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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TWO CENTS

I. W. W. EMPLOYERS DEAL FOES OF DEMOCRACY

VANT MINIMUM WAGE FOR WOMEN IN WISCONSIN

Petition Is Filed Asking Federal Commission to Fix Weekly Scale at \$13.30

MADISON, Wis., May 30.—A fight to secure a minimum wage of \$13.30 a week for women and minors in Wisconsin was opened here this week, the filing of a petition for the fixing of this wage. The petition is in the name of the Wisconsin Federation of Labor, the Consumers' League of Wisconsin and Central Council of Social Agencies, Milwaukee. Four years ago an investigation was made by the Wisconsin Industrial Commission and others, and it was found that \$9.50 would be a living wage for women and minors in Milwaukee. No order was issued, because the validity of the law was then being tested in a case from the state of Oregon. The United States supreme court over a year ago sustained the validity of the law. Nevertheless the Wisconsin Industrial Commission has made no effort to put a living wage on effect.

Typical Cases Probed.

At the suggestion of the petitioners, further investigation of conditions in Milwaukee and Madison, two typical cities, has been made, as to the increased cost of living this year as compared with 1914. It is found that \$9.50 was a living wage now. This investigation was made under the direction of Miss Janet Van Hise, daughter of President Charles R. Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin, Charles H. Crownhart is the attorney of the present petitioners. The petition declares that in the city of Milwaukee the recent Janet Van Hise investigation covered typical cases in candy industries, shoe factories, tobacco workers, knitting factories and some 23 other work places showing general conditions.

92 Per Cent Under \$13 Wage.

"Such investigation in Milwaukee," declares the petition, "indicates that per cent of all the women workers in all industries get under \$13 a week, 75 per cent are getting under \$10 per week, 67 per cent are getting under \$9 and 42 per cent are getting under \$7. Leaving out women under 17 years of age, 88 per cent receive under \$13 per week, 57 per cent under \$10, 37 per cent under \$9 and 2 per cent under \$7.

Early Hearing on the Matter Will Be Ordered by the Industrial Commission, Said Chairman George P. Hammett.

Law Passed in 1913. The fight to secure a minimum wage in Wisconsin for women and minors has been long and tedious. The law was enacted at the 1913 session of the Wisconsin legislature. On Oct. 10, 1914, a petition for the fixing of a minimum wage in Wisconsin was filed by Mrs. Carl G. Stern, Marie Juessen, Ester F. Greenman, Helen W. Chamberlain, Fannie Wells Norris, Katherine Van Wyck and Frederick C. Rehoush, Milwaukee. An investigation was immediately started by the industrial commission. This investigation was conducted by the industrial commission through Emma Lundgren, Tracy Copp, Mrs. William Kittle and Katherine Lenroot.

ARIZONA RATIFIES U. S. PROHIBITION MEASURE

PHOENIX, Ariz., May 30.—The lower house of the legislature today passed the joint resolution ratifying the prohibition amendment to the federal constitution by a vote of 29 to 3. The resolution passed the senate unanimously Tuesday. The Arizona legislature is the fifth to have ratified the prohibition amendment. Thirty-six states must ratify it to make it effective. The measures which have taken favorable action are: Arizona, Delaware, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

STEEL COMPANY REFUSES TO MEET LABOR DELEGATES

WASHINGTON, May 30.—Testimony presented to an investigation committee of the National War Labor Board here showed the Bethlehem Steel company officers refused to negotiate with striking workmen, after they returned to work.

Eugene Grace, president Bethlehem company, told the committee he never agreed to treat with the men. The men and government mediators who returned to their jobs after they had been promised to state their grievances.

IS GOVERNMENT EIGHT-HOUR DAY BEING VIOLATED?

The Federated Trades Assembly last Friday night received the report of a special committee which had been instructed to interview employees of the steel plant at Morgan Park concerning labor conditions there, and secure other data in regard to work standards.

Trades Assembly Delegates Discuss Labor Conditions at Morgan Park.

It was asserted that the day shift consists of 11 hours, while 13 constitute the work period at night. The average week consists of 84 hours. That guards employed around the plant are not provided as a war emergency, but that the practice was in effect before hostilities began, was another statement. In all matters it is the policy of the Minnesota Steel company to oppose unionism among its employees, it was said.

The committee report precipitated a general discussion concerning the steel industry in this country, during which several delegates asserted that a movement is on foot in the Pennsylvania and Alabama districts to organize the workers. Indications are that this matter will be an important feature of the convention of the American Federation of Labor which will be held June 10 at St. Paul, many of the larger city central bodies having instructed their delegates to advocate and support the proposal to have the A. F. of L. undertake this organization work.

The local assembly delegates believe that because the Minnesota Steel company is engaged on government contracts, it should be governed by the Federal regulations providing for a basic eight-hour day. A motion was finally adopted, instructing the secretary to communicate with the United States Department of Labor, inquiring whether the eight-hour stipulation is not being violated at Morgan Park.

SEDITION LAW NOW EFFECTIVE

WASHINGTON, May 30.—President Wilson has signed the sedition bill, the most drastic measure of the kind ever enacted by Congress. It imposes a prison sentence of 20 years, a fine of \$10,000 or both on any person who—

Writes, prints or utters anything tending to obstruct a liberty loan campaign, recruiting for the army or navy, or anything vilifying the government or officials or tending to incite resistance to them, or who by words or deed favors the cause of Germany or her allies.

It takes away mail privileges from persons convicted of violating them. If a man violates the act, no mail addressed to him and none sent out by him will be delivered.

It is one of a trio of laws Wilson asked congress to enact to strengthen the government in dealing with internal enemies. The others are bills penalizing sabotage and destruction of war materials, and that including women under the terms of the enemy alien laws. All are now in effect.

FILM CENSOR BOARD UPHOLD.

TOPEKA, Kan., May 30.—The state supreme court has upheld the right of the movie censor board to regulate objectionable films.

ASSERTS FRANK MORRISON IN SPEECH AT SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL CONGRESS

A. F. of L. Official Declares Industrial Peace May Be Had If Employers Only Recognize Collective Dealing—Points Out Similarity Between Philosophy of I. W. W. And Opponents of Unionism.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 30.—In a stirring address here before the Southern Sociological Congress, Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, declared that no element in our national life realizes the value of freedom and democracy to a greater extent than does the organized labor movement.

"These principles are the bed rock upon which our structure rests," he said. "Our movement is a continued protest against autocracy, be it political or industrial, and when our government calls for support in its present hour, the organized workers respond because they are American citizens and because they must be true to their trade union principles.

"It should not be understood that the unorganized wage worker, in factory or office, is less patriotic than members of trade unions. Assuming these two elements are imbued with the same patriotic ideals, the organized worker is of greater value to his country because of his ability to work with others, his faculty for 'team-work' as it were. Our government has realized this point, and in all affairs affecting the interest of wage workers the government has consulted with organized workers, and has appointed these workers on its various high commissions, committees and boards.

"While the trade union movement is devoting every energy to patriotic work, it believes that patriotism does not consist entirely of repelling those who would attack from the outside our democratic form of government.

Real Enemies of Democracy. "Another opponent of real democracy and sound citizenship is he who would lower working standards and be given a free hand in the employment of women, the mothers of men, and of children, our future men and women.

"On this subject representatives of the national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor said:

"The guarantee of human conservation should be recognized in war as well as in peace. "This statement was made on March 12 of last year, when these trade union officials, meeting in Washington announced that while the trade union movement abhorred war, it was behind the government in this hour of peril, come what may.

Will Maintain Standards.

"The government has indicated that it intends to maintain labor standards, and the Council of National Defense has stated that before standards are reduced it should pass upon the question, as it is better positioned, with its survey of industry and of military necessities, to consider the question.

"I believe labor's position is understood and appreciated by sound thinking citizens, who have noted that despite calls for the abolition of labor standards that the government has assisted during the past two months, through mediation processes, in placing the northwest lumber industry on the eight-hour basis. The nation's packing industry went on a basic eight-hour day this month, through a decision by an arbiter selected by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

"The placing of these important industries on the shorter workday basis indicate that our government accepts the investigations of the British government, which discovered, after practical tests, that long hours is no benefit to the worker.

LABOR EDITORS TO MEET SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 30.—Call has been issued for the annual convention of the International Labor Press of America, by Secretary R. E. Woodmansee of this city. The labor editors will meet in St. Paul beginning Sunday, June 9, at 2 p. m. Headquarters will be at St. Paul hotel.

SHIP YARD STRIKE ENDS.

TAMPA, Fla., May 30.—The strike of several hundred employees of the Tampa Dock company has been settled through mediation. These employees suspended work when the company refused to pay the federal shipping board's wage rate.

UNIONISTS REINSTATED.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., May 30.—Employees of the Stahl-Urban company, who were locked out because of their membership in the United Garment Workers, have been reinstated through the efforts of a federal conciliator.

answer to the demand for increased war munitions.

Criticizing Labor Movement for "Considerable criticism has been leveled at the labor movement by its enemies and many well-meaning but uninformed citizens because of the activities of representatives of the Industrial Workers of the World, an organization whose members refuse to enter into a collective bargain with employers and reserve the right to cease work at any time when in their opinion there is the greatest likelihood that the employer will be compelled to concede their demands.

"The representatives of corporations that are hostile to the trade union movement assert that the I. W. W. is part of the labor movement and hold the labor movement responsible for all the acts and statements of these irresponsible representatives of an organization that has no following among the organized workers of the country, and whose representatives can only give consideration from the unorganized employees of the employers who refuse to permit their employees to form a union for their betterment under penalty of instant dismissal.

Similar Philosophy.

"It is interesting to observe that the philosophy of the employer who refuses to permit his employees to organize, is the very same philosophy which is observed by the I. W. W. They secure through their system of agitation as much for their labor as they can get and in any way they can get it.

"The corporations who refuse to permit their employees to organize, secure from each employe as many hours' work each day as is possible for him to work and at the smallest possible wage per hour, without giving any more consideration to the individual than he gives to a piece of machinery.

"If the employers want industrial peace, it is within their grasp. All that is necessary to secure it is to enter into a collective bargain with the national or international union that has jurisdiction over their employes. I said before and I say now, as long as there are I. W. W. employes, there will be I. W. W. employes. When the I. W. W. employes cease to exist, then the representatives of the I. W. W.'s will cease to carry on their agitation, because there will be no one who will give them a respectful hearing.

Packing Houses Revolutionized.

"The packing house industry of this country has been revolutionized. In past years representatives of the packing houses refused to permit their employes to organize, but through the efforts of the trade union movement and a commission appointed by President Wilson, that industry has been placed upon the basic eight-hour day, with price and one-quarter for overtime up to 10 hours and price and one-half for hours with a substantial increase in wages. There will be no more I. W. W. agitation among the packing house employes so long as the packing house representatives will continue to meet and enter into a collective bargain with their employes.

War Labor Committee.

"President Wilson has just appointed a committee of 12 composed of five employers and five members of organized labor, and two representing the public, to adjust by mediation, grievances between employers and employees and in that way prevent the cessation of industries during the period of the war. The committee

RAISE WAGES \$194,000.

BALTIMORE, May 20.—Girl employes of the Crown Cork and Seal company have raised wages \$4 a week or \$120,000 a year, and male employes have secured increases that total \$70,000 a year. These workers are members of trade unions affiliated with the A. F. of L.

STRIKERS CHARGED AS VAGS.

MADISON, Wis., May 30.—On complaint of the Madison Coal company, several miners have been convicted under the state mustwork law. These workers were discharged from the company's employ because they joined the Miners' union.

MEAT CUTTERS ADVANCE.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 30.—The Vissman company and the Louisville Provision company have canceled their wage agreement with the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's union and granted the request of these workmen that wages be increased \$3 a week.

MOONEY LOSES APPEAL TO SECURE NEW TRIAL

SAN FRANCISCO, May 30.—Thomas J. Mooney has lost his fight in Judge Griffin's court for a new trial under the old English rule of common law of coram nobis (before us). Under this practice a person could appeal to the court for relief against an injustice after he had exhausted every court procedure. Mooney's attorneys refused to this practice when the state supreme court refused their client a new trial, and now Judge Griffin denies the plea of coram nobis on the ground of statutory limitation. It is quite probable that Mooney's attorneys will carry the question to the United States supreme court, if they fail to secure relief from the California state supreme court.

SEATTLE UNIONS HAVE DAILY LABOR PARTY

SEATTLE, May 30.—Trade union men and women here have launched a daily labor party, The Daily Union Record, published afternoons. The Union Record starts out with a circulation of 40,000, which means that about 80 per cent of the union membership of Seattle are backing the paper. The Seattle unionists posted \$100,000 worth of war bonds with the United Press as security for telegraph service. After the contemplated \$200,000 labor temple has been erected The Union Record will be housed free. The daily is published by the central labor council and is edited by Harry Ault.

The publishers own a printing plant free of debt, with a battery of three Intertypes, a fast web press, and other up-to-date machinery.

WAGE INCREASES ANNOUNCED BY DIRECTOR M'ADOO

WASHINGTON, May 30.—Wage increases approximating \$300,000,000 a year for nearly two million railroad employes of the United States were announced by Director General McAdoo in a statement published Monday.

Recommendations of Wage Commission Carried Out. Two Million Affected.

In ordering the increases the director general carried out substantially the recommendations of the railroad wage commission submitted several weeks ago. The advance becomes effective next Saturday, and is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1918. Higher freight and passenger rates, announced Monday, will provide funds for the increased wages.

The order provides for recognition of the basic eight-hour day with no actual reduction in hours of work, though overtime is to be paid pro rata owing to exigencies of war; equal pay for women engaged in the same work as men; equal pay for negroes in similar employment as white men; an increase at least 2 1/2 cents an hour over last Dec. 31 for day laborers, and establishment of a 55-cent an hour minimum for shop trades.

To such injustices arising through operation of the order a board of three railroad executives and three labor representatives is created. The increase applies to all of the 164 roads now under federal government, but not to the so-called short lines unless they are retained by the government after July.

Members of the four leading railway brotherhoods who received an increase under the Adamson law will get additional advances.

CONSUMERS PAY FOR DONATIONS

Chicago Packers Charge Up 'Patriotic' Contributions To Operating Expense.

CHICAGO, May 23.—That the consumer was to have paid for the patriotic contributions of the big packing companies to the various war funds was proved by an order from the meat division of the United States food administration, reading as follows: "Subject: War Donations. You are hereby advised that in making up your figures on profit and loss on operations for the periodical reports required by this division, war donations (such as Y. M. C. A., Red Cross gifts, etc.) will not be considered as legitimate charges against income. Such disbursements must be made out of divisible profits."

Arnold & Co., Swift & Co., Wilson & Co., and Nelson Morris & Co. have all charged their war donations up to operating expenses," according to the Christian Science Monitor's bureau, getting credit for patriotism and generosity but making the consumer pay the bills. The effect of such charging was to increase the net profits the packers were allowed to collect under federal profit-fixing regulations. The donations in two months of 1918 amounted to \$500,000.

The elaborate advertising campaign of Swift & Co. which attempts to persuade the consumer that the Swift & Co. 1917 profit of \$34,000,000 was not so big after all, all things considered, had also been charged to "operating expenses." This has likewise been forbidden for the future, and applies to everyone of the "big five."

SPOILED MEAT IS SOLD TO U. S. TROOPS IN TEXAS

Federal Trade Commission Makes Serious Charges Against Packers.

WASHINGTON, May 30.—Charges that beef "unfit for human consumption" has been sold to the United States troops in Texas by Wilson & Co. and Morris & Co., two of the largest packers in the country, were made Sunday by the federal trade commission.

More than 10,000 pounds of meat shipped to Camp Travis, Tex., has been destroyed by order of the food administration. Twenty-six carloads have been condemned in various sections of the country within the last few weeks, according to Herbert Hoover, food administrator.

No full prosecutions have resulted, no licenses have been revoked. Prosecution undertaken by the Texas authorities failed because the action was brought under a section of the food law that provides no penalties and makes it incumbent upon the government to prove willful waste or destruction.

Can't Get Conviction.

The trade commission, having no criminal power, can obtain only a "moral conviction" if its action is successful. Hoover announced he had ordered an immediate survey of the whole case by E. A. Peden, Texas administrator. He expects a report soon.

The announcement by the federal trade commission is the first official hint that any of the soldiers were getting inferior beef. The commission's open charge reads: "Complaint have been issued by the federal trade commission making the serious charge against Wilson & Co. and Morris & Co. that they have sold and offered to sell meats and other food products to the government with the knowledge that these products were to be used as food for American soldiers and that these products were spoiled and unfit for human consumption.

Also Offered Fowls.

"Thousands of pounds of unfit meat were offered for sale to Camp Travis, Tex., according to the information on which the complaints are based. Indictments were returned against the two packing companies by a grand jury in the United States district court for the western district of Texas, charging violation of the fourth section of the food law, but these indictments failed. It was found that no penalty for violating this section of the food law had been provided.

"The federal trade commission has been informed that in addition to spoiled and unfit beef the national army cantonment at Camp Travis was offered chickens for sale which were unfit for human consumption.

"The commission has decided that selling meat products carries with it the implied representation that such meats are wholesome and suitable for such use."

One of the federal trade commissioners, who refused to allow his name to be used, said the case had come to the commission only last month, after it had been abandoned by Texas authorities. He said army officers had made the first complaints. The commission, he said, had served its complaints on the companies, and if the charges, as the commission makes them, are found to be true, the commission can go no further than to order them to desist in their practices.

ONE CENT PER MILE RAIL RATE FOR ENLISTED MEN

WASHINGTON, May 30.—Director General McAdoo late Friday authorized a passenger rate of 1 cent a mile for all military and naval men in United States service.

This action came after the railroad administration had been besieged by thousands of letters and personal requests that soldiers and sailors be given a reduced rate to visit homes while on furloughs.

When soldiers or sailors use this rate they must show credentials and consent from their commanders for the trip.

LIBERTY LOAN A SUCCESS.

WASHINGTON, May 30.—The third Liberty Loan of \$3,000,000,000 was oversubscribed \$1,170,019,650. To illustrate the people's faith in Uncle Sam, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo shows that in the first Liberty loan 4,500,000 people subscribed; in the second, 9,500,000 subscribed, and in the third 17,000,000 purchased bonds.

MACHINISTS WIN.

NOXVILLE, Tenn., May 30.—The Fulton company has reversed its lock-out attitude against organized machinists and these workers have been reinstated with the acknowledged right to join a labor union.