81, of watered stock poured into this concern over night, making a total of \$1,436,326.89 issued in stocks and bonds with no tangible property to secure them. Can you beat it? The great flood" wasn't in it.

This latter deal, includes an issue of \$50,000 in stocks, representing the "purchase" of the "Prindle Gas" franchise which strange to note turned up in the hands of A. W. Hartman.

Some time before the special election we hope to see an edifying editorial or possibly a letter from the Duluth Edison Electric company, accompanied by a sworn statement from its auditor as to the legitimacy of these sacred "investments" of the concern. Surely the business interests of Duluth have nothing to be proud of and can't possibly gain anything by standing sponsors for the trickery and deceit of such stock manipulations.

Let us repeat that Duluth needs legitimate enterprises and can't afford to longer tolerate the business methods, and political activities of this public service corporation.

HURRAH FOR SUPERIOR.

It is with a great deal of satisfaction that we have learned of the decision of the Superior merchants to close their stores 6 o'clock on Christmas eve. Now let all the Duluth merchants get into line and we can feel like "civilized" beings.

TWO WEEKS TO CHRISTMAS. Do you realize the weeks and days are rapidly growing less between now and Christmas? Don't you think you had better begin your Christmas shopping now? There are several reasons why you should. One reason is because you avoid the crowds and have more time to choose your presents, but the greatest reason is because of the girls in the stores who are compelled to wait on you.

Remember that they love enjoyments such as the "movies" as well as you. You can shop first and then all can go to the "movies" later or wherever else necessary.

Arrange to make your Christmas purchases now and help the 5 o'clock closing, for Christmas eve.

VALUE OF THE LABOR PRESS. (From the Report of the Executive Council to the A. F. of L. Convention in Philadelphia.) There is no more effective way to control men than through their minds. Control over mind-stuff material constitutes control over the lives and destinies of men and women. The material which most largely enters into the creation and the shaping of public opinion is in the pages of the newspapers.

Public opinion is formed almost entirely by the press. Back of the press is an invisible power automatically determining what information shall be published and what suppressed. That power controls the great news-gathering agencies. It extends to the editorial rooms. It is felt in the publishing houses.

To give publicity to the cause of those who contend for reform or humanitarian purposes there must be a press free from the domination of this throttling control. Such a press has been steadily growing in influence and numbers. The number and the character of the labor papers published today are most gratifying. The labor press has been the champion of the workers—the masses of our people; to speak the right word at the right time of those bowed by heavy burdens and weary hearts—the victims of injustice, heedlessness, greed and brutality; those whose cause did not have popular favor.

The labor press has a great work to perform. Its business is to get before the people the real news of life—the truths about living and working. The metropolitan press is largely a commercial undertaking—for it living and working are newspaper materials for stories that appeal to popular interests. For the labor press the point is to make truths about living and working known to everyone. These truths have power to move men and governments.

The labor press must have support and opportunity to accomplish its purpose. Everyone loyal to the cause of labor should feel the duty developing upon him to support financially and morally the labor press that has done so much for the cause and can be enabled to do infinitely more.

THE WORKERS' COVENANT. In the old days there was a curious custom called "The Covenant of Blood." Two young men, finding themselves mutually congenial, submitted to a transfusion of blood. A double compact was written with the commingled drops and worn to the end of life.

The relationship was more enduring than marriage, for it could know no divorce. It was more sacred than the bonds of a common religion, for where it embraced two persons of different faiths, no priest could bring them into antagonism.

Each made of it his mission always to seek the welfare of the other. Absent or present, each lived his part of the double life.

The Brotherhood of Labor should be as close as that of the parties to this ancient covenant.

The relationship of worker to worker is a vital one. They are so bound together in their common interests that one cannot possibly suffer injury without the other being affected.—The Citizen.

WE HAVE 'EM HERE, TOO.

The labor paper of Memphis, Tenn., has an editorial showing up a union member who is employing non-union men in building his residence.

When asked how a strong union man like he was could so forget his professed principles, he replied that he could not afford to pay the "fancy wages" demanded by the unions.

The Citizen has encountered union members in Los Angeles of similar consistency. They argued that they could not afford the "fancy prices" demanded for label goods.

Just now, when work is so slack and business so slow, union members ought to be especially careful to demand the union label and shop working card.—The Citizen.

"RESIGNATION." For general information it may be stated that Edwin T. Harris, upon request, has tendered his resignation to the Socialist party. The action was one of mutual agreement and consequently was very graciously accepted by both parties in the agreement.

Our Christmas number next week.

TO PRESIDENT WILSON

God give us more men like him who holds In fair Columbia's realm the highest place Whose wise diplomacy for peace controls The destinies of millions of our race: Give us such men, men who for pride and gain Would not their brothers near or far oppress, But would their passions brutal e'er restrain By Christian principles which all profess.

The war-crazed nations which are bent, today On bringing death to brothers, and to gain Dominion over them through bloody fray, Columbia's chieftain would in love restrain; And teach the gospel of the Christ who came: The message of good will and peace to bring. And that to live like him is to attain The highest place as subject or as king.

Hail! mighty Chieftain of a nation free, Where people of all nations find a home, And may the purblind eyes of warriors see Through these their wrong, and for it soon atone; Hail! great protagonist of peace and light! The laurel wreath adorns no brow so well As his who stands for justice and for right, And teaches men in love and peace to dwell. Caleb Benham in The Living Church.

HOPE, O BROTHER!

By Marguerite Head. Hope, O Brother, though time be long And turmoil and strife enshroud the earth: For out of the chaos and woe and wrong, Freedom, O Brother, shall come to birth.

Night, O Brother, is not so dark But the comforting light shines forth at morn; And a psalm of joy, like the song of the lark, Shall rise to welcome the day, new-born.

Work, O Brother, for work shall yield A boon to the coming race of men; And the sceptres tyrant rulers wield Shall never oppress the world again.

Clasp, O Brothers, your toll-worn hands; Union hearts is a thing divine, And Brotherhood's service, uniting all lands, Is the noblest work in the world's design.

\$14.75, \$14.75, \$14.75. For \$20 and \$18 Winter Suits and Overcoats at THE BIG DULUTH.

CARL LEGIEN TO SAMUEL GOMPERS

Following is a letter sent by Carl Legien, international secretary of National Trade Union Centers, to President Gompers of the A. F. of L. This letter was brought by Assistant Secretary Meyling and is now published for the first time:

BERLIN, O. 16, "Engelstr. 15, "August 27, 1914.

"My Dear Gompers: I have endeavored by wire and letters to state a few facts of interest to you, in regard to the conditions now existing in Germany. Not knowing, however, whether my communications reached you, I am handing this letter to Brother Meyling, an American, who has been employed in our office for some time.

"I mention the fact that the American press news about our conditions here are absolutely false, in my previous communication to you. You have no doubt, meanwhile received further proof of this statement, for the truth must have been published by now even in your country. I therefore, refrain from repeating previous statements.

"You may rest assured that we have done everything possible to preserve peace, and to prevent war, but unfortunately our power is as yet too feeble and we have not been able to make this terrible war impossible, in which almost all of our civilized nations of Europe are involved. Even Japan has declared war against us, a fact to be proud of in a certain sense, although I doubt whether this can also be said for those who pushed the Japs on the warpath.

"Time alone will judge this action of a so-called civilized nation of Western Europe, or whether it behooves a civilized people to cut German-American cables for the purpose of preventing Germany opposing the most abominable lies that are being circulated by the British and French Press agencies in regard to Germany. I am happy to say that the British working class, as far as they belong to the Organized Labor Movement, have nothing to do with these and similar shameful acts. We learn from occasional news that has leaked through, no direct communication being possible, that the British workers, too, have fought bravely against the war.

"This fact alone will doubtless facilitate the British and German workers joining hands again—as soon as this bloody struggle is ended, to fight for their common interests against the employment must not, and shall not die, although the workers of various lands are compelled today to use deadly weapons against their own

SHOP EARLY Freimuth's This Great Christmas Store Is In Complete Readiness Featuring Christmas Goods in Great Variety and Large Abundance

IN THIS vast holiday bazaar you will find surcease from all uncertainty of what to give. Never have cunning hands and fertile minds evolved so many practical things of intrinsic merit as are displayed here. Each gift selected at our store carries with it the distinction of being proper in taste and correct in quality.

Christmas Handkerchiefs Specially Priced. Hundreds and hundreds of styles are here for your choosing. Here you can find exquisite lace and hand-embroidered ones. Also others galore in borders and initials.

FURS Make A WARM REMEMBRANCE. Rich Fox Fur Sets—in black, at \$22.50, \$35 up to \$100.00. Red Fox—priced at \$39.50 to \$75.00. Mink Sets—at \$45.00 to \$175.00.

The Opening of Toyland. Thousands of our little Duluth friends have enjoyed the sights and splendor of Toyland. They voiced their joy and pleasure by the exclamation: "Oh, how beautiful," and so did their elders as they viewed the many things that have traveled over land and sea to this great home of toys.

ting new life into the unions. "I am writing in haste, not knowing whether you will ever receive this letter. As soon as I get a reply from you, however, perhaps by Brother Appleton, I will write more fully and also send receipts for the money received from Brother Morrison.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP SENTIMENT SPREADING. Frederick S. Hunt, who represented the Milwaukee City club at the recent municipal conferences in Philadelphia and Baltimore, says that sentiment in favor of municipal ownership is spreading rapidly and that it was especially urged by the mayors of Chicago and Cleveland.

French & Bassett Co. ESTABLISHED 1834. First Stand—3rd Ave. W. FURNISH YOUR HOME At the Useful Store. New Home Furnishings and Christmas Novelties At the Lowest Possible Price. Cash or Our New Easy Terms