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POSTAL EMPLOYE UNION MENACES PUBLIC WELFARE

Burleson's Annual Report Recommends Repeal of Law Permitting Unionization.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Postmaster General Burleson in his annual report, submitted to congress, declares organizations of postal employees are rapidly becoming a menace to public welfare and recommends that congress repeal the law that allows such employees to maintain organizations. The law provides that the employees may organize and become affiliated with other bodies so long as they do not impose any obligation to engage or assist in a strike against the government.

Emphasizing the need for unselfish co-operation on all sides while the country is in this world war, the postmaster general continues:

"Notwithstanding this fact, and at this critical period in our nation's history, it is regrettable to state that the organized postal employees are making many selfish demands and insisting that they shall not be required or permitted to work in excess of the usual number of hours; also that their salaries be permanently increased, although they are justly compensated, receiving more than three times as much as those fighting in the trenches who must of necessity suffer the hardships of warfare and sacrifice their all if necessary.

"Efforts of these organizations along other lines have been severely criticized by men in public life, as they attempt to control political as well as legislative matters and openly boast of the influence they claim to exert in the furtherance of their selfish interests.

"Postal employees have become bold and have within recent years threatened to strike, and in one case actually did so by tendering their resignations and abandoning the service in a body. In this case they were promptly indicted and prosecuted in the federal courts. While strikes in the postal service may be averted for the time being, yet they will inevitably be brought face to face with a most serious situation—one which will be a menace to our government."

GOMPERS VEXED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, issued a statement here vigorously attacking Postmaster General Burleson's recommendation that postal employees be denied the right to organize and affiliate with the federation. He said the federation was prepared to resist any effort to put the recommendation into effect.

"Mr. Burleson cannot point to a single instance where an affiliated organization of postal employees has threatened to strike," said the statement. "Personally in the many times I have addressed postal employees in all parts of the country, I have explained to them that legislation and not the strike was their weapon of last resort."

MOLDERS WIN STRIKE.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 13.—Iron molders employed at the Tacoma foundry have secured wage increases and union recognition after a short strike.

AIM EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION OF LABOR SUPPLY

Bill Would Create Federal Employment Service to Unify Activities.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—A bill to create a public employment service for the effective distribution of labor to meet the war's demand for increased output has been introduced in congress by Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas and Representative Edward Keating of Colorado, as an emergency measure.

The bill extends and unifies all labor exchange activities of the government, placing them on an independent basis in the Department of Labor in charge of a director to be appointed by the president. It also provides an inducement for improved service by granting financial aid to state and city employment bureaus co-operating with the national service.

The war work of the government, it is pointed out, is being seriously hampered because a comprehensive system of labor distribution is lacking in this country. The service proposed in the bill is in accord with proposals for the efficient organization and conduct of labor placement on a nation-wide scale, and goes further toward meeting the situation by providing for unified control and uniformity of policy, specifying clearly the functions of the new service and giving direct financial inducement to states and cities for fitting into the government's plan.

The measure has been prepared in co-operation with the Department of Labor, and other federal government bodies.

Introduction of the bill followed conferences with representatives of the Department of Labor, the United States Shipping board, the Federation of Labor and the Council of National Defense. Effective employment agencies are characterized as "an invaluable adjunct to our war machinery," and the Federation of Labor adds that they will be "keenly needed in the work of demobilization following the declaration of peace." England has over 400 public employment bureaus in operation and her commissioners to this country recently announced that they will increase the number to 2,000, which is about ten times as many as we now have in the United States.

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There are regiments of soldiers, camps, battleships and submarines and everything else to appeal to the Marshall spirit of the young American.

And there's a whole circus of animals. Some of them in regular circus trains—some of them in Arks such as Noah built, and some of them that you can lead around because they are so tame.

It's all so exciting—all so delightfully fascinating that no matter what your age may be you will be a child again when you see all the fun in Toyland tomorrow.

SANTA CLAUS answers letters sent to him at Gray's. He has his own letter box on the third floor.

DULUTHIANS ATTEND VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

S. G. Nelson of the Bricklayers' union and Fred Gittowski of the stonemasons attended the state conference of bricklayers, masons and plasterers at Virginia this week. The local plasterers were not represented. Mr. Gittowski was elected second vice president of the conference.

14 MEN FOR EVERY JOB. SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 13.—Officials of the Carpenters' union report that since the cantonments have been completed there are 14 men for every available job.

POVERTY, LACK OF MEDICAL CARE INCREASE DEATHS

Chief of Children's Bureau Shows How to Prevent Sacrifice of Life.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Miss Julia Lathrop, in her fifth annual report as chief of the Children's bureau, calls attention to the fact that there

is no good reason why 15,000 mothers should die at childbirth, or that 300,000 children under 5 years old should die, in this country each year. Most of this awful sacrifice of life could be saved by a small expenditure of public funds. She shows how the thing can be done.

Careful study in eight industrial cities of the east and middle west, and in the farming and ranching country of the west, has revealed the fact that these mothers die because they do not get proper medical care at the time of their giving birth. They are too poor, as a rule, to afford doctors. Or they live far out in the country, where people find doctors too costly to be summoned for any but the last emergency.

Children die where the family is poor. Twice as many babies die in the homes where the mothers had to go out to work, than in homes where the mothers stayed at home. Thirteen thousand babies' homes were visited to get the facts. Where the head of the family earned more than \$1,050

a year, only one baby in 16 died last year. Where the father earned less than \$550, one baby in six died.

Since this is evidence that babies need more care, and that low wages means that the baby cannot have the necessary care, the remedy is either a big increase in wages or else direct medical and nursing aid. As Miss Lathrop's job is not the raising of wages, she simply points the moral and makes this suggestion: That the federal and state governments each put up equal amounts of money to employ a trained nurse in every neighborhood, city and country, to look after babies and mothers, and to take care that mothers shall not be left to die because of neglect or the poverty of the household.



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