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LABOR LEADERS FAVOR HEALTH INSURANCE

Representatives of labor are rapidly going on record in favor of universal health insurance of working men and women.

Speaking on behalf of the standard bill for health insurance which has been prepared by the American Association for Labor Legislation in cooperation with the American Medical association and representatives of industry and labor, William Green, Secretary-Treasurer of the United Mine Workers, the largest trade union in America, said in an address at Columbus recently:

"All classes of working people appreciate that there is as much need for health insurance as there is for workmen's compensation benefits. There is a unanimity of opinion regarding this principle. The burden of taking care of workers who are ill and providing for them adequate hospital and medical service, is altogether too great to be borne by voluntary organizations. And why should the working people themselves bear this financial burden? There is no good reason why the care of the sick, the aged and the disabled among working classes should be borne by the working people alone. Industry and society at large should be required each to bear their share of this burden. It is significant that the trades unions of Germany are not hostile to the plan of health insurance and old age pensions operating there.

"The almost universal sentiment of the working people is in favor of the exclusion of commercial agencies from participating in any way whatsoever in the plan of social insurance. They regard these private concerns as their enemies."

John Mitchell, out of his experience as chairman of the New York State Industrial Commission, has emphasized the need of insurance to protect workmen during periods of incapacity due to sickness.

John Golden of New York City, General President of the United Textile Workers of America, declared that "when this movement gets fairly started it will develop just as fast as the movement did for workmen's compensation for industrial accidents."

Union Men on Committee.

There are now three strong union men on the executive committee of the American Association for Labor Legislation, which is directing the health insurance campaign. They are John Mitchell, chairman of the New York State Industrial Commission; Ethelbert Stewart, chief statistician of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics; and John A. Voll, president of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, and vice-president of the Glass Bottle Blowers' association.

Among labor representatives of the General Administrative council of the association are: George L. Berry, president of the Printing Pressmen's International union; Van Bittner, of the United Mine Workers, Pittsburgh district; Daniel L. Cease, editor of the Railway Trainmen; T. J. Duffy, of the Ohio Industrial Commission and formerly president of the Potters' International union; James Duncan, first vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, and president of the Granite Cutters' International union; John P. Frey, editor of the Iron Molders' Journal; Austin B. Garretson, of the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations, and president of the Order of Railway Conductors; James M. Lynch, member of the New York Industrial Commission and formerly president of the International Typographical union; John P. Meade, labor representative on the Massachusetts Social Insurance commission; Arthur Quinn, president of the New Jersey Federation of Labor; Mrs. Raymond Robins, president of the National Woman's Trade Union league; Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson, formerly a member of the national executive board which organized the United Mine Workers of America.

Up to Jan. 1, labor organizations in this country which had endorsed the principle of universal health insurance, are the State Federations of Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio and Wisconsin. The internationals included the Typographical union, the Glove Workers of America, the Union of Steam and Operating Engineers, the Spinners' union, the Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, and the United Textile Workers of America.

At its last annual convention the Ohio State Federation of Labor declared that it "favors a universal system of health insurance without opportunity for insurance company profits." And at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor a resolution was adopted which "declares against private insurance or insurance for profit, as it may be applied to industrial, social or health insurance." The standard bill prepared under the direction of the American Association for Labor Legislation is in line with these recommendations, and is being introduced in many state legislatures this year.

HUGE INCOMES ARE INCREASING RAPIDLY

Association for Equitable Income Tax Urges Congress to Increase Income Tax.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—"The Association for an Equitable Income Tax, of which Register John J. Ropper of New York is president, and among whose officers are Commissioner of Immigration Frederic C. Howe, Charles H. Ingersoll, Amos Pinchot, Edmund B. Osborne and George L. Record, is urging congress to increase the tax rate on all incomes of over $1,000,000 to from one-fifth to one-third of the total income and the rates on all large incomes proportionately," says Benjamin C. Marsh in a report made to the Committee on Industrial Relations. "It urges also that the tariff on sugar be promptly repealed and the duties on the necessities of life and cheaper grades of luxuries be reduced, and that the rates on incomes from investment over $50,000 should be counted as unearned incomes.

"Congress seems inclined to disregard these first principles of democracy and to impose higher taxes on food and other necessities of the working classes. The workers of America should realize the injusice of our present system of raising revenue and demand equality, such as urged by the Association for an Equitable Federal Income Tax. It is un-American and unjust to conscript working men for military service as long as the institution of private property based on special privilege remains. ¼

"The growth of huge fortunes in Great Britain is an important cause of the present European war. Not all the tactful and unhappy lives of diplomats can hide this fact. Cotton manufacturers in Lancanshire were making 35 per cent and paying cruelly low wages, while the underpaid workmen were being taxed much more heavily than the recipients of the incomes due largely to the payment of inadequate wages. America is in danger of following the stupid example of Great Britain.

"The report of the commissioner of internal revenue is the most astounding record of the rapid concentration of wealth in a few hands in this country. For the year ending June 30, 1914, only sixty individuals in the United States were recorded as having a net taxable income of over $1,000,000 each and their aggregate net taxable income was $127,000,000. For the year ending June 30, 1915, the number of net incomes over $1,000,000 exactly doubled to 120—and the 120 people received at least $200,000,000. During this year there was a marked increase also in the number of persons receiving large incomes as follows: Persons receiving incomes of $500,000 to $1,000,000 increased from 69 to 122; those receiving from $300,000 to $400,00 increased from 147 to 354.

"In 1914, there were only 2,349 individuals who received a net taxable income of $100,000 or more, with an approximate gross income of $595,000,000; while in 1915 there were 3,704 such individuals with an approximate gross income of $1,050,0000,000. One-tenth of one per cent of the population, including the dependents of these taxpayers, received nearly one-twentieth of the total national income. Not one of those receiving this enormous income secured it from his own exertions. All were due to some long-standing privilege or to some more recent opportunity for exorbitant profits due o the war. On the other hand the number of those receiving incomes from $3,000 to $5,000 fell from 82,754 in 1914 to 69,045 in 1915.

"Prosperity has not reached materially below the top, while the high cost of living has largely offset, if not more than offset, the advantages to the working people of slight increases in their wagts, or small salaries. ¼

"It is significant that at the same time that these huge incomes are being taxed too lightly, while increasing so rapidly, the beneficiaries of privilege in the country are urging military conscription of the workers.

"If the present administration at Washington wishes to convince the people that Wall Street and the insidious and pervasive powers of privilege have been driven out of the nation's capital, they must compel privilege ot pay its fair share of the cost of government, as urged by this association. The receivers of these swollen and increasing incomes are now trying to force this country into aggressive warfare through securing concessions, under the guise of commercial expansion.

"Such an income tax as suggested will not only distribute more equitably the cost of government, but will help us to prevent the policy of financial imperialism, planned by the un-American results of privilege and monopoly—our billionaires, and near billionaires." ¼

EIGHT HOURS FOR MUNITIONS PLANTS

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 25.—The Connecticut Labor Press, published in this city, says:

"The Winchester Repeating Arms plant will be, within a week or two, an eight-hour shop. Already some of the departments are on the eight-hour schedule with the pay of the employes on an eight-hour basis, the average worker, man or woman, getting nothing from the cut down in hours.

"The reason for the shops going onto eight hours is given, unofficially of course, as an aid to the general conduct of work in the shops. The real reason, according again to unofficial reports, is that the Winchester company lost a big contract from the United States government, totaling almost $1,000,000, because it was not an eight-hour shop, and therefore was not able to turn out a government contract."

ROADS AGREE ON RATES.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—At a hearing on the alleged discrimination in rates by railroads between New York and New Jersey, Albert C. Pauley testified that the present rates were decided upon through a "gentlemen's agreement," and involved the Baltimore & Ohio, the Pennsylvania and the New York Central railroads.

Sweden employs over 30,000 women in her clothing and textile industries.

BONUS TYPIFIES CHARITY.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—"The bonus stands for dependence and the trade agreement for independence," says the Garment Worker, official paper of the United Garment Workers' union.

"When a wage increase or any other concession is secured through trade union activity and collective bargaining, the workers are able to stand upon their rights as free men and women in demanding justice and equity, and it is only where this situation exists that those who earn their living by manual labor are free men and women in every sense of the word."

Iowa has six unions of city firemen and a national union is contemplated.

COMPLETE REPORTS ARE BEING PRINTED

Commission on Industrial Relations Issues Volumes on Testimony Submitted to Congress.

(By DANTE BARTON.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—There has just been issued from the government printing office in Washington the completed volumes of the testimony submitted to congress by the United States Commission on Industrial Relations of which Frank P. Walsh was chairman.

One of the first of the important industrial acts of the Wilson administration was the appointment by President Wilson of this Industrial Relations Commission with the following membership selected by him. Frank P. Walsh of Missouri, chairman; John R. Commons of Wisconsin and Mrs. J. Borden Harriman of New York, representing the general public; John B. Lennon of Illinois, James O'Connell of Washington, D. C., and Austin B. Garretson of Iowa, representing organized labor; and Frederick A. Delano of eKntucky, representing employers. Upon the resignation of Mr. Delano, to accept a place on the Federal Reserve board, the president named Richard H. Aishton of Illinois, who finished out the term.

When the European war was in its beginning and at its height of public interest the news of it was shared on the front pages of all the daily newspapers throughout the country by the news of the hearings conducted by the Walsh commission. Of such tremendous importance were the facts brought out by the commission, so thorough, so inclusive of all phases of the national life and so all embracing in the character and interests of its witnesses were the hearings that the proceedings of the commission were as vital and absorbing of the public interest as was the contemporary news of the greatest world conflict in history.

Here now, in the published volumes of the verbatim testimony, questions and exhibits, is an encyclopedia of the industrial, economic and political life of the American people in their present cycle of development.

The inspiration of public demand and of public knowledge, out of which grew the chief acts of the Wilson administration for greater industrial justice, was in these hearings of the Industrial Relations commission. It is impossible to understand not only the economic policy of the national government of this period but the very spirit and temper and drift of the Industrial United States without linking them up with the searching investigations of the commission.

It is an incidental tribute to the living character of the work performed that members of the British government's "Committee on Commerce and Industry" to reconstruct British trade and industrial organization during and after the war (the Reconstruction Committee it is called) have sent urgent requests to the Committee on Industrial Relations for sets of the testimony to aid in the study and solution of Great Britain's problems.

The quality of the commission's inquiries which distinguished it particularly was its assurance to workers and to the economically least fortunate that the full power of the Federal government would be used, to uncover injustice and iniquity rather than to cover them or apologize for them. The "judicial poise" which would balance one interest and viewpoint, and thus produce a vacuum of non-understanding and inaction, was expressly discarded by Chairman Walsh. While a chief support was given to the chairman by the labor members of the commission, Mr. Lennon, Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Garretson, there was a generally prevailing and notable harmony among all the commission as to the course the inquiries should take and as to the conduct of the hearings. For the fundamental and searching thoroughness of the commission's hearings great credit has been given by all the members of the commission to Basil M. Manly, who worked to the front as director of research and investigation for the commission and who prepared and directed the most important of the hearings.

In these eleven volumes of testimony and exhibits are presented the direct testimony of the chief or the representative actors in all the industrial disputes and in all the industrial life of the United States. The opinions adn viewpoints, consciously or unconsciously exposed, of those same actors in the industrial drama are presented and preserved as are the judgments and points of view of representative commentators upon, and critics of, industrial relations. The whole range of industrial problems and facts, from the Colorado coal strike to the tenant land situation in Texas, from the influence of enormous "foundations" to the effect of collective bargaining among workers, from the comfortable ignorance of industrial problems enveloping John Pierpont Morgan jr., to the uncomfortable knowledge of them penetrating the young sweatshop mother, Mary Minora—all is covered in these volumes recording the inquiries and work of the commission. No brief or reasonably lengthy review of this vital document could enumerate its disclosure even in dictionary fashion.

The hearings there recorded, and made a living presentation of American industrial life, were held in the following cities: Washington, New York, Paterson, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Lead (S. D.) Butte, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver and Dallas. Of witnesses affiliated with employers there were 230, of those affiliated with labor there were 245, and "the general public" was represented by 265 witnesses. ¼

In response to a tremendous demand of libraries, publicists, writers, workers and labor organizations, agricultural groups and citizens generally and from the press in all parts of the country, congress, without a recorded dissenting vote, authorized the printing and distribution of these eleven volumes of testimony and exhibits and also of the final report of the commission. But the resolution for printing provided for only 10,000 sets of the testimony, all allotted among members of the house and senate—each senator getting only 25 sets and each representative only 16. This supply does not at all meet the demand. A great pressure is already bearing upon congress to get out a new and larger edition both of the testimon, and of the final report. These later editions, which would be printed from the plates already set up, would cost a comparatively insignificant sum

The Labor Paper As An Advertising Medium

Printers' Ink the highest authority on advertising mediums, makes the following statement:

"A labor paper is a far better advertising medium than any ordinary newspaper in comparison with circulation. A labor paper, for example, having 2,000 subscribers, is of far more value to the business man who advertises than an ordinary paper with 12,000 subscribers."

Many business men do not stop to think that every line, both of news and advertising, that enters a labor paper, is read more closely by its subscribers than those of any other form of publication. The people who read the labor paper are laboring men, men who patronize only those merchants who conduct themselves fairly toward labor.

The ordinary newspaper is taken to the home, read and then cast aside and never touched again. The labor paper is saved by the housewife and its advertising columns consulted when she wishes to make a purchase.

THINK IT OVER

Call for Solicitor—Grand 65; Melrose 1288.

WORKER TAKES PHOTO; CITED FOR CONTEMPT

Vice President of Electrical Workers Said to Have Violated Picketing Order.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Jan. 25.—Federal Judge Killets' injunction against striking electrical workers has been violated, and International Vice President Bugniazet of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has been cited for contempt of court.

The trade unionist took pictures of strikebreakers at work and his honor holds that this is a violation of his order against violent picketing or interference with the company's property.

The telephone girls suspended work to enforce a living wage scale and the electrical workers struck in sympathy. Judge Killets is most insistent that strikers have the right to picket in a peaceful manner, but he has the notion, apparently, that there are no police statutes governing violence, so he has protected society against this oversight of lawmakers.

Attorneys for the strikers are demanding that Judge Killets define peaceful picketing, but the court pleads not to crowd him too far lest he may be forced to pass on the constitutionality of the Clayton law, which, he hints, creates a favored class in this country. The court is most insistent that telephone service be continued for the benefit of the public, but when his attention is called to the cause of the strike—the struggle of working girls for a wage in excess of $6 a week—his answer is that the court has nothing to do with this phase of the question.

Judge Killets' attitude toward trade unionism was illustrated last May while a delegate to the conference of the Methodist Episcopal church at Saratoga Springs, when a committee, after lauding the work of organized labor, reported that "a preference should be shown to it" in the church's printing offices. This recommendation was stricken out by the conference after a lengthy discussion. The opposition was led by Judge Killets, whose denunciations of organized labor could not be excelled by the most avowed anti-unionist. While no scholar or thinker uses the term "open shop" in connection with economic questions, Judge Killets' repeated use of these words indicate that he is yet unacquainted with the purposes of a trick term that has been invented by trade union opponents in an effort to garb union hostility with the cloak of frothy patriotism.

NEW COSSACK SYSTEM.

BOSTON, Jan. 25.—A commission appointed to investigate the question of a state constabulary finds that the Pennsylvania system of maintaining a separate troop of cossacks is unnecessary and that the use of militia in times of strike can be obviated if all police are placed under state control.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

PITTSTON, Pa., Jan. 25.—After a two-days' strike brewery workers in this city have returned to work. Wages are increased $1 a week.

SCHOOLHOUSES ARE FIRE TRAPS

BOSTON, Jan. 25.—Seven cities in Massachusetts have schoolhouses not one of which the state inspection authorities will certify as safe, according to the report of a legislative committee, which has carefully investigated the condition of schoolhouses throughout the state.

The cities referred to are Chicopee, Gloucester, Lowell, Medford, Melrose, Newburyport and Newton.

"Many cities and towns," says the report, "have disregarded orders from state inspectors which would have rendered the lives of teachers and children safer, and it is undoubtedly true in some cases, as it has been hitherto charged, that many schoolhouses in this state are fire traps, having been built at various times during the last 100 years."

The imperative necessity of war has revived, after almost a century of disuse, the night employment of women in factories abroad.

Street Car Delays

DULUTH TWIN PORTS RAPID TRANSIT LINES SUPERIOR

Monday, Jan. 22, 1917

A Duluth-Superior car became disabled at Third Avenue East and delayed five Woodland and Lester Park cars 8 to 13 minutes from 6:55 a. m.

A sleigh stalled on the track at Seventh Avenue West delayed an east bound Woodland car 9 minutes from 1:24 p. m.

A west bound West Duluth and Aerial Bridge car became disabled at Twenty-sixth Avenue West at 12:13 p. m. and was unable to make its trip to Sixty-second Avenue West.

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1917

An east bound East Fourth and Fifty-seventh Avenue West car became disabled at Third avenue West at 11:36 a. m. and was unable to climb the grade. It was switched back and taken off the line, another car being sent from the car house to strike its time at Twenty-first Avenue west, going west.

Passengers leaving the Methodist Church on Third Avenue West delayed a west bound East Fourth and Fifty-seventh Avenue West car 9 minutes from 9:58 p. m.

Complaints and Suggestions Always Receive Prompt, Courteous Attention. Telephones: Melrose 260; Lincoln 53.