

WINDY CITY PIANO WORKERS STRIKE

Chicago Federation of Labor Urges Boycott Against Lyon & Healy Company.

All workmen are requested and admonished not to purchase pianos made by the Lyon & Healy Piano Company of Chicago, in an appeal by the Chicago Federation of Labor. It is stated that this concern engaged a superintendent who changed the method of work from a piece and day work system to the contract or sweating system, accompanied by a wage adjustment, which was in reality a wage reduction. The employees who protested were discharged and gunmen were employed to intimidate the workers. The concern, which pays the low-

WISCONSIN IS LOYAL; MANY BADGER SOLDIERS

MADISON, Wis., April 18.—While loyalty of this state is being discussed by people who judge of a few surface occurrences, Adjutant General Orlando Holway states that every fifteenth American soldier in France is from Wisconsin. Lieutenant George M. Wlecheit reports that Milwaukee has exceeded its quota for the navy by a big margin and that, nowhere has he found better co-operation and more enthusiastic support of the government than in that city.

est wages in Chicago for its class of work, refused to arbitrate the differences with its employees, and the latter were forced to strike last October. The strike is still effective, having simmered down to a fight between the Chicago labor movement and the Illinois Manufacturers' association. All workers are urged to aid the striking employees of the Lyon & Healy Piano company by not patronizing the products of the concern.

CAN INCREASE FOOD SUPPLY BY TAXATION OF UNUSED LANDS

Present System of Land Tenure Prevents Poor Men From Entering Agricultural Pursuits—Land Speculators Should Be Penalized.

NEW YORK, April 18.—The imminence of another serious race problem, involving sharp controversies and additional bitterness between classes, is with us today as the result of our faulty system of land tenure and the decay of agriculture as a field for the average man. Genuine alarm is felt in farming and food distributing circles of the Pacific Coast states over the shortage in farm labor and the prospect that it will be impossible this year to harvest the grains and fruits of the great food-producing districts of these states.

Land in California is held in large tracts and owned largely by men of substantial wealth. To harvest their crops with the aid of men resident in the community is out of the question. They depend upon the great army of migratory laborers who are also the backbone of other important western industries. These laborers have gone from harvest to harvest or from lumber camp to construction camp, leading the lives of vagabonds, finding it difficult or impossible to save, and living most of the time in insanitary quarters. This year they are otherwise employed, and their desertion from the migratory labor field threatens a serious economic crisis.

Urges Coöperative Labor. Wheat and dried fruits from the Pacific coast are important items in the feeding of the armies and our allies. To meet the situation, the farm labor committee of the California state council of defense has brought in a report urging the importation of Chinese labor. The plan has been endorsed also by E. H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the steel corporation. The acute need for farm labor is seized upon as the entering wedge for a policy of wholesale importations. Powerful interests are for letting down the floodgates and diluting America's labor force and its racial stock with millions of Chinese. Regardless of the abstract right or wrong of restrictions on such immigration, all liberal thinkers are agreed that for the present a policy of encouraging Chinese immigration would immensely complicate and intensify some of our most acute social and economic problems.

Only Rich Men Can Farm. The California problem is little different from that in Texas and other

great food-producing states. The reports of Prof. Elwood Mead of the University of California, the testimony of Commissioner Herbert Quick of the Federal Farm Loan board, the reports of the department of agriculture, all show that the best agricultural land in this country is being monopolized in the hands of a comparatively few men; that vast acreages of it are held out of use by speculating owners at prohibitive prices, and that farming has become an almost utterly prohibited business for the man without considerable capital.

How, then, can we expect American workers to engage in farm labor? Government investigations have shown that there are plenty of men in the country—labor shortages are a matter of faulty distribution of labor, not actual shortage. How can farming be made so attractive that it will automatically draw to it the necessary quota of able-bodied Americans—Americans of the sort that can be converted into good citizens, good neighbors, understanding democrats? Must Impose Tax.

Is it not time for the state and federal governments to open land to the people by forcing speculators and absentee landlords to relinquish their grip? Is it not time to follow Australia, New Zealand, Western Canada, and Denmark in the imposition of a tax on land values that will penalize the man who holds land out of use and force him to dispose of it at a reasonable price? We have the land; we have the men; what we lack is a system of land tenure that will permit the poor man, the man of moderate means, to acquire a farm with some reasonable prospect that he will succeed. This requires not only land value taxation, but the taking out of land values, but the exemption of all farm improvements from taxation,—the tax burden so removed from enterprise to be spread over land itself, and just as heavily on land unused as on land that is cultivated.

Land value taxation might not harvest this year's crops by increasing the number of working farmers. But it certainly would increase next year's supply of food. And it is the only measure that can save the farming industry in this country from ultimate disaster, of which Chinese labor would be only one feature.

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PRESIDENT APPROVES PLANS FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN OF COUNTRY

President Wilson has sent the following letter to Secretary of Labor Wilson:

The White House, Washington, March 29, 1918. My dear Mr. Secretary: Next to the duty of doing everything possible for the soldiers at the front, there could be, it seems to me, no more patriotic duty than that of protecting the children, who constitute one-third of our population. I am very glad that the allies in England in behalf of the children is evidenced by the fact that the infant death rate in England for the second year of the war was the lowest in her history. Attention is now being given to education and labor conditions for children by the legislatures of both France and England, showing that the conviction among the allies is that the protection of childhood is essential to winning the war. I trust that the year will not only see the goal reached of saving 100,000 lives of infants and young children but that the work may so successfully develop as to set up certain irreducible minimum standards for the health, education and work of the American child. Cordially and sincerely yours, WOODROW WILSON.

REJECTS DEATH BENEFIT. CINCINNATI, April 18.—The proposal to establish a death benefit fund has been rejected by a referendum vote of the International Union of United Brewery and Soft Drink Workers. The vote was 6,862 for and 25,322 against.

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EAT MORE POTATOES!

Potatoes are good fuel. They furnish starch which burns in your muscles to let you work, much as the gasoline burns in an automobile engine to make the car go.

One medium-sized potato gives you as much starch as two slices of bread. When you have potatoes for a meal you need less bread.

They give you salts like other vegetables. You need the salts to build and renew all parts of your body and to keep it in order.

Potatoes at Their Best. An old king is said to have tested each cook before hiring him by asking him to boil a potato. Even the best potato can be spoiled by a poor cook.

To boil them so that they will be "fit for a king," drop the unpeeled potatoes into boiling salted water and cook twenty to thirty minutes. Drain the water off at once. If they are cooked too long or allowed to stand in the water they get soggy.

If you peel the potatoes before cooking them you waste time and potatoes both. You may throw away a sixth or even a quarter of the good part of the potato with the skins. Also, if the potatoes aren't covered up by the skins while cooking, some of the valuable material will soak out into the water. Even very small potatoes can be economically used, if they are boiled in their skins.

For best mashed potatoes, peel the boiled potatoes, mash and beat until very light, adding salt, butter or oleo-margarine and hot milk, a half cup of milk to six potatoes. If dinner is not ready to serve, pile lightly in a pan and set in the oven to brown.

Potatoes are good in breads. Get Farmers' Bulletin No. 807, "Bread and Bread Making in the Home," from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. to learn how to make potato yeast bread.

Potato Cornmeal Muffins.

Two tablespoons fat, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 egg, well beaten, 1 cup milk, 1 cup mashed potatoes, 1 cup corn meal, 4 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt.

Mix in order given. Bake forty minutes in hot oven. This makes twelve muffins. They are delicious.

Potatoes are good in cake. They are often used this way to keep the cake from drying out quickly. Mash the potatoes and beat up with milk until very light. You can use your usual cake recipe, substituting one cup of mashed potatoes for one-half cup of milk and one-half cup of flour.

Potatoes, left over or fresh, may be combined with cheese or nuts or meat or other material, often to make the main dish of a meal.

Because of the fact that there are enormous stores of potatoes in Minnesota, and a corresponding shortage of wheat, consumers are being urged by the United States Food Administration to increase the consumption of potatoes, which at present are being retailed at unusually low prices.

BLACKSMITHS RAISE WAGES.

WHEELING, W. Va., April 18.—Striking blacksmiths employed at the Peninsular plant of the Wheeling Mold & Foundry company have secured a union shop agreement and raised wages 5 cents an hour.

HEALTH INSURANCE IS FAVORED BY DR. HOWE

NEW YORK, April 18.—Dr. Frederic C. Howe of the Federal department of labor, a leading authority on protective legislation for workers, has replied to misrepresentations of his position on health insurance, in the following telegram to the San Francisco Bulletin:

"I have recently received copies of the Bulletin in which Peter V. Ross, member of the Christian Science publicity committee, quotes a passage from one of my books and proceeds to construe it as an indictment of social health insurance, which he opposes. I have never written or spoken a word in opposition to health insurance. On the contrary, I am strongly in favor of it, and hope that you will make this correction in your paper, in which I have been put in a false position by the gentleman who opposes it."

RAILROAD SHOPMEN ARE RAPIDLY ORGANIZING

PITTSBURGH, April 18.—The five principal shops of the Pennsylvania railroad have been nearly 85 per cent organized since the government took control of the railroads. These shops are located at Columbus, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Logansport and Indianapolis, Ind. The Pennsylvania railroad under private management has camouflaged its anti-unionism with "open shop" claims, but the increase of trade unionism along this line indicates the sentiment of employees when privileged to act as free men.

TWIN CITIES UNIONS TO VOTE ON GENERAL STRIKE

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 18.—St. Paul and Minneapolis labor union men were late Saturday ordered to vote as to whether they will declare a general sympathetic strike, designed to end the street car controversy.

WANT WAGE LAW ENFORCED.

DETROIT, Mich., April 18.—The local federation of labor has asked the city attorney to enforce the minimum wage law. This act was written into the city charter, two years ago, by a vote of the people and has been resisted by city officials since that time. As the law provides for the prevailing wage to city employees, anti-union employers are not interested in this law enforcement.

WHY WAGES WERE RAISED.

DAYTON, Ohio, April 18.—The Dayton Street Railway company has raised wages 2 cents an hour without solicitation by its employees.

BIG PROFITS IN ZINC.

NEW YORK, April 18.—The 1917 report of the American Zinc, Lead & Smelting company shows a clear profit of \$1,530,163, against \$1,006,352 in 1916 and \$248,657 in 1915.

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