

A GOOD BUSINESS MAN

keeps in touch with the labor movement because labor AFFECTS HIS PROFITS.

# THE LABOR WORLD

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A GOOD TRADE UNIONIST

must always be intelligently informed of the movements of his own kind.

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TWO CENTS.

# LAKE SEAMEN MURMUR AT WAGES; UNION MAY ACT

## BILLINGS, VICTIM OF OPEN SHOP FIGHT, IS CONVICTED

(Special to The Labor World—by Mail.)

SAN FRANCISCO, SEPT. 23.—Warren K. Billings, indirect victim of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce fight for open shop conditions here, has been desclared guilty of dynamiting the preparedness parade on July 22. The jury recommended life imprisonment. Billings, who was seated at the lawyer's table in the court room, received the verdict in silence. He turned deathly pale and lowered his eyes. Maxwell McNutt, his attorney, filed notice of an appeal, charging that the jury was "fixed" and that suspicion had been cast on the motives of the prosecution's main witness, Miss Estelle Smith.

The jury had been out four hours. Two hours had been spent at lunch in "Bergez-Frank's Poodle Dog Restaurant," in Bush street, a place employing non-union labor, the owners contributing regularly to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce fund for the open shop fight.

Newspaper men and those who had followed the trial closely expected an acquittal. According to the evidence submitted by McNutt, Billings was 10 blocks away from the scene of the explosion when it occurred and had not been on the roof of 721 Market Street at all, as Miss Estelle Smith, prosecution witness testified.

After the jury rendered its verdict, McNutt stated that he had learned that Miss Estelle Smith's father was serving a two-year sentence in Folsom prison for forgery. He further stated that Assistant District Attorney James F. Brennan, who was in charge of the so-called bomb cases and Police Lieutenant Duncan Matheson were trying to get Miss Smith's father paroled. Matheson was in charge of the police "dynamite squad." McNutt stated that these two facts alone, plus the girl's testimony for the district attorney's office, formed good grounds for an appeal.

During the course of the trial, it developed that Billings had not even been near 721 Market street, as a traffic policeman testified. The defense proved that a false identification had been made of Billings by the policeman and produced the man who had spoken to the officer in front of the place mentioned and whom he mistook for Billings. This man was named Dodge and worked as an engraver on the San Francisco Call.

## MINE WORKERS DO NOT CARE FOR PATERNALISM

LOUISVILLE, Col., Oct. 5.—John D. Rockefeller's paternalistic plan of abating industrial strife has evidently failed, according to the activities of the United Mine Workers here. The unions, through organizers, have posted bills all over Colorado, calling mass meetings of the workers.

The organization movement started in the southern fields and is now sweeping northward, according to Martin C. Black, one of the organizers. He says that the new movement is not a forced one and is a spontaneous outburst of workers who want freedom and not Rockefeller's paternalism.

## 5000 METAL WORKERS STRIKE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—A strike of metal workers involving 5,000 men was declared here at a meeting of the Chandler Makers and Brass Workers' union. Increased wages, shorter hours and a union shop are demanded.

## THAT MAY BE

Grasshopper sandwiches will soon be considered a delicacy, declared Professor Chester Bliss of the Ohio State Normal school today. The popularity of the grasshopper as a staple diet would be assured if some prominent society woman would start the fad, he said.

## S. F. TRADE UNIONS SHOULD START BANK SAYS LABOR OFFICER

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 5.—Trade unions are contemplating the establishment of a trade union bank here. The open shop fight being waged by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce has brought the need of a bank home to labor council officials, according to Andrew J. Gallagher, union labor supervisor.

"For some time past," said Gallagher, who originated the idea, "I have given serious thought to the subject of a trade union bank, especially since one of the banks in which labor money was deposited, refused the union a loan. The next day it made a large loan to the Chamber of Commerce."

"I have talked the matter over with a number of labor men, state and city officials, and a prominent banker. They are all of the opinion that such a step, besides being feasible, will be necessary for the protection of the labor movement, particularly in times of industrial strife as at present."

## CITY'S PUBLIC WORK FORCE CUT IN HALF

One half of the employees in the Division of Public Works, will be laid off on Oct. 15, announced Commissioner Bert Farrell today.

All engineer's helpers will go, the entire maintenance department and all of the sewer maintenance department employees. The saving in the engineer's department alone will amount to \$1400, said the Commissioner.

The necessity of economy in the city administration, he said, was the cause of the move. A few employees only, will be retained and in the winter, if occasion arises, a few more will be employed. Commissioner Farrell said that he is going to ask the civil service commission to keep the men thus let out, on the eligible list.

All public work, including the work of demolishing the Point of Rocks, will stop immediately and in the office, only permit clerk and one stenographer will go. The installation of new sewers, for which the property owner pays, will proceed faster than before, stated the commissioner.

## LOCAL TYPOS ASK RAISE

Duluth local No. 138, Typographical union, has officially asked employers for a raise in pay. Because of the pending negotiations, the scale asked for was not disclosed. The employers have 20 days in which to answer the demands.

Women's Congress in Yucatan which dealt with Suffrage.



By M. C. ROLLAND.

A new Mexico is being born. And out of the years of oppression, revolution and bloodshed the Mexican woman is taking no small hand in the making.

For centuries woman has been more or less in the light of a beast of burden and especially so in Mexico where the oriental nature of the Aztecs forced the women to keep to their homes. After the Spaniards had conquered the country, woman was regarded as the spoils of victory. Hernando Cortez and his army of adventurers divided the women among themselves and established in

the new country the methods of the old country. This view of women the Spaniards inherited from the Moors where the woman was the slave of the master of the house.

Up until the present, this state of affairs has continued and until as late as 1816, the women were not allowed to leave their homes to become educated or receive instruction of any kind. Of course the homes of the wealthy were an exception. In 1816, Dona Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez, wife of the commander of the City of Queretaro, took a leading part in the conspiracy to liberate her country. Her name, her exploits, are carved in the heart of every Mexican woman and a beautiful statue to her memory adorns the principal square in Mexico City.

Today women are taking an active part in the "Intelligent" interest in the affairs of the country and some even occupy public positions. A number of them have entered business. In the state of Yucatan, a feminist congress was recently held. Education, religion, economics, physiology and philosophy were discussed. The delegates showed in a remarkable manner what women can do if given the opportunity, and to listen to the speeches made and some of the thoughts and ideas expressed, no one could have suspected that a short time ago Mexico's women were in the most deplorable state of ignorance.

## COMMISSIONER FARRELL PRESENTS PLAN TO REDUCE CITY'S OPERATING EXPENSES

By WILLIAM E. McEWEN.

Probably no department of the city government will suffer so much from the loss of revenue derived from saloon licenses as the Division of Public Works, and no city official seems as much alive to the situation as is J. A. Farrell, our very energetic and efficient Public Works Commissioner.

In the last number of The Labor World attention was called to many incidents of administrative waste at the city hall, the duplication of work and an unnecessary number of employes and workshops. It was pointed out that by a proper and up-to-date scheme of re-organization much public money, now needlessly expended, could be saved to the people, and could be used for making public improvements.

Commissioner Farrell was not slow to see the point, and he lost no time in getting busy. At the first meeting of the council following the publication of the article above referred to in The Labor World, Mr. Farrell presented a resolution providing for the consolidation of all city workshops and the centralizing of bookkeeping, auditing and financial accounting of all the city divisions.

The resolution is now being considered by the other commissioners, and from daily press reports we gather the information that the other commissioners, headed by our banker mayor, Mr. Prince, pronounce the suggestion as "impracticable." They are attempting to take refuge behind the claim that the system now in vogue has been approved by the state public examining department which is as obsolete and back-numbered in its ideas of modern account keeping as most of the other departments in our state government.

There is no question about the correctness of Commissioner Farrell's position. He has a vision. He is under pledge to the people, as are his fellow commissioners, to reduce the cost of operating the city government to a minimum, commensurate of course with good business principles and the promotion of efficiency. Mr. Farrell is forward looking. His colleagues have their eyes set on a wasteful past. They can't get out of the rut. They are afraid of innovations for fear they will be classed with the visionaries. And yet successful business men never turn a deaf ear to any plan that will reduce their overhead. As we understand it, Commissioner Farrell has in mind the reduction of the city's operating expenses. It may be that he has not become specific enough in his resolution but it is a start in the right direction.

And the people are behind Commissioner Farrell. They know he has made good; that he is an earnest, zealous and hardworking official, and any recommendation he may make for promoting efficiency or effecting economy in the management of the city's affairs meets with popular favor on the very face of it. We may differ with him as to detail, but his purpose is absolutely right.

In a few months there will be a city election. Three commissioners, including the mayor, must go to the people in April next. If any of the present commissioners are candidates to succeed themselves they will be required to render to the people accounts of their stewardship. The voters will want to know why it costs so much more to do business under the present commission form of government than it did under the old form. They will want to know about the new offices that have been created, and why the commissioners did not wipe out entirely the antiquate business methods which obtained in the old days. There will be some pretty hard nuts to crack, and it will be necessary to do a lot of explaining.

Now as to Commissioner Farrell's proposition for one city workshop. Does Mayor Prince meet the situation in the right spirit when he says as he is quoted in one of the daily papers:

"The plan of establishing a central blacksmith and repair shop is impractical. The shop established by the fire department is used by the water and light and police departments, so that the works division can send its work there just as well."

Here is a difference of opinion. Mr. Farrell says there is much unnecessary waste under the present system. Mayor Prince declares everything is all right, and advises Commissioner Farrell to turn his work over to the fire department for repairs. Any other plan, according to the Mayor, "is impractical." Mr. Farrell is a practical man. He is an organizer. The mayor, typical of his banker training, is perfectly satisfied to "let well enough alone." But in the meantime the people are not satisfied. They want results, and they are not getting them, at least they do not believe they are getting them. It will take more than an opinion from our versatile mayor to convince the people they are wrong.

The fate of the other commissioners as such will depend upon their treatment of Commissioner Farrell's resolution. At least the spirit of the resolution must be carried out or there will be several new faces at the city hall following the April election. It is up to them.

## TROUBLE BREWING AMONG SEAMEN OVER FALL WAGE

Trouble between the Lake Seamen's Union and the Lake Carrier's Association over the fall raise in wages, is expected, according to Charles Bradhering, secretary of the union in the Milwaukee port. Instead of the usual \$15 raise in wages at this time of the year, the Lake Carrier's Association announced that the raise this year would only be \$5. The annual raise acts as an inducement for sailors and others to ship at this time of the year when the fall gales are very dangerous.

According to Bradhering, the small raise is causing dissatisfaction everywhere and he intends to take the matter up with the union.

"The men are naturally expecting more," said Bradhering, "and many may stay off the vessels considering that the amount of the increase is not enough to induce them to sail. The union may take action."

## BOOST IN PRICE OF COAL REPRISAL FOR U. S. SUITS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—Government experts see no just reason for the present advance in prices of hard or soft coal.

"They believe coal barons are inclined to advance prices in a spirit of reprisal because of federal prosecutions of the anthracite coal-owning railroads to force separation of carriers and mining business, and federal inquiry into the soft coal situation. "Suits are pending by the federal government for the separation of the Reading, the Erie, the Lehigh and other anthracite railroad coal carriers from the coal properties," said Van H. Manning, director of the bureau of mines.

"I do not say that the government suit is the reason for the advance in prices of hard coal, but the interested roads are fighting the government energetically, and this costs money."

"The soft coal system is different. The Illinois soft coal mines are subjected to fierce competition from the Pittsburgh field. The soft coal operators there have been petitioning for a freight rate adjustment to permit them to meet this competition, and the matter is before the federal trade commission and the interstate commerce commission.

"This competition should bring down the price of soft coal in the middle west, even if the federal trade commission should permit the combination of selling agencies of the operators in the Illinois field."

Duluth coal merchants recently raised the prices on domestic coal ten cents a ton. Almost all coal used here comes from the Pittsburgh district where labor troubles are now brewing.

## N. Y. CAR STRIKE NOT FAILURE SAY LEADERS

(Special to The Labor World.)

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—Despite the reports, carried all over the United States by the doddering Associated Press, the street railway strike here has not failed. It is true that a few cars in New York are running but they are not carrying passengers and all windows are screened for protection. The strike breaking motormen and conductors are screened and police ride with them for protection. Serious rioting occurs at different times during the almost every day.

Concentrated action for a sympathetic strike was not taken by the central labor bodies but individual unions are striking one by one. Six thousand brewery workers, and all machinists are out on a strike and the printers are expected to strike at any time. In Yonkers, not a street car is running. Trouble is expected from locomotive engineers of the subway.

Bradhering laughed at the claim of W. P. O'Connor, of the Goodrich line, that the La Follette law had injured lake shipping last season. He said that was "bunk."

"The vessels," said Bradhering, have all been busy and getting much higher rates than they ever got before. Of course the cost of labor has gone up, but so it has in every trade. The cost of labor can not be attributed to the La Follette law, but to the general upward trend of the cost of labor.

"Last year," he continued, "grain carrying charges were 1/2 of a cent to 1 cent per bushel and this year the big grain boats have been getting as high as 5 and 5 1/2 cents. Just look at the difference."

## UNIONIST INVENTS A DIVER SAFETY DEVICE

WORCESTER, Mass., Oct. 5.—John P. Ryan, member of the Bartenders' union, Brewery Workers' union, and vice president of the Central Labor union, announced today that he has invented a device which renders submarine nets abortive. A patent has been applied for and the inventor, armed with letters of approval from various engineers, will submit his invention to the United States government.

"The 'devil fish nets,' as they are called, have been the means of the death of countless undersea sailors when the submarines were caught. Ryan's device can be carried by any undersea craft without trouble, he says, and will make the capture of a submarine impossible."

## CANAL ZONE TRAINMEN GET EIGHT-HOUR DAY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6.—An eight-hour day for train crews and switch engine crews in the Panama canal zone has been established by Gov. Goethals by executive order. Exception is made in cases of emergency, when permission for overtime must be obtained from zone authorities.

## NO COMPROMISE SAY RAILROAD WORKERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 5.—Eighty-five per cent of the 40,000 members of six railway shopmen's unions, employed on 20 western railroads, voted in favor of refusing compromise proposals of the railroads to demands for an eight-hour day and a wage increase of 5 cents an hour.

## ISN'T ALL HULA HULA

HONOLULU, T. H., Oct. 5.—Labor unrest penetrated Honolulu today when 300 stevedores went on strike for an increase in wages and better working conditions. There has been no disorder.

## LET'S BE MASONS

Bricklayers and mail carriers are the last persons in Ohio to go crazy, according to the report of the insane hospitals by the Ohio State Board of Administration. During the last year, says the report, 2,000 persons were received by the state institutions and adjudged insane. Among them was only one bricklayer and one mail carrier.