The most perfect government is one in which an injury to the most menial subject is regarded as an insult to the whole constitution.—Solon.

THE LABOR WORLD

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS.

"For the cause that lacks assistance,
Against the wrongs that need resistance.
For the future in the distance,
And the good that we can do."

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Minn. Historical Soc. State Capitol Bldg. Comp

DOINGS IN STATE HOUSE THIS WEEK

Bill Introduced to Free Wage Earners From Hands of Attorneys.

Among the most important bills to receive the attention of the state legislature since our last publication was the Minnette telephone bill. The bill provides for the operation of all telephone systems in the state under the regulation of the state railroad and warehouse commision which is empowered to force physical connection betwen the different systems. The bill passed the lower house Friday, Feb. 26 with one or two amendments.

One amendment was adopted regarding the admission of a competing telephone company to do business in a town where another is established. This may be done if 65 per cent of the people of the town so vote at a special election. The bill was amended to provide that if 25 per cent of the voters petition the railway commission that body may investigate the feasibility of admitting the competing company and offer its advice to the voters.

Two years ago Governor Eberhart vetoed a similar bill.

Healers Need No License.

A bill introduced in the house by Representive C. L. Sawyer providing for the licensing of healers was withdrawn last Friday because of the great opposition which was stirred up by the Christian Scientists. At a meeting Saturday evening it was stated that a similar bill introduced in the senate by Senator Gjerset was practically dead and the bill introduced by Dr. J. W. Andrews of Mankato would be so amended as to exclude the Scientists.

Divorce for Insanity

An amendment to the divorse laws which would permit divorce after five years of permanent insanity, is embodied in a bill introduced in the house Feb. 26, by Representative John Swanson of Minneapolis. It was referred to the judiciary committee. The bill was introduced "by request."

Amendment Killed.

Representative T. R. Kneeland's bill to submit a constitutional amendment taking away from the state auditor all control over state lands, being the same as was lost at the 1914 electi n, was indefinitely postponed by the senate Friday, 37 to 9. The Kneeland bill provided for taking the management and sale of state swamp and internal improvement lands from the state auditor's office and placing it under a commission, created by the bill. Senator R. C. Dunn of Princeton led the opposition.

Tipping a Misdemeanor.

Tipper and tippee are to be punished alike for the passing of tips in any hotel, restaurant or public place under the terms of a bill introduced by Representative G. W. Burrows. It is made a misdemeanor to give or take a tip. Copies of the law are required to be posted in every hotel, restaurant, dining or sleeping car.

$30,000 For Hog Cholera

Withaut a dissenting vote the house passed a bill carrying an appropriation of $30,000 for the extension of hog cholera serum plant at the state agricultural school and for the establishment of a working fund for manufacturing and distributing the serum to the farmers at cost.

Only 45 Days Left.

The first coferdam across the current of incoming bills will be put up in the house Tuesday, March 9, when

Continued on Page 2.

UNION MAN'S DUTY TOWARDS LABOR PRESS

...of the best tests of the ...f a union man to the ca...e workers, is his attitu... the labor press.

Whe... ...r a union member kno... ...e labor paper, just keep... ...eye open and you are ap... to ...d that he is not doing it for the good of organized labor.

The labor paper is just as vital a part of the labor movement as a labor council or a labor temple.

It may make mistakes and it may not suit every member of the organization it represents. But what institution of labor is without mistakes and just what every member of labor would have it be.

Here's the estimate of Samuel Gompers, the "Grand Old Man of Labor," put on the labor press:

"Publicity is a mighty force in propagating any cause. No matter how worthy or how noble the purpose of the movement, if they can not be correctly interested and brought to the attention of the people the movement loses in effectiveness and force.

"Labor papers have done much to clarify public thought and to impart correct impressions of the purposes and policies of the workers.

"The men giving their time to these labor papers are performing a work very necessary to the success of the organized labor movement.

"Regular and burdensome is the duty whose greatest reward is the satisfaction of promoting the well-being of the workers. Many are the temptations to turn aside for the handful of silver, the office, or the honor offered. But, true to their conscience and humanity's best interests, this group of labor editors stay faithfully by their chosen work and help mold a public opinion and conscience that shall be aware of tendencies and their meaning.

"All the workingmen owe these labor editors both moral and financial support, and honor and gratitude for the services rendered day after day.

"They are doing a work of formative power that will have a telling effect upon history, but their services should be recognized by the men of today as well as in the pages of history."

DUPLICATE EXPENSE ACCOUNT TO CUT WAGE

Grand Chief Stone Discovers $40,000,000 Over Charge in C. M. & P. S. Accounts.

CHICAGO, March 5.—A feature of the arbitration hearings, in which western railroad employes are asking higher wages, was the discovery by Grand Chief Stone, of the engineers' brotherhood, of an overcharge of $40,000,000 in one of the financial exhibits offered by the companies' expert statistician.

This $40,000,000 it seems, constituted an expenditure for extensions and improvements on the Puget Sound division of the Milwaukee lines, prior to its purchase by the parent company, which already had been made a charge on the Puget Sound company's books. According to Mr. Stone the item was duplicated in the Milwaukee road's estimates and thus something of $40,000,000 more than should be shown was included in the total. The companies' expert could not explain this.

High Finance Exposed.

There also was a disclosure regarding the practices of various western roads of frequently paying dividends out of surplus instead of from income. Grand Chief Stone quoted figures showing total dividends out of income, for the year ended June 30, 1914, of $146,155,706. He added that the Illinois Central and St. Paul lines were shown to have paid their dividends from surplus and he added that the following companies had also paid dividends in that year from surplus:

The Rock Island, $1,871,762; Missouri, Kansas and Texas, $261,429; "Soo" road, $2,646,714; St. Louis and Southwestern, $3,084,375, and the Union Pacific, $74,020,372. The grand total of dividends from surplus to shareholders on these roads in 1914 was $79,835,669.

"The point is simply this," said the brotherhood official. "If dividends to stockholders can be paid and are paid from surplus in times of depression, why should not wage increases for employes be made in the same way?"

CONGRESS MAY LOOK INTO TEXTILE MILLS

System of Virtual Peonage Is Practiced by Georgia Mill Owners.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 5.—The strike against the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill of this city is being vigorously contested by the 1,400 textile workers who struck May 20 last.

The two principle issues involved is the right to join a trade union and to wipe out the pernicious contract system which every employe is forced to accede to as a condition of employment. That this contract legalizes peonage is the conclusion of every unbiased person acquainted with its workings. It permits the company to always hold back one week's wages. If the employe leaves his or her employment for any cause, without giving one full week's notice, the week's wages is forfeited to the company, while on the other hand the company retains the right to discharge an employe at any time without giving cause for discharge. The charge has not been denied that thousands upon thousands of dollars have been filched from employes through this one-sided contract.

Old Tactics of "Wellfare."

When the workers struck, the company began evicting them from the mill shacks in which they live. The United Textile Workers union immediately purchased a number of army tents and established a tent colony not a great distance from the mill. A strong picket line has been continuously maintained. On several occasions the strikers have been driven from the public streets surrounding the mill by mounted police, but they have insisted on their right to peacefully picket on the public thoroughfares.

The strike has been brought to the attention of Congress through a resolution introduced by Congressman Greene, who asks that the Atlanta textile mills be investigated. Two mediators, representing the Federal department of labor, have been working for the past several months in an effort to adjust differences, but as yet have not been successful, the company rejecting every proposal to either mediate or arbitrate. The strikers are determined to fight rather than submit to conditions under which they were compelled to work.

At the Philadelphia convention of the A. F. of L. this strike was one of three for which a special appeal was ordered issued to the various affiliates. Valuable moral and financial support has followed and the strike has aroused interest not only in the southern states, but all over the country.

ORGANIZE BARBERS.

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 5.—The barbers of this city have organized and their first contract is being generally signed by employers.

COLORADO STRIKE REPORT ALTERED; 3 REFUSE TO SIGN

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Three members of the house committee which investigated the Colorado strike have refused to sign the revised report which President Wilson has prepared, it is declared.

The president read the original report, and fearing that it would antagonize the mine owners and probably the strikers as well, it is alleged, redrafted the report in the hope of smoothing out the disagreeable elements.

His changes in the context of the report have been so material, it is reported, that the members of the subcommittee have flatly refused to sanction it as a truthful record of their investigations.

Many Changes Made.

The Wilson report is in the hands of Representative Martin D. Foster, Illinios, chairman of the mines and mining committee of the house, and also chairman of the Colorado strike subcommittee.

Since Foster wrote his first report, he has made so many trips to the white house, and, it is said, the president has made so many changes that as it now stands it is practically the work of the president. It contains more than 400 pages and every phase of the strike is considered.

Neither the mine owners nor the strikers are held responsible for conditions. Both are held jointly responsible and are urged to "get together" and settle all the differences.

The president's action in sending federal troops into the strike region is heartily commended.

Report is Evasive.

The report evades discussion of the particular questions which the house ordered investigated and does not make any recommendations for congressional action. The house ordered the committee to ascertain:

First. Whether any system of peonage exists in the coal fields.

Second. Whether postal services and facilities have been or are being interfered with or obstructed.

Third. Whether the immigration laws of the country have been or are being violated.

Fourth. If citizens have been arrested, tried or convicted contrary to or in violation of the constitution or the laws.

Fifth. Investigate and report whether the conditions in the coal fields have been caused by agreements and combinations entered into contrary to the laws of the United States for the purpose of controlling the production, sale, and transportation of coal.

SEAMEN'S BILL PASSED BY UNITED STATES SENATE

WASHINGTON, March 5.—The seamen's bill, providing for a higher standard of safety at sea and better working conditions for the sailors, was passed by the senate today without a roll call. The bill already has been adopted by the house and now needs only the president's signature to make it a law.

ATTEMPT TO ADJUST STRIKE.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., March 5.—Officials connected with the state labor commissioner's office are attempting to adjust the strike of oil tank builders. Nearly 2,000 men are involved. State Labor Commissioner Eshton reports that the conditions which caused the strike are "very bad."

PEACE FEDERATION URGES A CONFERENCE

Would Have Wilson Call Conclave of Neutral Nations to Plan War's End.

CHICAGO, March 5.—Resolutions asking President Wilson to call a conference of neutral nations to attempt to end the European war, were passed by the Emergency Peace federation last Sunday night and plans were made for the organization of a permanent body to be known as the national peace organization. A resodution protesting against any increase of armament in the United States also was passed.

The new organization committed itself to these principles:

"1—Favoring a concert of nations instead of alliances providing for a balance of power.

"2—Abolition of armament and prohibition of the manufacture of ammunition for belligerents.

"3—Protection for private property at sea.

"4—Self-government and universal adult suffrage.

"5—Prohibition of the transfer of provinces except by the consent of the people.

"6—No alliances to be entered in by nations except after approval of the people."

The resolution expresses the belief that the time has come for an extension of the principle of neutrality by a conference of neutral nations.

NEW JERSEY WORKERS CONDITIONS BAD

(A. F. of L. News Service.)

ROOSEVELT, N. J., March 5.—"No man could support a wife and family on the wages they had been getting," said Dr. Max Jacoby before the state legislative committee, which is investigating living conditions among employes of the American Agricultural Chemical company, who struck to have a wage cut of 40 cents a day restored, and who were successful after they organized a union affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

The witness said conditions were "indescribably bad," that disease was rampant, and that malaria and tuberculosis were so common that these cases did not even excite pity. The chemical fumes in which the men worked weakened the throat, lungs and intestines, so that they became susceptible to disease.

"Men and women die from tuberculosis right along, after exposing others to do it," said Dr. Jacoby.

Little attention, the witness continued, was paid to sick children, and physicians were seldom summoned, except when a child was dying, and then "more to insure a proper death certificate than with any hope of saving the life of the child."

Children were born, Dr. Jacoby asserted, amid conditions indescribable for their filth and sordidness. Large families lived in three or four small rooms, with sometimes three or four beds in each rooms, with no ventilation nor privacy.

The physician declared that "almost every family had to keep boarders in order to exist," and that "the general conditions led to much immortality."

"DIVIDE AND CONQUER"

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Anti-union forces that have devoted every energy in denying workers the right to exercise their normal activities, and who have been defeated in their efforts by the American Federation of Labor's insistance that the Clayton bill be passed, have changed front and are now posing as "friends" of the Danbury hatters, while maintaining, at the same time, their well-known hostility toward the A. F. of L.

In an unsigned circular, entitled "What Does Unionism Mean?" these anti-unionists are mailing throughout the country a document consisting of "inspired" articles from a New York and Boston paper, written by their Washington correspondents, in which the A. F. of L. is put in the position of attempting to delude the hatters in their numerous court suits.

The purpose of these circulars is apparent and is in line with the theory so long practiced by opponents of the trade union movement, "Divide and Conquer."

MUST CALL STRIKES TO AFFECT PEACE

Labor Conditions In Island State Vile. Housing Facilities Especially Bad.

(A. F. of L. News Service.)

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, March 5.—"The remedy will be to strike, and again strike!" declares Justicia, official newspaper of the union federation in this city, while discussing labor conditions in Porto Rico.

The paper continues:

"The houses of the majority of rural workers are merely a framework of poles, covered with the bark of palm trees and with dried leaves, and thatched with palm leaves or a tough grass which is found all over the island. These houses are sometimes built on the ground, but more frequently they have a board floor made of palm. This floor is raised from the ground so as to permit the rain water to flow under the house, and often the house is built on a slight incline. The house invariably is one story in height, and usually consists of one 20 feet square. This room, especially if it is large, is sometimes divided by a partition into two freely communicating rooms. Even where there is a partition, there is, as a rule, no division of the sexes, since in such cases all the family live, and often work, in one of these rooms during the day and sleep in the other at night. The influence of these conditions upon the sexual impulses of adolescent children is not favorable."

Strike is Only Cure.

After reviewing the deplorable conditions under which island workers exist, the article closes as follows;

"If, however, the island be utilized merely for primarily as a means of providing opportunities for investment and commercial exploitation by Americans, Spaniards, Porto Ricans and other citizens; if the policy of educating the people be held up on account of its expense and alleged uselessness; if the standard of living of the people be not raised, the condition of Porto Rican laboring class after one hundred or two hundred years will be no better than it was in the year 1898, when the sovereignty of Spain gave way to the dominion of the United States of America.

"Then the remedy will be to strike and again strike!"

UNION PRINTERS' STAND INDORSED

Former Employer of Union Typos Gives Valuable Advice to Southern Publishers

NEW ORLEANS, March 5.—Printers on strike against three daily papers in this city are standing firm, despite the refusal of publishers to except the offer of the federal department of labor to arbitrate differences, which arose over the attempt of the printers to enforce a five-day law, without cost to the publishers, to relieve their out-of-work members.

The union has started a daily paper, which is proving a success. Officers of the International Typographical union have been asking prominent citizens throughout the country to assist them in creating a sentiment for arbitration, and in response to this request Congressman Reilly of Connecticut wrote Robert Ewing, publisher of the Daily States, to this effect. The eastern lawmaker said: "From what little I know of the case, it would appear to me the proper thing to do."

Publisher Rejects Advice.

The publisher replied: "As you admit you know little about the case of the publishers and the printers of New Orleans, it is rather surprising to me that you should pass on the matter and proffer your advice and suggestions about a controversy that we consider vital to the very existance of the newspapers of this city. In order that you may better inform yourself than you have been able to do, I am inclosing you statements of both the printers and the publishers on the matter, published in the New Orleans press."

In answer to the above Congressman Reilly said:

"After a careful reading of both statements, I am more convinced than ever that the suggestion in my first letter recommending arbitration is well advised. I am frank to say that I know considerable more now of the situation, thankh to your information, than I did when I wrote you first. The particular thing that I understand better is that, without without expense to the newspaper publishers of New Orleans, the Typographical union desired to get employment two days a week for the unemployed members of their craft.

"As a newspaper man of thirty years' experience, as secretary for over twenty-five years of a newspaper publishing company employing Typographical union printers and operators, I am surprised at the stand taken in this matter by the New Orleans publishers. In these times of depression it would appear to me that any effort, especially one as fair as the one under consideration, to give work to unemployed, should receive the heartiest support instead of opposition of newspaper owners.

"The other minor differences between you and your printers, in my opinion, amount to very little. The supreme issue in this case being the desire of the union to help their unemployed brothers, I am sure that public opinion will be greatly in favor of the union in this matter."

WILL EMPLOY UNION LABOR.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., March 5.—At the request of organized labor, the common council has passed a resolution providing that a clause be placed in all contracts led by the city requiring the employment of union labor.

HIGH FEVER AND DELIRIUM ON WAR PROBLEM

By HERBERT QUICK.

It may be that at some time within a generation or so the United States has been in danger of attack; but nobody can truthfully say that he knows of such a danger. Colonel Roosevelt has stated recently, according to the press, that he has seen plans for the invasion of the United States made by the military experts of two nations. That is quite likely. No doubt the records of our military colleges at West Point and Fort Riley will disclose to persons given access to them, plans for the invasion by the United States of every great nation on earth. It is by making such plans that the game of war is learned. Doubtless the experts of Britain have plans on file for the invasion of the United States from Canada; but it can scarcely be claimed that such things have any bearing on the question of our military policy. They are a part of the course of study. A student, may plan a trip to Mars with no intention of taking it.

Let us use a little of the national sanity of which we boast. Is there now any danger of attack on the United States? What reason have we for thinking that there is greater danger now than last year, or ten years ago? What nation is likely to attack us? What nation is able to attack us? What nation has anything to gain by attacking us?

Let us consider the nations separately, that we may be guilty of no offense to the people of any of them.

Where is the Danger?

Is there danger from Britain? In spite of the fact that we have had more wars with her than with any other nation, no sane man will say that there is now any danger of attack from her. Public opinion rules in the British Empire, and it has been growing more and more friendly for a generation. It cannot be conceived that this public opinion will call for aggression against us for a generation to come. If the growing sympathies between our peoples were not a sufficient safeguard, the exhaustion of the war against Germany and Austria will force Britain to seek the ways of peace for a long time after it is over.

Is there danger from Germany? If there ever was such danger, it is over now for a very long time, and perhaps forever. The only source of friction between us and our German cousins has been over the Monroe Doctrine; and since the present war began, for the first time in history, German diplomats have recognized the principle of this peculiar American policy, even to the extent of disclaiming any intentions upon Canada in case Britain should be crushed in the conflict. And when will Germany be able to undertake such operations as would be involved in an attack upon us, even if any good cause for attack existed? It will be a long, long time. She will be concerned with building up her domestic and nearer foreign relations until the child born yesterday comes of age.

Is there danger from Russia? Our treaty relations with the Czar's government are not all that might be desired; but her diplomats are according to our commerce the "most favored nation" privilege, even after the abrogation of the treaty. Advances have been made for a new commercial treaty. Russia seems willing to make a treaty satisfactory to us. Moreover, while Russia's military power will probably be, at the end of this war, greater than ever before in her history, she will have no navy comparable to ours, and even if she had a motive for attacking us, which she has not, such attack could not be made on terms which would give her even a remote prospect of success. There can be no danger from Russia until two things shall make their appearance—a motive for the attack, and a navy with which to make it. The former will probably never occur, and the latter cannot for many years.

How About Japan?

Is there danger from Japan? The Japanese government has been considerably concerned over the alien laws of the Pacific Coast, and her diplomats have not allowed the matter to lapse into a consent on her part to what is regarded in Tokio as a reflection on the race. At the same time, there is no reason for believing that Japan has ever designed the use of force in the matter. The Japanese are a very proud race, and feel keenly any imputation on the national honor. But the same question has arisen between Japan and some of the British dominions, and a better understanding is surely coming into existence. It is certain that Japan could not expect to retain the friendship of Britain in such a contest—and the British alliance is very important to Japan. Moreover, the time has never arrived when efforts to make an adjustment of the matter became hopeless. California and the Pacific Coast would surely accommodate themselves to diplomatic requirements if it is certain to be limited to numbers which would be unobjectionable.

There is reason for hoping that a plan governing all emigration will be adopted, limiting the number of admissions to a percentage of people of any nation already in the United States. There are perfectly cogent reasons for such regulations—and if adopted they would dissipate the danger of excessive immigration from the Far East, give the Coast states the security they are warranted in asking, and meet the requirements of Japan's perfectly nautral and justifiable amour propre. Moverover, Japan is in no condition financially to undertake any war not actually forced upon her, and will not be for many years. She understands fully, that while her navy and ours are not unequal in power, her army is much stronger than ours, and that she could overrun the Phillippines and probably Hawaii before we could successfully oppose her; but she also knows the unconquerable spirit and enormous national pride of the United States, and that such a war would be one which would go on for years while the enormous latent resources of this country were being mobilized. She will not stake her welfare on any such speculation unless war is forced upon her. We shall not force it on her.

In addition to these considerations, Japan has incurred the bitterest enmity of Germany by the conquest of Kiao-Chau—a feud which is likely to constitute a danger to the peace of the world when Germany emerges from the exhaustion of either defeat or victory. In gaining the enmity of Germany, Japan has not removed the Russian menace from her horizon—in fact, a revitalized Russia will hold lands all along Japan's continental frontier, in a juxtaposition made more ominous by the traditional policy of Russia to keep her domains increasing. Just the extent to which this war is sapping the resources of Japan cannot be told, but its burden on a people already taxed more mercilessly than any other in the world when their ability to pay is considered, must be severe. It is hard to discern how a sane man can suspect any danger of an attack on us by Japan. If there ever has been such a danger, which seems very improbable, that danger is now past for many years at least, and it is to be hoped forever.

No Fear From France.

With France, there is not the slightest danger of trouble, or with Austria-Hungary, or Italy. The present tension in our relations with Turkey holds no potentialities calling for increased armaments. Our hostilities with Spain are over forever, for several reasons—one of which is the recession of Spain as a world power, and another the loss by her of her American possessions along our coasts. The other nations of Europe need not be mentioned; for so far as our contact with them is concerned it is such as to lead to no friction, and on the sea we are superior to all of them. This disposes of Europe, Africa, and Asia—for China is not yet a military or naval power.

In America our relations are better than for many years. We have recognized the interests of the "A.B.C." group in American affairs by taking part with them in the Nigara Falls conference. While the armed forces in Mexico are rather formidable, they are not threatening to us so long as we do not intervene in Mexico—and with Mexico and all the republics to the South we have adopted a policy of patience and forbearance which is slowly winning their frendship and clearing away their suspicions. Whatever call there was for intervention in Mexico is now, to the minds of most Americans, a thing of the past. It has come to be the feeling of nine citizens out of ten that whatever may be the losses to Americans through the unfortunate turbulence of Mexican internal affairs, they are not so great as would be the losses we should sustain by any attempt forcibly to right them.

This disposes of the world. Never within the memory of man has a peaceful policy been so safe for us as now. There is nowhere on earth a nation strong or weak with the motive of attacking us, and few strong enough to do so if the motive existed. Even in our state of unpreparedness, an attack on us is sure a fearful thing to contemplate to an exhausted and war-worn fellowship of nations that the danger may be regarded as nil, for many years to come.

Feverish Deliriums.

And yet, the fever and delirium of of war has so far engendered mob-psychology in us that the cry for a great army and a mighty navy is louder, if not more general, than for a long time. It is as senseless as the action of the man who runs for his gun when he sees every possible foe disarmed or gasping in exhaustion after a free fight.

Even if we expect to adopt a policy of "preparedness," the sane thing now is to wait, because we can do so safely. The whole machinery of war is on the proving grounds of the battlefields, now, and if we begin a great program of warlike construction, we are sure to build unwisely. Shall we build forts? There is some reason to think that forts are no longer of any use; and every reason to believe that they will have to be built on new plans which have not yet been worked out. Shall we build dreadnoughts? Or submarines? Who knows until after this war is over what sort of warships will be absolete? Shall we build navies for the air? We do not know whether the monoplane, the biplane, the Dunn airship, the small heavier-than-air machine or the large, the hydro-aeroplane, the non-rigid dirig-

(Continued on Page 3.)