

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.

# THE LABOR WORLD

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS.

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.

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## SUFFRAGE PARTY WIELDS BIG CLUB

New Political Organization Has Fully 4,400,000 Votes to Seal Franchise Bargain.

## WOMEN MAKE FLAT DEMANDS FOR SUPPORT

Leaders Turn From Chicago Convention and Put Up Fight at St. Louis.

CHICAGO, June 17.—Backed by a voting strength variously estimated at between three and four and a half million, and with a cash box that contains at least a half million, the Woman's party is the newest political uncertainty to be thrown into the troubled arena.

Today the women put it straight up to the men politicians, asking whether they intended to come across with a suffrage amendment or not.

Representatives of Republican, Democratic, Socialist, Bull Moose and Prohibition parties made speeches to the women. The Republicans, Progressives and Democrats made nice talks, but promised nothing.

The Socialists and Prohibitionists made straight-out declarations. The Socialist party, of course, stood for suffrage before there was much of any suffrage movement in the country.

However, these women want votes, and those who have them are going to use their votes to win them for those who have them not. This game is a straight-out game of practical politics. The women see only two parties who have the power to grant what they want—the Republicans and the Democrats.

That is why they listened intently to what the minority parties had to say and then proceeded to other business.

## Wants Prenuptial Contract.

Miss Suffrage Party has a dowry of 4,400,000 votes to bestow upon the suitor who wins her affections. She has already demonstrated that she is not easily to be beguiled by the flattering phrases of those who love her for her votes alone, but will insist upon a prenuptial contract, pledging, in return, equal political opportunity for all American women, though a national suffrage amendment.

Governor Osborn of Michigan, and John Hayes Hammond of New York, were the first to publicly plead for her consideration of the cause of Republicans. Osborn declared that "if the Republican party has any political sense left, it will adopt the Susan B. Anthony amendment as a plank of its platform, and nominate Theodore Roosevelt," but admitted that he did not expect it to do the former. Miss Suffrage Party immediately lost interest in his suit.

Hammond boasted that Republicans would protect the bride, "by force of arms and not by mere words," if she would but yield her hand—and votes. He painted in glowing words the manliness of the Republican party, but dodged a pre-nuptial contract. But all in vain.

Cheered by the chilly reception given the proposals of his hated rivals, Dudley Field Malone, Collector of the Port of New York, sought to rush the young lady to a hasty pledge for Democracy and Woodrow Wilson. "I have not come all the way from New York to flatter you," Malone declared. "Republicans have joined George M. Cohan and are waving the American flag to win your support. We want you to come with us."

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## RIGHT OF PICKETS DENIED BY COURT

Only Paper in Chicago Backing Up Workers Is Muzzled By Judge.

## DECREE HITS ABOUT 3,000 TANNERY EMPLOYEES

Publication Will Defy Capitalistic Court and Fight for Free Speech.

By MAX SHEROVER.

CHICAGO, June 17.—What is conceded by leading men in the labor movement as the worst injunction in the history of American labor was issued recently by Judge Jesse A. Baldwin of the Circuit Court of Cook county, at the behest of a group of tannery manufacturers, commonly known as the "Tannery Trust." The writ is aimed generally at the 3,000 tannery workers who are out in a heroic struggle against working conditions which defy description, and it is aimed particularly against the Polish daily, Dziennik Ludowy, which from the beginning of the struggle proved the backbone of the strikers' solid and determined stand.

About three weeks ago 3,000 tannery workers, two-thirds of whom are Poles, went out on strike, rebelling against an average wage of \$7 a week for a twelve-hour day in one of the most hazardous occupations. Realizing that their only protection against unspeakable abuses lay in organization, they formed a union, of which Dziennik Ludowy was the creative factor, and were later recognized as such by the Chicago Federation of Labor, through the instrumentality of John Fitzpatrick, its president, and William Schoenberg, business agent of the International Association of Machinists.

Bosses Backed by Court. Dumfounded at the surprising demonstration of solidarity among the workers whom they have been unmolestedly robbing and crushing for years, the manufacturers in their desperation turned to the ever-ready and obliging capitalist courts. The court responded readily and issued what is conceded by lawyers and labor leaders to be the most sweeping and liberty-destroying legal instrument ever handed down from a judge's bench. It denies and prohibits the striking workers from making any move, from uttering any word, or printing a line that can be construed as interfering with or attempting to injure the business of their exploiters.

The writ specifically names the editors of the only Polish paper in Chicago that has defiantly and loyally always lined up with the workers in this and every other city in any struggle against capitalist aggression. Under the germ of discontent first made itself heard from the ranks of the tannery workers, it found expression in Dziennik Ludowy, and through out the long period of pregnancy and birth of the strike this paper gave its space generously to the strikers' cause, and its editors, M. Sokolowsky, have worked like beavers between and among the strikers' meetings and imbuing the workers with the spirit of solidarity which they are displaying. It was this activity of the paper that drove the manufacturer and prostituted sheets have been bribed into silence by lavish advertisements inserted by the bosses. And when repeated efforts to buy the silence of Dziennik Ludowy with an \$800 advertising contract failed, the bosses' lawyers secured the injunction, the purpose of which is to make

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## DULUTH FIREMEN HAVE WON RIGHT TO ASK TWO-PLATOON SYSTEM FROM PEOPLE

This is our last word for the city fireman. We can't say more as the election will be over and the question of the two-platoon system will have been decided by the voters before this paper goes to press next week.

The Labor World is intensely interested in this question. We advocate the passage of Ordinance "A," and in doing so we sincerely believe we are working in the best interests of the city, as well as of the firemen.

We believe that a fire department conducted under the two-platoon system will be more efficient than a department that is operated on a continuous twenty-four hour schedule, and we are more than convinced that we are correct in our position since we have read the testimony of America's greatest fire fighters on the wonderful improvement that followed the inauguration of the two-platoon system in every city where it has been put into effect.

It should not take very much argument to convince any fair minded voter of the justice of the demands of the Duluth firemen.

Who wants to work twenty-four hours a day?

How would you like it, Mr. Voter, to be separated from your family day and night, year in and year out, without any hope for reward over and above a meager salary?

How would you feel if you were forced to shoulder upon your wife the full responsibility of rearing and training your children?

What kind of a citizen would you grow to be if you were cut off from all social and church intercourse with your fellow citizens?

And yet, you are requiring the men who protect your life and your property from fire to make these sacrifices, just to save you a few extra pennies in taxes.

The prayers of the wives and the children of firemen are going up to God this week, and they are petitioning the people of Duluth to vote next Monday to let them have their daddies at home at least part of the time.

Have you ever sat in a fireman's home when a fire alarm has been sounded? Oh! the suspense, what questions flash through the mind? If it is a big fire, will the boys come out of it well and safely? The telephone rings. Is it good or bad news? See the wife tremble as she takes down the receiver. Watch her face; see it brighten. Thank God, the fire is out, and all are back to the hall again.

At another time it is bad news. One of the boys has been hurt. All firemen's wives then give up their full measure of sympathy, for who knows the ill omen that will hover about the next fire, and what home will be stricken? So it is day and night with the fireman's family; always worry and always fear.

The two-platoon system will not remove the worry or fear, but it will go a long way towards bringing a little more sunshine and happiness into the home of every fireman in Duluth.

It is true that this is the sentimental side of the two-platoon issue, but who is so hardened as to thrust sentiment aside in dealing with a question of such human importance?

As a matter of cold business the Duluth firemen have earned the right to demand the 12-hour workday. The service they have rendered to the city; the saving to life and property; their heroism and their sacrifice entitle them to this meager reward.

Duluth has the best fire department of any city in

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Minnesota. The reports of the fire insurance companies to the state prove it. In 1915 there were collected in premiums in Duluth by the insurance companies \$581,466.77. The companies, paid out for fire losses for the same period only \$192,207.35, a loss ratio of only 33 per cent.

Compare the loss ratio in Duluth with that of St. Paul and Minneapolis. During 1915 the insurance companies received as premiums in Minneapolis \$1,912,462.34. They paid out in the same year for losses \$1,320,145.35, or nearly 70 per cent of their receipts. In St. Paul the premiums collected amounted to \$1,039,552.73, while the losses were \$1,074,432.57, or 4 per cent more than was collected.

Here are figures that speak louder than editorials and speeches. Duluth firemen are making Duluth a safe city in which to live, and the only thing they are asking the people in return for their splendid service is that they be given 12 hours of partial freedom every day.

As a matter of fact a fireman, under the two-platoon system, will never be off duty. Even while he is away from the fire-hall he will be subject to call in case of a large fire.

It is a mistake to say that when the hours of duty are reduced from 24 to 12 hours that it will require twice as many firemen to operate the fire department. It will take nothing of the kind. The fire department is now organized and manned with sufficient men to fight all large conflagrations. There is under this system a terrific economic waste, for at most fires only a few men are needed.

Under the two-platoon system it will require but one-third more firemen than are now employed to properly and efficiently man all of the apparatus. If Ordinance "A" is adopted next Wednesday, it will increase the labor cost of running the fire department for the next year by \$27,000. Surely the city commissioners can find a way to raise this amount without seriously inconveniencing a single Duluth tax payer.

The two-platoon has been in operation in Omaha for seven years. A year ago the National Association of Fire Underwriters investigated the Omaha department and pronounced it efficient. The two-platoon system is also in operation in Seattle, Kansas City, Lincoln, Yonkers, Youngstown, Butte, Berkeley and Great Falls.

Every consideration of justice and humanity demand that the 24-hour system of continuous duty now employed by the city in its fire department be absolutely condemned as out of keeping with modern civilization.

There can be no reasonable defense of a system that divorces the husband and father from the wife and children for five days at a time; that deprives him of the privilege of divine worship and of the opportunity of social intercourse with his fellow men.

In every city where the two-platoon system has been tried the health of the men has been improved and the efficiency of the department has been promoted.

The Labor World makes this final appeal to the voters of Duluth. We ask that you vote "Yes" on Ordinance "A," the one at the top of the ballot. Every workman is urged to extend his support to the firemen whose modest demands have been put up to the voters of the city.

Let every citizen do his duty by the fireman on Wednesday next.

## GOVERNMENT ARMOR PLANT NOW ASSURED

WASHINGTON, June 17.—By a vote of 235 to 135 the house approved the \$11,000,000 in the naval appropriation bill for the construction of a government armor plate plant. This proposal has been accepted by the senate.

The Bethlehem Steel company has conducted an advertising campaign in the public press against a government owned plant.

Vote "Yes" on Ordinance "A" next Monday—Help the firemen.

## EMPLOYERS MUST CARRY INSURANCE

SAN FRANCISCO, June 17.—The Building Trades Council has passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That it is hereby ordered that no member of any organization affiliated with this council shall work for any person, firm or corporation who does not carry liability insurance of the state or in an insurance company whose financial standing is approved by the insurance commission of the state of California."

Vote "Yes" on Ordinance "A" next Monday—Help the firemen.

## HELPING TEACHERS TO ORGANIZE UNIONS

SAN FRANCISCO, June 17.—The Labor Council has instructed its organizing committee to give all possible aid to public school teachers in this city in their effort to form a union and affiliate to the American Federation of Teachers.

Members of the municipal fire department are awakening to the advantages of unionism and the Labor Council's committee will assist them, also.

Vote "Yes" on Ordinance "A" next Monday—Help the firemen.

## CONSUMERS HIT BY WAGE ADVANCE

Coal Price Increases Far Exceed Advances in Wages of the Employes.

## COMPANIES ARE SAID TO USE SUBTERFUGE

Reading Corporation Frankly Admits Public Must Help Meet Hold Up Its Profits.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., June 17.—The Springfield Republican writes: The expected has happened in the announcement of increased wholesale prices of hard coal for next winter's use by one of the most important of the coal producing companies of Pennsylvania. The increase will be passed along until it is paid finally by the consumer. The Reading company which led off in this business of raising prices, makes a point of frankness with the public; for it declares that the advanced prices are due to the increase in miners' wages, amounting in the aggregate to some \$10,000,000 a year, which was recently granted by the coal companies in response to the demand of the United Mine Workers' union.

More Than Cover Wages. The first question to be asked is whether these advanced prices of coal cover simply the increased wages. The coal companies have a nasty record for advancing prices much more than is required to meet their increased wage payments. Nothing could be more despicably mean than such a practice.

It seems like an attempt to penalize consumers for not taking more strongly the side of the companies in wage contests, and, at the same time the owners of the coal mines fatten up their profits. To illustrate what is meant one may quote the following from the report of an investigation by the United States bureau of labor: Following the agreement of May 20, 1912, the wholesale price of anthracite coal advanced by the mining companies about 25 cents per ton, when all mines were then into consideration. The advance in miners' wages under the above agreement and the increase in wages granted the men not specifically covered by the agreement was equivalent to an increase of between 8 and 10 cents per ton in the cost of labor, or an average increase of about nine cents per ton for the anthracite region as a whole. Deducting this increase in miners' cost from the increase in the selling price per ton, it will be seen that the prices realized by the coal mining companies were increased about 16 per cent per ton more than was required by the new scale of wages alone. (House document 1442, page 33.)

Use Subterfuge. The companies in short, took advantage of the advance in wages made in 1912 to increase their own earnings by about \$12,000,000 a year. It would appear, therefore, that whenever the miners get higher wages, the companies get higher profits, and what the consumers get needs no diagram to explain.

The prospect now is that the federal trade commission will be compelled to investigate advances in the prices of hard coal ostensibly based upon the recent increase in wages. Investigation can accomplish nothing, except furnish publicity for the glaring abuse by the coal producers of their monopolistic power, but if the public gets nothing else, besides the higher prices, it might as well get the facts.

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## VAST SURPLUS IN NATIONAL BANKS

Deposits in United States Show Tremendous Increase of Over Two Billion in Year.

## NEW CURRENCY LAW PROVED BIG SUCCESS

Wage Earners and Farmers Share In General Prosperity, Says Secretary McAdoo.

Secretary McAdoo, in a speech of unusual power and significance, delivered at Raleigh, N. C., recently presented incontrovertible evidence of the country's prosperity and stability, as the result of measures adopted by the Democratic administration. When the country was on the verge of appalling panic, at the outbreak of the European war in 1914, it was, he said, the decisive and adequate measures taken by the government at Washington that averted this panic and laid a secure foundation for the great prosperity we now enjoy.

"What a contrast this is," said the secretary, "to the ineffectiveness of the Republican administration at Washington during the panic of 1907, which left the country prostrate for many years and brought immeasurable disaster upon the American people."

Reserve Act Leading Factor. A leading factor in all this has been the Federal Reserve Act, "which is now generally conceded to be the most constructive measure placed upon our statute books in a half century." Continuing, the secretary said: "Nothing is more indicative of the amazing growth of the country than the condition of the banks. The comptroller of the currency states that in March, 1916, the resources of the national banks amounted to \$13,000,000,000, exceeding by \$370,000,000 the greatest resources ever shown in the history of the National banking system. The resources of national banks were \$2,271,000,000 greater in March, 1916, than in March, 1915.

"This marvelous increase in one year exceeds, the comptroller states, the entire resources of the Reichsbank of Germany, as reported in February, 1916.

"The aggregate resources of the National banks of the United States now exceed by approximately \$2,000,000,000 the combined resources of the Bank of England, the Bank of France, the Bank of Russia, the Reichsbank of Germany, the Bank of the Netherlands, the Swiss National Bank and the Bank of Japan. The total deposits of the National banks in March, 1916, amounted to \$10,790,000,000, an increase in three months of \$411,000,000, and an increase over March, 1915, (one year), of \$2,198,000,000.

"These figures are so prodigious as to be almost unbelievable. They reflect infallibly the degree of prosperity as wide and deep as it is amazing and gratifying. One can not speak of this record without superlatives. Even the infallible and sanctified Republican party could not have done better."

All Share in Prosperity. The secretary pointed out that prosperity is permeating every corner of the country and every class of the American people. Labor is employed throughout the land at the highest wages ever known. The dinner pail is overflowing. The farmers of the United States never in their history have enjoyed such splendid rewards for their toil.

"The Rural Credits Bill," he said, Continued on Page 2.

# WAR IS THE GREATEST CRIME SAYS FRENCH SOLDIER WHO LEFT TRENCHES

A unique, a horrible word picture of war has been painted by Eloi Bordin, who recently left New York for San Francisco, after experiences in French trenches facing the German line.

Stories galore have been told by men "back from the trenches." But among them Bordin's narrative stands out, distinctively in a class by itself.

His viewpoint is different from the others, vastly so—for Bordin "quit" the trenches after he became convinced that "war is no job for a human being."

Admitted Description. He makes no bones of the fact that he deserted. Just how the opportunity came, he does not say, for so doing would involve others. But he did not "quit" because of cowardice. He played his part with bravery in six different attacks on the German lines in the Champagne district. He was four times disabled—twice by poison gas and twice within a week by shells which buried him under ground.

Bordin is an American of French birth. He enlisted at the beginning of the war and saw twenty months of service. "I ought to know about war," says Bordin. "From the soldier's standpoint, that is. As to the standpoint of the men who send you into the war, that is altogether another matter. I do not know anything about that. No soldier does. In the French trenches, the soldiers were always asking each other, 'What are we here

for? What are we fighting about?' Nobody could answer.

Like American Slaves. "I saw twenty months of trench fighting. At the end of that time a chance offered itself, and I quit. I feel about that quitting exactly as the American slave, in the days before the Civil war, felt, when he had managed to run away from his master. Soldiers are slaves. Nothing more. Just slaves.

"I quit my job after I had had plenty of time to become convinced that it was no job for a human being. No man has any right to send other men into the places where I have been, or to do the things I have done. It was right to quit.

"Mud is the soul and the essence of trench life. It is always with you. It gets into everything, and everything gets into it.

Sickening Mud. "It is a peculiarly sickening sort of mud. It has things in it that are not in regular mud. All the trench offal, cast aside by a crowded army of men, becomes a part of that foot-deep mud. Old garments, shoes, food, bits of metal, are added to it. The arm of the leg of a man who had had his arm or leg shot off drops into the mud, and itself passes, after days, into the condition of mud. There are worms in that mud—maggots.

"The soldier is always soaked in it, bathed in it, pickled in it. It is in his eyes, his hair, his nostrils, his mouth. There is an all preparation they give you to rub your clothes

and boots with, but it is of little avail against that mud. The daily shower comes along, the shell-torn ground becomes slimy, the horrible odor increases, the surrounding hills look drain right down into the trench, and the mud in the bottom of the trench becomes a rotting soup, infinitely horrible, infinitely foul.

"The climax of trench horrors is reached when the order comes down the line to attack.

"For weeks you have been cowering in that infernal ditch, eating there, sleeping there, never standing fully erect, never daring to expose a finger-tip. The edge of that ditch has come to mean to you the limit of the world. Beyond that edge there is—nothing. Oblivion. The end.

Ready for Charge. "Now comes the order that you and your fellows are to climb over that dreadful edge and rush for the German trenches.

"That is the moment at which I have seen pitiful scenes. Not all that has happened in the European trenches at different times, when the attack order comes, will never be told. And I shall not tell it.

"The men take pictures of their wives and children, letters from home, locks of hair and little keepsakes from their pockets and look at them, kiss them unashamedly.

"It may be the last moment of life. There is never any cheering. The thing is too cold, too murderous. It is the feeling that a man must have just before he is hanged, when his

own legs are carrying him up the gallows.

Charge Terrible. "After that leap you see no more. Whether you are wounded, killed outright, or lucky enough to get through, it makes little difference. It is all horrible. Whether you survive or have that ghastly experience again or not, the feeling is death. I have not died, but I know what death is like; for six times I have attacked.

"When you reach the German trenches, either you find it full of dead—from your artillery; you had no time to shoot while you were running forward—or else it will be occupied only by a few of the most hopelessly frightened men you ever saw. It is almost as bad to be attacked, of course, as it is to attack; in either case death is sitting on your shoulders.

If there are Germans yet alive you rush up with the bayonet and take them prisoner. They hold their hands aloft. Then you see the only happy look you ever see in war—the look in the eyes of a man who has been taken prisoner. Prisoners are happy. They are through with the war.

All Want Peace. "There is nothing harder than leaving the hospital and returning to the front. When you have been sent to the hospital you have told yourself, 'Maybe I will stay here ten days or two weeks, and by that time there will be peace.' That is what you are always hoping for—the end of the war. Just as you do not know why

the war started, so, also, you do not know when it may end, or why. All is out of sight.

"But the war has not ended; and the order comes for you to join the regiment.

"For this return to the trench of death the French soldiers have invented a word that shows how they feel about it. When Christ was led to be crucified, and knew what torture he was facing, the mountain up which they led Him was Calvary.

Trenches Called 'Calvary.' "That is the word that stands for the act of marching into certain, sure agony; and that is what the French soldier calls it when he returns to the front from the hospital. It is called 'Calvary.'

"Four times I underwent Calvary. The fourth time was worse than the first; and the fifth—the fifth did not happen.

"I had been sent back to the front in the Argonne region. We were being bombarded by the great German guns, throwing huge shells; and one of these struck the ground not twenty feet in front of the trench—directly opposite me.

"All I heard was an incredible roar and shock. In that same instant I knew I was alive, and then that I was dead; for I was buried in the ground.

Buried Alive. "The blood rushed to my head and I faintly, I could not breathe. "But the light came back, and I was lying on my back in the ditch

bottom of the trench—alive. It seemed that I had simply been caught beneath the trench wall as it caved in, and buried. The shell had not struck me. My feet had been left projecting up into the air, and my comrades had pulled me out.

"The worst was the shock. I was very weak and sick. But they did not give me hospital orders; every man was needed in the trench, for an attack was expected.

"And less than a week later the same thing happened again. A shell came, caved in the bank, and once again I was buried in the ground.

Thought He Was Insane. "Try having three great wagonloads of dirt suddenly flung on top of you by an explosion. My nervous system was wrecked. I thought myself insane.

"They sent me to the rear, more dead than alive, and much of the time I was out of my head.

"How it happened that my fifth 'Calvary' never happened I shall not relate. There would be others involved besides myself.

"All I will tell is, that after two weeks of light and starvation, I found myself over the southern border of France, with no money and but little clothing, sick, walking toward the Pyrenees Mountains, which were covered with the freezing snow of early winter.

"And I crossed those mountains, waded deep in snow, found a boat at a Spanish port, and came

home. The other particulars I shall not reveal.

"But I shall say this—and I say it with all the sincerity of a man who is now undergoing criticisms from those who know nothing of what they are saying:

"War is the greatest crime. Murder is but one man's death; war is murder over and over again.

Patriotism No Justification. "There is no word that can make war right. The word patriotism does not make it right. That idea of patriotism is a lie. I have shouted for France and I have fought for France, and while I was fighting I did my best, and a nation accused me of cowardice. But the things France asked me to do for her are wrong. Eternally and always wrong.

"And if any believe that I have presented things wrongly, or that my attitude is exceptional, my answer is this: Go over to the trenches and see for yourself.

"You will find things as I have suggested; and you will find, not only the occasional soldiers, but the entire army full of soldiers talking as I do. These thoughts are in every man's mind; I have been of the soldiers, and I know.

All are asking. "What are we here for? Why are we killing the Germans? What right has the government to send me here?"

"There is no answer to that question."