

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.

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GOMPERS OUTLINES LABOR'S POSITION

Head of Federation of Labor Talks to About Preparation of State Defense Bill

MUST GUARD AGAINST EVIL OF MILITARISM

Whatever Is Done Labor Should Be Represented and Given Voice in Plans.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Adequate preparedness for national defense was advocated here by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a speech before the session of the annual convention of the National Civic Federation, devoted to that subject Tuesday. While he insisted that military organizations must be democratic and the nation must be safeguarded against the evils of militarism, Mr. Gompers declared that "America's own freedom had been achieved by resistance to tyranny and the pacifists failed to understand that quality of the human race which made men willing to risk their all for an ideal. Will Fight for Scrap of Paper."

"Men worthy of the name," he said, "will fight even for a scrap of paper," when that paper represents ideals of human justice and freedom. There is little progress made in the affairs of the world in which resistance of others is not involved. Though we may realize the brutality of war, though we may know the value of life, yet we know equally well that would be the effects upon the lives and the minds of men who would lose their rights, who would accept denial of justice rather than hazard their physical safety. The progress of all the ages has come as the result of protests against wrongs and existing conditions and through assertions of rights and effective demands for justice. Our own freedom and republican form of government have been achieved by resistance to tyranny and insistence upon rights. Freedom and democracy dare not be synonymous with weakness.

Opinions Modified. "As the result of the European war, there is hardly a citizen who has not, in some degree, modified his opinions about preparedness and national defense. The belief prevails that there must be some policy of preparedness and national defense, although there is wide divergence as to what policies ought to be adopted.

"National preparedness involves power to co-ordinate and to utilize national forces and national resources. War as it is waged today, is not determined merely by the mobilization of natural resources, national industries and commerce. The real problem is the organization of the material forces and resources of the country, the co-ordination of these in the furtherance of a definite defensive military policy."

Principles Must Be Regarded.

"Whatever plan may be adopted," said Mr. Gompers, explaining the attitude of labor, "the organized labor movement of America demands that certain fundamental principles must be regarded. All policies and plans for national defense must be determined by representatives of all the people. The organized labor movement, which is the only means for expressing the will and the desires of the great masses of our citizenship, asserts its rights to representation in all committees, commissions or bodies that decide upon military defense.

"The labor movement demands democracy in all things, including military organizations and institutions of the country. It holds that its policies of self-defense are best safeguarded when there is equal opportunity for all to become members of whatever organizations and institutions, whether military or otherwise, exist throughout the country. Not only must entrance to all institutions be freely and equally accorded to all, but the military must be democratically organized, democratically offi-

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MONEY KINGS MEET TO DISCUSS MERGER

Youngstown Steel Chieftain Goes to New York to Meet Rockefeller Bankers.

BIG NEW STEEL MOST LIKELY TO BE FORMED

Grand Jury Still Investigating Cause of Riot—Young John D. Defends Father.

NEW YORK, Jan. 20.—While the 10,000 workers who operate the plant of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company bent over their tasks in the big plant yesterday, James A. Campbell, president of the company, came to New York to have a talk with Frank A. Vanderbilt, president of the National City bank.

Mr. Campbell, who was a witness before the Mahoning county Grand Jury in Youngstown, left almost immediately after the Grand Jury finished with him, and came to this city. His business here was to confer with a group of bankers about the proposed merger of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, the Cambria Steel company and the Lackawanna Steel company.

Wall Street understands that the merger will go through in a few days. If it does there will be gnashing of teeth in Youngstown. The stock holders are hanging onto their certificates as tight as they can. They can't be convinced that their dividends will be as safe and as fat after the merger is formed.

Officials Approve Merger. It is said that the Youngstown company has given its official approval to the merger plans, but this much is sure: If that has been done there are a lot of stockholders that will be clamoring for an explanation—and if it isn't a pretty clear sort of an explanation there will be wild doings among the little band of smug, rotten boozers.

Mr. Campbell's trip to this city, with the announced purpose of con-

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RAILROAD MAGNATES FEAR 8-HOUR DEMAND

Politicians and Bankers Know the Brotherhoods Have Great Power Behind Agitation.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The biggest single fact in the labor world that is causing uneasiness among the capitalistic interests in Washington is the movement for the eight-hour day on the railroads. The politicians and the bankers know that the railroad workers are deadly in earnest. They know that together with their economic power, springing from their industrial organization, they have great political power.

At this writing the brotherhoods are threatening the railroads with a piece of radical safety legislation unless the carriers will meet their demands outside of Congress. An examination of the reports of 76 Western railroads to the Interstate Commerce Commission showed that during the 18 months from July 1, 1912, to December 31, 1913, there were 49,286 cases where engineers and firemen worked for a continuous period of 16 hours or longer, and over 16,000 cases where they worked for a continuous period of 18 hours or more.

The extraordinary situation is thus presented of employing highly skilled men in places of great public responsibility under conditions which were unmistakably condemned by the Federal government, the unions, and by representatives of employers for even the most unskilled and least responsible workers in the iron and steel industry.

CITY COMMISSIONERS SHOWS GOOD JUDGMENT BY GOING SLOW ON BELT LINE FRANCHISE

The city commissioners propose to take their own time to deliberate over the proposed ordinance to grant a franchise to the Western Terminal Railway company in consideration for which it proposes, in the uncertain future, to build a belt line around Duluth.

There is no doubt but on such a big proposition the council will act in the best interests of the city. It will require a four-fifths vote to pass the ordinance. It will take only the votes of two commissioners to defeat it.

When the Wisconsin Central railway, now the Soo, franchise was pending before the city council it required several months of close study, and frequent conferences, to work out a satisfactory ordinance, during which time prominent citizens were declaring that the aldermen were asking too much from the railroad company. Who is there will say now that the aldermen were too exacting?

Duluth needs a belt line railroad more than it needs anything else, and it is encouraging to note that there are men who recognize this need. But we must never be deceived again by giving away our streets to a corporation which may or may not carry out its promises to the city. Let us see, was it not James J. Hill who induced the city council a number of years ago to give him a franchise for almost the same purpose this company is seeking one? We had great hopes then for the future of Duluth, as we have now, but all Mr. Hill ever did for Duluth was to take away; he never gave anything back.

So in addition to the many safeguards which must be thrown around a railroad franchise we should know something more about the corporation that is seeking it. We do not care so much about the corporation as we do about the men who are interested in it. We should know whether or not they have the ability to carry out the purposes for which a franchise is granted.

It is too late in the day to grant a franchise to promoters who will use it as so much merchandise to sell to railroad builders. If any money is to be paid for a franchise it should be given to the people who need a railroad will help to build the city. It was the custom once to deal only with brokers and promoters, but that

day is passed. It is the real men who will build the railroad, and only with them, the city should deal.

This is Duluth's last railroad chance; if a mistake is made now all will be lost, and the city will remain a staid and fixed way-station—just as ordinary distributing point "where rail and waters meet." And so it will remain without hope of a future. The commissioners do well in recognizing this fact early in the proceedings.

It will not do to bottle up the city with a franchise that will give its owners five years to start to build, for in the meantime other railroad men may come in who mean business and the city will be bound hand and foot. It would be unfortunate to have such a situation arise.

If the owners of the Western Terminal Railroad company mean business and are in earnest about actually building a belt line railroad, then in return for the franchise they are seeking they should be required to give a substantial bond to the city, and if they fail to build a railroad within the time specified in the grant they should indemnify the city and forfeit the franchise, but in no case should this time be extended to five years. It is altogether too long.

Of course it would be much better if the city was in a position to build the belt line, and we do not say this solely because we are committed to public ownership, but a city-owned belt line would mean switching charges at cost to manufacturers and others who require such service. That is a mighty important factor in asking industries to locate in Duluth.

It is not important that we have a belt of steel circling the city, save that it may pave the way for industrial development, but it is important that we have sufficient control over a belt line to compel good service at reasonable rates, and no corporation can give the latter as cheaply as the city can give it.

So while we may not have a city-owned belt line just now, the city's right to ultimately own it should be made secure. To fully protect the rights of the city the commissioners would do well to take counsel with those citizens who have had previous experience in protecting the city in franchise grants.

DULUTH WORKING MEN START REFERENDUM AGAINST SALE OF OLD ARMORY PROPERTY

Hope Big Building Will Be Saved For Great Social Center.

Duluth workingmen, disappointed because the city commissioners gave no heed to their resolutions protesting against the sale of the Armory, have decided as citizens to exercise their right under the city charter to appeal from the judgment of the commissioners to that of the people. Petitions are now in circulation for a referendum election on the Armory ordinance.

The delegates of the Federated Trades and Labor Assembly deliberated for more than two hours before deciding to request the circulation of petitions for the referendum, some of the delegates fearing that a fight of this kind would make unnecessary enemies for organized labor. Union men have nothing against the Shriners. Indeed, many workingmen are members of this splendid organization. So because of that friendly feeling it was for a time thought that the attitude of organized labor would be misunderstood.

For All the People. However, when it was brought out in debate that by saving the Armory for public use it would benefit all of the people of Duluth and particularly the people of the working classes, the delegates deemed it their duty, whatever the consequences, to fight to the last ditch for the greater good. Their slogan is "Save the Armory for the People."

Speeches were made by Delegates Henry Perault, John E. Jensen, A. G. Catlin, A. A. Barr and J. G. O'Neill. W. E. McEwen, Editor of The Labor World, Senator Richard Jones and former alderman P. G. Phillips, who were in attendance at the meeting of the Assembly upon in-

Have Nothing Against Shriners, But Believe People Should Keep Armory.

itation, also participated in the discussion, after which by an enthusiastic vote it was decided to request delegates to circulate petitions for the referendum election.

There was no division among the delegates about the question of saving the Armory for the people. Only two of them voiced any objections to placing the Assembly on record. One member feared that union labor's activity in the referendum election would jeopardize the proposed Labor Forward Movement. The other delegate argued that unnecessary enemies would be made by the contest. Each delegate took a petition and as The Labor World goes to press 12 petitions have been filed at the office containing approximately 900 names. People Sign Heavily.

It will require 1322 names to call a referendum election. It is believed that 2,000 signatures will be secured. As the citizens who are circulating the petition are contributing their services without pay, even 1,500 names would be a large number.

Every citizen who has filed his petition declared that if he had the time he could have obtained several

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR MINERS IS WANTED

TRINIDAD, Col., Jan. 20.—Judge Cavender of Leadville has sustained attorneys for the Mine Workers' union that miners indicted on charges growing out of the recent strike should be tried elsewhere. The court declared that conditions existing in this county made a change of venue justifiable.

Volunteers Circulate Petitions and Requisite Number Is About Secured.

times the number of names. If a sufficient number of volunteers were out with petitions the names of more than one-half the legal voters in Duluth could be secured.

Every day gives new evidence that the great majority of Duluth people are opposed to the sale of the Armory. While many of them are against selling the Armory for business reasons, the great number want it kept for a public forum and social center. It is gratifying to note how many public uses to which the people believe the Armory can be put. Public baths and a public gymnasium have a great many advocates, a public reading and club room is also strongly favored. One enthusiast believes that space should be given for teaching classes of housewives in domestic science.

Circulate False Stories.

The enemies of union labor's position are already circulating false reports to the effect that organized labor wants the building kept for a union labor hall where all local trade unions and labor assemblies may hold their meetings. The members of organized labor do not want the Armory for such a purpose. They are perfectly willing to pay full rent, as they have done in the past, until such time as they can have their own building, which they expect to construct with their own money.

They want the building for all the people and not for any faction or set of people. The fight they are making to save the Armory will benefit every citizen of Duluth. It is not in the interest of any particular class. What better patriotism can any body of citizens indulge?

LABOR MAN DEFENDS PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Congressman David J. Lewis Urges Postalization of Telegraph and Telephone.

TALK OVER TELEPHONE COSTS 6 MILLS A MILE

"Equal Rights to All" Is Great Formula of Nineteenth Century, Not Paternalism.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Representative David J. Lewis, of Maryland, the house authority on parcel post and telegraph and telephone rates delivered a speech last week in the House of Representatives in which he reiterated his arguments for government ownership of the telegraph and telephone systems of the country, and all other means of communication.

He urged that these agencies be condemned and operated as a part of the postoffice department.

"It costs the American as much to ship his long-distance conversation over the wires, mile for mile, as it costs him to ship a ton of freight over the rails," said Lewis. "The railroads get on the average seven miles a mile for moving a ton of freight. The telephone company charges six mills a mile for carrying a three-minute conversation. We may realize how weighty our conversations sometimes are. They weigh about a ton on the long distance wires."

Parcel Post Vs. Express. Lewis said the benefits derived by the public from the parcel post system would be duplicated by the "postalization" of the telegraph and telephone systems.

"In 1912, the year before the parcel post, the express companies carried 317,000,000 packages. That represented their total traffic for the year. It was about three packages per capita, for which the express companies received an average rate of 50 cents per package.

"In 1913, these companies carried

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ANTI UNION BOSSES FAVOR CHILD LABOR

Officials of National Association of Manufacturers Oppose Federal Bill.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—"I'm going to send my children to the North Carolina cotton mills instead of keeping them in school," was the sarcastic declaration of a trade union official after listening to arguments by attorneys and manufacturers before the house committee on labor in opposition to the Keating-Owen anti-child labor bill.

Attorney James Emery, whose connection with manufacturers' associations is well known, assured the committee he was against child labor. He did not approve of it, but—

This particular bill is unconstitutional and would never, never, be sustained by the courts.

A delegation of North Carolina manufacturers also expressed their disapproval of the bill. Their main objection was the rule it would cause by putting children on the streets and debar them from enjoying the happy life of a cotton mill worker. The manufacturers deplored the lack of educational facilities in their state, which should pass a compulsory school law. Until that time, said the manufacturers, it is best to keep the children in the mills, where their interests are carefully looked after.

The Keating-Owen bill debar from interstate commerce all child labor products.

SECRETARY WILSON DEFINES HIS STAND

Answers Criticism of German Editor Relative to Admission of Foreign Soldiers

NATIVE-BORN RETURN FROM BATTLEFIELDS

Trials Will Determine Whether Foreign Army Service Will Make Them Aliens.

The department of labor believes that George Sylvester Viereck, editor of the Fatherland, had a mistaken notion of its jurisdiction when he complained to the house committee on foreign affairs that Secretary of Labor Wilson had ruled that Americans may enlist in the armies of the belligerents in this war, take the oath of allegiance to a foreign government, and then return to this country and be admitted without question.

What the secretary did was to instruct immigration agents on the Canadian border that they are not to bar out Americans returning home solely on the ground that they took the oath of allegiance when enlisting in Canadian forces. The secretary has jurisdiction over the bureau of immigration, but he does not have jurisdiction to determine whether a man born in this country is an American citizen or not, and so he prefers to allow the man to enter and let the courts pass on his status.

The secretary's ruling, which was made Oct. 9, 1915, was in response to the following case, and should be interpreted in the light of it:

Frank Caswell, a native-born American citizen, who happened to be in Canada when the war broke out, enlisted in the Canadian army. He took the customary military oath of allegiance. He did not renounce his American citizenship. He did not thereby acquire a Canadian citizenship. It would take a special act of parliament to give him that. Whether Caswell went to the European front or not the department does not know. But it happened that some time ago he was offered a job in Detroit, and he accepted it in Canada, and came home to take it. He was stopped at the border.

Contract Labor Law.

Our immigration laws provide that alien contract labor is to be forbidden entry to the United States. If Caswell had actually lost his American citizenship he would not be entitled to enter this country again because he would come in as a contract laborer. But, of course, the prohibition could not be raised against him if he were still an American citizen.

When his appeal came to the department of labor, Secretary Wilson simply ruled that he would not undertake to say whether by taking the oath of allegiance to the king of England, Caswell had forfeited his American citizenship. So he directed that Caswell be permitted to enter and then gave the instruction complained of, for such cases were constantly arising. Editor Viereck of The Fatherland printed, however, only half of the order. He did not print the first half, which indicated that it was called forth especially by the Caswell case.

May Make Test Case.

There will be plenty of time in which a test case can be made. Caswell may be arrested at any time within three years and made to show his right to be in this country, on pain of being deported if he fails. Secretary Wilson is willing that anyone swear out a warrant for his arrest, so that the case may be brought before the court.

On the broad question of the case, Prof. A. S. Hershey, in his work on International Law, has this to say: "Contrary to the practice in some countries, foreign military or naval service or the acceptance of a public office in a foreign country do not in themselves affect expatriation in the view of the United States."

"ANYTHING TO BEAT WILSON" IS SLOGAN OF OLD TIME - SERVING TORIES

"Anything to beat Wilson," is the slogan of some Republicans in Congress who are employing their time and the people's money chiefly in an endeavor to dig up something that will serve as an issue to go before the people during the coming national election.

"Anything to get back to the pie-counter," is the real motive behind the attacks of these worthy statesmen, whose value as public servants may be measured by the frequency, regardless of the foundation, of their flings at the accomplishments of the Wilson administration.

Thier Favorite Subject.

The favorite subject of attack by the Republican politicians is the tariff. The Democratic tariff is responsible for the peakiness of the weather, the course of the stars and so on ad infinitum, say the Republicans.

Here is the argument of the immaculate followers of Hamilton:

The falling off in public revenues is due to the Democratic tariff, but all the prosperity that now prevails is due to the European war.

According to their easy logic it could not be possible, nay, not for a moment, that the falling off in the public revenues is attributable to the unsettled conditions in Europe, and, anyway, it is much handier to lay the responsibility at the door of the Democratic administration and, moreover, is in keeping with established Republican party custom.

Old Time Argument.

Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania is one of the chief characters in this comedy. The gentleman from Pennsylvania does not honor the Senate by his presence except on very rare occasions.

But recently he took occasion to deliver a stereotyped speech on the state of the treasury. It was the old Republican argument in favor of a high protective tariff. He "pointed

with pride" to the 18 years of extraordinary prosperity under protective legislation, and "viewed with alarm" the economic doctrines of free trade.

It was his conservative and absolute conviction that were it not for the war in Europe we would have the blackest times in the history of the Republic. "We would have witnessed poverty and starvation all over the country, bread riots, the army of the United States out to preserve order and universal distress and misery. Instead of the war in Europe being the cause of such a condition, it has been the cause of the alleviation of a condition too dreadful for any lover of this country to desire to contemplate," and so on in the same minor key does the gentleman from Pennsylvania give vent to his injured feelings.

They Are Never Happy.

Is it any wonder that Senator Gore, replying to Penrose, said that Penrose is never so happy as when he is miserable? But the national election is approaching and as we said at the be-

ginning, the Republican leaders are in sore need of campaign material. Mr. Penrose is one of the Warwickers of Republicanism. He is one of the official spokesmen of those great industrial concerns which reciprocate favors with the Republican party, and right here we are moved to quote Scripture.

Somewhere in the Good Book there is a proverb like this: "The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib."

During the first ten months of the Underwood Act, from Oct. 1, 1913, to Aug. 1, 1914, when the European war broke out, the Underwood Act rendered into the treasury \$366,800,000.

Falling Off Was World Wide. During the ten months from Oct. 1, 1912, until Aug. 1, 1913, the Payne-Aldrich law, this "paragon of Republican finances," turned into the treasury \$296,700,000, or \$19,000,000 less than the Underwood measure.

So much for the "failure" of the Democratic tariff law to raise revenue. If the falling off in revenues since

the beginning of the European war were confined to America alone there might be some foundation for the claim of the Republicans that the administration policies were alone responsible.

Our revenues in August, 1913, were \$30,000,000. In August, 1914, the first month of the war they fell to \$19,000,000, a decline of 37 per cent.

But how has the war affected other countries? In the port of Buenos Aires, Argentina, there has been a decline of 50 per cent. Moreover, this is typical of that entire country.

Chile Suffered Also.

Was that falling off due to the enactment of the Underwood bill in the United States? Was it due to some local Underwood Act in the republic of Argentina? These are the pertinent questions put by Senator Gore, and which are still unanswered by the Republicans.

During the months of August and September, 1913, the customs revenues of Chile amounted to \$12,400,000. During the months of Aug-

ust and September, 1914, the first two months of the European war, they declined to \$8,300,000, a falling off of 33 per cent.

Again Senator Gore asks the Republicans if this was due to the Underwood Act in the United States or if it was not due to the European war?

During the months of August and September, 1914, the first two months of the war the revenues in the United States declined to \$37,400,000, a decline of 35 per cent in this country, and a decline of 33 per cent in Chile.

Brazil Has Same Story.

In Uruguay the falling off amounts to 31 per cent. Brazil tells the same story. After the outbreak of the European war the revenues in that country dwindled to \$16,500,000, a shrinkage of 37 per cent.

The percentages are significant. Is it strange that these declines in both countries are to be attributed to an international, world-wide cause, rather than to the enactment of the Underwood law?

"Even a Democratic tariff measure has a right to a fair trial," adds Senator Gore.

"May we not appeal to Republican senators to discontinue this idle, this unfounded, impeachment of the Underwood tariff measure, when, judged in the light of history and truth, it not only is not a failure but it has no superior in the history of the fiscal legislation of the republic."

They Can't Be Fair.

But Senator Gore's appeal to the Republicans for fairness will go unheeded. The attempts to discredit the administration will continue. Misrepresentation will go on. There will be more idle clap-trap from Republican leaders in Congress who long for the place and power they lost nearly four years ago.

"Anything to beat Wilson." Anything to get back to the pie-counter! We have said that Penrose and his ilk are the spokesmen for interests that reciprocate favors with the Grand Old Party. And when we have said this, we have said it all.