

THE LABOR WORLD

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W. E. McEWEN, Publisher.

THIS WEEK'S THOUGHT.

"I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me our wrong, ten angels swearing that I was right would make no difference."—Abraham Lincoln.

STATE INSURANCE THE BEST.

The best argument we have seen for state insurance comes from the office of the State Insurance Commissioner of Minnesota. In a report just issued Insurance Commissioner Works shows that employers' liability companies made a profit of \$1,832,602.71 from the time the Workingmen's Compensation act went into effect October 1, 1913, to December 31, 1915, a period of 27 months.

The following from the St. Cloud Daily Times gives an accurate picture of the chief evil that still remains in workingmen's compensation:

"Casualty companies doing business in Minnesota, in 1915, collected premiums on workmen's compensation insurance of \$1,146,764.46, and paid losses of \$518,163.05, as compared with premiums collected in 1914 of \$1,222,353.22, and losses paid of \$470,243.93.

"The Workmen's Compensation Act took effect October 1st, 1913, and between October 1st and December 31st, 1913, casualty companies collected premiums in Minnesota, on account of workmen's compensation insurance of \$481,697.17, and paid losses of \$29,805.17.

"The total premiums collected on workmen's compensation insurance in Minnesota, from October 1st, 1913, to December 31st, 1915, amount to \$2,850,314.85, and the losses paid during the same period amount to \$1,018,212.14. And thus, in two years and three months, the casualty companies made a profit in this state of \$1,832,602.71. Time to reduce rates."

But the St. Cloud Daily Times does not go far enough. So long as a claim agent for an insurance company stands between an injured man and his employer in the settlement of claims exact justice will never be given under workingmen's compensation.

Minnesota employers should not seek a reduction in rates. They are now paying less money than was paid under Employers' Liability. If they choose to assist in performing real service to the state they will join with labor in a movement to abolish all casualty companies and to establish in their place a state insurance fund to properly and adequately compensate every employe injured at his occupation.

The remarkable sum of \$1,832,602.71 which went into the pockets of the insurance companies as the net proceeds from workingmen's compensation premiums, under state insurance, would serve to give every injured man a square deal, which he is not now getting under workingmen's compensation as it obtains in Minnesota.

Under a state insurance plan every dollar paid by the employer for insurance would find its way into the pockets of the injured workingmen. No private companies would profit from the crushed bones and mangled bodies of Minnesota's workingmen.

GOVERNOR EBERHART FOR U. S. SENATE.

Former Governor Eberhart has announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for U. S. Senator. It is now certain that there will be three candidates for this nomination. Frank Kellogg has already declared himself and it is expected that Senator Clapp will announce his candidacy in a short time.

Governor Eberhart has still a strong hold on the Republican voters of Minnesota. He belongs to the standpat crowd, but in spite of this fact he is possessed with some progressive tendencies. Mr. Kellogg is about one-half progressive and one-half reactionary. Senator Clapp is all progressive and claims no allegiance to the reactionary forces. Were it not for his vote in the Senate against President Wilson's foreign policy recently, he would loom up much stronger than he now does.

In a three-cornered fight it is believed Senator Clapp will be the nominee. Governor Eberhart and Frank Kellogg will draw their strength from the same source, while Senator Clapp will get his strong support from the so-called progressive forces in the Republican party. It is a ten-to-one shot that he will be nominated.

What a splendid opportunity there is for a Minnesota Democrat to be nominated and elected to the U. S. Senate. Col. A. C. Weiss of Duluth is the logical Democrat for that office. The fact that he failed in the election for delegate-at-large to the Democratic National convention would not operate against his candidacy for the Senate. While Democrats might divide on him in the primaries, he would pull the united strength of the party at a general election. In addition to this no man in Minnesota has a greater number of friends among the Republicans.

In every campaign since 1896, and before, Col. Weiss has been loyal to the party. His newspaper has been a stalwart champion of Democratic principles. In some minor matters the paper has taken issue with many Democrats, but on the big things the Duluth Herald has always stood up to be counted. It would take considerable pressure to induce Col. Weiss to become a candidate for U. S. Senator, but if Minnesota Democrats are wise they will see to it that he gets the call. He never has and he never will shirk a party duty. President Wilson needs just such a man in the United States Senate from Minnesota.

Back of all our union effort is that noblest of all desires—to improve the individual and the social life.

STATE POLICE NOT WANTED.

Public sentiment in the United States is gradually crystallizing in favor of a large civilian army. It is proposed that the Federal government grant financial aid to the state militias and that our young men be encouraged to join them.

In line with this movement it is advocated that the legislatures of the several states enact laws to relieve the state militia from doing police duty during strikes. As the Duluth Herald puts it: "It is the state's duty to rid the militia of the infamy of being used by employers to crush strikes."

It is believed that if labor is given assurances that the state militia will not shoot down workmen who are struggling for higher wages, shorter hours of labor or better working conditions that more young workmen will consider it a patriotic duty to join and strengthen the militia. This program we heartily endorse. If we are to have a large army in the United States and we are to choose between a continental standing army and a state militia we would much prefer the latter.

In lieu of the state militia doing police duty during strikes it is urged that the state establish a constabulary, a form of state police, similar to that in Pennsylvania. Several influential Minnesota newspapers are advocating that the state relieve its militia from strike duty and that a state police force be organized in its stead.

Organized labor is more fearful of a constabulary than it is of the state militia. The constabulary of Pennsylvania is a labor crushing body which stands ever ready to obey the orders of the large corporations. There is a constant effort being made to increase the salaries and membership of the state police. It is a burden that the state should not bear.

If the state has any money to set aside to protect life and property in case of riot, it should be used to aid the local police. Labor is just as much interested in keeping its police near at home as it is in having its government near the people.

The sheriff in each county should be held responsible for the maintenance of law and order. If the county funds in any case are not sufficient to maintain order and respect for law then the money it is proposed to spend on the constabulary should be spent in such counties in times of need for the employment of special police or deputy sheriffs. If this policy obtained there would be no excuse for a large corporation maintaining an army of private police, the presence of which is a menace at all times to the lives of the workers.

There will be no state constabulary in Minnesota, not if the workers have anything to say about it.

JOIN THE FLY SWATTING BRIGADE.

As spring approaches we begin to think of cleaning up our yards and getting our premises in shape for the summer. It will be some time yet before we can do very much along this line in Duluth. But there is one, important thing we can do; we can swat the first fly that appears in our homes.

One swat at this time of the year will prevent a line of descendants from a mother fly that would reach around the world at the equator five thousand times by the middle of August, according to F. M. Washburn, state entomologist of Minnesota.

Just an ordinary healthy female house fly, Mr. Washburn states, produces at a minimum 120 eggs at a setting. He says that it is safe to suppose that at least half of these will hatch female flies. Four months uninterrupted breeding would result in the startling fly population of 214,557,844,320,000,000,000,000, which in round numbers is almost 215 sextillion flies, and all of these might claim the same great-grandmother.

This number is startling. It is a big army to put out of business, but man can conquer all things. So as a precaution do not wait until your house and its surroundings are infested, but start right away in swatting the fly.

According to a report of the United States Department of Agriculture, after a visit to the ordinary well littered alley an industrious fly has collected from 550 to 660,000 germs on the hair on its legs and wings. Flies love to feast on filth and then get into the house and wipe their feet on cake or the baby's bottle.

Public health officials are devoting a large amount of their time in educating the people how to prevent disease. A large fund of information has been gathered and is being given to the people without cost. But the health officials cannot do it all; it is up to the people to help. The best way to diminish the number of flies in July, August and September, when they are the greatest pests, is to swat them in March, April, May and June.

Let every reader of The Labor World become a member of the fly swatting brigade, it is a campaign of preparedness to which we most heartily subscribe.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRY MINUS CHIVALRY.

The Keating Child Labor Bill, recently passed by the lower House of Congress, is being bitterly attacked by representatives of the Manufacturers' Association of the South.

They object particularly to the feature of the measure barring from interstate commerce commodities produced by the labor of children working more than eight hours a day.

The South, they say, is not ready for the eight-hour day because it has not the necessary capital and because, with less skilled labor and adverse freight rates, a long work day alone made it possible for Southern mills to compete with those of New England.

Evidently Southern chivalry has not entered the manufacturing interests of the South.

Industry that cannot exist without crushing childhood has no right to exist.

SOME EXCELLENT ADVICE.

Here are a few pieces of good advice to Organized Labor, recently given by the New Age: "The working people should never put their confidence in men of questionable integrity, neither in politics nor in their economic struggles.

"If you mistrust a man don't make him your confidant, don't make him your representative. The workers have often been the victims of double-dealings, often offered to have profited from this rather expensive lesson."

Organized Labor is the business end of justice. It is justice applied to the practical affairs of industrial life.

No authority can make wrong right. In fact, authority is null and void without right. Authority, without right, may compel. But it never wins.

INTERESTS BEHIND VILLA; JOHN LIND

What interests are behind Villa? John Lind, President Wilson's envoy to Mexico, declared at his home, in Minneapolis, last Saturday, that Villa's invasion was undoubtedly financed and inspired by interests on this side of the border.

Lind favors establishing a 20-mile neutral zone on both sides of the border instead of invading Mexico. "Of course," he said, "Villa's incursion can hardly be said to be border trouble, strictly speaking. He was undoubtedly inspired and financed by interests on this side."

Lind learned enough of the underground wires that are being pulled between Wall Street and Mexico while in the latter country to give him the unquestioned right to speak authoritatively.

While ordering thousands of young men into Mexico—hundreds of whom may never return—why cannot President Wilson at the same time send United States secret service men into that nest of traitors known as Wall Street?

If Villa is to be shot or hanged, are those who incited him to commit murder, who furnished him with money and munitions, to go scot free?

The masses of American people should demand the speedy apprehension and conviction of the rich conspirators who are using the Mexican bandit as a tool, and who do not stop at murder and war in their greedy schemes to loot Mexico.

CANADIAN WOMEN WIN BIG VICTORY

Canadian women have gained their first big suffrage victory in the province of Manitoba, which has just granted the complete franchise to all women over 21 years of age. Not a vote was recorded against the bill, which went through as a government measure amid scenes of great enthusiasm.

Manitoba, which is the great grain growing province of Canada, is the first to grant full suffrage to women, although nine provinces already give the municipal franchise. With a bill at present pending in the Canadian parliament to extend the federal vote to all women who have the provincial ballot, Canada seems to be fairly on the road to doing political justice to the feminine portion of her population.

This makes the tenth important victory for suffrage on this continent in the last six years. The majority of these victories have been in the western United States, and incidentally the suffrage strength since 1912 will put suffrage in a new light before the conventions of political parties in 1916.

At the time of the last presidential election, the states in which women had the ballot controlled 37 electoral votes. At the next presidential election, the states where women vote will control 91 electoral votes—more than New York and New Jersey combined. Since 1912, new states—Arizona, Kansas, Oregon, Illinois, Montana and Nevada—have given the woman the right to vote.

If Iowa, where the question of woman's enfranchisement comes before the voters on June 5, joins the equal suffrage commonwealths, 18 more electoral votes will be added to the 91 of the enfranchised states.

THE OPEN SHOP

We nearly lost the liberty for which we fought so hard.

Because the bloomin' country was caught off its guard; And the bloody agitators, with their crookscraw brand of hop,

Got the workers into unions and forced the closed shop. And here in free America, sweet Liberty's own kid,

We had to mind the delegate and do as others did. They wouldn't start too early, and they wouldn't quit too late;

If there wasn't any profit—well, the boss must pay the freight. The workers' mouths were opened, and the bosses' shoppes were closed,

And the men had lost that liberty for which the Goddess posed; They got some better wages, and they didn't work so hard;

But they HAD TO join the union and they HAD TO have a card. But we're going to have things different, and by the jumping gee,

If we really have to do it, we will die to make men free. We will make the name of liberty resound through every place;

The shops will all be open, and we'll close the workers' face. We will free them from the unions and the walking delegate,

And then they will be free to work from six till half-past eight. They'll be free to vote our ticket—or be free to work no more;

For just behind the open shop there'll be the same old door. Why think we have come to such a pass the children ain't free;

The unions won't permit them to be what they well could be. At twelve a boy is strong enough to do a lot of work,

And at fifteen they'd gladly do the work their fathers shirk. But we're going to bust the union, and we're going to make men free;

And we'll drive the agitator from the land of liberty. Then the wage will have no bottom, and the hours will be a mob,

And if you don't like it, you'll be free to quit your job. Some of the nation's venerable and pacific law makers are qualifying as principals in a congressional "Mutt and Jeff" series.

Justice Hughes again and emphatically lets it be known that he is out of politics and does not want the Republican presidential nomination—unless.

BRITISH SAILORS GOOD TO GERMANS

All vestiges of internationalism among the workers are popularly supposed to have been destroyed by the war. But the British sailors are giving interesting and practical proof that they at least have not lost all sense of comradeship with those who were formerly their fellow workers, even though they are now their official enemies.

As the result of the capture of many German vessels by the British, a great number of German sailors were brought to England, and were about to be interned with other foreigners to await the end of the war. But the British sailors had not forgotten that these were the men with whom they had previously fought side by side against an enemy common to them both, and who had been good comrades in the struggle for better conditions for sailors all over the world.

The situation was considered by the Sailors' organization, and an appeal was made to the government that the Seamen's Union be allowed to take care of all foreign sailors brought to British shores.

A farm was bought near London, and instead of being interned in ordinary camps, the German sailors are, with the consent of the English government, in a sense paroled to their British brothers, who have voluntarily made themselves responsible for their care and safe keeping until the war is over.

LABOR KNOWS WHAT "OPEN SHOP" MEANS

The National Founders' association and the National Metal Traders' association have joined ranks in an attempt to break the strike of Pittsburgh iron molders who are demanding shorter hours. The following section of the contract being forwarded to prospective strikebreakers will indicate the amount of "liberty" these non-unionists will retain:

"The National Founders' association hereby agrees to employ you for the term of one year from this date at the trade of molding or coremaking. You are to work faithfully and for the interest of the association in all particulars; you are to work in such shops as the association designates, and when transferred from one shop to another, the association will pay the railroad fare and you will not lose the time consumed in travel. You are to be at all times ready to move from place to place as the association directs, and when working in a struck shop you are to be particularly careful to work for the interest of the shop where the strike is in force.

"Either the president or commissioner of the association shall be the judge as to whether or not you have been faithful, conscientious, and living up to the terms of this agreement."

The above provides for typical non-union conditions, these employers insist on referring to as the "open shop." It will be noted that the worker must at all times be ready to move from one city to another to break strikes and the officers of the National Founders' association qualify as mind readers, as they say they will be the sole judge of whether a strikebreaker is guided by his conscience—whether he is "conscientious."

WHO KNOWS?

BY EDMUND VANCE COOKE In Reddy's Mirror.

The emperor clad in his ermine, With hand clenching up toward the sky,

He finds it not hard to determine The patriot's duty to die. So the emperor speaks and the emperor shrieks

His imperial will, or his won't, But the man in the trenches— A stench amid stenches—

Knows something that emperor's don't.

The philosopher sits in his study And writes economical lore. And that which was turgid and muddy Is lucid as never before.

The philosopher reasons as sure as the seasons And cites you by that and by this, But the man who must borrow His pay-roll tomorrow Knows something philosophers miss.

The minister talks to his people And tells them commandments and laws; As plain as the bell in his steeple, He reasons on sin and on cause.

And the minister prays (like the organist plays) And the minister urgently pleads, But the girl who is working At five-dollar clerking Knows something that's not in the creeds.

Yes, rulers and writers and preachers, We think, but how much do we feel? Yes, judges and talkers and teachers, We talk, but we cannot reveal.

We read and we write and we judge and we write, And prescribe for the world and its woes. But the man at the dead-line, And he in the bread line, Say nothing at all—but they know.

Some people wish to re-establish the old justice courts in Chicago. Very well; and horse care and kerosene lamps should come back with them.

The arrival in the U. S. A. of the world's richest string of pearls suggests where some of the war profits are about to go.

Although South Americans may mildly resent the Monroe doctrine, they find it a very satisfying refuge from overseas dangers.

Landing seems to be falling out with Bernstein. You'd almost think he would.

Freemuth's Red Cross Shoes for Women. Our complete spring stock of this famous shoe is here for your inspection. The high quality, fine workmanship and real comfort of this shoe are known wherever good shoes are worn. The choice includes all the new lasts, with the famous flexible soles— \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$6.00. Special Showing Smart Spring Millinery At \$5.75. In this group we have prepared for Saturday you will find a fine assortment of hems and fancy braids in sailors, turbans, tricorne, etc., in black and colors. A wide choice of trimmings of flowers, ribbons, quills, fancy wings, etc. Women's Vegetable Fiber... Silk Hose. A fine quality of fiber silk in gray, gold, navy, white, beige, sand, pink, sky and many other shades—an unusually good value at the pair... 29c. Black Vegetable Fiber Silk Stockings—These are the throw-outs of the best 35c stockings made, and the imperfections have been mended and are hardly noticeable—while this one lot lasts, per pair... 25c.

BAD GOVERNMENT; LAWYERS BLAMED. (A powerful agitation against "government by lawyers" is going on in England. Many liberal thinkers, of the type represented by Austin Harrison, editor of The English Review, are ascribing the admitted blunders of the government to the fact that it is composed chiefly of lawyers. A good statement of this point of view is contained in an article by H. G. Wells in The Saturday Evening Post, from which the accompanying extract is taken.) By H. G. WELLS. So early as the year 1902 the present writer was lifting up his voice, not exactly in the wilderness, but at least in the royal institution, against the legal as compared with the creative or futuristic type of mind. The legal mind, he insisted, looks necessarily to the past. It is dilatory because it has no sense of coming things, it is uninventive and wasteful, it does not create, it takes advantage. It is the type of mind least able, under any circumstances, to organize great businesses, to plan campaigns, to adventure or achieve. "Wait and see" crystallizes its spirit. Its resistance is admirable and it has no "ego." Nevertheless, there is a tendency for power to gravitate in all democratic countries to the lawyer. In the British system the normal faults of the lawyer are enhanced and his predominance intensified by certain peculiarities of our system. In the first place, he belongs to a guild of exceptional power. It happens that the unfortunate course was taken ages ago of bribing the whole legal profession to be honest. The British judges and law officers are stupendously overpaid in order to make them incorruptible. We have squared the whole profession to be individually unbrilliant. The judges, moreover, in the Anglo-Saxon communities are appointed from among the leading barristers; an arrangement that a child can see is demoralizing and inadvisable. And in Great Britain all the greatest salaries in the government service are reserved for the legal profession. The national consequences of this state of affairs have been only too manifest throughout the conduct of the war. The British government has developed all the strength and all the weakness of the great profession it represents. It has been uninventive, dilatory and without initiative; it has been wasteful and evasive; but it has not been wanting in a certain eloquence and dignity, it has been wary and shrewd, and it has held onto office with the concentrated skill and determination of a sucker fish. Turkey's misgovernment of Armenia will end when the Turks are permanently driven out. An Ohio couple kept their marriage a secret for six years, and, strange to say, the woman in the case wasn't a mute at that.

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