

# THE LABOR WORLD

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS.

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
No reform, moral or intellectual, comes from the upper classes of society. Each and all come from the protest of the masses and the victim. The emancipation of the working class must be achieved by the working people themselves.

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TWO CENTS.

## WILSON HEARS OF BIG GERMAN PLOT

Gompers Reveals to President Scheme to Tie Up Many U. S. Factories

Also Discusses Union Labor's Program for Legislation From Next Session of Congress.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—Concealing the real purpose of his call behind a statement that it concerned labor legislation to be introduced at the coming session of congress, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, today laid before President Wilson the details of a new and gigantic plot on the part of German agents in this country to tie up munition factories making war supplies for the allies.

Confronted with the direct question as to whether he had discussed these matters with the President, Gompers said:

"I can not tell you anything further than that I talked with the President regarding labor legislation and labor matters."

Gompers Has Information. From other sources, however, it was learned that Gompers was able to give the president information concerning not only the recently exposed plot in New York, involving a scheme of alleged German agents to blow up ships carrying war munitions to England, France and Russia, but likewise of the widespread activities to bring about walkouts in certain of the largest munition plants.

When Gompers emerged from his conference with the President, he said he had told the President that labor, during the coming congress, would ask legislation on three big subjects. They are:

Industrial education, vocational training and conservation of human life.

Makes No Comment. "The President listened to what I had said carefully and interestedly," Gompers said, "but he made no comment aside from an expression of appreciation of my having laid the matters before him."

Gompers also told the President of the effort made by labor workers to maintain international relations with the workers of the European countries.

He took with him to the white house, a mass of correspondence which has passed between labor organizations in America and abroad. The President, Gompers said, showed particular interest in this correspondence.

## MINE WORKERS AND TROOPS FRATERNIZE

Strikers So Fond of Militia They Plan Dance in Honor of "Peace Guardians."

According to The Arizona Gazette, the organ of the mine workers, the strikers in Clifton, Ariz., are fraternizing and the employers are very much distressed.

A letter received from a member of the state militia in Clifton tells of the mixing of the strikers and troops. He says the strikers are really so fond of the troopers that they are entertaining them, donating them cigars, pop, and other presents, and that the strikers are arranging to give a dance for the guardsmen, says The Gazette.

Managers Refuse Meeting. The mine managers, who have fled to El Paso, Tex., because, as they allege, of terrorism by the strikers, refused to meet the committee appointed by the strikers, giving as an excuse that it was under the influence of the Western Federation of Miners. The strikers have shown a willingness to oblige and have elected another committee.

Strike leaders said they were entirely capable of preserving order and at the first hint of lawlessness would resort to the simple expedient of barring the peace disturbers from the commissary maintained by the union relief commission, thus making it impossible for them to remain in camp.

Enlisting Social Members. A committee of strikers is canvassing the Clifton business men to take out cards as social members of the Western Federation of Miners. These sued the first day.

J. G. Cooper, purchasing agent for cards cost \$5 and 23 of them were issued to the Arizona Copper company, the largest of the three concerns seized by the strike has returned to Clifton. He said if the strikers appointed the proper committee they would be assured of a hearing by the managers.

He declined to reply to the question as to whether or not the mine managers would guarantee not to dismiss the men active in the strike, nor would he discuss the charge made by the strikers that men employed on the same grade of work received different rates of pay.

## DYNAMITE CASE IS BEFORE THE COURT

Matthew A. Schmidt Finally Put on Trial for Murder in Los Angeles.

MAY LAST SEVERAL MONTHS

Case Grew Out of Blowing Up of the Los Angeles Times Building.

The trial of Matthew A. Schmidt on a charge of murder in connection with dynamiting of the Los Angeles Times building, October 1, 1910, is now in session before Judge Frank R. Willis of that city.

The scene of the trial is the courtroom where Jas. B. McNamara pleaded guilty to the same charge four years ago and his brother, John H., to the charge of dynamiting the Llewellyn iron works.

District Attorney Thos. E. Woolwine has charge of the case for the prosecuting of labor leaders at Indianapolis. Former Judge C. H. Fairall of San Francisco is chief counsel for Schmidt. He will be assisted by Job Harriman, who was assistant to Clarence Darrow at the McNamara trials, and Frederick Moore.

A regular venire of fifty-one names has been drawn for the trial. It is expected two weeks will be required to select a jury. Various estimates of from one to four months are made as to the length of the trial.

Judge Willis Presides. When Judge Willis mounted the bench at 10 o'clock, he found Mr. Fairall seated at the table for counsel in the chair nearest the jury box, with his associates, Job Harriman and Fred H. Moore, alongside him. District Attorney Woolwine and his assistants, Jas. W. Noel, Asa Keyes and A. H. Van Cot, were standing. The judge remarked it was customary for the district attorney and his aides to have those seats.

"It is only the custom, not the law," said Fairall, and sat still. The court told him to move. He declined unless it was made a formal order. Judge Willis issued the formal order, and the counsel for the defense moved to the other end of the table. Preliminaries settled, Mr. Fairall challenged the venire, on the ground that it had been drawn before the new law went into effect, which makes men not on the tax lists eligible for jury service. Judge Willis denied the challenge, holding that as property owners the members of the venire were not ineligible, and therefore, the venire was regular. Fairall contested this point hotly. "I predict we will draw the venire made up of men of large means," he asserted.

Attack Venire. Fairall attacked the venire on the ground that the prospective takers had been interrogated by the agents of the District Attorney, to which Mr. Woolwine replied that the veniremen had been investigated, but not interrogated. The court ruled against the challenge. In the course of interrogation of George Alexander—not the former mayor—an incident indicated that the defense had also made investigations. He asked Alexander if his eyesight was not defective, since he habitually wore colored glasses.

"I do not wear them, and my eyesight is good," said Alexander. "Recently I had a cold in one eye, and wore colored glasses for a few days."

During a tilt over the question of investigation of veniremen Woolwine declared Fairall was simply making assertions to "get into the papers," and the court ordered both Woolwine and Fairall to sit down.

Again after the court had insisted that Fairall must not ask questions that had already been answered and that reasonable speed must be made, the special prosecutor commented, "Someone is wasting time."

"You may go back to Indianapolis as soon as you like; no one will object," retorted Fairall.

UNION WINS 1,250,000 GOLDEN HOURS A WEEK

Within the past three months, during which the machinists' fight for an eight-hour day has been carried on in the east, it is claimed by President W. H. Johnston of the International Association of Machinists that between 150,000 and 175,000 employees have gained an eight-hour day. Probably one-third of these are machinists, but the others are those who work with them and are affected by the concessions made to the machinists, he reports.

"Just think of it," said Mr. Johnston. "These people have gained on an average of seven hours a week for themselves and their families—a million and a quarter golden hours a week—which may be devoted to their improvement, to the society of their families and social intercourse."

BILLY GETS \$19,425 FOR SAVING OMAHA BOULDS

OMAHA, Neb., Oct. 25.—Billy Sunday wound up his seven weeks' revival here, and left last night for his home in Winona Lake, Ind. Billy took with him \$19,425 of Omaha money.

## Duluth's Tax Burden Becomes Heavier

Last week The Labor World asked the question: "Is Commission Government a Failure?"

The Labor World did not seek to answer that question in the affirmative. It simply sought to provoke discussion on a subject that is uppermost in the minds of many public spirited citizens of Duluth at the present time.

We do not feel that the legislative and executive functions of a city government should not be combined in one body of men. It leads to too many half baked laws. We have too many laws and ordinances now. When any minor difficulty in the executive branch of the government presents itself, it is a very simple matter to pass a new ordinance, and the force of the two jitney ordinances shows just how half baked these laws may be. The first jitney ordinance was thrown out of the courts, and the second almost an exact duplicate of the first, the manner in which it passed setting at naught the referendum provision of the city charter.

But these are matters for discussion at another time. The commissioners sought to answer the statement of The Labor World that taxes are increasing more rapidly than the population. The answer, of course, was to point to the fact that the rate has not been raised. Granted. The rate has not been raised materially, perhaps, but lets look at the valuations of the last few years.

In 1900 the real estate was assessed at \$20,407,724. In 1914 the real estate was assessed at \$40,344,465. In 1900 the personal property was assessed at \$4,192,609.

In 1914 the personal property was assessed at \$13,411,128, and this was exclusive of \$18,916,729 in moneys

and credits, assessed separately under a new law. In that time, therefore, the total valuation has grown from \$24,600,333 to \$77,672,362, if the moneys and credits are included, or to \$53,755,533 if they are not.

The total tax rate in 1900 was \$20 per thousand of valuation. The total tax rate for all purposes in 1914 was \$24.90 per thousand. The valuation has more than doubled and the tax rate has increased nearly five mills.

The population in that time has not doubled. It has increased from 52,000 to about 94,000. It is still 10,000 short of doubling, but the total amount of money raised for all purposes has nearly tripled. In 1900 the total tax levy was \$738,009.90, while in 1914 it was \$1,875,068.14.

There is no use in whipping the "devil around a stump" and dodging the issue by saying the tax rate is no higher, if the valuation is increased. Those figures mean that Duluthians are paying more taxes than they did in 1900. The growth of the city has not taken care of the increase in taxes.

The criticism was not intended as petty fault finding against the commission. But the growing tax problem is one that must be faced, and The Labor World hopes that the commissioners are big enough men to tackle it in a big way, and seriously study chances for economy. It is a time to look for leaks in the city finances, big and little. It is not a time for shifting the blame for extravagance from one department to the other, or from the city to the county, or the county to the school-board. The tax burden is becoming too heavy for the small home owner in Duluth. It is too heavy for the business man. Quibbling over the rate won't lighten it, when the valuation shows such tremendous increases.

## ILLINOIS TEACHERS ARE URGED TO JOIN UNION

ALTON, Ill., Oct. 28.—A fight for a teachers' union in Illinois was launched by R. C. Moore, Carlinville, in his address before the Illinois Federation of Labor, in session here, Moore, who is a county superintendent of schools, said he was heartily in favor of a state teachers' union and hoped to see one affiliated with the federation of labor.

## PRESIDENT GOMPERS SUPPORTS SUFFRAGE

It and Trade Unionism Are Two Great Modern Movements for Freedom.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an official bulletin urges organized labor to fight for woman suffrage. He says there are two tremendous movements for freedom at the present time, the labor movement and the woman suffrage movement. The Women's Trade Union League is visible proof of the ability of women to determine and manage their own affairs and to appreciate and to assume responsibility as members of society. The bulletin goes on to say:

"Women cannot assume equal rights with free men in the industrial struggle while classified with idiots and irresponsibles in political affairs. The ballot cannot long be denied them. Industrial freedom is not a sex problem, it is a human problem. Men and women work side by side and until both have a voice in the establishment of working conditions the problems will not be settled. Men workers will find women exploited against them just as long as women are denied responsibility as members of the political society."

"As a result of former conditions, traditions and customs, protection and support have been assumed for all women. This fiction was maintained even though women went out of their homes to earn livings in shop, factory and store. Some women have learned to break through stuffy conditions, to brush aside fiction and to recognize facts—they have learned that a free individual must stand erect, be responsible for her own life and acts, give and accept justice, not special privileges."

BETTER TIME IN SIGHT FOR LABOR

WASHINGTON—Indications of a general scarcity of labor during the autumn and winter, in sharp contrast to the great unemployment in the corresponding period in 1914, are shown in figures compiled by the Labor Gazette. On this point the journal says:

"Unemployment has reached probably the lowest point since 1907. The demand for labor has so far been easily satisfied, except in a few trades connected with the manufacture of munitions and in the harvesting of enormous crops, but there are already fears being expressed by employers that a general labor scarcity will occur. With but very few exceptions, the demand for all kinds of labor has increased, while the shutting off of immigration has cut off a large source of the supply."

It is pointed out that wage increases were more general during September than in August; that no instances of reductions were reported for the last month and that a marked tendency toward the adoption of an eight-hour day, particularly in New England States, is shown by statistics.

## TEMPERED TO SELL BY BIG PROFITS

Steamship Company Did Not Withdraw Because It Feared New Seamen's Law.

PAID NEARLY FOUR MILLIONS FOR BOATS

Company's Stock Sold Much Higher After Boats Were Disposed of.

The Pacific Mail Steamship company refused to give the new seamen's law a fair trial and withdrew from the Pacific trade because it could sell five steamers at a profit of more than \$1,000,000.

These charges are made by Secretary of Commerce Redfield in answer to the claim of Pacific Mail steamers that they were compelled to sell their vessels and withdraw from the far eastern trade because of the seamen's law.

The Pacific Mail company objected particularly to the language clause of the seamen's law, which it held would require the abandonment of Asiatic crews, with a consequent prohibitive cost of wage and food.

Secretary Redfield declares, however, the department had not prepared regulations for the enforcement of the law when the steamers were sold, and the owners of the company did not seek to learn the spirit in which the law would be administered, but acted on an assumed interpretation of the law which had no official sanction.

Moreover, Secretary Redfield said he wrote R. P. Schwerin, general manager of the company, and assured him that the department would not put the construction on the language that the company had put upon it, and suggested that the company give the law a six months trial before sacrificing its business.

In announcing his conclusion that the company was not forced out of business but sold out at a profit, Secretary Redfield charged that the Pacific Mail company was "heavily over-capitalized." The last two years had been the most prosperous in the firm's history, the secretary declared, and since April its ships have left thousands of tons of freight behind them at ports which they were unable to carry.

It was from this prosperous business the company withdrew without asking any questions," Secretary Redfield added.

The sale of the five Pacific Mail steamers for \$3,750,000, Secretary Redfield said, shows "an apparent profit in excess of a million dollars" over what the normal valuation of the boats would have been at 5 per cent depreciation charges. The fact that the company's stock sold for 18 1/2 last March and for 28 in August, after sale of the boats, is held significant.

PENSIONS REVEALS SUFFERING OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Oct. 28.—County Judge Zwick says that mothers' pension laws in this state, has "opened my eyes to a wonderful amount of misery and destitution" on who cannot be aided by the law which provides that a widow must have a continuous two years' residence in a county before making application or her husband must be either dead or in a prison or asylum.

## RAILROAD MEN WILL ASK WAGE INCREASE

Movement May Include Half Million Railroad Workers of Various Classes.

8-HOUR DAY ONE OF PRINCIPAL DEMANDS

Conductors' and Trainmen's Unions Said to Be Now Preparing Schedules.

A big movement among the railroad brotherhoods to unite in a demand for an increase in wages and change in working conditions is now in progress. Among the principal demands to be made are an eight hour day, time and one-half for overtime, an increase of from 2 to 5 cents an hour for yardmen and abolition of the rule requiring trainmen to ride on top of freight trains.

The Order of Railway Conductors and Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen are reported to be formulating the demands. The two bodies represent more than 200,000 railroad men—conductors, brakemen, flagmen, switchmen, train baggagemen and electricians.

The trainmen are not to make any demands for an increase in wages, but want the basis of payment of overtime for passenger service changed to twenty-five miles an hour. If this concession is made the result, it will be the same as an increase.

Action Starts in Chicago. The demands for increased wages for switchmen will start at Chicago, with a demand for an increase for 5 cents an hour. When the Chicago standard is established, the movement is to be taken up in all other yards of the West and a proportionate increase asked of the railroads. Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Leadville, Trinidad, Grand Junction, and other cities where switchmen are employed in any considerable numbers will be affected.

In the past it has been the custom to divide the country into three districts, Eastern, Western and South-eastern, each working for the wage increases and changes of working conditions independently of the other. Now it is proposed to make the demands by the three associations jointly.

May Involve 500,000 Men. An effort has been made to bring in the locomotive engineers and firemen in the name of the four great brotherhoods. If this is done, the movement will represent 500,000 railroad workers, the most stupendous movement of the kind ever undertaken by any organized body of workers.

The agreement between the Western roads and the firemen and engineers does not expire until May 11, 1916. This prevents the two Engineers' brotherhoods from participating until thirty days prior to that time, as notice must be given of the abrogation of the agreement one month in advance of the date of its expiration.

If the trainmen and conductors decide to go it alone, they will make demands in December. Practically every railroad man in the West will be affected directly or indirectly by the movement.

Will Resist the Demands. Railroads centering in Chicago are already preparing to resist the movement to force an increase of five cents an hour for switchmen. They say the Chicago switchmen are already the highest paid in the world. Officials of the Trunk line are making the usual claim that in case the entire list of demands is granted, it would result in bankruptcy to many of the roads. They will organize the biggest body of corporation representatives ever gotten together in America to resist the demands of the workers.

WAR HELPS UNIONS WIN EIGHT-HOUR DAY

NEW YORK—As a result of rush war orders, agitation for the eight-hour day, began in the east, will be carried to all parts of the country, according to labor leaders. Threat of a general strike changed Bridgeport, Conn., where many of the largest munition plants in the country are located, from a non-union, ten-hour center, to an eight-hour center delimited by the forces of organized labor.

Approximately 40,000 workers have won their demand for ten hours pay for eight hours' work. Manufacturing plants are now employing three shifts.

AKRON, O., MACHINISTS GET 15 PER CENT RAISE

AKRON, O., Oct. 28.—All machinists employed by Akron-Puller companies and allied industries, about 1,500 in all, were notified that their wages would be increased 15 per cent.

EIGHT HOURS NEXT MAY. YONKERS, N. Y., Oct. 28.—The Otis Elevator company announces that an eight-hour day will be the rule for its 3,000 employees beginning next May. The workers will continue for six months under the present nine-hour day.

## GREAT BOOM IS ON IN LAKE TRAFFIC

Vessel Owners Are Putting Into Commission Every Craft That is Available.

RECORD BREAKING RATES INDUCE OVERLOADING

Despite Increased Risks and Profits Lake Seamen Get No Benefit From Rush.

A tremendous boom in lake traffic has sent freight rates skyward. In consequence, vessel owners are putting every possible craft into commission, and are crowding them so full of freight that disaster and serious loss of life are threatened.

So declare lake seamen, who point out that this rush of traffic will coincide with the fall storms on the great lakes when each year, some vessels are wrecked and lives lost. One big storm would sink dozens of overloaded and unseaworthy craft, they say.

Sea Hoops Overloaded. Owing to the fact that the water at the Soo is now 13.6 feet deep the freighters, that are built to draw 16 feet are being loaded to 18, it is said. The owners have been getting as high as 6 cents a bushel for transporting wheat from the head of the lakes, Duluth, instead of seven-eighths of a cent when the season opened. On one the rate is \$125 an upward of figure, only partly approached in 1909 when \$1.00 was paid.

At the close of navigation all boats that hold storage grain will get at least 8 cents a bushel, with the result that the large freighters known as the 600-footers, will clear at least \$20,000 on a trip.

Was Many Feet. The unusual demand of the steel mills for iron ore, due to the enormous munitions industry, and the inability of the railroads to handle a large part of the grain crop of the northwest, have caused many companies to press old and unseaworthy boats into service.

According to William Curry, business agent of the Lake Seamen's union in Cleveland, it is a case of boats making that port are overloaded. Despite the risks which they are forced to take for the sake of the vessel owner's profit, lake seamen—and there are 25,000 of them on the lakes—will get no benefits in increased wages.

ROCKFELLER PLAN FIT FOR CHILDREN

But This Scheme for Settling Disputes Is Repugnant to Grown Men.

The Rockefeller plan of settling disputes with employees might be feasible if these workers were children, but to grown men the scheme is repugnant. This is the verdict of a committee representing the international executive board. United Mine Workers of America, now in charge of Colorado affairs.

The committee says: "The calm assurance on the part of the company that the result of the joint conference was a foregone conclusion speaks eloquently of their firm conviction that the 'plan' to work at all, must work in harmony with their desires."

"The great fundamental principles of industrial democracy, and the right of collective bargaining, which alone can guarantee to the Colorado worker his civil and political liberties, have no place in the document that has been so eloquently prepared by Mr. Rockefeller and his associates, for the future guidance of his silent and apparently non-consenting partners in the mining camps of southern Colorado."

"The plan fails to provide for meetings or conventions of the miners except locally, and by doing so insures company domination of its workers. All meetings except local mine meetings are to be joint meetings where the company will have equal representation, thus eliminating the danger of the collective action that might result if the men from several mines met together free from company influence."

"The evils that are fundamental will be eradicated when the men are represented by a labor organization powerful enough to compel recognition of the industrial, political and civic rights of its members, and capable of writing these principles into the joint agreement along with the rights claimed by the employer."

"Had the employees of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company been so many children of tender age, the paternal control they seek to exercise through the medium of the 'plan' would be proper; to grown men of independent thought in a nation that boasts of its free institutions, it cannot be other than repugnant."

"A certain degree of social betterment is a poor substitute for the privilege that can only be secured through industrial democracy and collective action on the part of the wage workers."

# REX AND LYRIC THEATERS DO NOT EMPLOY UNION LABOR