

THE LABOR WORLD

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THE APPOINTMENT OF BRANDEIS.

It is hardly conceivable that the president could have found another man whom the country knows as well and deems as well fitted for the supreme bench as L. D. Brandeis. His commanding legal genius has been attested by many of the country's able lawyers who have matched strength with him. In the public causes in which he has appeared he has shown not alone knowledge of the law, but keen power of analysis which carried him through the husks of a question to the very bone and marrow. But his legal ability has not been more marked than his intense love of justice. Few men have ever commanded such confidence in their ability and their integrity of mind and heart. Brandeis has been called a radical, but his opinions have never led him away from the legality of a question; rather it has been his determination that protection to citizens that the law intended should be assured.

But even beyond these things rise the devotion of this man to unselfish public service. Of many men, happily, we say that they devoted their abilities to the service of their fellows, but how few have carried this to the point of refusing to profit beyond the modest competence with which Mr. Brandeis has been satisfied. The name of "the people's lawyer" that has been so often given him has been earned by his willing service to many causes in which he has not sought or received reward. The world has created few titles of honor such as this.

The president is to be congratulated, the supreme court is to be congratulated, but most of all the country is to be congratulated on the addition to its highest tribunal of such a man as Louis Brandeis.

PAYING FOR THE NAVY.

The Chicago Tribune figures the expense of the navy for 1915 at \$1.45 per capita, and then naively states that this is "only" .0687 per \$100 of wealth.

The trouble with the reasoning is that the tax was practically levied per capita and not per \$100 of wealth. It was so levied through tariff and other indirect taxes that a workman with no property, and living—as half of wage-earning fathers do—on a wage of \$10 a week, paid for the support of the navy taxes equal to a rate of .0687 per \$100 on about \$2,100 which he did not own. It was so levied that a multi-millionaire paid for the support of the navy no more than this poor laborer with no property to protect and no opportunities that lack of a navy would endanger. And the navy is but one item of a list of things for which taxes are levied in this unfair way.

The Tribune should be ashamed of its effort to mislead voters into support of such a system.

THE STATE MILITIAMAN.

In a recent address upon military preparedness, Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war in the Taft administration, had occasion to make some very unfavorable comment on labor's attitude toward the state militia.

To quote Mr. Stimson:
"What is even worse, there has gradually grown up among our laboring classes the feeling that the only soldiers with whom they are practically acquainted represent a different class of the community and are maintained for the purpose of being used against them. Instead of regarding the militiaman as a citizen, training to perform his duty of defending the country in case of real war, the labor man has come to regard him as a representative of capital, being trained as a policeman against labor."

Mr. Stimson has stated the case clearly. The state militia has nearly always been "used" as a tool of capital to keep labor in "proper" subjection, says the Seamen's Journal.

In theory the militiaman may be a "citizen trained to perform his duty of defending the country in case of war," but in practice the militiaman is somehow always a defender of the vested interests and the labor crushers.

In the life of this nation there has been scarcely one war for each generation. On the other hand, there have been an increasing number of industrial wars in each succeeding generation. True, these industrial wars, known as strikes and lockouts, are not fought under the auspices of the nation. They are not wars of defense against other nations, but they are in many instances directed against the nation's more dangerous and most insidious enemies who, under the mask of patriots, seek to enslave the nation's workers and establish an industrial tyranny with all its attendant miseries.

And while these wars are not popular with the boughten press and the average politician, they are perhaps of more far-reaching consequence as far as the nation's future is concerned than any battle ever fought between uniformed men under brass-bound generals.

Just as long as the state militia is being used for the purpose of making more difficult the workers' struggle for justice, just so long will the militiaman be regarded not as a "trained citizen soldier," but as a trained servant of capital.

TO ADJUST CONDITIONS OF SOCIETY.

Biologists tell us that the air about us is forever laden with all sorts of germs. All we have to do is to provide the right conditions for them to flourish, and they will settle and colonize and grow with fabulous quickness. But without suitable soil they cannot possibly get foothold.

The world is equipped with everything necessary to make mankind prosperous and happy, and there is in the heart of humanity everything to make possible the enjoyment of the good things of the world.

The thing needed is to adjust the conditions of society so that the interests and capabilities of mankind can have access to the things of life.

This is the purpose of the organized labor movement.

GERMANY AND TURKEY.

A Geneva dispatch printed in a Paris newspaper says that the heir to the Turkish throne, supported by numerous Turkish officers, has begun a movement for separate peace, co-operating with certain diplomats now in Switzerland, including a former ambassador to Paris and Naby Bey. The Swiss papers say Germany is encouraging the separate peace movement because she is unable to bear the strain of financing Turkey.

Tending to confirm the foregoing, a Milan paper prints a Constantinople message saying that the Young Turks and Old Turks are holding secret meetings with the object of forcing separate peace, and La Suisse, a Zurich newspaper, says three Turkish diplomats are now in Switzerland preparing a scheme for Turkish peace proposals.

The Turkish expedition to Suez has been abandoned; the Turk and Bulgarian offensive at Saloniki has been abandoned; Secretary of the Treasury Helfferich has admitted in the reichstag that Germany's financial condition is very unsatisfactory; and 50,000 German troops have been quartered in Constantinople to prevent what is believed to be an imminent revolution. These things are believed to confirm the Geneva dispatch.

Turkey seems to be a dead weight on Germany's hands, unable to make a military move without German money for troops and munitions; and now it appears that Germany is unable to continue its contributions. Besides, well-informed persons in France say the central empires are increasingly alarmed at the growing menace of the Russians on the Gallician front, and cannot afford to squander the slightest resource of men, money or arms on Turkey in the face of a Gallician crisis.

The conclusion is that the kaiser is at the bottom of the Turkish movement for a separate peace, and therefore it may be asserted that the allies will not consent to it. If the kaiser bit off more than he could masticate, that's his fault—and misfortune.

HUDSON MAXIM'S WARNING.

Hudson Maxim, the well-known inventor and member of the naval advisory board, told the New Haven Chamber of Commerce a few days ago that in his opinion this country will be in danger of foreign aggression after the conclusion of the European war. When the war is over, he said, there will be sure to arise between the winners and ourselves serious complications to be adjusted—and both England and Germany will have a navy superior to ours. Continuing, he said:

"Our enemy would be able to land upon our shores at least a quarter million men inside a month, and after that continually bring reinforcements at the rate of 250,000 a month, if they should happen to be required. Our little, poorly equipped army would not be able to offer resistance enough to make a ripple in the line of the enemy's advance. Our army would be just about one good day's killing."

Mr. Maxim's warning is not unlike the warnings of a number of other men who assert that, on the principle of "Safety First," we should prepare to defend ourselves. He says that if an enemy landed at New York or Boston it would be able in two weeks to capture the area in which our great arsenals, navy yards and munition plants are situated.

The European war has changed the opinions of a great many persons in regard to armies and navies and preparation. It may be that some of the experts who warn us are seeing dangers that do not exist, and that some others are closing their eyes to existing dangers. There are some who want no sort of preparation, and at the other end of the line are those—like Roosevelt and Leonard Wood—who would turn the country into a military camp.

LABOR'S IMPORTANCE.

In the account of Mother Jones' speech before the United Mine Workers, a few days ago, we read the following:

Two American financial agents of the allied Powers of Europe are in Indianapolis in close touch with the convention of the United Mine Workers of America. This was admitted privately this afternoon by President White. It is believed they are here to try to prevent a coal strike, which might hamper the manufacture of munitions of war.

So American labor has the capital of Europe at its feet! That's not a bad turn in the affairs of war, but it is an all important development. It shows how small the big world is after all. Five thousand miles from Indianapolis, millions of men are struggling in cold ditches, pouring into each other's ranks the lead that is distributed to them for deadly use. Five thousand miles from this scene of slaughter, agents of the entrenched forces plead with the workmen of a nation at peace to adjust differences wholly apart from the thing called war. And why? Because without the labor of the men at peace, the slaughter of the men at war would be impossible.

The American workman has come into his own in a more definite way since the outbreak of this world war, than at any time in his struggle for the position of power. It must be a matter of deep chagrin for the financial agents. But it is a just turn in the affairs of men. Aside from the mere wonderment that the connection between the two—the warrior of Europe and the workman of America—occasions, we can get from the above news some idea of the power which the workman in this vast country holds as his own.

We'll wager that there are financial agents at work other than those at Indianapolis. Miners are not the only class of labor who hold a rein in the mad drive of world affairs.

Between the cocksureness of the militarists and the cocksurety of the anti-preparationists, the man who knows he doesn't know it all feels lonesomely lonesome.

Speaking to the Motion Picture Board of Trade in New York, President Wilson had a good deal to say about liars, but mentioned no names. Now see if two or three prominent men don't fit that cap to their own heads.

How many men do you know who do just as they please?

Don't worry about giving the devil his due; he'll get it.

One of the most pathetic sights in the world is a highbrow person trying to conceal his delight in the lowbrow comedy of a movie show.

The pleasure is all yours when the other fellow hands you real money.

Clothes make the actress and the lack of them makes the chorus girl.

Duluth is too proud to hold a winter carnival. St. Paul is having one this week and it is a dandy.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR RETURNS TO UNIONS

"It is to the record of unionism in New South Wales we can turn with the greatest satisfaction," says the Australian Worker in a leading editorial on the silver jubilee of Australian trade unionism.

The paper refers to advances made by labor on the political field. "But when all this is granted," it continues, "where remains good grounds for disappointment with the results of labor victories in New South Wales."

"The election of parliamentary labor majority did not impress itself upon us as a swift transition from darkness into light. There are no wonderful changes marking it off the labor era from that which preceded it."

"It is, perhaps, too soon. Political power is not a magician's wand, 'turning the hovel into a palace and the swineherd into a prince."

"Injustices which have grown up in the process of the ages, and have become entangled with every relation of life, are not to be abolished with a 'hey, presto!' A tyranny which identifies itself with every social institution, and clothes itself with the homely virtues and the religious instincts, is not easily broken down."

"Labor ministers are but human. They are too apt to confound their own elevation with the uplifting of the masses, and develop a frame of mind which enables them to act as though with their personal triumph, the aim and object of the labor movement were attained."

"In New South Wales this tendency has hardened into a positive evil. No wonder the ranks of the workers are torn with discontent. No wonder the unions carry resolutions of condemnation. No wonder, where men and women who have fought and suffered for the ideals of the movement are gathered together, the state ministry is greeted with sullen eyes and muttering voices."

The Australian Worker, however, is optimistic, and declares that the cause for jubilation is the advance of trade unionism. Says the editor:

"It is to the record of unionism in New South Wales we can turn with the greatest satisfaction. Labor's silver jubilee in that state is an event which the organized working class can celebrate with pride in their splendid solidarity and in the justice of their cause."

"It is that solidarity, and that passion for justice, which will purge it of base intrigues and self-seeking adventures in the field of politics, and lead it onward, despite the virulence of enemies and the faithlessness of friends, to the consummation of its desires."

COLORADO'S STRIKE LAW HURTS WORKERS

At the last session of the Colorado legislature the state industrial commission was created. One section of this law provides that employers and employees shall give at least 30 days' notice before making any change in working conditions. The law further provides that in case the industrial commission is investigating a question of this character, and an employer forces a lockout or the employees strike, the party or parties are guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to a fine of not more than \$100.

Under this act strikes are illegal until the commission makes its award. Writing in the Tailor, official magazine of the Journeymen Tailors' union, Organizer Biggs, located in Denver, expresses his opinion of the act:

"If the negroes of Tennessee should ask for better wages or conditions at the beginning of the cotton picking season, and were restrained from enforcing their demands, and were compelled to continue working until the season was over and a hearing on the reasonableness of their demand, they would be in much the same position as are the journeymen tailors of Denver, Colo. But, fortunately for the negroes of Tennessee, they have more freedom to right their wrongs than have the journeymen tailors of Denver."

TRY TO GET U. S. IN WAR WITH GERMANY

Nearer and nearer. All the Roosevelt papers are coming pretty close to saying in so many words that we must join the allies and fight against Germany. The New York Tribune keeps on testing the Roosevelt game, and here is what The Chicago Post, a devoted Roosevelt organ has to offer:

"We cannot believe, on the history of the war as it has gone by, that Germany, however well intentioned, can fall to shock and anger once more the moral consciousness of America. When militarism wages war a Louisiana, or a Cavell incident is almost unavoidable, simple because militarism does not know how to avoid such incidents."

"Secondly, if no such incident occurs, the clear-thinking American in whom alone our present interest lies, may be led to face honestly and finally the great question: After all does not America's best interest lie in the supremacy of Great Britain? Such a question, if forced on us, as perhaps it ought to be forced on us for our own sakes, could have but one answer from our people."

In other words, The Post is persuaded in advance that Germany won't, because she can't, refrain from injuring the United States, and if she could and did, then we ought to take up the cause of Great Britain, anyway.

The issue is clear enough as The Post sees it: Shall the United States remain neutral, independent and acting for America, or shall it go to war for England. Is this after all to be the issue of the campaign?—Milwaukee Journal.

CARRIERS TO HAVE SALARIES RESTORED

In adding \$300,000 to the appropriation for the pay of letter carriers, and stating in explicit language that hereafter there shall be no salary distinction between the collection and delivery carriers, the house committee on post offices and post roads has paved the way for the restoration of the salaries of mail collectors who were reduced from \$1,200 to \$1,000 when Postmaster General Burleson decided to establish a lower grade of pay.

The committee's action sustains the position of officers of the A. F. of L., who assisted the National Federation of Post Office Clerks in an agitation against Postmaster General Burleson's rule. In a visit to the post office executive, the trade unionists made this statement:

"At no time in the history of the oldest employees in the postal service has the lines been drawn more tightly. Carriers are overburdened with weighty parcels; clerks, under the two-division plan, are compelled to study twice as much at home to learn distribution schemes. From the lowest substitute to the highest supervisory there is little, if any, slack. This attempt of the department to drive men beyond the limit of their endurance and deprive thereby other men from an opportunity of securing work, is not likely to aid in the restoration of prosperous business conditions; neither will it make for a qualified, loyal capable corps of postal workers.—A. F. of L. News Letter.

ROBERT BURNS

Born Jan. 25, 1759.

The spark of genius, fanned to flame,
Burns brightly at the shrine of Fame,
Where is engraved the immortal name
Of Robert Burns.

He sang not of the ways of kings;
Nor soared on Fancy's fabled wings;
But looked on nature's plan of things
And saw 'twas good.

He saw the dawn flush o'er the sky,
He heard the lark's song on high,
The humble day caught his eye
And thrilled his soul;

Until he found himself a part
Of nature's grand, supernal art
And poured the feelings of his heart
In tuneful song.

And now when many years have sped
Th' "heaps of honors of the head,"
Denied him "till his soul had fled"
To more congenial spheres.

He left a legacy of worth
To all his "brothers of the Earth."
So mark the memory of his birth,
Th' Immortal Memory of Burns.

WASHINGTON STATE 8-HOUR LAW UPHELD

Judge Smith of the King county court of Seattle has ruled that the state eight-hour public works law is legal and that the commissioners of this county have the right to establish a minimum wage of \$2.25 a day for county road work.

The so-called "station work" system of sub-letting road contracts was declared to be an evasion of the eight-hour law and the court called attention to the contract signed by illiterate workers who did not know what they were signing. This was held to be contrary to public policy and was an attempt to defeat the plain intent of the state law and the minimum wage order of the county commission.

The road contractors were prosecuted by Labor Commissioner Olson and that a contrary ruling recently made by Judge Wright of the Thurston county superior court was not a fair test, as that case was not tried on its merits and would not, therefore, be upheld by the state supreme court. Under the Wright decision large employers of labor in logging and other industries could call their workers "sub-contractors" and defeat the workmen's compensation law.

State officials are confident that the decision of Judge Smith will be upheld by the state supreme court, if the contractors appeal.

The Same Old Tune; Still Seek Subsidy

The National Boot and Shoe Manufacturer's association, in convention here, complains of the high cost of leather and demands the restoration of such a tariff on shoes as "will cover the waste differential of the American over the foreign workman."

This leaves it to be inferred that the higher costs of material extend beyond the country and that no tariff protection is needed on that score. The country is accordingly given the impression that the home production is being heavily undersold by foreign shoe manufacturers on account of our high wages alone.

The war has greatly increased the exports of American boots and shoes, which in ten months past amounted to \$22,000,000, against imports of only \$192,000. But in a previous period of ten months unaffected by the war, and still under the new tariff which provides no duty on shoes, exports amounted to \$13,500,000, while imports rose to the highly ruinous level of \$413,000, or hardly one-thirtieth part of the export trade.

Freemuth's

Clearance of Women's Wearables

WINTER SUITS—Splendid materials and the wanted colors. Regular prices were from \$19.50 to \$29.50. Clearance Sale..... **\$7.50**

WINTER COATS—In black and colors. Comprising coats that have been selling at \$12.50 to \$19.50. Clearance Sale..... **\$5.00**

BLACK WINTER COATS—Rich materials, with extra quality linings. Regularly \$25.00 and upwards. Clearance Sale..... **\$13.00**

WOOL SERGE DRESSES—For women and misses. Exceptionally good values at \$19.50 Clearance Sale..... **\$12.75**

WOMEN'S PLUSH COATS—Handsomely trimmed with fur. These are our regular \$40 and \$45 lines. Clearance Price..... **\$25.00**

WAISTS—White and colored, that have been soiled and mused by handling. Regularly \$1.25 to \$2.50. Clearance Sale..... **50c**



Final Clearance of Velvet Hats

The hats for immediate wear, in chic shapes, becomingly trimmed with flowers, wings, fancy feathers and with gold or silver, in two sale groups—

25 HATS—Worth up to \$7.50 **\$2.50**
33 HATS—Worth up to \$14.00 **\$3.50**

COMPTROLLER SAYS BANKS ARE USURIOUS

New laws to protect borrowers from usurious banks is urged by Comptroller of the Currency Williams in his annual report. It is suggested that the department of justice be permitted to bring suit against these offending banks on information furnished by the comptroller's office.

To support this plea is incorporated sworn statements from national banks in Texas, Georgia, Oklahoma and Louisiana, showing that they have been lending money at rates of from 20 to 2,000 per cent. A voluminous amount of correspondence between the comptroller and banks is reprinted to show that there have been many shallow attempts to justify usurious charges.

One bank president sought to defend usury on the ground that "it is a long established practice," while others declared it meant failure to small banks.

The comptroller, however, points out that no bank has been forced out of business because it was compelled

to keep within the law in its interest rates.

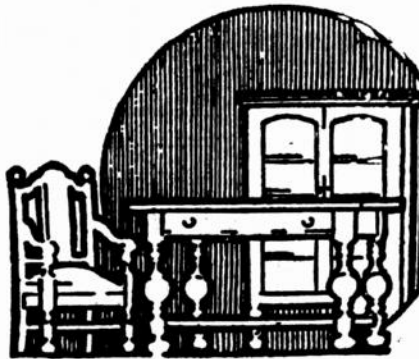
Usurious charges are in the 1. exacted from helpless borrowers caught in the pinch of necessity, 2. the report. Reference is made three national banks which have a matter under oath that the average rates which they charge on all loans are 25, 35 and 40 per cent per annum respectively.

MANITOBA UNIONISTS MAKE STRONG DEMAND

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Feb. 3.—delegation of trade unionists presents government officials with the demand of organized workers in this province for remedial legislation. In the 11s were included amendments to the election act, a new fair wage schedule for government contracts, raising the exemption under the garnishment act from \$25 to \$40, the reorganization of the labor bureau, examination of barbers and moving picture operators and better inspection of refrigerating plants and compressed air tanks.

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