

The intelligent, common sense workmen prefer to deal with the problems of today, with which they must contend if they want to make advancements, rather than to deal with a picture or a dream.—Gompers.

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The working class movement to be most effective must be conducted by the workers themselves in the interest of the workers. It will not be dominated by the so-called intellectuals or butters-in.—Gompers.

TWO CENTS.

THIS number of The Labor World goes to press on the sixty-sixth anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor. Organized Labor in every city in North America is this day paying tributes of respect, devotion and esteem to the great man who, more than any other, is responsible for the conception, birth, standing, power, prestige and strength of the greatest working class of all time. This issue contains a sketch of his life, stories of his achievements, eulogies from his co-workers, tributes from the press, and a general discussion of the philosophy of the trade union movement. Read them; you will become better acquainted with Mr. Gompers if you do, and you will understand the why of things you sometimes disapprove.

GOMPERS AMONG NATION'S BUSIEST MEN AT CAPITOL

President American Federation of Labor Violates Union Rules And Devotes Long Hours to His Work—No End of Conferences, Speaking, Writing and Traveling.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WRITES ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF GRAND OLD MAN

Interesting Story of Life, Character and Service of World's Greatest Leader of Men Who Started the Fight That Resulted in the Defeat of Cannonism.

By Claude G. Bowers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27.—There he goes waddling down the street because his legs are short and body heavy, emitting great clouds of smoke from the cigar in his mouth. His shoulders are massive, his head unusually large, his round smooth shaven face tells the story of many struggles and world weariness, and challenges the notice of the passerby.

He has just come from the White House where he has been closeted with the President and he is a lobbyist! And yet no one with an honest mind would pretend to find therein the suggestion of wrong doing, for he has been lobbying for the people the great struggling millions!

cauley. At times he suggests the consummate actor as he employs modulation to intensify the import of his words.

Back to the office on G street. Here he finds earnest men awaiting him, and with them he goes into conference. He has had nothing to eat. No matter—it's all in a day's work. And after the conference he shuts himself in and writes, writes, writes—words that millions will read—even

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TRADES ASSEMBLY TO HONOR GOMPERS

Central Labor Union to Hold Open Meeting Tonight to Observe Birthday.

This will be Gompers' night at the Federated Trades assembly at Owl's hall. Speeches will be made by E. G. Hall, W. E. McEwen and John Z. White. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend.

John Z. White will speak first at the Lakeside Improvement club. He will be the last speaker at the assembly meeting and will choose his own subject. He probably will touch on some features of the report of the Industrial Relations commission.

E. G. Hall, president of the State Federation of Labor, will discuss the chief features of the collective bargaining recommendation of the commission. Mr. Hall has spent considerable time studying the report of the Industrial Relations' commission and he will have something interesting to say on the subject.

W. E. McEwen has been requested to speak on the life and achievements of Samuel Gompers. He will also speak on some things in the philosophy of the trade union movement.

Off comes the skull cap, and on goes the street hat, and "the old man" once more emerges and heads towards the capitol. What a painful effort it must require for such stubby legs to carry such a ponderous body not to mention such a massive head! He takes a street car, and finding a seat, dives into his commodious pockets and pulls out a piece of paper torn from a magazine which he proceeds to read through big blases. He reaches the senate office building and alights.

Down the marble corridors he waddles to where a committee of senators are holding a hearing. Here he enters. The appointments of the room are elegant, luxuriant. Behind and around a long mahogany table sit the grave and reverent seigniors of the state. As "the old man" enters there is a hustle of curiosity, and he is received with profound respect. A little while before perhaps some pompous gentlemen from New York had received a less respectful welcome but he only had \$2,000,000 behind him, while "the old man" has 2,000,000 men.

He Commands Respect. He takes his position by the table and begins to talk. Everyone listens intently. His great hazel eyes, set wide apart, glow with inward fire. His deep heavy voice has in it all the passion and pathos of one deeply moved. His language is as pure and chaste and sonorous as that of Ma-

LABOR'S "GRAND OLD MAN" DEVOTES LONG AND USEFUL LIFE TO SERVICE FOR HIS FELLOWS



COURTESY OF THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
President of the American Federation of Labor.

The workmen and women of Duluth, with their fellows in all of North America, extend their greetings and best wishes to Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, on this sixty-sixth birthday. He has rendered great service to humanity, for which he deserves the gratitude of the people.

No man in American life has suffered such as he. No

man has been more villified. He has borne it all with a nobility of character that even compels his enemies to respect him. And it should be remembered by men of labor that every attack made upon Mr. Gompers was intended, not for the man, but because he has been fighting for men throughout his long life. The integrity of the labor movement is due largely to his great leadership.

YOUNGSTOWN STRIKE MARKS COMING OF NEW LABOR ERA

Is Sign To Steel Industry Owners and Managers That End Will Come—Cannot Adhere Forever To Present Policy of Depressing Wages Below Decent Standard.

STEEL COMPANY PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS AND DOLES OUT CHARITY TO WORKERS

Investigation Startles Nation—Pent Up Vengeance Let Loose At Riot—American Federation of Labor Not Responsible—Private Armies Write Own Death Warrant.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—"The Youngstown strike was a sign to the owners and managers of the American steel industry that the end will come; that they cannot forever adhere to their present policy of depressing wages below a decent standard by maintaining a vast horde of helpless immigrants in a condition of economic subserviency, throwing them on charity during times of depression, paying less than a living wage during times of prosperity, and during all times brutalizing them either by imposing excessive hours of employment or by imposing the enforced leisure that breeds fear and pauperization."

This is the conclusion contained in a report on the Youngstown strike and riot of January 7, made public today by the Committee on Industrial Relations. The author is George P. West, whose report on the Colorado strike and the Bayonne strike were published by the United States Commission on Industrial Relations.

The strike and riot at Youngstown, says the report, marked the beginning of a rebellion that was about to spread throughout the steel industry, and that was checked only by the prompt action of Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the United States

St. Paul unions to celebrate big day

Mass Meeting Will Be Held Sunday and Industrial Relations Report Discussed.

St. Paul labor organizations will observe Gompers' birthday Sunday in connection with a large mass meeting to be held by workmen to discuss the report of the Industrial Relations commission, of which Frank P. Walsh was chairman.

W. E. McEwen of Duluth will be the chief speaker. George Greenville, president of the Trades and Labor assembly will preside. G. W. Lawson, secretary-treasurer of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor will state its purpose.

Additional speakers will be obtained and every effort will be made to render the proceedings as entertaining and as profitable as possible. Organized labor in St. Paul is in a very prosperous condition and it is expected that a large and enthusiastic audience will greet the speakers.

Resolutions will be presented urging congress to consider well the recommendations of the Industrial Relations commission. Laws should be passed as recommended that will pave the way for the solutions of many of the ills of which workmen complain.

But the real cause of the disaster at East Youngstown, says the report, was the prevailing economic conditions. Many pages are devoted to living conditions among the steel workers.

"At the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company's plant, which, for more than eight years has earned dividends of 8 per cent on its capital stock, and since July, 1913, has paid dividends of 12 per cent, on a basis of \$10,000,000 of common stock, the privilege of working three days a week during these years of slack operation was doled out as charity might be after investigation had shown that the man's family was in need."

"To supplement the boon thus granted, baskets of food were distributed to the most needy, and the cost of the food was later deducted from the husband's or father's wages. The company also donated \$1,000 a year to the Charity Organization Society."

"The Republic Iron and Steel company gave \$500 as its annual contribution. The management of the Carnegie steel company, a member of the United States Steel Corporation, refused to give anything. The authority for the foregoing statements is given in the report of the Youngstown investigation."

Company's Big Earnings. But the real cause of the disaster at East Youngstown, says the report, was the prevailing economic conditions. Many pages are devoted to living conditions among the steel workers.

His greatest desire is to be employed in the great work of uplift, as exemplified in the activities of the American Federation of Labor.

BORN IN OBSCURITY SAMUEL GOMPERS BECOMES WORLD'S LEADER OF MEN

Samuel Gompers was born in London, England, Jan. 27, 1850. His father, Saul Gompers, is a cigarmaker. His grandfather, Samuel Gompers, was a man of philosophical turn of mind, of extraordinary courage and fearlessness, and well informed through knowledge acquired by wide travel in Europe.

As a boy, Samuel attended school from his sixth to his tenth year, then was apprenticed to a shoemaker, but disliking the business, he learned the trade of his father, and while working as a cigarmaker attended evening school for four years.

Started Work Early in Life. Being the eldest child of a family of eight, he began to aid his father in their support as soon as he could earn wages. He continued to work at his trade until he was thirty-seven years old, and during all this time he was student, an organizer, the spokesman and advocate of the rights to which in his view the working people were entitled.

He came to the United States when

thirteen years old, settled in New York city, and the next year (1864) helped to organize the Cigar Makers' International union, which now numbers 50,000, each member counting his membership in numerical order. His membership card is No. 1 and he served the union as secretary and president for six years. He edited its local paper, "The Picket," during that time.

Always Labor's Servant. He was president of the New York Workmen's Assembly for two years; he was nominated by both the Democratic and Republican party in his district for state senator in 1882; the Republican party offered him the nomination as representative in Congress in 1884; Governor Hill tendered him a place on the State Board of Arbitration in 1885, and President McKinley on the Industrial Commission in 1898, all of which honors he declined.

He was connected with the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, and the American Federation of Labor, its successor, in continuous official capacity during the early

period of their existence and up to 1887, without salary or recompense, when he was elected the second time as president with a salary of \$1,000 per year.

He is, and has been, first vice president of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America for many years, and was instrumental in having adopted by that organization the initiative and referendum, not only for the purpose of enacting laws, but also in the election of officers.

Avoided Partisan Politics. In order to be of more service to his fellow workmen in the cause of uplifting labor, he had steadfastly refused to be actively connected with any partisan political party. He was affiliated with the Society for Ethical Culture in New York city, established in 1867 by Felix Adler.

Mr. Gompers speaks and reads two languages other than English. One is German, which he learned that he might have the thoughts and reasonings of the German economic writers, knowing that translators sometimes have a purpose; the other is the language of his forefathers in

Holland. Although born in England, Mr. Gompers' people originally came from the land of the dykes.

Mr. Gompers has four children, Samuel, Jr., who is a printer and a member of the Typographical union; Alexander, a cigarmaker, and member of the Cigar Makers' International union; Henry, a granite cutter and a member of the Granite Cutters' union and a daughter, Sadie, who lives with her father and mother on First street in Washington.

His life work has been to aid the working people by increasing wages, reducing hours of labor, bringing about better conditions of employment in all occupations and living in improving the standard of living.

Experience As Editor. In June, 1887, by action of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, he established the publication called "The Union Advocate." This publication appeared for a short time, but when the convention of 1887 met, it ordered the publication to be discontinued. Later the American Federationist, official magazine of the American Federation of

Labor, was founded. The first issue appeared March, 1894.

He is the author of "The Eight Hour Day," "No Compulsory Arbitration," "What Does Labor Want?" and "Organized Labor, Its Struggles, Its Enemies and Fool Friends." He has edited the American Federationist from 1894 up to the present, and contributed many articles to newspapers and magazines.

Delegate to Cigarmakers' He has been a delegate to every convention of the International Union of Cigar Makers to the conventions of the American Federation of Labor since the latter's existence. He was the first delegate elected to represent the American Federation of Labor at the British Trades Union Congress. He has also been honored by the American Federation of Labor in having been given a commission to visit foreign countries in 1909, for the purpose of conferring with the officials of labor organizations; also to attend the International Secretariat as a fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor, the latter organization not having been

affiliated at that time with the Secretariat, which is now known as International Federation of Trade Unions.

His trip through England, France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland had the effect of creating intense interest in social problems and he was invited in all these countries to hold conferences with high government officials, as well as leaders of labor. Upon his return to Washington, organized labor of that city, aided by the citizens of the District, tendered to him the greatest ovation ever tendered anyone, save, of course, the incoming presidents on Inauguration Day.

Author And Student. Since returning from the foreign trip, Mr. Gompers has written a book entitled "Labor in Europe and America," which has had quite an extensive sale. The Saturday half-holiday, now so general, virtually originated in the bill drafted by him and enacted by the New York Legislature.

His first helpful reading was the tracts and pamphlets issued by the Anti-Slavery Society, then he read

Charles Dickens, Thackeray, Burns, Shelley, Hood and Shakespeare, followed by history and books on economics. For years his opportunities have been limitless to enter the business or political world, or upon the public platform.

His capacity with the knowledge which he has gained, to make money for himself is almost beyond computation. Recognizing his ability on the platform, many chautauqua societies and organizers of chautauqua book-ings, etc., have each year presented him with flattering offers for the platform, but he has steadfastly refused to accept any of the offers proffered.

Steadfastly For Labor. The year 1894 following his only defeat for President of the American Federation of Labor, innumerable offers were made to him to enter a mercantile and political life, and while he was practically without a dollar, he refused to accept any of them.

His greatest desire is to be employed in the great work of uplift, as exemplified in the activities of the American Federation of Labor.