

It is not so difficult a task to plant new truths as to root out old errors, for there is this paradox in men: they run after that which is new, but are prejudiced in favor of that which is old.

THE LABOR WORLD

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS.

As long as mankind shall continue to destroy their own lives by their own hands, the spirit of arbitrary glory will ever be the vice of exalted characters.

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FEDERATION OF LABOR OPENS SESSION IN SAN FRANCISCO

National Defense, Making, Seamen's Law, Eastland Disaster, Mexican Revolution and Prohibition Among Subjects Discussed.

UNION LABOR TAKES SECOND POSITION ON MILITARISM—WANTS DEMOCRATIC ARMY

American Labor to Be Ready to Join With Union Labor of Other Countries to Aid in Bringing Peace to World—Will Demand Recognition of Human Element.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 10.—Samuel Gompers and representatives of nearly 4,000,000 laborers of all classes in the United States are here in attendance at the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. There are 500 delegates. The convention will last two weeks.

The question of endorsing national prohibition is expected to cause much discussion in the convention. Matters of all degrees of importance affecting the various labor organizations represented, will be acted upon by the convention. President Gompers is expected to have considerable to say about the activities of foreign government agents fomenting trouble among laborers in munitions plants and elsewhere.

The question of the federation's endorsement or condemnation of increased national defense is bringing forth protracted discussion. Gompers and other labor leaders recently have declared themselves in favor of "reasonable" defense plans for the country.

approved. The report asserted that it is evident Carranza represents the majority of the people of Mexico and stands "for the purpose of constitutional rights, the principles of justice and equity to all citizens of the country, whether of humble position or of more influential."

In its discussion of the questions of "international peace and war and the embargo," the executive council said: "It was necessary for the protection of American citizens to continue our foreign commerce. There has developed in this country and in some other countries a conscience that is extremely sensitive to the effects of our foreign commerce.

Would Be Disastrous.

"But these persons do not consider fully the disastrous effect upon the workers of our country as well as upon all of the citizens that would come from a restriction and discrimination of trade.

"There is no middle ground, for it is impossible to distinguish between munitions of war and the ordinary articles of commerce. All nations are now turning to America as the great

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Favors Seamen's Law.

Just what constitutes "reasonable" defense it will be up to the convention to say. Indorsement of the La Follette seamen's law and action on the Eastland disaster at Chicago is expected.

Meetings of the union label, metal trades, mining, railroad and building trades branches of the federation will be conducted at the same time.

That justice for American citizens is more important than a desire to restore peace in Europe or keep the United States out of war, was the doctrine laid down today by the executive council.

The report declared against "peace at any price" and strongly condemned all efforts to put an embargo on exports as well as halt all trade in the "things which enable Europe to continue the struggle." Organized labor was urged to stand firmly for unrestricted commerce.

Favors Citizen Solidarity.

In this connection the executive council renewed the charges made recently by Samuel Gompers, president of the federation, that "foreign agencies have been trying corruptly to reach some of the organizations of workers" to tie up the American war munitions plants through strikes.

All these efforts thus far have been futile, the report stated, because the American workmen are "too genuinely patriotic."

On the subject of national preparedness, the executive council adopted the slogan: "Not one cent for conquest; all for defense." It recommended a small standing army supplemented by a citizen soldiery "democratically organized and controlled to prevent its use by any privileged class at home or abroad."

Approves Mexican Policy.

Recognition of the defunct government of Gen. Carranza in Mexico was

Where Commission Government Falls Down

The Labor World struck a popular note when it called the attention of its readers to the series of shortcomings in the administration of commission government in Duluth. Letters of encouragement are pouring in from every section of the city, and we are admonished not to lose heart, "even if both of the daily papers are against any revision of the present system of local government," as one of our readers puts it.

"Keep up the good work," writes another, "better the old system with its loose ends and its uncertain connections, than the extravagances of our commission government."

"Isn't it strange," declares our good friend with an analytical mind, "how strangely quiet the daily papers are in the matter of the increased costs of running the city and county. Neither of them has a word of reproach to offer to city or county officials for their reckless expenditure of public funds." Then he cynically asks: "If the Labor World was given its share of the city and county printing, would it be equally silent on such important public questions?"

"Hit them again," puts in a West Duluth correspondent. "You certainly exposed the cheap politics they are playing at the city hall under commission government. We were told that such tactics would not be in vogue when the ward system went out, but we failed to give consideration to the fact that ordinary human beings were to be chosen commissioners, and they have the same weakness that we all possess to punish our political enemies, dismiss the neutrals and make removals for our friends," irrespective of their ability or experience.

"Is there not someone to frame an amendment to the charter which will deprive commissioners of their legislative power and put it in the hands of a board of aldermen?" asks a West End voter. "Such an amendment, if adopted by the people, would enable the commissioners to devote all their time to administrative duties, and they would be in a position to render much better service than now. The board of aldermen would perform legislative services and serve as a check against possible extravagance and usurpation of power on the part of the commissioners. Thus we would get the best under commission government, and at the same time we would preserve with a board of aldermen, your so-called democratic ideals.

"I am not ready to return completely to the old form of government with its mayor, sixteen aldermen, elective comptroller and treasurer, and numerous boards. The

system was too cumbersome; there was shifting of responsibility, and a great many evils entered into the transaction of public business.

"I was one of those who subscribed to commission government at the time in the hope that any change would be for the better. I now realize that we went to the extreme.

"I believed we would be safeguarded by the initiative and referendum, but one of these popular weapons has been practically nullified since the council repealed the jitney ordinance, after its opponents had secured a sufficient number of petitioners for a referendum vote thereon, and passed a new ordinance still containing the chief features of the first measure.

"No petitions were circulated against the second ordinance as the jitney drivers were advised that the commissioners did not have the power to cheat the operation of the referendum in such a manner. The court has since supported the commissioners, and in the future it will be perfectly easy for them to tire out any and all objectors to a city ordinance by the simple process of repeal and re-enactment with a slight change or two.

"I therefore believe that there is now little difference between commission government in Duluth and in Galveston. The commissioners have it within their power to be the temporary masters of the people. It is folly to take refuge behind the recall, for no commissioner will ever be recalled in Duluth unless charges of dishonesty are proven against him. He at least will not lose his job between regular elections because of his policy as a public official.

"A board of aldermen, it strikes me, will be the happy medium between the evils of the old system and the extravagances and usurpation of power that have crept into commission government during the two and one-half short years it has been tried out here.

"In any event the people should be given an opportunity to vote on such a proposition. As I understand it, they have it within their power to initiate charter amendments, and it is for this reason I ask, is there not someone in Duluth who will frame such a proposition to be submitted to the voters at the time when a new election plan is submitted?"

There is a lot of meat in the reasoning of our West End friend. He has told some truths about the old and new systems of government which cannot be denied. And has he not pointed out a sane and practical way by which we can escape the evils of both systems?

WALSH AND LABOR UNITE TO ASSIST NATION'S WORKERS

Head of Recent Industrial Relations Commission Declares That Every Person Should Read Report of Probe—Union Labor to Demand Action by Congress.

ATTEMPT SAID TO BE MADE TO PREVENT PRINTING FAMOUS INDUSTRIAL REPORT

Greatest Labor Battle in Century to Begin in Congress Next Month—Well Framed Program Agreed to By Walsh, O'Connell, Lennon and Garretson.

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.—Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the recent United States Commission on Industrial Relations, the three labor members of that commission, and others interested, met here and organized the "industrial relations committee," a permanent unofficial body, to urge the recommendations contained in the minority report of the commission.

It is announced that an energetic campaign will begin immediately. The work of the federal commission will be continued and congress will be asked to carry out the changes in the law advocated in the commission report signed by Walsh and the three labor members of the commission, John B. Lennon, James O'Connell and Austin B. Garretson.

Will Aid Labor.

The committee headquarters will be in Washington. Walsh in a statement given out here today made it clear that the committee's primary object is to support organized labor.

Besides the four mentioned, the new committee will be Amos Pinchot, Frederic C. Howe, immigration commissioner; Bishop C. D. Williams,

Episcopal Diocese of Detroit; Dante Barton, Kansas City; John P. White, president of the United Mine Workers of America; John Fitzpatrick, president Chicago Federation of Labor; Helen Marot, Women's Trade Union League of New York; and Agnes Neustrom, Women's Trade Union League, Chicago.

Basel M. Manly, director of research and investigation for the commission on industrial relations and author of the minority report to congress, will occupy a similar position with the new committee. Associated with him will be George F. West and Otto F. Bradley.

Purpose of Body.

In his statement for the committee, Chairman Walsh said:

"These recommendations adopted by the committee as the most immediately practicable and urgent, are all designed to aid the efforts of organized labor, rather than to substitute governmental action for such efforts.

"More important than any program of legislation is the accomplishment of a revolution of public opinion toward unionism. Therefore the first effort of the committee will be to urge the printing and distribution, free of charge, of final reports of the commission on industrial relations, and also of the testimony taken at public hearings.

"It believes a reading of these reports by the vast number of men and women who already are directly interested in the industrial problem would go far toward the creation of the understanding that it is necessary if public opinion is to do its share in the great task of translating our democratic ideals into reality.

Propaganda is Needed.

"The committee believes there is unusual need this winter for the existence of an agency in Washington through which democratic thought in industrial problems can make itself felt.

"The subject of national preparedness is to the forefront, and many powerful influences are at work to create an enormous military organization and to increase the prestige of the kind of force represented by a large military establishment.

"The committee, while taking no part in the discussion regarding the size of the army and navy, will endeavor to keep to the forefront certain fundamental principles that should govern in any program for preparedness. These are:

"That all munitions, war ships and military supplies should be manufactured as far as possible and as soon as possible in government plants, except in cases of emergency.

Stroke at Militarism.

"That the militia system or any new system of citizen soldiery be organized on a democratic basis, with equal opportunity for wage earners and those without means to obtain commissions

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WOULD YOU STRIKE TO ABOLISH THESE?

New Jersey Rubber Workers Have Numberless Grievances Against Unfair Firm.

TRENTON, N. J., Nov. 11.—Employees of the Essex Rubber company struck because of these grievances: Wage reductions; employees discharged without cause; employees compelled to advance money for tools which is not refunded if they are discharged or quit; piece work employees often forced to remain in the factory without pay when stock is short; compelled to pay for accidental injuries to machinery; insanitary work shops; insufficient washing up time for lunch, which makes it impossible to remove dirt and poison from their hands before eating; toilets for both sexes close together; sulphur fumes that should be carried off through air shafts, according to law, ruin employees' eyesight; workers suffer from swollen gums and faces caused by mercury.

A local newspaper praises Manager Oakley because of his recent offer to employ to pay them for time occupied in attending night schools. The Trades Union Advocate states that the Oakley had previously reduced wages from three to four times as much as the cost would be to him of paying for their time at night schools."

SPOTTER GETS YEAR IN FEDERAL PRISON

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.—Phil H. White, head of a correspondence school for street railway spotters, has come to grief. He was found guilty of using the mails to defraud by a jury in the United States court and sentenced to the Atlanta penitentiary for one year. He issued diplomas to his graduates. He operated the National Railway Checking Bureau and sold his course for 50 cents. A score of witnesses testified that his system did not assist them to either spot or to secure jobs, despite these rules which White assured every pupil it was necessary to follow:

"Never wear loud clothing, hats, or ties. To do so makes it easy for a spotter to be spotted.

"Never write on a car so that the conductor can see you, as this will arouse his suspicions. Instead, carry a small pad and make notes in your pocket. This gives you a great con-

RAILROAD MEN MAY DEMAND 8-HOUR DAY

BOSTON, Nov. 11.—Officials of five railroad brotherhoods, together with 1,000 representatives of these organizations from this section of the country, voted to launch a campaign for an eight-hour day. The brotherhoods represented were: Engineers, conductors, firemen and engine men, trainmen and telegraphers. It was unanimously voted to act together. It was explained that the plan cannot be taken up by members employed west of the Mississippi river and in the south before April 1, 1916, when present contracts expire.

Men operating trains now work on a ten-hour-a-day schedule, but, according to speakers at the meeting, a majority of the men are forced to work from twelve to sixteen hours, and as a result of "long hauls" it was claimed many do not average thirty hours a week at home.

GROUND BROKEN FOR A. F. OF L. BUILDING

Labor's first representative in a President's cabinet—Wm. B. Wilson, executive-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America—removed the first spadeful of earth for the British Trade Union building, on Thursday, Oct. 23. President Gompers removed the second spadeful, and Secretary Morrison the third.

A large delegation of trade unionists, two of the most interested spectators being C. J. Johnson and E. Bevin, fraternal delegates from the British Trade Union Congress to the A. F. of L. San Francisco convention, were present.

The building will be five stories in height with a basement. The structure will be completed next spring.

SHORTER HOURS FOR BARBERS

WHEELING, W. V., Nov. 11.—Many barber employers favor the reduction of working hours, urged by the Barbers' union. Closing hours at present are 7:30 o'clock five days a week and 10 o'clock on Saturdays.

DOES STATE SOCIALISM ALLOW GERMANY TO LEAD IN PEACE AND WAR?

By FREDERICK C. HOWE, U. S. Commissioner of Immigration in New York.

The state socialism of Germany is the explanation of her victories in Russia, France and Belgium; it is the explanation of Germany's ante-bellum victories in manufactures, trade and shipping. State socialism will permit Germany to turn from war to peace with much the same formidable preparedness with which she turned from peace to war. State socialism, or at least some of its lessons, must be seriously considered by the United States, as well as by other countries, if we, and they, are to be prepared to meet Germany—whether victorious or defeated, which will sweep out of the war with an organized strength ready to fight the battles of industry.

These are the statements of Frederick C. Howe, United States commissioner of immigration, New York, in his new book Socialized Germany, published by Charles Scribner's Sons. Mr. Howe is the author of Wisconsin, An Experiment in Democracy; The City, The Hope of Democracy in America and European Cities at Work.

Not Theoretical Socialism.

In pointing out the strong points of socialized Germany, Mr. Howe says that German state socialism and the socialism to which the Social Democratic party aspires are not identical. German state socialism insures a large

degree of industrial freedom and does not involve control by the working classes. German state socialism is a socialism of the ruling caste, of the great estate owners and capitalists, according to Mr. Howe.

If the United States is not to be outdistanced by organized Germany when peace comes, Mr. Howe insists that American legislators must get some new ideas—ideas from Germany, as to the obligation of a state.

Must Increase Central Power.

We must give up the old idea that the sole business of organized society is to protect the individual from domestic and foreign aggression. The United States, Mr. Howe declares, in order to compete successfully with Germany must have a wide extension of public ownership; there must be a more thorough and extensive control of property and privileges; a program of social legislation under which the individual will be better taken care of must be adopted; there must be a change in our educational system; privileged and business interests must be excluded from the "long ascendancy" which they have enjoyed in our political life.

The fact that unity is the predominant note in Germany is one of the nation's chief sources of strength and efficiency, according to Mr. Howe. No

group is allowed to sacrifice the state for its own benefit. Each class makes sacrifices when a question of national welfare is at stake.

Distribution Most Important.

The state socialism which has such an important effect upon Germany is of two kinds—productive socialism and distributive socialism. Mr. Howe writes that "one means an increase in the amount of wealth produced, and the other it juster distribution," and remarks that the latter is more important. Comparing Germany with the United States and other countries, he says:

"In England and America social legislation that looks to fundamental reform is not a matter of primary concern to statesmen. We have given protection to domestic industry and foreign competition. We have subsidized, the railroads by land grants. We have encouraged agriculture, but in so far as social legislation is concerned, our official mind is still in the individualistic stage. Legislation for the promotion of production has proceeded apace, while legislation for the individual man and for the great mass of people has remained in the Adam Smith age.

Aids Poorer Classes.

"Germany differs from other leading countries in the thought that has

"If America and Great Britain are to meet the problems that will confront them after the war, it will be necessary for them to realize that the efficiency of Germany is an efficiency born of a socialization of life.

Apart from militarism, Germany thinks in terms of more people and in more ways than any nation in the world.

"We have political democracy and an industrial feudalism; Germany has political feudalism and a kind of industrial democracy.

"Our government is organized not to represent the people. It must be simplified and we must achieve the German efficiency of social legislation if we are to be an effective competitor of Germany.

"Germany has given a new concept to the world of the state. It certainly violates our ideas of personal and political freedom. But at least the idea is a successful one.

"We are just beginning to do the things which Germany does for her people. In time I believe that we will do them as well if not better than Germany. And we will do them through democracy rather than through paternalism."

been given to the distribution as well as the production of wealth. No other country has so greatly improved the well-being of so large a portion of

people. This is the real explanation of her power; this lies back of her military achievements; this explains her advance in trade, the growth in her overseas commerce, and the rise of her merchant marine from that of a negligible position to that of the second maritime power of the world.

"Let us first consider the agencies of productive socialism, which are designed primarily for increasing the wealth of the empire. Transportation, which is the circulatory system of a nation, is organized with the most painstaking thought to realize the maximum of service at a low cost. Profit is only incidental. It has been made easy for men to enter business. The capitalist is offered good building sites by the cities, closely connected with the means of transportation, and on easy terms. While syndicates have come into existence and are encouraged by the state, they are not permitted to strangle competition. Industrial and commercial processes are a scientific study."

Many State Activities.

Coming to the question of distributive socialism, Mr. Howe defines it to be, "services performed at low cost or at no direct cost at all." He remarks that in countries other than Germany many of these services are not performed at all, but are left to the exploitation of commerce.

"These include the many non-profitable undertakings of the states and

cities, the provision for education and health, and the many social services which are supported by taxation. First in the list of such activities are the social insurance schemes which distribute to the community the burdens of sickness, old age, accident and invalidity. These in themselves have freed millions of men and women from fear of the future, from loss of self-respect and have kept them as producing members of the community.

"Distributive Socialism has provided labor exchanges which eliminate much of the waste and unemployment. Distress or emergency work provided by the cities relieves the worker during periods of industrial disturbance, just as does the protection of the health of the community by sanitation, by the community doctor, the nurse, the pure milk station, and the convalescent homes.

Cares for Savings.

"Distributive Socialism receives the savings of the poor in the municipal savings bank, and loans the deposits back again at a low rate of interest for the building of workingmen's homes, the purchase of land, and the maintenance of pawnshops for the needy."

"But distributive Socialism does not end with the physical well-being of the working classes. It also makes provision for the leisure life of the people. Cities maintain opera houses and theaters in which the best productions can be heard at a low cost. There are municipal art galleries and

museums. Cities maintain colleges and academies, they provide lectures and entertainments. Every city of any size has its orchestra or military band, which gives excellent concerts in the parks and town halls.

"Even banking and credit are largely in public hands. Over 90 per cent of the individual deposits are in public institutions, while the government owns a controlling interest in the imperial bank, and through its ownership supervises and directs the credit transactions of the country.

"All this is only a skeleton of the industrial, commercial and protective agencies that constitute productive and distributive socialism. It does not include the markets and slaughter houses, the parcel post, the mines and estates, the forests and the multitude of activities that are owned by the cities.

No Thought of Democracy.

"There is nothing democratic in the German idea of the state. The measures enumerated have not been carried through by the Social Democratic party, although it has undoubtedly been indirectly responsible for much of the public opinion that sanctioned them.

"State Socialism is a natural outgrowth of feudalism. It has its roots far back in German traditions and experiences of the people. It is the eighteenth century state adjusted to twentieth century conditions. And it has largely made Germany what she is, a menace and a model, a problem to statesmen of other countries, and a pathfinder in social reform."

REX AND LYRIC THEATERS DO NOT EMPLOY UNION LABOR