

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.

Vol. 23, No. 55.

DULUTH AND SUPERIOR, AUGUST 26, 1916.

TWO CENTS.

GOMPERS ON HUGHES; SAYS RECORD IS BAD

While Serving On Supreme Bench Upheld Injunction Against Hatt.

GAVE SEVERAL DECISIONS INMICAL TO WORKMEN

Said Anti-Trust Law Was Applicable to Personal Relations of Wage Earners.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, wrote Aug. 15, 1916, from the headquarters of the organization, to Mr. Thomas H. Hughes, of Alliance, Ohio, a letter giving the history and connection of Hon. Charles E. Hughes with certain celebrated legislation. It seems that the distinguished candidate of the Republican party had quite a record. This, too, was evidently known to the reactionaries of his party who made him their party's nominee. The letter of Mr. Gompers is completely self-explanatory and follows:

Aug. 15, 1916.
Mr. Thomas H. Hughes,
635 East Main street,
Alliance, Ohio.

Dear Sir and Brother:
Your letter of recent date, asking for the record of Hon. Charles E. Hughes, nominee of the Republican party for president, in regard to labor matters and particularly as to the famous Danbury Hatters' case, was received.

The Danbury Hatters' case has an historical place in labor's struggle for freedom. It was in the course of the trial of the case that the workers of our country finally succeeded in securing a declaration from the highest court of the land as to the application of antitrust legislation to associations of wage-earners.

The decision of the court in this case involved a principle of fundamental importance to workers. It was the same principle involved in the abuse of the writ of injunction which, under the perversion of judges, who had no understanding of industrial conditions, and the labor of human beings, had been transformed into an agency at the service of employers who wished to restrict the industrial freedom of their employees and to prevent their using legitimate methods of securing their demands and promoting their welfare.

The theory upon which courts have held that anti-trust legislation applied to associations of wage-earners and that injunctions could be used to regulate industrial relations, which are personal relations, was the assumption that the labor of a human being was an article of a commodity and, therefore, property. This assumption recognizes no distinction between the creative labor power of a human being which is inseparable from his living body and the articles which he produces.

In 1908 the supreme court of the United States rendered a decision in the Hatters' case when the initial appeal was made.

In 1914 the United States supreme court delivered its final decision in the case and sustained the contentions of the lawyers of the Anti-Boycott association, which instigated the case against the Hatters in the name of the D. E. Loewe company, hat manufacturers of Danbury, Connecticut.

Held Labor a Commodity.

The court sustained the position that the Sherman Anti-trust law applied to the personal attributes and normal activities of human beings. It held to the theory that there was no distinction between the labor power of human beings on the one hand and articles or commodities on the other—articles or commodities which men sought to control and manipulate through trusts. This decision threatened the very existence of voluntary associated effort—the effort of organized workers to carry out the normal purposes for which they were organized, that is, to improve standards of life and work, wages, hours and conditions of employment. Such activities of the workers were, by the decision of the supreme court of the United States, regarded as liable to all the civil and criminal penalties under the anti-trust laws of the United States. In other words, the Sherman Anti-trust law, enacted to curb the cupidity and machinations of the combinations of wealthy owners, was to be applied to the voluntary organization of the workers instituted for beneficial purposes and the welfare of human beings.

The decision in this case, which is known as *Labor vs. Loewe*, declared that the damages in the case were \$30,000, which, under the provisions of the Sherman Anti-trust Act, were tripled, and, together with the costs of the case, the interest, made a total sum of over \$300,000, which the Danbury Hatters must pay D. E. Loewe & Co.

Mr. Charles E. Hughes was a justice of the United States supreme court at the time this decision was rendered and he concurred in the decision.

The last decision in this case, although it is brief, reaffirms all that the court declared in its 1908 opinion. There is another opinion of the United States supreme court, written by Justice Hughes, which throws light upon his attitude upon this principle, which is of fundamental importance to the workers of the country. It is his opinion in the case of *Truax vs. Raich*, a case which involves the constitutionality of the Arizona anti-alien law. Under that law all employers of

(Continued on Page 2.)

HEALTH INSURANCE HISTORY REVIEWED

Work Has Become Firmly Established Wherever Begun Declares Report.

EXTENDED TO PAID WORKERS

Workers Lose \$500,000,000 Yearly Through Sickness; Legislation Urged.

In the five years before the present war not less than six European countries adopted compulsory health insurance for wage earners. Thus, population totaling some 230,000,000 and including such widely different peoples as Russians and Dutch, British and Roumanians, Norwegians and Serbs legislated for health insurance for workers in France, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland.

These striking facts are made plain in the summer number of the *American Labor Legislation Review*, published by the American association for labor legislation, in which, for the first time in this country, is presented a health insurance map of Europe with a carefully drafted bill for American legislation and an elaborate brief in its support. The map shows that in the course of a few years this new type of social legislation has spread to every civilized, industrial country in the old world, with a few exceptions, and there are indications that Canada will adopt a similar system at the conclusion of the war.

Healthful Progress.

In every case where health insurance has once been tried it has become firmly established, its benefits being extended to include all of the low-paid workers. Would not America then also benefit by adopting the system? To study this question, the special national committee including among its members, Miss M. Dawson, leading actuary and lawyer, Professor Henry R. Seager of Columbia University, Dr. Alexander Lambert, Chairman Judicial Council of the American Medical Association, Miss Lillian D. Wald, president of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, and Dr. Henry J. Harris of the Library of Congress, as a result of their work the committee has drafted the model health insurance bill which, the secretary, Dr. John B. Andrews announces, will be introduced into more than 20 state legislatures next year.

Powerful arguments in support of health insurance legislation in America are assembled in the brief which, according to the secretary, Miss M. Dawson, leading actuary and lawyer, and many leading health and insurance authorities which appear to establish the following points: (1) High sickness and death rates prevail among American wage earners. (2) More extended provision for medical care among wage earners is necessary. (3) More effective methods are needed for meeting the wage loss due to illness. (4) Additional efforts to prevent sickness are necessary. (5) Existing agencies cannot meet these needs. (6) Compulsory contributory health insurance providing medical care and cash benefits is an appropriate method of securing the desired results.

Loss Through Sickness.

According to a recent bulletin of the United States public health service \$500,000,000 a year is lost in wages to the workers of the country because of disability through sickness. Recent investigations show that about 25 per cent of the population cannot afford to pay for a private physician. Sickness is seven times more frequently a cause of destitution than industrial accident, yet no American state has as yet legislated to indemnify the worker for this loss by insurance, or to provide him with medical care. A death rate twice as high among industrial workers as among the professional classes indicates that industrial conditions are the cause of much sickness and death. The model health insurance bill provides for the insurance of all workers earning less than \$100 a month by joint contributions from employer and employee and the funds are to be controlled by mutual associations, and medical care and treatment together with cash benefits of two-thirds of wages will be payable for a maximum of 26 weeks in a year. A small funeral benefit, maternity benefit and medical care for the insured worker's family are also included in the plan.

PROSECUTORS NEED NO AID.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 24.—The "law and order" committee of the chamber of commerce received a cold reception at the hands of Judge Sullivan and Brady in the cases of union pickets who were charged with violence. In both instances the assistant district attorney assured the judges he did not ask the "law and order" attorneys to help him. The court ruled:

"The assistant district attorney is entirely competent to take care of the duties of prosecuting, and outside interference, except by his own motion, will not be tolerated in this court."

The pickets were discharged.

POWDER COST STARTS STRIKE

ATHENS, Ohio, Aug. 24.—About 1,500 miners in this vicinity struck because coal operators increased the price of powder 25 cents a keg, in violation of an agreement. The operators blame the European war.

ATTEMPT TO BREAK STRIKE FAILURE

Metal Trade Bosses Make Big Drive On Strikers But Lose Out.

MILWAUKEE, Aug. 24.—What was intended to be a big drive of the metal trade employers to break the machinists' union strike was repulsed Monday morning with disastrous results for the bosses.

The employers whose shops have been gripped in the strike met another attempt to accomplish the return of 4,000 strikers. This was not the first attempt of this character but it ended as disastrously as the previous effort to inveigle the mechanics to return to the shops under the working conditions against which they are revolting.

Bosses Lose Ground.
The bosses centered the drive at the plant of Pawling & Harnischfeger, thirty-eighth and National avenues. As was the case at the other struck plants, the strikers were out in force to witness the latest move of the employers.

Not only was Pawling & Harnischfeger unsuccessful in inducing the return of the strikers but three mechanics who had remained in the shop at the time of the walkout, refused to go to work.

Members of the firm and overseers were at the gate to act as a reception committee. They even went so far as to catch hold of men in an attempt to pull them into the plant, according to Emmett L. Adams. Adams also asserted that private detectives were operating in the crowd to accomplish the return of men. Adams said the profanity of the slouts became so marked that deputy sheriff forestalled them. The deputies also cautioned the company representatives who were attempting to pull men into the plant, according to Adams.

Strikers Are Jubilant.
The failure of the employers' scheme increased the determination of the strikers. Every striker pledged himself for picket duty and expressed determination to remain out until concessions are granted.

MORE PREPAREDNESS NEEDED

HARRISBURG, Pa., Aug. 24.—At least 5,000,000 acres of land in this state are continually non-productive because of forest fires, and Pennsylvania citizens are losing, at a minimum, \$20,000,000 which might be realized from the products of the soil, according to the state's chief forest fire warden in his first annual report. "With repeated fires and continuing erosion the absolutely barren land is on the increase," says the report, which estimates that 500,000 acres of the 5,000,000 acres of forest land in the state is damaged by fire annually. The state loses \$1,000,000 a year directly from fires in the woods.

TAILORS GET BETTERMENTS.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 24.—Journeyman Tailors' union is improving the conditions of repair men employed by clothing houses in this city.

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 24.—Bush-

semen employed in the clothing stores in this city have organized a branch of the Journeyman Tailors' union No. 71.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Aug. 24.—Station-

ary Firemen's union is making steady advances through persistent agitation. Its latest gain is signed agreements with two large milling companies.

PEONAGE ORDINANCE FAILS.

TAMPA, Fla., Aug. 24.—Low wage and long hour employers are squealing over the failure of city authorities to enforce a law prohibiting, by heavy license, the operation of labor agents. Negroes are leaving the city and lumbermen and employers in the turpentine industry are demanding that the Tampa police stop the exodus. Some unionists suggest that if men are paid a living wage there will be no trouble to supply the labor demand.

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WILL URGE NEW LEGISLATION

NORFOLK, Va., Aug. 24.—At a meeting of the executive board of the Virginia Federation of Labor the following legislative program was agreed to:

Holden's Statement.
At the conclusion of their conference tonight with the presidents and managers of the railroad, president of the Burlington and a member of the committee of eight, gave out the following statement:

"The railroad executives, who have met at the request of President Wilson, are proceeding as rapidly as practicable with their work. It must be understood, however, the problem with which these men are wrestling is the most important and gigantic ever presented to any body of men in the industrial history of the country. They cannot therefore, consistently with their duty to their security holders, their employees, or the public, reach a final conclusion regarding what action they should take without much discussion, study and thought. These deliberations participated in by practically 100 men suddenly called together from all parts of the United States require time.

Duty to Public.
"If our deliberations seem to proceed slowly it is due to the facts that I have mentioned. For us to act hastily would be a betrayal of the great responsibility we owe to all the parties concerned, and most of all the public."

As the conferences continued today it became more evident that the principal difficulty of the situation is to work out a plan of action acceptable to all the railroad. Many suggestions have come from the 60 or more presidents here and have been laid before the managers. In every instance they have been rejected as impractical and the executives take the position that no plan which the managers do not declare sound can be taken to the White House as the basis for settlement.

Must Concede Eight Hours.
It is well understood that most of the executives now are convinced that the eight-hour day in some form must be conceded and that they cannot expect President Wilson to concede

The world do move.

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The Labor World will have more to say in this connection in future issues. We will show to our readers that legislative measures which have been advocated by the American trade union movement for years have just been realized during the past four years of Woodrow Wilson's administration. That if Mr. Gompers, or anyone else, wore out his knee pads in begging Congress to do justice to the workmen of America, that he wore them out while begging for a morsel from the Republican party, the party of Quay and of Penrose, of Cannon and of Taft.

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MORE INSTRUCTION FOR FOREIGN-BORN

Increased School Facilities Will Be Provided For Next Year.

NEARLY ALL STATES ARE WORKING WITH U. S.

Cost of Such Study Courses Small Compared to Benefits Received.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 24.—Greatly increased school facilities are to be provided this fall for the instruction of foreign-born residents of the United States and especially for alien candidates for citizenship. During the last scholastic year the public school authorities of approximately 650 cities and towns in 44 states of the union were co-operating with the bureau of naturalization of the United States department of labor in this branch of its educational activity. According to information thus far received by the bureau, nearly 100 others have signified their intention of joining in the movement and all indicating now point to a most gratifying record for the 1916-17 school year.

It is the desire of the bureau of naturalization that public school night classes be installed wherever the need exists for the education and Americanization of foreigners. This field of operation of the public schools is not limited to those who have applied for naturalization. It is intended to include all foreign-born residents whose instruction in English and civics would, beyond question, result not only in great personal benefit to themselves but would be of signal advantage to the city in which they reside and, logically, to the nation as well.

That the cost of the establishment and maintenance of such schools is relatively small as compared with the great good accomplished, is convincingly shown by reports received from the public school authorities who co-operated with the bureau of naturalization last year. With this in view, the bureau is urging the superintendent of schools all over the country to insert in their municipal budget for next year an item providing funds to cover the expense of carrying on this public night school work.

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COMPENSATION BILL WILL BECOME LAW

Long Fight By Labor Leaders Won When Senate Passes Measure.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—With the passage by the senate today of the workmen's compensation bill for federal employes, a long hard-fought campaign is brought to a close. The bill has already passed the house by vote of 286 to 3 and the President will sign it without hesitation.

With few amendments the Kern-McGillcuddy bill is the model workmen's compensation bill which was drafted by the American association for labor legislation in 1913 and introduced at their request by Representative Wilson, now secretary of labor. Nearly 100,000 letters have since been sent out and thousands of dollars spent by the association in campaigning for this bill which had the endorsement of organized labor.

Hitherto federal employes have been in a most unenviable position. Approximately one-quarter of them were given some small measure of protection by the wholly inadequate law of 1908. The rest could not even sue for damages when injured, because the government cannot be sued. The new compensation law applies to all of the 480,000 employes of the federal government and provides compensation during disability at the rate of two-thirds of the wages lost. It also provides medical attendance and liberal death benefits. In its provisions the bill is more liberal than any state law and has been commended as an example of careful draughtsmanship. The passage of this bill is also significant because the adoption of adequate compensation standards by the Federal government cannot fail to have a beneficial effect upon state legislation.

DOUBLE PLATOON FOR RANGE FIREMEN

VIRGINIA, Aug. 24.—Members of the Virginia fire department have presented a petition bearing the names of 1,051 signers asking that the two-platoon system be put into effect. But 260 names were needed to call a special election. The council has the power to put the two-platoon system into effect without calling a special election and because of the large number of signers, may do so.

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EIGHT HOUR DAY MUST BE GRANTED

President Wilson Attempts to Find Common Ground for Railway Factions.