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THE LABOR WORLD.

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS

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MINNESOTA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

DID YOU KNOW THAT—

Five union people are on trial for their lives in San Francisco? That strikes are being called, settled and lost all over the world? Mr. Union Man, SUBSCRIBE FOR THE LABOR WORLD.

TWO CENTS.

CITY CHARTER AGAIN HIT BY SUPREME COURT

STRAND READY FOR TRIAL

Sheriff Nelson and Deputies Disqualified by Judge Dancer.

Hinted That County Attorney Is Co-operating With Administration Enemies to Hold Trial Off Until After Legislature Convenes.

Sheriff Nelson of Lake county and all his deputies have been disqualified from participating in the drawing of the special venire of jurors to sit in the case of Mayor E. G. Strand of Two Harbors.

Judge Dancer signed an order to this effect, following a motion made by Mr. Strand's attorneys. Charges had been made that the grand jury which indicted Mr. Strand and Former Mayor Towl were selected almost entirely from company employees. Scrutiny of the list of grand jurors bears out this claim, for all but a very few of the 22 men on the grand jury were connected in some way with the Duluth & Iron Range Railway company, or else decidedly unfriendly to the Socialist administration.

Mr. Strand called on the editor of The Labor World this week. He tells us he has been ready to proceed to trial for the past three days, but for some reason the county attorney has seen fit to pass up the Strand case and try two or three small election cases instead. These cases involve the peddling of literature on election day or other minor offenses.

Mayor Strand was elected to the Minnesota legislature by the people of his district. The legislature meets January 2, and the fact that the county attorney seems inclined to put the Strand case off from time to time lends support to the claim of the friends of Mayor Strand, that County Attorney Jelle is lining up with the administration enemies in holding off the trial until after the legislature convenes in order to pave the way to contest the right of Mr. Strand to sit as a member of that body.

In any event, the legislature meets next week; Mr. Strand has been ready to go to trial for the past few days, and for some reason best known to himself, County Attorney Jelle prefers to postpone the Strand case; which is precisely what the political enemies of Mayor Strand want Jelle to do.

Two and two generally make four.

STAGE EMPLOYEES GET WAGE RAISE

New Schedule Agreed to In Conference Between Union Officials and Managers.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 28.—Denver Theatrical Stage Employees union No. 7, has just signed a new wage scale with all the theater managers of this city, which brings to the members of this organization an increase ranging from \$2.50 to \$5 per week of six days.

WANT STATE-MADE TEXT BOOKS

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 28.—Union printers are arousing public opinion in favor of public school text books being made in this state.

DEATH IN THE MINES.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 28.—During the first nine months of the current year 333 men were killed and 6,958 other workers disabled for periods greater than 14 days in the anthracite mines of this state.

PITTSBURGH, Kan., Dec. 28.—Twenty-seven miners were killed and seven injured in an explosion in the Reedy & Ryan coal mine, near this city. With one exception, this is the greatest loss of life in the history of Kansas coal mining. Forty men were killed in 1889 in a mine explosion at Frontenac.

W. F. OF M. HAS TAKEN NEW NAME

Is Now International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Men.

The historic Western Federation of Miners has changed its title and is now the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

Thus passes one of the historic names in the world of organized labor. The change was approved by the American Federation of Labor convention at Baltimore a few weeks ago.

The change was made because the Western Federation is no longer western, but has organizations even in Atlantic seaboard states. When the Western Federation was organized it was purely a Rocky Mountain organization. It now has become a national, and, therefore, wished to drop a title that indicated a sectional organization.

The Western Federation of Miners has figured largely in some of the most dramatic struggles of the last quarter century. Of these the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone trials probably were the most conspicuous.

The American Federation of Labor approved the change in the title when assured that the change meant no attempt to extend jurisdiction into fields of labor belonging to other organizations.

STOGIE MAKERS GAIN.

WHEELING, W. Va., Dec. 28.—Stogie makers have won their strike for a wage increase of \$1 per thousand and in all the local factories except the two plants controlled by the Polack concern.

WIDOWS WILL GET MONTHLY PAYMENTS

Collections Still Outstanding For Benefit of Stage Hands' Families.

Members of the Duluth local of the stagehands' union, who have charge of the fund of \$1,526 which was raised through a theatrical performance given at the Grand theater last October for the benefit of the widows of the late John (Kelly) Pendergast and Edward J. Lorentzon, who were drowned near McGregor while duck hunting, have decided that the local union will give each widow \$50 a month from the fund subscribed by Duluthians in general for their benefit.

So far Mrs. Lorentzon has received two checks of \$50 each while Mrs. Pendergast has received nothing. Committees that have waited on her have reported to the union that she says she is not in need, as yet, having received \$200 from two local lodges of which her husband was a member.

J. L. Morrissey, manager of the Lyceum theater, said that there are still some collections to be made which will be turned over to the fund. Some of the people who took tickets to sell have not yet brought back either the money or the tickets. He says that in one instance a member of the union took ten tickets and has not yet reported.

SWITCHMEN GET EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Pro Rata Time For Overtime Granted by Arbitration Board.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The eight-hour day with straight pro rata time for overtime is granted to the switchmen's union by the Federal arbitration board in a decision today in the switchmen's controversy with the railroads. The award gives an increase of 5 cents per hour for both foremen and helpers.

"This decision in the switchmen's controversy with the railroads is an important hearing on the Adamson law," it was stated here today by an official spokesman for the conference committee of managers of the railroads.

"It does not O. K. the Adamson act, in our opinion. The Adamson legislation gave the men ten hours pay for eight hours of work, or an increase of about 25 per cent in wages. The award today gives the switchmen only nine hours pay for eight hours of work, or between 13 and 16 per cent increased wages. We get a great deal of satisfaction out of this award."

Pleased With Decision. It was pointed out on behalf of the roads that they were pleased with what was alluded to as the switchmen arbitration board's liberal expedition in its decision filed in the Federal court of the road's argument as advanced during the hearing here. Nearly all of the road's contentions were emphasized, it was declared.

The meetings between the conference committee of managers and the brotherhood chiefs to discuss the Adamson act have been held in abeyance pending the settlement of the switchmen's demands. With this controversy out of the way, it was stated by railroad officials today, the Adamson conference will be resumed after Christmas. It was said, however, that the situation probably will remain in status quo until the United States supreme court has determined the constitutionality of the Adamson act.

HAPPENED IN N. Y. WHY NOT IN DULUTH?

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—New York coal dealers dropped the price of coal from \$12 a ton to \$9 a ton as soon as the Evening World began its demands for a criminal investigation and they brought it down to \$8 when the criminal inquiry actually began. The district attorney has enough questions to ask them to keep them out of temptation for a while.

GETS \$32,000 FOR ARM.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Dec. 28.—A jury in the supreme court awarded \$32,000 damages to Adam H. Roeder, of Mt. Vernon, against the Erie and the New Jersey & New York railroads for the loss of his left arm while working as a brakeman for the latter railroad. Roeder sued both corporations for \$50,000 damages. The verdict is a record one for Westchester county for the loss of an arm.

SHIP CARPENTERS WIN.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 28.—Carpenters' union No. 1,356 raised wages 2½ cents an hour for its members employed at the Cramp ship yards, after a two-days' strike. The Kensington Dry Dock company, a subsidiary of the Cramp concern, raised wages of its carpenters 3 cents an hour after a six weeks' strike.

PLASTERERS ORGANIZE.

JOPLIN, Mo., Dec. 28.—Plasterers have organized and applied for a charter from the Operative Plasterers' association. Other crafts that have recently organized in this city are the moving picture operators, bill posters and the lathers.

SENATOR BORAH COMES OUT AGAINST SOCALLED ANTI STRIKE LAW

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—In a statement made public last week United States Senator Borah records his opposition to all forms of "can't-strike" legislation: "I do not see just how those who are advocating the Canadian arbitration law for this country, or any law for effective compulsory investigation and arbitration, are going to get by certain well established legal principles," he says.

"There seems to be an impression that the whole thing is made easy because we are to deal with a body of men and not a single individual. In other words it is supposed, apparently, that while you cannot compel an individual to work or to punish him because he quits work that you can compel a body of men acting collectively or as a union to work or punish them because they agree to quit work. To say that the concerted action of powerful bodies of men shall not be permitted to stop the industrial process of the nation does not meet the situation at all. It is true, however, that powerful bodies of men acting together may quit work and may decline to accept employment and if their quitting work has the effect of stopping the operation of trains it is nevertheless their right to quit.

"A man's constitutional right, either individually or collectively, cannot be measured by the amount of injury which the exercise of his constitutional right may do to society.

"In my judgment employees have a right either singly or collectively to quit work because they are dissatisfied with their wages or for any other reason which has to do with their welfare as to sanitary conditions, etc., as workmen. It is just as much an inviolable right of man's personal liberty and just as much in contravention of his constitutional right to compel him to remain in the service of another when he is a member or acting with his union as it would be to compel him to do so if he was acting individually.

Right to Quit. It has been decided a number of times, and in one instance by no less

FORMER MAYOR TOWL ACQUITTED

Daily Press Gave Prominence to Indictment; All But Ignored Jury's Verdict.

With flaring headlines the daily papers announced the indictment of Mayor Strand and Former Mayor Towl of Two Harbors, and stuck away in the inside of these same papers was the announcement of the acquittal of Former Mayor Towl by a jury last week.

It took the jury only fifty-five minutes to find Mr. Towl not guilty of the charges of taking a bribe. The Labor World believes that it will take less time than that for the jury to bring in a similar verdict in the Strand case.

HUNGRY WOMAN IS THROWN INTO JAIL

Dressed as Man, Seeks Job; Gets Cell in Chicago Police Station.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Emily Miller, 27 years old, was cold and hungry, so she just put on men's clothes and went to a coal yard to get a job. She didn't look much like a man, so instead of work she got a cell in police station. She is charged with disorderly conduct.

WHEN IS A HOME RULE CHARTER NOT A HOME RULE CHARTER?

Ask the Supreme Court—It Only Knows. Charter Emasculated Every Time Supreme Court Gets Crack At It.

The Supreme Court of Minnesota made another "cleaning" for the people of Duluth last Friday, when it emasculated the referendum section of our Home Rule (1) charter.

The last time the charter was emasculated was merely the last time the Supreme Court got a crack at it.

It was only a little more than a year ago that we were advised by the Supreme Court that we didn't really want a workable method for electing our city officials that would automatically let the majority rule, as we thought we did when we adopted our Home-Rule (1) charter. Some of our people said then it was all right to have four judges out-vote 12,313 citizens of Duluth; because the preferential voting system was not submitted separate from the other provisions of our new commission-form charter, and maybe the people didn't really want it.

But now we have our referendum section, which was submitted to the people separately, and before we had any commission-form charter, crated in a straight-jacket, because—well, because it "is an extraordinary power which ought not unreasonably to be restricted or enlarged by construction."

The "rule of reason" was adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States a few years ago to emasculate some forward-looking legislation. It has been used by other Federal courts to prohibit picketing and other methods of promoting the interests of the people. A Federal court has recently applied the rule in favor of, not against, picketing. Brandeis and Clarke may live to apply it on the Federal Supreme Court in favor of, not against, the people's legislation.

May not we hope to see the day when our own Supreme Court will apply the rule in favor of the people so as "not unreasonably" to "restrict or enlarge by construction" some "extraordinary power" which the people of our cities grant to themselves in their Home-Rule (?) charters?

We only know such law in the Armory case as we read in the brief of the city's special counsel. It may have all been bad law, but we look in vain in the opinion of the court for a reference, not to say an answer, to the fundamental arguments of the city's brief.

The decision, however, is the law of the state and we have closed the book.

We congratulate Aad Temple on its victory, and have no doubt it will make the Old Armory a new temple of civic pride and usefulness.

There is nothing more powerful than a Supreme Court—except the people whose servant it is.

ELECTION SCARES LIABILITY SHARKS

Return of Gov. Cox to Power Alarms Companies Doing Private Insurance.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 28.—As a result of the election of former Gov. James M. Cox private liability companies in this state are on their knees. Two years ago Gov. Cox was defeated for re-election after he had jammed through the legislature a workmen's compensation law. During the past two years the law has been weakened so that private companies are now writing insurance. In the last campaign this issue was pushed to the fore by organized labor and Cox promised that he would drive the companies out of the state if re-elected.

The companies are fearful of this threat, and it is now claimed that they are willing to retire voluntarily if no legislation is passed. They realize that ouster laws would affect them in other states.

LABOR UNIONS FOR MEXICANS

Made Possible by Action of Constitutional Convention.

QUERETERO, Mex., Dec. 27.—via Mexico City, Dec. 28.—The constitutional convention today adopted an article which makes possible the existence of labor unions and against. In discussing the labor question, Deputy Cano of Guanajuato made an attack on American mining companies, which he characterized as the worst exploiters of Mexican labor. He asked the assembly to appoint a commission for the purpose of requesting Gen. Carranza to remedy the situation and compel mining companies to resume operations on pain of having their properties operated by the government.

MACHINISTS WANT MORE.

TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 28.—At a mass meeting of union machinists it was voted to ask that wages of tool makers be increased to 50 cents an hour and machinists 45 cents. These workers are nearly 100 per cent organized.

AMERICAN SEAMEN GRATEFUL TO PRESIDENT WILSON

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—At last, in America, Jack is every inch a sailor, and is no longer a chattel slave. The twentieth annual convention of the International Seamen's union of America, which has just closed an historic session in New York City, celebrated this fact by sending to President Wilson, as its first official act, the following telegram of congratulations:

"The International Seamen's Union of America, in twentieth annual convention assembled, sends best wishes and heartfelt congratulations upon your reelection.

"For the first time in history the seamen of America are now meeting as freemen. With your own good self at the helm for four years more we feel confident of our ability to demonstrate to all America that the Seamen's Act, to which you affixed your signature, stands first for human freedom, second for greater safety of life at sea, and

last but not least for equality of opportunity for the American ship and the American ship owner.

ANDREW FURUSETH."

President Wilson's answering letter of thanks and best wishes was read to a convention of forty-five delegates, representing 100 per cent more union seamen than there were in the service of American ships one year ago and before the new law went into effect.

The prophecy of Andrew Furuseth, president of the union, able seamen, and a survival of the old Vikings, is coming true: "The American sailor is going back to the sea and he is going back a free man."

report of T. A. Hanson, International Secretary of the Seamen.

Benefits Already Shown.

"Everybody connected with the sea trades has been benefited immensely already," said Mr. Scharrenberg, "except the American merchant in foreign ships whose interest was to drive American ships and sailors from the sea and to keep all sailors in a run and port slaves, subject to be run down and captured and turned over to slave chafins if they dared to exercise the right of every free man and quit their jobs. These same investors in foreign ships and members of the 'international shipping trust' have been the same ones, by the way, who have talked so loudly about the American flag, and yet have hired Orientals at innocent wages to the practical exclusion of the American seamen.

"The American flag is being restored to the sea, along with the American sailor, by the Seamen's Act. Just consider one side advantage which this means. The merchantman

sailor is the recruit for the nation's navy. Of the 100,000 or more union sailors in the British merchant fleets more than 16,000 are now serving on the British-men-of-war. America's necessarily growing navy will have the reserve force for the need of the young men trained in the ways of the sea on her merchant vessels and having the fine spirit and strength that belongs only to free men.

"The American Seamen's Act is benefiting seamen all the world over," continued Mr. Scharrenberg. "As it applies to the sailors and ships of all nations that touch American ports, its result is to make all ship owners of all nations pay the same good wages and maintain the same good conditions for health and safety on the vessels. This equalization relieves the American ship owners of competition of foreign low wages and of 'fugitive slave laws' for seamen and of unsafe vessels."

Secretary Hanson's Report. Condensing the benefits of the law, Secretary Hanson's report asserted:

"The change has been not alone in improved safety, in the working conditions and to some extent in the wages of the men, but the whole life on ship board has been improved, and instead of the old spirit of bitterness and hatred, inevitable under the slave laws that held the men, there is an air of freedom and a growing recognition of rights and responsibilities on the part of every body connected with the ship. It is certain that after the Seamen's Act has been in operation another year or two, that not even the ship owners will want to repeal it. Instead, we will find that all other maritime nations will follow the lead set by the United States."

The internationalism of the convention was strongly emphasized by the presence and active participation in it of delegates from Great Britain and from Japan. Delegates B. Suzuki, of the latter country, and J. Hensen of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as Richard McGhee, member of Parliament, and Harry Gosling,

who had been delegates from Great Britain to the convention of the American Federation of Labor, told of the efforts not only of their respective countries but of all the foreign countries to have similar seamen's laws enacted there. A special bulletin and an attempt to value the message of these foreign delegates to the seamen and to the trade union movement in general will be issued soon by the Committee on Industrial Relations.

As showing what the merchant sailors of Europe thought of the American Seamen's Act, the visiting delegates told of the appropriation by the union of Great Britain of more than \$400 to help the American international to resist efforts to repeal the law. They told also of that union's purpose to contribute constantly if need be for the upholding of real manhood liberty on the sea.

Will Help Enforce Law. Now to have the Seamen's Act so administered, through the Department of Commerce, that its full spirit

and letter shall be put into effect is the great aim of the International as it was of the convention. The worst offense against the law and against the seamen is the slack and truly unlawful way in which the Department of Commerce, under its present direction, "softens" the language tests for the crews and thus still in many cases permits vessels to be manned by coolies and by ignorant, income potent persons who do not understand the interpreted, emergency orders of their officers. Delegates to the convention condemned Eugene T. Chamberlain, Commissioner of Navigation, and George C. Uhler, Chief of the Steamboat Inspection Bureau, in the Commerce Department, as being responsible directly, and blamed Secretary Redfield as being responsible at least indirectly, for this violation and partial negation of the benefit law.

The fast growing strength of the fast growing International Seamen's Union of America was pledged for the fight against these administrative non-enforcements of the law.