

No reform, moral or intellectual, ever came from the upper classes of society. Each and all came from the protest of the martyr and the victim. The emancipation of the working class must be achieved by the working people themselves.

# THE LABOR WORLD

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS.

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SOCIETY

TWO CENTS.

## STRIKE STORIES ARE ALL INSPIRED

No Plans Formulated for Strike at Expiration of Agreement, Says White.

### STRENGTHENING UNION IN HARD COAL FIELDS

Hopes to Accomplish Reforms Through Conferences With Mine Owners.

SCRANTON, Pa., Aug. 6.—That there is absolutely no basis for the reports being printed in newspapers outside of the anthracite field that the anthracite workers are planning a big strike at the expiration of the present agreement, March 31, 1916, was stated today by President John P. White. These stories have been appearing in newspapers outside of the hard coal territory for several days now and the fact that several have appeared on the same day in different parts of the country leads to the belief that they are being inspired.

The statement of the miners' chief relative to these printed reports predicting a strike follows:

"Neither the international officials nor district officials have formulated any plans that contemplate a strike at the expiration of the agreement. We are on the other hand, hopeful that we will enjoy the opportunity to meet the operators in conference and reach a fair agreement embracing needed reforms and betterments that we feel quite confident the general condition of the industry will permit.

Union's Mission One of Peace.

"Articles appearing in certain newspapers during the past few days for the most part published a great distance from the anthracite coal industry, containing the information that the anthracite mine workers are making huge preparations for a big strike at the expiration of the present agreement, March 31, 1916, are absolutely unfounded.

"The public should not become alarmed at the stories of a strike nature, for the mission of the United Mine Workers is one of peace, and I predict that such will be the outcome of our negotiations when we again meet the operators.

"The campaign now being conducted in the anthracite field for the sole purpose of uniting the men of the mines as members of the United Mine Workers of America. When the anthracite miners have perfected their organization, I am of the belief that the union will be sufficiently strong and efficient to command the respect and recognition it deserves.

"I have every reason to feel assured that the operators, like the miners, want to be fair and consequently I am at a loss to understand why the attempt in some quarters is being made to misrepresent the real purpose of our present membership campaign."

Pleased With Results.

Speaking of his tour in District No. 1, which was brought to a close today with a big meeting at Luzerne, President White said, "that he was gratified at the great receptions tendered him everywhere. He believes his efforts have been successful in strengthening the union and he feels kindly towards the mine workers, their friends and the public in general who have contributed so much to the success of his campaign."

During the twenty-day membership campaign President White addressed a total of 135,000 people in thirty-five addresses.

Great preparations have been made in District No. 9 for the campaign which opened in that field on August 3, at Shamokin, which will extend over a period of two weeks.

## DISASTER PREDICTED BY CHICAGO UNIONISTS

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—In notifying President Wilson of the Eastland disaster, which resulted in the loss of approximately 1,300 lives, Secretary Nockles, of the Chicago Federation of Labor, inclosed a copy of resolutions forwarded to the federal department of commerce June 22, 1914, in which an Eastland disaster was predicted. His resolution of protest against the steamboat inspection service declares:

"We believe the condition of the excursion passenger steamers are altogether too unsafe to be permitted to continue without a most vigorous protest from this federation as a matter of record, in the event of any accident in the future, that we, at least, had registered a protest. The crowded conditions allowed will result in the loss of thousands of lives even though tied to the dock.

"We notice in press dispatches that former President Meilen of the New Haven railroad, referred to the coast steamer as 'tinder boxes'. The same applies here because, as our committee has said, it seems that United States inspectors are more concerned with the vessel owners' interest and support than the protest of the public."

## CONCILIATION MEN DEAL EMPLOYERS HEAVY BLOWS

New York, Aug. 6.—In an award by a board of conciliation, appointed by Mayor Mitchell, the International Ladies' Garment Workers union has won a signal victory over the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective association.

The board has dealt the employers' organization several hard blows, one of the most effective being a recommendation that some method be devised whereby claims of workers that they are unjustly discharged may be considered.

The conciliators express these views on the theory that "every man has the right to run his own business."

"No human being is wise enough to be able to trust his sole judgment in decisions that affect the welfare of others; he needs to be protected, and, if he is truly wise, will welcome protection against the errors to which he is liable in common with his kind, as well as against the inspirations of passions or selfishness. For this reason a tribunal of some kind is necessary, in case either of the parties to this covenant believes itself to be unjustly aggrieved."

Wages are increased all along the line and it is ordered that old protocol standards for piece work be again renewed. This latter is most important for it means an end, according to President Schlesinger of the international union, "to the hagglng with price committees in the shops, which resulted in the discharge of workers who demanded a decent wage and the enslavement of those workers who did not hold out against the demands of avaricious bosses."

Contractual relations existed between the garment workers and their employers for several years. On May 20 the employers abrogated the protocol and announced that they would no longer deal with the union. The workers declared their willingness to arbitrate and prepared to protect their interests. A gigantic strike seemed imminent when the employers abandoned their warlike attitude.

## EUROPEAN AGENTS INCITES STRIKES?

Gompers Denies Story Circulated But Reiterates Statement Previously Made.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has reiterated his charge that foreign influences had been working to make strikes in the United States and called on the workingmen to discountenance any such attempts.

Gompers made public his correspondence with the Central Federated union of New York, which made an inquiry regarding a statement attributed to Gompers that "officers of international unions had received money to pull off strikes in Bridgeport and elsewhere in ammunition factories."

"I never mentioned international unions," wrote Gompers, "nor did I use the word German, nor did I mention Bridgeport, nor did I refer to ammunition factories."

"What I did say was that authentic information had come to me that efforts had been made to corrupt men for the purpose of having strikes inaugurated among seamen and longshoremen engaged in handling American products and manning ship for European ports.

"The corrupting influence was being conducted by agents of a foreign government, and I have no doubt the same agencies and influences were at work elsewhere with the same purpose in view.

"We should all enter a sympathetic protest and frown down upon any foreign interference, no matter by what motives actuated, particularly when that motive is ulterior and to the detriment of the good name, growth and permanence of our great cause.

"That the effort has been made to corrupt some of our men for such a purpose is true, but that the strikes have been inaugurated is untrue, and it is untrue because the men who have given time and service to the workers of our country have interposed in time."

## EMPLOYERS ORGANIZE OWN CASUALTY COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 6.—The new state compensation law is effective the first of next year and manufacturers are preparing for this event by organizing a casualty insurance company.

Thomas S. Dando, who favors the plan, says that employees in this country last year paid to casualty companies more than \$31,000,000 in premiums, while the losses paid by the companies amounted to \$3,500,000. Unionists point to these figures as the reason why opposition is shown against workmen's compensation legislation.

## A MISPLACED DECISION AND WHAT IT MEANS TO DULUTH

The Supreme Court of Minnesota, Justice Hallam dissenting, handed down a decision Friday, July 30, declaring the preferential system of voting unconstitutional in Minnesota.

When such decisions are handed down by a court of last resort, the first thing that every good citizen realizes is that the decision is final, and is to be acquiesced in as the law until it is legally overcome by legal methods.

The next thing that a good citizen, who has any respect for his citizenship, should do is to think clearly about the system under which such decisions are made possible.

It is not a question of whether the preferential system of voting is a good thing. It is a question of whether or not a community of 90,000 people shall have its solemn judgment overturned by any four men after it has solemnly decided by a vote of the only people affected by the preferential ballot that such a system is what they want.

It is not a question of whether there is anything sacred about a judicial decision on a question of law affecting personal or property rights of individuals. It is a question of whether or not, on a question of public policy, the judgment of four men is superior to the judgment of ten thousand voters.

It is not a question of whether

the preferential system of voting is ideal in theory, but has not worked out in practice. As a matter of fact, the practical efficiency of the system to record the will of the people from year to year has been demonstrated by the election of such men as Hicken and Murphison in 1913 when the pendulum was swinging toward the progressive extreme, and by the election of such men as Farrell and Sijberstein when the pendulum was returning toward the perpendicular. But assuming that the system has failed to work out in practice as it was supposed to in theory, it was something that the people of Duluth had the power to change by amending the election provisions of their charter, and in their wisdom they could be depended on to do so, without any help from any four men sitting in judgment in St. Paul.

Justice Hallam says the rule is that a court will not declare a law unconstitutional unless it is unconstitutional beyond a reasonable doubt. And the majority of the court does not seem to disagree with Justice Hallam on that point. Yet, this decision upsets the entire election machinery of Duluth—a system, which does not affect another community in the state, a system, which had been overwhelmingly adopted by the only people affected by it, a system,

which the people of Duluth could have easily changed by amendment of their own charter,—a system which no other appellate court in the land had condemned, and which had been upheld by the only other appellate court which had considered it, and is then upset by four men all on the ground that the system is unconstitutional beyond a reasonable doubt.

It is not necessary to question the integrity or high personal virtues and technical judicial ability of the judges of our Supreme Court in order to say that such a decision has no place in the twentieth century.

Testing a law of 1913 by what people might have thought about it in 1851, is no particular credit to "that system of jurisprudence which grows and develops to meet the needs and aspirations of a free people as they arise from generation to generation."

We hope the effect of the decision will be to overthrow a system under which such a decision is made possible. Home rule will be a joke so long as any four men in St. Paul can overrule 90,000 people in Duluth. The people will not be free until they can determine questions of public policy finally for themselves, unvexed by the possibility of judicial vetoes, judicial legislation, or absentee court guardianships.

## STATE SUPREME COURTS UPHOLD WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAW

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 6.—The court of appeals has placed New York among those states that declare workmen's compensation laws are both constitutional and necessary.

The Southern Pacific railroad attacked the law, using the time-worn defense that it offended the federal constitution. A longshoreman employed by the company in New York city was killed and a lower court awarded damages. The company insisted that the federal constitution was outraged, as that historic document declares that property cannot be seized without due process of law.

The company included other reasons why the longshoreman's widow and children should not receive damages. Among them was tax on interstate commerce and violation of the federal compensation act, which applies to employes engaged in interstate commerce.

Judge Scorns Railroad. Judge Miller swept these defenses aside and held for the woman and children in a decision that was concurred in by his associates.

The court said: "Any plan devised by the wit of man may, in exceptional cases, work unjustly, but the act is to be judged by its general plan and scope and the general good to be promoted by it."

"No one has a vested right under the constitution to the maintenance of the common law doctrine that the master is responsible for the acts of

his servants, which doctrine may undoubtedly be extended or curtailed by the legislature.

"No one doubts that the doctrine of assumption of risk and the fellow servant doctrine, developed by the courts under different conditions than those now prevailing, may be limited or entirely abrogated by the legislature. It would not be a great extension of that doctrine for the legislature to provide that the employe should assume the risk of all accidental injuries, and if that can be done, it is certainly competent for the legislature to provide for the creation of an insurance fund for a limited compensation to the employe for all accidental injuries, regardless of whether there was a cause of action for them at common law.

"The subject should be viewed in the light of modern conditions, not those under which the common law doctrines were developed. With the change in industrial conditions, an opinion has gradually developed, which almost universally favors a more just and economical system of providing compensation for accidental injuries to employes as a substitute for wasteful and protracted damage suits, usually unjust in their results either to the employe or the employe and sometimes to both."

Michigan Court Decides. Lansing, Mich., Aug. 6.—The state supreme court has upheld the workmen's compensation law, passed by the legislature in 1912. While the

court has interpreted several rulings of the industrial accident board, charged with the enforcement of the act, this is the first time the general purposes of the law have been supported by the state's highest tribunal.

Judge Scorns Opinion. Justice Steere's opinion, signed by every member of the court, is in part:

"It is to be recognized at the outset that workmen's compensation legislation of this class, based on the economic principle of trade risk in that personal injury losses incident to industrial disputes are like wages and breakage of machinery, a part of the cost of production, works fundamental changes in the familiar principles underlying and governing the doctrine of liability for negligence as heretofore applied to the relation of master and servant.

"But it by no means follows that this comparatively recent and radical legislation upon the subject, enacted to meet changed industrial conditions and afford relief from evils and defects which had developed under the old rule of law, is negligence care for personal injury of employes, violator of the spirit or letter of our constitution.

"The policy, importance and propriety of this legislation in its general plan and purpose, are not open to question, and we do not find it subject to the constitutional objections urged in this record."

## TYPOS CONVENE IN LOS ANGELES TODAY

Arrangement Committee Has Prepared Gala Events For Many Visitors.

Saturday, Aug. 7, the typographical men and women of the nation will gather for the annual convention at Los Angeles. They will be welcomed to the city by the members of Typographical union No. 174 of that city and on Saturday evening a "Get-together" meeting for the men will be held at Ascot park. The ladies will be entertained at the Hotel Angelus. A tour of the city in automobiles will be made Sunday by the delegates and on Monday afternoon a trolley trip will be taken through San Gabriel Mission, City of Pasadena and along the Foothill route back to Los Angeles.

All day Tuesday the visitors and union typos of Los Angeles will enjoy themselves at Venice. A barbecue will be held from noon till 2 p. m. The balance of the afternoon will be spent on the beach at Venice and a grand fireworks event will end the day of fun at 10 p. m.

Wednesday will be the day for the convention hall and Thursday evening a big electrical parade will be had.

## GOMPERS DEFENDS SELF AGAINST REDS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—For educational purposes and to give the widest publicity to a defense of the trades union movement against another attack by the Socialist party, President Gompers again calls attention to the following statement made by him in the American Federationist, July issue:

"The Socialist political party is at it again. Again it has made an open attack upon the American Federation of Labor and this time upon a new tack, but with the usual bitter antagonism of the political Socialists to the policy of the trade union movement in the struggle for the attainment for a better life and a better day and withal to maintain freedom and human liberty. The Socialists' political party of Chicago has issued a pamphlet misrepresenting and attacking the A. F. of L. and its officers which it declares it will publish and distribute by the millions of copies. It is only within a week that a copy of the pamphlet has reached the A. F. of L. office and hence too late for consideration in this issue, but our reply will appear in the August issue of the American Federationist."

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor has viewed the captioned Eastland, which is about to be placed on its keel, and has announced that organized labor would conduct an independent investigation of the catastrophe.

Mr. Gompers said that no definite plans for a labor inquiry had been made, but was of the opinion that it should not be merely punitive, but preventive of a repetition of similar accidents.

Investigation of the loss of from 900 to 1,000 lives continued. Secretary of Commerce Redfield decided to continue the hearing before the steamboat inspection service board instead of returning to Washington at once. The federal grand jury heard several witnesses but did not indicate when it would report.

## ORGANIZED LABOR TO CONDUCT PROBE

Gompers Announces an Independent Investigation of Eastland Disaster at Chicago.

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WANT A STATE CONSTABULARY. DENVER, Aug. 6.—It is charged that corporate interests are preparing to have a "spontaneous" cry for a state constabulary start in various sections of Colorado. These corporations have brought the state militia into ill repute and hints of a constabulary are now being heard.

## LABOR UNIONS ARE NOT LED BY NOSE BY POLITICIANS

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Aug. 6.—The Australian Worker makes this spirited reply to the charge by Premier Holman that a recent labor conference was merely "a voting machine."

"The labor movement is not clay in the hands of either a conference or a premier. It is not a plastic lump to be pinched and squeezed into this shape or that by a number of persons posing as the molders of its destiny."

"The labor movement is a leadership movement.

"It chooses certain individuals to voice its views and cast its votes, but it gives no one whatsoever the right or the power to impose his own personal ideas upon it—to embody his private opinions and prejudices and fallacies in formal statements and declare: 'Behold, the labor platform.'"

"The labor movement is the biggest thing on earth. It is so big that it can't be packed into four walls or crammed into the cranium of any man alive, be the size of his hat what it may.

"Nothing smaller than the whole world will do for it. Though for practical purposes it divides itself in accordance with geographical boundaries and racial characteristics, in spirit it is cosmopolitan, and even mountains and oceans cannot condition it.

"The labor movement represents the spontaneous coming together of the workers, goaded by common wrongs into seeking a common remedy.

"In the ordinary meaning of the term it has no 'leaders.' It neither desires nor requires them. It chooses delegates to do certain definite work, it endows them with power to vote in a certain way on certain definite subjects.

"But it has not the slightest intention of allowing itself to become the puppet of any man or group of men."

## SEEKS FACTS ABOUT A MYSTERY SHIP

Schooner Lies at Hoquiam While Officials Try to Find Out Her History.

HOQUIAM, Wash., Aug. 6.—The three-masted schooner Annie Larson rides at anchor in the harbor here, and you wouldn't guess that statesman are spending sleepless nights on her account. Capt. Paul Schuller, master, sits on the end of a rotting dock, and fishes for rock cod, mad clear through. He wants to put to sea, but Uncle Sam won't let him.

Uncle Sam's vigilant officials, under the direction of United States Attorney Clay Adams, Seattle, are holding the Annie Larson because a cargo of war munitions was found aboard her. Was this cargo to aid Victoriano Huerta in overthrowing Carranza and Villa and again grabbing Mexico? Uncle Sam wants to know.

Uncle wants to know also what American interests furnished and agreed to deliver these arms and why the Annie Larson was to have transferred her cargo, after sailing, to a Standard Oil barge.

The captain would answer these questions if he could, but he won't. The supercargo can't—but won't. The steamer cleared from San Diego for Topolombampo, Mex. On leaving the port of San Diego, Capt. Schuller was informed by the owners that a supercargo, Walter Page, would go aboard and that he would give him his sailing orders when 24 hours from port.

Page told Schuller to make for Socorro, a desert island in the Pacific, 800 miles west of Mexico, where the cargo would be transferred to the Maverick, a tank steamer owned by the Standard Oil company.

The Larson reached the island, and waited a month, but the Maverick failed to appear. Supplies running low, the Larson went to Acapulco, where Carranzista soldiers tried to seize her. They were prevented by the United States gunboat Yorktown, which happened to be in port.

The Larson was running to Socorro when she was driven far off her course. Finally, supplies and water again running low, the supercargo ordered the schooner to make for Hoquiam, in Grays harbor, although there were many ports nearer at hand.

Chief Customs Inspector Harper, Seattle, investigated. Washington got curious, and the customs department is working on the theory that the arms and ammunition were intended to go to Mexico to equip a new Huertista army. The cargo originated at Kansas City. It was shipped to New York, thence by water to Galveston, next by rail to San Diego, where it was transferred to the Annie Larson.

STEEL WORKERS ORGANIZE. WARREN, Ohio, Aug. 6.—A local of steel workers has been organized in this city and affiliated to the Amalgamated association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

## GIANT MEETING OF PEACE ADVOCATES

Editor Irish World Signs Call for Peace Gathering at Chicago Sept. 5-6.

### WOULD PLACE EMBARGO ON MUNITIONS FOR WAR

Fear Lest Continuance of Filling War Orders Will Involve U. S. in World War.

Declaring their belief in the existence of a preconceived plot to involve the United States in the European war, the Friends of Peace, a federation of numerous affiliated American organizations, have issued a call for a National Peace convention to be held in Chicago, Sept. 5 and 6, culminating in a grand peace demonstration on Labor day. The convention is a direct outgrowth of the great peace meeting at Madison Square garden, New York, June 24, attended by 100,000 persons, and the San Francisco peace mass meeting attended by 120,000.

The immediate object of the convention, it is stated, will be to protest against America's entry into the war, to appeal to congress to resist the belligerent nations in the hope of bringing the war to an early termination, and to urge a special session of congress to consider the advisability of placing an embargo on all war supplies.

Cosmopolitan Meeting. The convention will be attended by delegates from all parts of the country, and it is expected to be one of the largest gatherings ever held in America. Every political party, religious denomination, and organizations of every nationality going to make up the cosmopolitan American population will be represented among the delegates.

The principal sessions of the convention will be at the Coliseum, but some of the greatest speakers booked for the Auditorium while overflow meetings will be held at different halls in the city.

Following is the full text of the call which was issued at a delegate convention of the Friends of Peace, held at Terrace Garden, New York City: The call is signed by Robert E. Ford, editor of the "Irish World," Mr. Ford is honorary vice president of the Peace committee.

Pursuant to the great peace mass meeting in and about Madison Square Garden, New York, June 24, 1915, attended by 100,000 persons, the Friends of Peace, a federation of American organizations opposed to America's entry into the present war hereby issue a call for a National Peace convention to be held in the city of Chicago, Sept. 5 and 6, culminating in a grand peace demonstration on Labor day, Sept. 5.

Voice Anti-War Sentiment. The object of the convention will be to voice the existing overwhelming sentiment against America's participation in the present world conflict, to demonstrate the falsity of the claim set up by the belligerents that it represents public opinion, to reaffirm our principles of strict neutrality, and to urge the early convening of congress for the purpose of considering an embargo on the exportation of war supplies to belligerents during the present war and enacting such other legislation as may be deemed advisable to bring the war to a speedy termination.

That we are in danger of being drawn into "entangling alliances" is quite evident from the comment of the capitalist controlled press. We view with alarm the recent statement of Lord Northcliffe that "it is universally admitted that by supplying us (England) with vast quantities of

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## VESSEL MEN WRECKED MERCHANT MARINE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—Vessel owners are themselves responsible for the absence of an American merchant marine, declares President Furth of the International Seamen's union of America.

The shipping interests are blaming the seamen's law for their troubles, and are answered as follows by the seamen's executive:

"Starting with the beginning of this government, for 102 years congress never passed any measure dealing with the merchant marine except upon the request of the American ship owners. For 102 years, up to 1894, ship owners never requested anything that was not given to them, except, perhaps, a sufficiently large ship subsidy. During that time congress never passed any law against which the ship owners entered protest. The ship owners' advice left this country without any American ships in the foreign trade and without any native or citizen seamen in any trade. Congress began a couple of years ago to use its own judgment and something like 200 vessels have come under the flag. If congress continues using its own judgment we will have both ships and seamen."

# REX AND LYRIC THEATERS DO NOT EMPLOY UNION LABOR