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# THE LABOR WORLD

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS

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TWO CENTS

## AMERICAN WORKERS WILL STAND BY GOMPERS

### MILLER VOTES TO DEPRIVE LABOR OF STRIKE

Two Other Minnesota Congressmen Are Aligned With 38 Reactionaries Who Would Not Exempt Workers From War Legislation.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Sixty-nine members of the house of representatives stood up and were counted last Wednesday afternoon, in opposition to putting this language into a bill dealing with the protection of war material against malicious destruction:

"Nothing herein shall be construed as making it unlawful for employees to agree together to stop work or not to enter thereon with a bona fide purpose of securing better wages or conditions of employment."

But when the roll call was forced, so that all members should go on record, by name, on this issue of permitting strikes during war time or making them a criminal offense, there were just 38 votes on the anti-labor side. The 38 were: Bacharach, Gray and Parker of New Jersey; Blanton and Carner of Texas; Borland of Missouri; Cannon and Mad-

Church of California; Cox, Elliott and Moores of Indiana; Crago, Edmonds, Heaton and Kiess of Pennsylvania; Cramton, Currie and Fordyce of Michigan; Dale and Greene of Vermont; Garrett and Padgett of Tennessee; Glass of Virginia; Glynn and Merritt of Connecticut; Humphreys and Stephens of Mississippi; Miller, Stenerson and Volstead of Minnesota; Peters of Maine, and Platt and Ward of New York.

That's an interesting roll call—especially the names from such states as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Minnesota, where organized labor is going to have something to say next November. It's a great pity that nobody was there with a camera to photograph the 31 other gentlemen who stood up but dared not go on record against the right of workers to strike to better their condition during the war.

This amendment, against which they voted, was offered by Lunn of New York after the house had adopted another amendment offered by Cannon of Illinois and somewhat modified by Webb of North Carolina, which provided that "whoever with intent to injure, interfere with, obstruct the United States or any

state, or any person in preparation for or in the course of, or in the execution of, or in the furtherance of, or in connection with, the creation or production of such war premises, war materials, or war utilities, shall, upon conviction hereof, be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than thirty years, or both."

Would Forbid Strikes. Nolan of California and Keating of Colorado had been quick to point out that this language would be held by the courts to forbid strikes. Webb, chairman of the judiciary committee, denied it. As usual when labor issues are presented, most of the members were wholly at sea as to what the language did mean. And they adopted it by a vote of 255 to 59. The 59 who refused to take a chance on its being an anti-strike enactment were: Ayers, Baer, Bankhead, Bland, Browne, Clegg, Clason, Cooper of Wisconsin, Davis, Denison, Denton, Dillon, Donnell, Edmonds, Esterson, Emerson, Lynn, Gallagher, Garland, Gordon, Hayden, Hilliard, Huddleston, Igoe, Ireland, James, Keating, Kelly of Pennsylvania, King, Knutson, Langley, London, Lundeen, Lunn, McCulloch, McKee, McLenore, Mondell, Moran, Morin, Nelson, Nolan, Oliver of New York, Phelan, Porter, Rankin, Reed, Robbins, Roberts, Sherwood, Tegel, T. P. Smith, Stafford, Tague, Taylor of Colorado, Thomas, Walton, Woodard and Zihlman.

### AGAINST BILL TO TRAIN YOUTHS

President Believes That Officers Cannot Be Spared At This Time.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—President Wilson, according to advices reaching the ears of members of congress, is opposed to universal military training legislation on the ground that officers cannot be spared from actual war preparations at this time to train youths under 21 years of age, who could be called for preliminary military instruction.

In view of the president's reported attitude, supplementing the advice of secretary of War Baker in his annual report that it would be unwise for congress to determine the question of universal training and service until after a peace conference, advocates of universal training fear that they will have difficulty in getting action on its important issue at this session.

Several congressmen declared this week that there would be no universal military training bills reported by the military affairs committee of the house.

Senator Fletcher, ranking Democratic member of the senate military affairs committee, in the absence of senators Chamberlain and Hitchcock, said that he had not heard any word on the white house regarding universal training legislation.

Senator New said that he proposed to press his universal training amendment at the first opportunity, although administration forces are urging him to withdraw it in order to expedite passage of the resolution providing for registration of men who have reached the age of 21 since June last.

SEATTLE, March 14.—The city election resulted in a victory for Ole Hanson who was elected mayor over James E. Bradford, the labor candidate, by 4,519 majority in a total vote of almost 60,000. Hanson had the influence of the employers behind him, according to The Seattle Daily Call. Three aldermen, T. H. Bolton, R. W. Cotterill, A. F. Haas, who had been endorsed by the trade unions, were elected. Dr. Anna Louise Strong, woman alderman, who recently told the country the truth about the Bolshevik ship that had arrived in Seattle, was defeated for re-election.

TWENTY-FIVE MINERS KILLED. CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 14.—The West Virginia mine inspector reports that during last January 25 miners were killed in this state. This is six less than during January, 1917.

### MORATORIUM FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN WAR SERVICE

Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Rights Bill Is Passed By Congress.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 14.—Congress has passed the soldiers and sailors' civil rights bill.

This legislation, together with the soldiers and sailors' insurance act, which provides for insurance up to \$10,000 at nominal costs, marks a new departure in military legislation among the nations. In the civil rights bill, soldiers and sailors' dependents are protected against eviction because of non-payment of assessments or dues, or loss of homestead through absence or non-payment of fees.

These protections are given on the condition that a man's normal ability to meet his obligations has been "materially affected" by his military service.

The most important features of this legislation follow:

A law suit can not be decided against a man who is unable to appear by reason of military service; courts must appoint attorneys for such defendants. A law suit begun by a person, who later enters military service, may be postponed until the man is able to give his personal attention. A soldier's wife or family cannot be evicted from any premises, the rent of which does not exceed \$50 a month. The court may inquire into all such cases and make "such order as may be just." An attempt to evict shall be punishable by a \$1000 fine.

On homes being paid for on the installment plan, contracts shall not be foreclosed for non-payment, unless the court so decides after an investigation. The court may then order all payments to date refunded or it may stay proceedings.

Insurance is defined to include benefits from fraternal or benefit societies, as well as commercial life insurance. Non-payments due to military service shall not invalidate the policy up to one year after the close of the war.

Non-payment of taxes cannot result in the sale of a fighter's property. This includes assessments and levies of every sort by national, state or local governments.

### VILLARD HEADS UNION AGAINST MILITARISM

NEW YORK, March 14.—Oswald Garrison Villard, president The New York Evening Post company, has been elected chairman of the American Union Against Militarism, reorganized to oppose adoption of universal military training. Amos Pinchot has been made vice chairman. Announcement of the reorganization was made together with the statement that the union will direct a fight against the universal military training bill now pending in congress.

### TO CONTROL FERTILIZER

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Government control of the fertilizer industry has been ordered by President Wilson. Manufacturers and distributors will obtain licenses from the secretary of agriculture on or before March 20. The president acts under authority of the food control law.

### EMPLOYERS' CANDIDATE ELECTED SEATTLE MAYOR

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### Trades Assembly Asks Pardon for Thomas J. Mooney

Sends Telegram to Governor Stephens Urging Executive Clemency.

The Duluth Federated Trades Assembly, at its meeting last Friday night, adopted resolutions asking for a pardon for Thomas J. Mooney, under sentence to be hanged after his conviction on a murder charge in connection with the Preparedness day bomb explosion in San Francisco in July, 1916, when ten persons were killed.

The state supreme court of California recently denied the application of Mr. Mooney for a new trial, and the latter's only salvation lies in the hope of a pardon by Governor Stephens of California. The resolutions adopted by the local assembly point to the fact that witnesses of questionable reputation provided the testimony which resulted in Mr. Mooney's conviction; that organized labor throughout the country is vitally interested in the case, and that it is believed the convicted man is the victim of a conspiracy to crush the labor union movement.

After the resolutions were heartily endorsed by a unanimous vote, they were signed by the president and secretary, and immediately forwarded to Governor Stephens in the form of a telegram, as follows:

"Whereas, The California state supreme court has denied the application of Thomas J. Mooney for a new trial, thus sustaining his conviction on a murder charge in connection with the Preparedness day bomb explosion and his subsequent sentence to be hanged; and

"Whereas, The trial of Mr. Mooney was conducted in a questionable manner by officials against whom charges of malfeasance have been made; and

"Whereas, The principal witnesses for the prosecution possessed unsavory reputations, and their testimony has been discredited by alleged subornation; and

"Whereas, Organized labor throughout the United States is vitally interested in Mr. Mooney's case, conscientiously believing that he has been the victim of an anti-union conspiracy, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Federated Trades Assembly of Duluth, Minn., representing 5,000 workers, earnestly implores executive clemency, and urges you to further the cause of human justice by granting Mr. Mooney a pardon.

"Duluth, Minn., March 8, 1918."

### REPUBLIC IRON & STEEL MAKES \$14,747,458 IN WAR PROFITS FOR 1917

NEW YORK, March 14.—The Republic Iron and Steel company reports net profits for 1917 of \$16,616,532, after deducting over \$9,000,000 for taxes it may still have to pay. This is almost 12 times as big a profit as was made by this company in 1914, when the net income was \$1,869,074. If we regard 1914 as a peace year, this gives the Republic and Steel company excess war profits for 1917 of \$14,747,458. Senator La Follette proposed taking 50 per cent of the excess war profits (that is, profits made in addition to the ordinary peace profits) for the use of the government to finance the war. Had his proposal been adopted by congress, the federal treasury would have received from this company the sum of \$11,797,968 and would still have left almost \$3,000,000 more for the investors than they received in peace time.

### METAL WORKERS GAIN

STAMFORD, Conn., March 14.—Sheet Metal Workers' union No. 189 has secured a wage increase of 45 cents a day. The union has an agreement with employers which does not expire until June 1 next, but the employers accepted the claim that continued increases in the cost of living made a higher rate necessary.

### PACKERS GUILTY OF SABOTAGE TO DESTROY UNIONS

Walsh Says Meat Firms Fired Men, Cut Output to Prevent Organization.

CHICAGO, March 14.—That the packers committed sabotage against the government rather than permit their men to be organized last year in the Denver plant of Swift & Co., was the charge made by Frank P. Walsh, attorney for the unions, in his final argument before Judge Alschuler, arbitrator in the stock yards labor dispute.

Walsh had just read a letter written in Denver in 1917 by W. B. Traynor to Louis F. Swift. It was one of those seized by Francis J. Heney from the vault of Henry Veeder, and told of the discharge of 21 men as a measure to halt the unions' movement to organize the plant. According to the letter, the Armour people were in accord with the action taken.

### Walsh Charges Profiteering

"Rather than have their plant organized," Walsh said, "these men cut down the production of food in a time of war."

Walsh charged that when the packers refused to make public the salaries paid to themselves and their executives they confessed themselves ashamed to reveal how much they are making in their "profiteering" from the government in war time.

A universal eight-hour day and a "minimum comfort" wage will be strongly urged by the unions before the war labor planning board, Walsh, who is a member of the board, indicated.

Government sanction was claimed for this program by reason of President Wilson's stand in favor of the eight-hour basic work day and from decisions of federal arbitrators and mediators in labor disputes since the war started. Walsh cited the statement of W. Jett Lauck, labor expert with the United States shipping board, the text of which was laid before stock yards Arbitrator Samuel Alschuler.

Cut Hours; Increase Output. It declared: "No matter what pre-war standards were, as a matter of policy to insure proper industrial support of the war, a minimum comfort wage should be allowed to workers. Proper hours of work should be granted to secure maximum, most economical and most prolonged output. The eight-hour day will do this."

Organized labor's attitude toward capital during the war also was put forth by Walsh in the following words: "The war should not be a period of profiteering. Capital should be given a fair return sufficient to stimulate production and maintain itself."

Judge Alschuler's decision on the packing house employees' demands for an eight-hour day and increased pay is not expected for several weeks.

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### LABOR MUST INTERCEDE FOR MOONEY!

(By Ed. Gammons in Tri-City Labor Review.)

Tom Mooney is at the foot of the gallows! He has been brought into the shadow of death by the legal wing of the big business murderbund of the Pacific coast. They thirst for his blood, and unless the organized labor movement of the country makes one mighty protest against this contemplated murder of an innocent workingman he will be strangled to death on the state gallows.

Governor Stephens will act on Mooney's application for a complete pardon within the next few weeks. He should be made aware of the sentiment of the working class on this momentous struggle. President Wilson has already requested Governor Stephens to see that Mooney gets a new trial. The report of the federal commission proves conclusively that Mooney was jobbed in the first trial.

The strongest argument for new trials for both Mooney and Billings is the evidence which never came to light till after their conviction. Eighteen traffic officers were on duty on Market street from noon till 8 o'clock in the evening of the day of the explosion. They testified that no automobile went down the street during the progress of the parade. The evidence of these reputable officers, if presented during Mooney's trial, would have swept Oxman's perjury clean out of court.

"Their honors" of the supreme court couldn't (or wouldn't) consider Oxman's letters, the confession of Mrs. Kidwell, the statement of Estelle Smith, the acquittals of Rena Mooney and Israel Weinberg.

Every member of organized labor should write to Governor Stephens, Sacramento, asking him to do justice to Tom Mooney and see that he gets a complete pardon. Point out the relevant facts of the situation.

Write to President Wilson, Washington, and ask him to do all in his power to stop this murder. Strengthen his hands by showing your solidarity for your brother who will soon be shut up in the death chamber of San Quentin. Write both executives—do it now!

### REFUSE TO BE DECEIVED BY HUN CRAFT AND CUNNING

When Bona Fide Labor Organizations of Allied Nations Call Conference, American Labor Will Be Represented By Its Ablest Men.

In the last number of The Labor World there appeared an article from our Washington correspondent in which it was declared that the American labor movement was about to repudiate Mr. Gompers because of a disagreement over what was termed "the Gompers foreign policy."

The article began something like this: "The whole labor movement is at the parting of the ways. It is about to cast off the old indifference to what the workers of the rest of the world are doing—what they think, what they hope for, what they struggle and die for—what they have done and are willing to do, across all national boundary lines, to make the world unsafe for poverty and caste."

This reads well and sounds better. One would think that the American labor movement is separate and distinct in ideals, aims and purposes from the labor movements of other countries, which is not true. There has always been perfect understanding between the American Federation of Labor and the bona fide labor organizations of all the countries in the old world. They may have disagreed as to tactics, but never as to purpose. They may have differed as to form, but not as to substance. If anything, the American and British trade unions are of closer kin because of their general similarity and the fact that both keep the democratic idea of management foremost.

The thought advanced by our correspondent of "making the world unsafe for poverty" is not as important as to "make the world safe for democracy and freedom." The Kaiser's government practically solved the question of poverty for the working classes in the German empire, but it denied to them their freedom. The slaves in the South had the question of poverty solved for them, but they yearned for something more. So it is with mankind the world over. Preserve the principles of democracy in a government, guarantee to all absolute freedom, and men will for themselves solve the material questions of life, of which poverty is one.

### PLAN TO ASSIST SOLDIERS WHO ARE DISABLED

Federal Vocational Board Would Make Them Economically Independent.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The federal board for vocational education has prepared a plan to increase, by vocational education, the earning power of injured soldiers and thereby render them economically independent.

It is stated that 100,000 out of every 1,000,000 soldiers sent overseas will return to the United States during the first year of fighting, and that 20,000 of these will need some kind of vocational re-education.

The board's plan involves a central administrative agency at Washington, the co-ordination with that agency of every federal and state agency concerned, and with similar public, semi-public and private agencies, the establishment of "curative work shops" for the treatment of war cripples, together with a complete system providing for subsistence and ray during the period of re-education.

Basing its opinion on foreign experience, the board says that "vocational rehabilitation can not be regarded as costing the community, excepting temporarily, anything whatever. The disability of the soldier or sailor is an economic handicap reducing productive power. Unless the men are vocationally re-established, and to the extent that they are not completely re-established, the economic loss to the community will be cumulative during a long period of years. Even a slight increase in vocational capacity, as a result of vocational training initiated during the period of convalescence, will result in an economic gain which, also, will be cumulative over a long period of years. This aggregate cumulative gain will certainly exceed any expenditures for vocational rehabilitation."

PHILADELPHIA, March 14.—Striking Hog Island wood workers and machinists who walked out at the big shipbuilding plant late Friday in protest against a reduction in overtime pay returned to work Saturday. They won their demands and will get double pay for overtime.

### STREET CAR MEN GAIN

WINNIPEG, Man., March 14.—Street Car Men's union No. 99 and the Winnipeg Street Railway company have reached an understanding on the question of wages, which are increased 2 cents an hour for first and second year men and 3 cents an hour for others, with a maximum rate of 39 cents an hour.

### HOG ISLAND WORKERS WIN DEMANDS; STRIKE ENDS

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### PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

HOBOKEN, N. J., March 14.—Typographical union No. 823 has secured a two-year agreement, with wage increases for members employed in commercial shops. Day rates are \$25 a week for hand men, and \$27 for machine men. Night rates are \$28 and \$30 respectively.

### PACKERS CONDUCTED AN ANTI-LABOR LOBBY

CHICAGO, March 14.—In its investigation of methods employed by meat packers in this country, the federal trade commission has made public a number of letters showing that the packers maintained an anti-labor lobby. The letters range from advice to increase the employment of negro labor and a caution to drop union men at Denver without allowing trade unionism to appear as the cause to opposition against the eight-hour law in Illinois, and against a Kansas act intending to regulate and shorten hours of women.

Mr. Gompers understands the philosophy of the democratic movement of the working classes better than any other man in America. He knows too, something of the deceit and cunning of such men as Karl Legien of Germany, whose hidden hand is behind every so-called international labor conference yet proposed from the other side. Legien, as Ben Tillett declares, is the labor cog of the Kaiser's world machine. Any suggestion coming from him for any kind of a labor conference must be taken with a grain of salt.

The conference now proposed, it is said, would consist of representatives from the workers of the Allied nations, and German and Austrian workers would be invited to attend. Mr. Gompers and the American Federation of Labor have refused to be represented in the conference.