

The trade union is a standing challenge to that miserable old cynicism, "Every man for himself, and the devil take the hindmost."

THE LABOR WORLD

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS.

Labor is a necessity to Human existence; being such it is obvious that under natural conditions it should be a pleasure, not a penance.

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STATE INSURANCE BILL GETS HEARING

W. E. McEwen Speaks Before Employers' Liability Committee in Favor of Jones Bill.

ST. PAUL, March 26.—The Jones state insurance bill was the subject of a public hearing in the senate chamber last week. Strong arguments were made on behalf of a state insurance scheme such as is proposed by Senator Jones of Duluth in the bill now before the senate. W. E. McEwen, former labor commissioner, W. C. Colver, managing editor of the St. Paul Daily News, Dr. John A. Ryan of St. Paul, Senator Pones, J.E. Emme and A. E. Smith, representing the St. Paul Trades assembly and the Machinists' union respectively made strong arguments on behalf of the bill.

The committee on employers' liability to whom the bill was referred will likely report the bill out immediately after the senate passes upon the present workmen's compensation law as amended by the conference of employers and employes.

Insurance Companies Prosper.
It was shown at the hearing that approximately \$1,200,000 was paid by the employers in premiums to the liability insurance companies, and that only \$444,000 of this sum was returned by the insurance companies in the payment of losses. In other words, only about 40 per cent of the amount paid by employers under the present law are paid out to the injured workmen.

As a matter of fact, this sum is still further reduced when it is remembered that Minnesota has retained the court system of settling claims, a scheme borrowed from New Jersey. In dwelling upon this point, Mr. Jones, author of the bill, stated that there were no available statistics in Minnesota, but that three years experience in New Jersey under a court system similar to ours, at least 20 per cent of the amount paid to the insurance companies by employers went for court expenses and attorneys fees.

It is safe to assume that on the whole, the injured workman does not receive more than thirty per cent of the sums appropriated by the employer for the purpose of insurance.

Not Much Improvement.
Under the antiquated employers' liability system at least 30 per cent went to the injured man. The present system in Minnesota was adopted in order to eliminate the waste of the old system. It can be seen however, that while the personal injury lawyer has been to some extent eliminated, the insurance company remains and that social justice will not be obtained until every element of waste is wiped out.

The advocates of state insurance argued that under the proposed Jones bill, modeled after the Ohio law, a higher rate of compensation would be paid to injured workmen at a reduced cost to the employer than under the present system.

Mr. Colver had figures to show that employers were paying about twice as high a rate to insurance companies in this state as employers engaged in similar kinds of business were paying into the state insurance fund in Ohio. Mr. McEwen stated that under the state insurance scheme the only

HOUSE DEFEATS COUNTY DIVISION

Efforts to Split St. Louis County Are Overwhelmingly Defeated by Vote of 84 to 32.

County division met its Waterloo last Tuesday in the house when it was defeated by a vote of 84 to 32. During the discussion of the bill considerable feeling was aroused between the Duluth delegation and range representatives. Representatives W. L. Bernard and E. R. Ribenack led the opposition to the bill while Representative Scott of Hibbing made the fight for the inhabitants in the northern end of the county.

Among those interested in the bill who were present were Power of Hibbing and D. McEachin. From Duluth, Col. Eva, L. B. Arnold, C. C. M. Hughes and Harris were in attendance.

Speeches filled with sarcasm and invectives were made by representatives from the Duluth representative contingent themselves by telling the history of the development of St. Louis county and made reference to what was termed "reckless waste of money" by the range towns. Some stereotyped speeches were made but all had a great influence in determining the vote of the house.

The overwhelming defeat of the bill has put the damper on those with designs for the splitting of the county.

PASS WAGE ORDINANCE IN CITY OF PORTLAND

PORTLAND Ore., March 26.—The municipal council has passed a wage ordinance, despite opposition by the Employers' association, which representative was hissed when he charged Mayor Albee with "playing politics" because he favored it. The mayor said:

"There is only one basis for solving the industrial question, and that is to give a man a decent wage by which he may have plenty to eat, may educate his children and may set aside something for old age. Industrial conditions will never be permanently settled until we get on that basis."

In urging the adoption of the ordinance, President Smith of the Central Labor Council said:
"It is strange that when an employer cuts the wages of the men working for him that it is called 'business' but when these same men come to the employer and ask for better wages and conditions it is called 'socialism' and very often if the requests are granted the action is heralded to the world as philanthropy."

The new ordinance provides that the city's scale of wages shall be the standard for laborers on public work under contract.

Charge against the fund contributed by the employers into the state fund would be the actual cost of administration and the creation of a reserve. He reviewed the history of the struggle for workmen's compensation laws and stated that it was his firm conviction that a state insurance plan was the only solution to the problem.

THE REX AND LYRIC THEATERS DO NOT EMPLOY UNION MEN

Furniss in Public Statement Tells But Half a Truth. Union Operators Refused Membership to Man Who Persisted in "Scabbing"—Pickets Doing Good Work.

The attention of the public is called to the fact that the Rex and Lyric theaters do not employ union labor. Further that the manager of these two houses has stated but half truths in his statements to the public as will be shown herein.

October 8, 1914 the contract signed by the manager of the Rex and Lyric theaters carried with it a verbal understanding concerning one Andrew Modin a motion picture machine operator. Modin had previous to Oct. 8, 1914 filed an application with the operators local which was not accompanied with the usual initiation fee of \$10. Pending action by the local on this application Modin went to work in a West End theater which at that time was declared unfair to organized labor.

In other words Modin "scabbed" on the operators organization. Between this time and Oct. 8, Modin on two occasions worked in unfair houses. Consequently when his application was tendered to the union on Oct. 8 it was rejected. The verbal understanding with Mr. Furniss was that in case Modin was not accepted to membership the union would allow him to work in any capacity about the theater except in the operating room.

Immediately after signing the agreement with the union the manager of the theaters changed his mind and retained Modin at the head of the operating room.

Mr. Furniss states that on sign-

ing the contract that he was told he was the second exclusive motion picture exhibitor in Duluth to sign their scale.

There were in operation at that time six exclusive motion picture houses. The Rex, the Lyric, the Sunbeam, the Savoy, Zelta, Diamond and Happy Hour theaters. Mr. Furniss owns two of these houses while two others are under one management, what Mr. Furniss was told we do not presume to say. However, he was the fourth manager to sign and then only after he had failed to prevent other managers from signing.

Referring to the matter of Andrew Modin again. Section 2 of the agreement as Mr. Furniss states calls for an arbitration of disputed points. As Mr. Furniss further states his final choice for his representative was Jacques, Jr., who practically made no effort to choose a third party to listen to arbitration hearings. Two weeks time was given by the union to Mr. Jacques to come to some sort of an understanding. After repeated efforts on the part of the representative of the union to reach an agreement, negotiations were necessarily and logically called off and the operator at the Lyric walked out of the theater.

If Mr. Furniss was so solicitous toward his union employees why did he not make some effort to adjust matters promptly.

If as he states his employees were treated so fairly in regards to wages and hours, how comes it that there has been no breaks in

the ranks of the striking operators.

It is quite evident that the pickets of the operators union are doing a good work and their work is beginning to have results. Surely Mr. Furniss was mistaken as to patrons saying anything about "doing it to Duluth." The "patrons" were referring to the stubborn attitude of the manager who says "I have made up my mind not to pay any attention to this proposition whatever."

That every effort was made by the union and the Federated Trades Council to have this matter adjusted is evidenced by the fact that negotiations were carried on until Dec. 6 when the operators withdrew their services. The theaters were not declared unfair until Dec. 20 when the Musicians Organization were obliged to leave the employ of Mr. Furniss in order to retain their self-respect as men.

At least three operators have been hired by Mr. Furniss from St. Paul and Minneapolis. One of these men being a member of the Minneapolis local was not allowed to go to work by the union and is now in Seattle. One other, from St. Paul a notorious "scab" was discharged, if we are correctly informed for destroying a reel of film. The statement as to paying larger salaries to operators than any other manager in the city is not true and can be easily proven untrue by operators who have heretofore worked in the Rex and Lyric theaters.

WORLD'S LARGEST RADIO U. S. OWNED

WASHINGTON, March 26.—During the week the United States Navy's radio station on the Panama canal, the largest and most powerful in the world, has been put into commission. The new station is one of five large plants with which the secretary of the navy will be kept in constant communication with every naval station and ship on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

From Washington messages can be flashed to Alaska on the north, Strait of Magellan in the extremity of South America, to any European station on the east, or across the Pacific to Manila, China or Japan.

Dr. L. W. Austin, the department's expert, who has charge of opening the Panama station, has reported that he

has been picking up the German war bulletin which has been sent from Hanover to the Bayville station.

With \$1,500,000 which was authorized by the naval appropriation of last session, the navy department plans to establish stations of as great power and radius as that of Panama at San Diego, Ca., Honolulu, Manila, and possibly at Guam.

The Arlington station is to be brought up to the standard of the one on the canal.

Within a short time it will have stations on both coasts not more than 200 miles apart.

MISSOURI LEGISLATORS PASS SUFFRAGE BILL

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., March 26.—A constitutional amendment providing for woman suffrage was passed by the lower house of the Missouri legislature. If the measure passes the senate it will be submitted to a popular referendum in November, 1916.

WANTED!

Wanted, very badly right throughout the world, a thorough overhaul of that strange sentiment known as patriotism, which is responsible for segregating nations, causing misunderstanding, and nurturing false impressions, and through whose parochial agency the savagery of war alone is possible. Give us instead that wider patriotism that will make men realize their common brotherhood of race, and their citizenship not of a little area only, but of the whole world.—The Worker, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

COMPENSATION ACT DEBATED IN SENATE

Senator Jones Offers Amendments—Doesn't Like Recommendations of Conference.

ST. PAUL, March 26.—After a number of public hearings covering the entire subject of workmen's compensation, the senate committee on employers' liability passed favorably upon the amendments to the present law as proposed by the conference of representatives of the Minnesota Employers' association, the mining companies, the Department of Labor and the Minnesota State Federation of Labor.

Chief among the proposed changes is the one raising the minimum of compensation from \$5.00 per week to \$8.50 per week, and the maximum from \$10.00 to \$11.00 per week. The minimum of \$6.50 cannot be considered as a real minimum, however, owing to the fact that if an employee who is injured receives less than the minimum of \$6.50 per week as his wages, then he shall receive as compensation the full amount of his wages.

Ohio Law Stronger.
The Ohio law fixes \$5.00 as the minimum, but no injured employee can receive less than this sum per week. The Ohio law also contains a provision that the Industrial Commission, which has the work of distributing the funds under its control, may take into consideration the fact that an injured employee's earning power might increase were it not for the injury, and the commission has the power to review the case and increase the compensation. The Minnesota law does not contain such a feature.

Fully three-fourths of the amendments proposed by the conference are merely to clarify the language of the old law. This, of course, is an advantage but the concessions made to labor by the conference are as a whole disappointing to those who desire to obtain a compensation act that really would compensate an injured workman and his dependents.

Jones Offers Amendments.
An attempt was made in the committee to report the bill with the proposed amendments as a committee bill, but this was frustrated by Senator Jones of Duluth who is far from satisfied with the amendments proposed by the conference. The St. Louis county senator refused to consent to the proposal of the other members of the committee and gave notice that he would offer at least six amendments on the floor of the senate. It is thought that the house and senate will concur in the report of the committee because of the fact that representatives of all parties participated in the conference and are presumably satisfied with the results.

The law as amended will provide that an injured workman shall receive 50 per cent of his daily wages not to exceed \$11.00 per week. Senator Jones will attempt to have the senate adopt an amendment increasing this to 66 and two-thirds per cent, the figure paid under the Ohio law.

Another amendment which he will offer is one fixing the maximum at \$15.00 per week, and making the minimum of \$6.50 stationary, or at least to include a provision such as is contained in the Ohio bill to the effect that the court may take into consideration the fact that an injured employee's earning power would in-

JITNEY BUS SYSTEM CAUSES STIR IN WEST

Report On Autobus In Vancouver Shows Loss of Revenue to Street Railway.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Jitney buses are seriously affecting the income of the Vancouver street car company, according to Consul General R. E. Mansfield, stationed in the British Columbia metropolis, who makes an extended report on this subject to the Federal department of commerce.

The consul general says there are about 350 buses operating on city and suburban lines. The financial feature of the new movement is discussed as follows:

Earnings Large.
"The average daily earnings are reported to be \$8 for each car, an aggregate of over \$80,000 per month. This competition has reduced the earnings of the electric railway and also effected the city revenues, as the municipality receives a percentage of the earnings of the street railway company, aggregating \$3,000 per month, in normal times. The report of the British Columbia Electric Railway company, which has an exclusive franchise in Vancouver, for January of this year, shows that during the month there was a decrease of 1,138,333 in the number of passengers carried as compared with the corresponding period last year, when 3,364,962 passengers were carried.

Street Railway Profits Cut.
"In January, 1913, the street car company paid to the city \$2,766 as the city's percentage of the profits; this year the check amounts only to \$1,816, a decrease of 33 1/2 per cent. The city's loss at the end of 1915, if this rate is maintained throughout the year, will amount to about \$30,000.

"The establishment of an autobus system in Vancouver has provided employment for a large number of men, and brought into use automobiles owned by people who were unable to maintain touring cars for pleasure. The rapid increase in the number of jitney buses since they first made their appearance in Vancouver and the increasing popularity of motor cars as a means of cheap transportation will soon give them a monopoly in passenger traffic on the streets of the city."

WEST VIRGINIA COAL MINERS SIGN CONTRACT

CINCINNATI, March 26.—Operators and representatives of 15,000 miners in the New River West Virginia coal fields averted a strike by signing a four-year agreement. It is the longest peace pact ever drawn by the miners and operators.

crease were it not for the injury, and thus enable the court to increase the compensation in deserving cases.

An amendment will be offered allowing compensation after the first week of injury, instead of two weeks as is now the case. Medical attention during sickness will be asked for instead of limiting the pecuniary liability of employers to \$200.

The present Minnesota law does not cover vocational diseases and Senator Jones will attempt to amend the definition of "injury" to cover cases of vocational or occupational diseases.

The bill was made a special order in the senate for Thursday of this week, and is being debated as The Labor World goes to press.

ROUND TABLE REVIEW OF COURTS AND LABOR

Last Saturday a round table discussion took place at the home of W. R. Rubin a well known attorney in Milwaukee, on courts in their relations to labor problems.

The meeting was unique and interesting in every way. Among those present who took part in the discussion were, John G. Frey, editor of the International Molders Union Journal; Professor Hoxie of the Chicago University and a member of the United States commission on industrial relations, Chief Justice Winslow of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, W. C. Zabel, District Attorney of Milwaukee county, D. W. Hoan, City Attorney of Milwaukee, Judge A. C. Backus and W. R. Rubin.

The following synopsis of the views expressed by the principal participants is taken from the columns of the Milwaukee Journal.

What Can the District Attorney Do for Labor?

By W. C. Zabel.
Perhaps a complete answer to the question embodied in the title would be to say that the best he can do is to do his duty.
The rights of labor, like those of the individual, have been more or less changed, and have been afforded more or less protection by modern legislation. The purpose of labor has been to improve labor conditions, to protect

the lives of those engaged in the industrial pursuits, to raise the standard of living and improve sanitary conditions as well as to bring about a higher standard of efficiency in the particular trade or calling. Yet a law of itself is a dead thing. Unless the officials charged with the enforcement of the law breathe life into it, it will remain a dead thing upon the statute books, and the purposes to be achieved by that piece of legislation will never be accomplished.

It may be said that a district attorney's duty is plain. When a law is violated, the arrest of the violator should follow. Yet in the exercise of his discretion and judgment, if his training, his early associates and previous environment cause him to look with disfavor upon his class of legislation, if he sticks closely to precedent of ancient times, in which property was held of more importance than human life, and in which the freedom of contract was held sacred, though that district attorney may be honest in his convictions, he will be slow to recognize the importance and value of that law, and instead of a vigorous, enthusiastic enforcement we may find either a weak, half-hearted support given to the very class directly affected by its enforcement, or none at all.

There are also times when he plays a still more important part in his relations toward labor; and this arises when a community is torn asunder by industrial warfare between the employed and the employer. It is particularly in times of industrial disturbance that the district attorney should take no sides in favor of one or the other of the warring elements. If it be known that he will view the rights of labor as impartially as the rights

of property, much riot, much bloodshed and a great deal of lawlessness, which only too frequently accompany labor disturbances, will be prevented. If the criminal laws be applied impartially against both sides when either violates them, it will do more to shorten strikes and labor disturbances and to prevent outlaws, than perhaps any other factor.

Labor Leader and the Courts

By John P. Frey.
(Editor International Molders' Journal.)
Those who control the mechanisms by which the labor of others can be converted into profits and wages have for centuries given their attention, and with much success, to the enactment of legislation which would safeguard their property and enable them to so use and apply it as to secure still more. Unfortunately there has not been an equal development of legislative and judicial protection to the workmen's rights as human beings and citizens. That this should be so is not surprising in view of the historical fact that the courts have certainly been in the limelight during the past eight or ten years; perhaps the simile would be more accurate if we were to say that they have been upon the gridiron, or on the firing line.
I think the harsh critics forget or never have quite appreciated the fact that by its very nature a court must be conservative. A constitution or a law will not be changed until conditions and public opinion change. It will never lead public opinion, but always follow, and follow at a distance.
Curbing of Corporations.
The first serious attempt to curb corporate privilege in Wisconsin was

without capital who were striving to secure a larger share of the wealth which their labor had produced. It was not until 1824 that the laws making labor organizations illegal conspiracies were repealed in Great Britain. Collective action by workmen is still regarded as an illegal conspiracy, and decisions by American courts have shown a tendency to deny rights to wage earners which are permitted to owners of capital.

Democracy in Industry

If the workers who compose the great mass of our people are to make progress they must work out their salvation largely through their own initiative. They must abandon the individual effort and use their efforts collectively. They must establish democracy in the industries so that government in the shop, like government in the nation, shall be through and by consent of the governed.

State's Progress in Beneficial Laws

By John E. Winslow.
(Chief Justice, Supreme Court.)
The courts have certainly been in the limelight during the past eight or ten years; perhaps the simile would be more accurate if we were to say that they have been upon the gridiron, or on the firing line.
I think the harsh critics forget or never have quite appreciated the fact that by its very nature a court must be conservative. A constitution or a law will not be changed until conditions and public opinion change. It will never lead public opinion, but always follow, and follow at a distance.
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an act of the legislature in 1874 (generally called the Potter law) which was passed under the influence of the granger movement of the time, reducing railroad freight and passenger rates considerably. The railroad companies held that their charters, giving them power to fix rates, were contracts with the state, that the law was a violation of the obligations of these contracts, and hence unconstitutional. This claim was rejected by the court and the legislation held valid under that clause of the constitution of the state reserving power to amend corporate charters.

The law was in advance of its time; the railroads rallied their forces and so amended it in 1876 as to render it innocuous, and it was not until 1905 that a railroad commission was created with power to ascertain and fix reasonable passenger and freight rates, as well as service. This law was strenuously attacked because it was said to delegate legislative power to an administrative board. The court, however, sustained the law. Since that decision was made the legislature has placed the control of all public utilities in the hands of the same commission.

New Tax Laws

Along the purely economic line two important laws ought to be briefly mentioned here, namely, the inheritance tax law and the income tax law. Both are graded or progressive in their rates; both were violently attacked as unconstitutional and both were fully sustained by the court. So also the law subjecting railroads to ad valorem taxation like other property instead of the payment of license fees was sustained. In Wisconsin we have had no laws

limiting the hours of labor of adult males except as to men employed in the erection of public works or buildings and men employed by common carriers, and possibly in some other instances of like character. We have had and still have, however, very comprehensive and stringent laws as to the hours of labor and kinds of labor permitted to women and minors under 16 years of age. I do not think that these laws have been attacked; if so, the cases have not come to the supreme court.

In 1902 there was on the statute books a law concerning discrimination against members of labor unions and making it an offense for any person or corporation to discharge an employee because he is a member of a labor organization. It was held unconstitutional on the ground that it was an infringement of the liberty of contract. The law has other provisions to the effect that no person or corporation shall coerce or compel any person into an agreement not to join any labor organization as a condition of securing employment or continuing in employment.

Safety Device Laws

Legislation requiring the use of safety devices and coverings on dangerous machinery and requiring employers to provide scaffolding, hoists, ladders and places of employment generally as safe as the nature of the employment will permit has been enforced by the courts of Wisconsin fully and fairly as written.
The attention of all thoughtful people had been directed toward the enormous economic waste and the inherent injustice of the so-called personal injury action for several years prior to 1911, and a legislative com-

mittee was appointed in 1909 on the subject which reported a bill in 1911 which, with some changes, was enacted into law. This legislation was very heartily welcomed by the supreme court. The law was at once attacked as unconstitutional, but it was sustained without dissent.

A state-wide primary law was upheld by the court; a comprehensive civil service law was upheld; a bakery shop law prohibiting the conducting of bakeries in cellars, and a forest conservation law.

As to this latter law the impression apparently prevails that it was declared void, such, however, is not the fact; the right of the state to acquire and reforest lands, to use the normal school lands for that purpose, to grow forests and to sell mature timber therefrom according to the standards of scientific forestry were fully sustained.
On the other hand, a recent water-power law, which assumed to take from the owners without compensation all the waterpowers of the state, notwithstanding they had been sold by the state and improved by their present or previous owners by the expenditure of millions of capital, taxed by the state for many years and dealt with as private property since the foundation of the state was laid, was held by the court to be plainly confiscation of property and void.
The legislature of 1913 passed a joint resolution requesting the justices of the supreme court to suggest to the next legislature such changes in the code practice of the state as would simplify it, relieve it of technicalities and promote the ends of justice. In response to this request the

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