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THE LABOR WORLD

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC REFORM AND POLITICAL PROGRESS

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Labor World is endeavoring to render invaluable service to the workers by keeping them informed as to the vital problems affecting their welfare. The labor press must be supported by the workers—therefore YOU ought to subscribe—$1 a year.

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WHEATON RUNNING STRONG; IS MAKING GOOD FIGHT

Democratic Candidate for Governor Receives Assurances of Support From All Parts of State.

Recent developments in the race for gubernatorial honors in the state of Minnesota show the tide to be swinging rapidly toward Fred E. Wheaton, the Democratic candidate. [illegible] of Mr. Wheaton is gaining votes throughout the state. [illegible] direct stand on all subjects, be it either of the war or [illegible] has increased his popularity tremendously.

Minn. Historical Soc. State Capitol Bldg.

The Labor World indorses the candidacy of Mr. Wheaton for the following reasons:

First—He is for the United States of America, and will back up President Wilson to his utmost.

Second—That he is a leader, not a follower.

Third—That he has executive ability and knows how to carry these abilities out.

Fourth—That we should have a man as governor who has studied the after-the-war problems and the problems of our state when the war is ended. Mr. Wheaton is such a man.

Fifth—That he is entangled with no schemes for his election with any clique or faction, but will make his fight for governor strictly on his merits.

Sixth—He stands for a square deal for labor and believes in the principles of collective bargaining.

The fight for governor this year should be easy for the voters of Minnesota to decide. Governor Burnquist for the first six months of the war was passive on the subject of our entry into the war. In fact, on Feb. 3, the St. Paul Daily News interviewed our governor on his views and he said: "As governor, it is my policy to refrain from commenting upon acts of the federal government. Therefore I cannot express an opinion upon the situation." That is the way the governor offered support to our President in the greatest crisis of the nation's history. The least he could have done was to assure President Wilson of Minnesota's absolute loyalty—to the finish.

Mr. Burnquist has made blunders in many other ways, his latest being the appointment of Julius Moersch of St. Paul, to a position in the State Labor department. Mr. Moersch for many years was president of the Minnesota branch of the National German-American alliance.

Moersch's Specialty.

During the presidential primary campaign in this state in 1916 Mr. Moersch made a specialty of indorsing candidates whose services, if selected as delegates to their respective national conventions, would be acceptable to Germany if not to the United States. Later, at the general election, he bitterly opposed the reelection of President Wilson upon the ground that he had not shown himself to be a neutral American and that no confidence could be placed in him that he would retain a neutral attitude in the future.

In March, 1917, Mr. Moersch wrote an open letter to the Volkszeitung of St. Paul in answer to an article in the New York Independent, in which, in reply to criticism of the kaiser, Mr. Moersch wrote:

> "America would be most fortunate if it had for President a man of the type of Emperor William, a monarch trusted and beloved by his people."

Reason for Appointment?

The question naturally arises, why was this man appointed to a position in the official family of Governor Burnquist? Was it in recognition of past services; or, did the Governor's advisers have an idea that this appointment would influence favorably the vote which Mr. Moersch was supposed to control in the primary election? The Governor, of course, will give a reason other than these. In taking up the case, however, it will

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OREGON WORKERS WIN LONG STRIKE

Paper Company Accedes to National War Labor's Award in 11-Months' Strike.

OREGON CITY, Ore., Oct. 10.—Paper mill workers have won their 11-months' strike against the Crown-Willamette Paper company and other plants in this vicinity. Every striker will be reinstated in his former position and the unions will furnish necessary employes as far as is possible. The collective bargaining policy of the national war labor board is accepted, and the question of hours and wages will be arranged on the basis of the national war labor board's award in the case of eastern paper mill workers and their employers. The companies further agree to end their victimizing policy toward trade unionists.

The Crown-Willamette company has agreed to abandon its individual contact with employes, which it forced strikebreakers to accept after the United States suprmeme court had, last December, that where an employer secured these pledges from workers not to join a union they will be protected by injunction process.

About 2,000 workers were involved in this strike, which was one of the most extensive in the history of the northwest.

"OBJECTORS" PLACED.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—The war department is sifting the sincere and insincere "conscientious objectors" to war. They are being put to work on farms and in noncombatant military service in the army.

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS WIN.

AUGUSTA Ga., Oct. 10.—Journeymen tailors' union No. 216 has secured an agreement which privides for wage increases and improved working conditions.

ASK GOVERNMENT FOR PENSIONS

Canadian Unions Vote to Ask Dominion Government For Beneficial Measures.

QUEBEC, Can., Oct. 10.—At the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada it was voted to ask the Dominion government to grant old age pensions. Other declarations were: Petition provincial governments to make it compulsory for children to attend school until the age of 16; that the law grading stationary engineers in Ontario be suspended until the soldiers come home; that the label of the Allied Printing Trades Council be placed on all printing done by the Dominion labor department; that the manufacture of clothes in the homes of workers be stopped; that federal and provincial departments of health be created; that a licensing board be established for Ontario electrical engineers; that a $12 a week minimum for women be established throughout the Dominion; that private employment agencies be abolished; that equal pensions be granted to all ranks of soldiers in proportion to their disabilities; that free and compulsory education be established in Quebec.

The convention refused to petition the government to release men sent to prison under the military service act who claim that they are consciencious objectors.

The convention elected Thomas Moore of Niagra Falls, Ontario, to succeed J. C. Watters as president. Secretary-Treasurer Draper was reelected.

The new president is general organizer of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

URGE EARLY PASSING OF FEDERAL RETIREMENT BILL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—At a meeting of organized government employes plans were perfected to stimulate interest and secure the early passage of the McKellar-Keating retirement bill for aged government workers. This bill has been reported favorably by a senate committee and is now on the senate calendar. It is yet being considered by a committee on the house side.

Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of the National Federation of Postal employes, who is chairman of the publicity committee of the government retirement forces, says the government is now paying over $3,000,000 to outworn workers.

"The fact is overlooked by our opponents, who ignore the humanitarian side of this legislation and stress the importance of economy," said the trade unionist.

"The main feature of this bill provide that employes shall contribute 2½ per cent of their salaries and the government a like amount. When an employe has been in the service 30 years and reaches the age of 67 he will be retired with an annuity of $50 a month. In the case of railway mail clerks, mechanics and letter carriers, they will be retired at the age of 65. It is estimated that the employes' 2½ per cent will be sufficient to finance this retirement for 10 years. Then appropriations by the government will be necessary."

CIGAR MAKERS STRIKE.

M'SHERRYSOWN, Pa., Oct. 10.—Wage increases of from $1 to $3 a thousand cigars are demanded by Cigar Makers' union No. 316, whose members have suspended work to enforce these rates. Cigar makers in other localities near this place have taken like action.

CAR MEN FORM UNION.

TUCSON, Ariz., Oct. 10.—Carmen have organized and affiliated with the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen.

ISSUES CALL TO FOLLOWERS OF SEAFARING LIFE

President Shows Knowledge of Requirements of Skilled Seamen in Appeal.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—President Wilson has issued an appeal "to all those on land or sea who have followed a seafaring life" to return to the sea and man the boats now carrying soldiers, munitions and supplies to Europe.

"No more honorable or serviceable task can come to any of our people than that of manning our merchant marine," he says.

The President shows a knowledge of the requirements of skilled seamen, and vessel owners who favor coolie and other cheap, inexperienced labor, will find little consolation in this proclamation.

The President notifies these vessel owners that it is their duty to "give to the young men such shipmates and such treatment as will cause them to respect the service and build up within them a desire to make it their life work.

"There can be no safe, efficient management of vessels that does not include a large proportion of officers and crew having skill and experience," he says.

"Having in mind the brilliant record of the American merchant marine, the honorable position it occupies in economic affairs, and the important part it plays in winning the war, every seaman should give to the service the best that is in him and should not hesitate to accept deferred classification when the government has decided that such deferred classification is necessary, no matter how eager he may be to join the fighting forces of the army or navy."

CAR MEN BLOCK EFFORTS TO STOP ORGANIZATION

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Oct., 10—The newly organized street car men's union has defeated the company's effort to block organization and forced the management to enter a wage conference. Rates are increased 11 cents an hour or an average of $1 a day.

Non unionists who stood at a safe distance on the side lines during the dispute, will accept, of course, the additional $1 a day. They will not join the organiaztion, as it is a question of principle to remain "free and independent."

This puts them in an advantageous position. They can retain the good will of the company and also enjoy any gains the union may secure.

CONDEMN LUMBER COMPANY WHICH ASKS HIGH PRICES

SEATTLE, Oct. 10.—The hoggishness of the C. A. Goodyear Lumber company is blocking the government's efforts to secure spruce lumber for the building of airplanes and Uncle Sam has started condemnation proceedings against this concern. The company rejected every reasonable price offered by the government.

Popular Candidate

FRED E. WHEATON,
Who Is Making a Hard Fight in the Race for Governor of Minnesota.

CHILD LABOR PROVES COSTLY

Industrial Commission Orders Furniture Company to Pay $1,041.30 As Compensation.

MADISON, Wis., Oct. 10.—The state industrial commission has ordered the Invincible Metal Furniture company ofa Monreo to pay a boy $1,041.30 compensation for the loss of parts of three fingers while employed on a punching shears. This is nearly $700 more than the company would have to pay if it obeyed the state law prohibiting the employment of children under 16. For this reason the award was trebled and the company will have to pay two-thirds of the award and the insurance company pays only the regular amount.

The commission stated that it is finding altogether too many accidents resulting to children working without permits or working at prohibited employments. When we consider that there is a comparatively small percentage of employes who sustain compensation injuries, it is made apparent that there is a pronounced disregard of the laws governing child employment."

GIRLS FORM NEW UNION IN MISSOURI FACTORY

SEDALIA, Mo., Oct. 10.—Girl employes of the Brown-Evans overall factory have been dissatisfied with low wages and poor working conditions. One of the girls was discovered talking unionism and she was discharged. Abut 60 other girls quit and now the company has a first-class strike on its hands and must hereafter reckon with an affiliate of the United Garment Workers' union.

BASIC 8-HOUR DAY MEANS MORE PAY, PRO-RATA

Secretary Morrison Says Steel Corporation Will Pay More of Profits to Workmen.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—In response to a request by the Survey Magazine for his views on the steel trust's adoption of the basic eight-hour day, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison wrote:

"The announcement of a basic eight hour day by the United States Steel corporation merely means that this trust will pay, as wages, a larger portion of profits that have been the marvel of the industrial world.

"According to the public press of Sept. 25, Mr. Gary, chairman of the board of directors, United States Steel corporation, says time and one-half will be paid for over eight hours, and 'the open shop plan heretofore in force throughout the works will be continued.'

"Organized labor's demand for an eight-hour day is not because of a desire for higher wages, but because of health conservation. The verdict in support of this position is so unanimous and complete that citations are unnecessary. Our added point, that production is increased, is also indorsed by employers who have applied the test.

"The steel corporation's basic eight-hour day and the trade unionists' eight-hour day have no similarity. In the former case, the worker continues his long workday, being paid extra for over eight hours, and in the latter case, eight hours is a day's work except in case of an emergency.

"The 'open shop' attracted some attention a few years ago but the public is now acquainted with its pretense. It is a refuge for employers who demand control over the lives of their employes.

"Mr. Gary's 'open shop', which is an economic impossibility, is so at variance with the principles of the national war labor board, which has been proclaimed by the President as part of the nation's program in its war for democracy, that it seems like a voice from the tomb and recalls the days of yesterday when employers talked of 'their right to run their own business.' Mr. Gary will raise wages as this corporation must dispose of its princely profits, and he will profess allegiance to the eight-hour day, but the bona fide eight-hour day cannot be enforced while his employes are unorganized. With collective bargaining the basic eight-hour day means something. The national war labor board; it will be noticed, makes provision for this when it orders the basic eight-hour day."

BUTCHER WORKERS GAIN IN HOURS AND WAGES

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 10.—The F. C. Gross & Bros. packing company has agreed to every wage increase and working conditions demand of Butcher Workmen's union No. 61.

SEDALIA, Mo., Oct. 10.—Packing house employes have defeated a lockout and secured the eight-hour day and the 48-hour work week. Wages are advanced and double time will be paid for holidays with time and one-half for overtime.

FRANK MORRISON ATTENDS HEARING AT MINNEAPOLIS

Labor Board Starts Review of Controversy in Minnesota—Safety Commission Has No Authority Over Board.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, is in attendance at the Minneapolis hearing of the National War Labor board, which opened today, Oct. 10. The issue to be determined is, first of all, whether the National War Labor board is to exercise jurisdiction over industrial disputes in Minnesota. The State Mediation commission, backed by the notorious Public Safety commission of Minnesota, claims that all disputes must be handled by the state authorities. These authorities are considered bitterly hostile to organized labor.

"The principle involved in the case of the Minneapolis Steel & Machinery company, as well as in the street railway case in Minneapolis and Saint Paul," said Morrison, "is of the first importance. It is the principle that the National War Labor board has jurisdiction in every part of the country. No state can be an exception. The War Labor board is the government's agency for maintaining war production at the highest point, through safeguarding fair industrial conditions. I am in Minneapolis to oppose any attempt to interfere with the jurisdiction."

Chairmen Taft and Walsh decided to go directly to Minneapolis when, on last Wednesday, it was discovered that the Steel & Machinery company had not been served formally with the complaint of the organized men in its plant, and hence the hearing already begun here in Washington had to be postponed. As this was the second postponement of the hearing, the two chairmen agreed that it would be only fair to the Minneapolis labor and employer interests to go up there and settle the business on the spot.

Meanwhile, the War Labor board has sent its examiners to Duluth, to look into the dispute involving the dock workers—a dispute in which both sides agreed that the Taft-Walsh board rather than the state authorities should be asked to take charge.

LONGER LIFE BY LESS WORK HOURS

Secretary Wilson Says Worker Must Be Protected in His Leisure.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—"The more men we preserve in industry, the more lives are lengthened and the more we have for production," said Secretary of Labor Wilson at a conference of state and federal officials called to consider the enforcement of labor laws.

"It has been variously estimated that six to 10 workers in the rear are necessary to maintain a soldier in the trenches," he said. "That has made industry a much more important factor than it has ever been before.

"There has been an agitation for lowering of standards—or the argument that it would increase production. The assumption of a demand that a nine-hour day be substituted for an eight-hour day in mines arose from that. We found that anthracite coal miners working eight hours in 1r17 were producing 2 per cent more coal than during 1915 ahd 1916 in a nine-hour day. In some industries, of course, this might not be true. But reduction of hours is not solely for the purpose of increasing productivity. It is designed to protect the worker in his leisure. Every effort that we can make is utilized to protect the life and health of the men in the trenches. If we can save the life of the man before he reaches the trenches, man power is increased. Just so industry has to be safeguarded. It is just as important that we protect those engaged in industry as those on the battlefield. The more we preserve the more we have for production."

OREGON LABOR SUPPLY WASTED IN SHIP YARDS

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 10—At a conference of citizens called for the purpose of rounding up labor slackers it was stated that there is much human energy being wasted in some of the polite professions and even in ship yards in this city several hundred men may be recruited by filling their easy jobs with men less physically perfect. Secretary Stack of the central labor council suggested that a thorough investigation would uncover much misdirected effort in industy and a unproductive work of professional and business men. This investigation would also show, the trade unionist declared, that the enormous turnover of labor is where low wage standards prevail.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE TO EMPLOY MORE WOMEN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—The United States employment service has arranged plans whereby large numbers of men now engaged in non-essential employment will be pushed into war work by the force of public opinion. Community labor boards will be instructed to prepare and publish lists of occupations in which men should be replaced by women.

These lists will probably include sales clerks and floorwalkers in every sort of mercantile establishment; clerical, cashier and office staffs in mercantile, manfacturing and financial houses and in the offices of transportation companies and other public utilities; waiters, attendants and many other occupations.

NEW YORK TAILORS STRIKE.

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—Several hundred ladies' tailors' shops are affected by a strike to enfore a 20 per cent wage increase. These workers are affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. They have been assured by police authorities that their right to picket will not be interferred with.

Owing to the refusal of the Railroad Administration and the Shipping board to abide by the plan of wage standardization which was being developed, and owing to the still more important refusal of the International Association of Machinists and the Brotherhood of Carpenters to agree, the War Labor Policies board has virtually been compelled to abandon its standard wage scheme. Now comes the report that the President is to completely reorganize the Policies board, in the hope of getting results by a new method.

Secretary of Labor Wilson says, in a letter to Fuel Administrator Garfield: "We have built up within a week or so, as the result of the desire of the President to secure more stable conditions in industry, a board the title of which has not yet been decided upon. It is a board that is to be composed of two representatives from each of the wage adjustment boards that have been created by the federal government. The purpose of that board is to review the proposed contracts or proposed wage adjustments that may be arrived at by any of the adjustment boards, so that when they are finally announced they will not be of such a character that they will disturb the labor conditions under the jurisdiction of the other boards."

Asks for Just Decision.

Secretary Wilson then asked Dr. Garfield, when reaching an agreement this week with the anthracite coal miners, to arrive at a wage rate "that will be just and fair, comared with other industries," and that would not result in either drawing men away from other industries into the anthracite mining industry, not result in a movement in the opposite direction. The secretary asked that the Fuel Administrator submit the proposed wage

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GOMPERS FOOLS WORLD PROPHETS

"I Have No Right to Speak in the Name of President of U. S.," Says Labor Chief.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10—President Gompers fooled the prophets who assured the world that he was going to England to "split the British labor party," etc., etc.

President Gompers ignored the prophets. He announced the purpose of the American Federation of Labor special mission to Europe and started on his way. That he has been successful in presenting to British and French workers the war program of President Wilson, which American trade unionists accept, is nowhere denied.

English and Scottish newspapers received at American Federation of Labor headquarters make the prophets' claim look ridiculous.

At Glasgow, Scotland, newspaper men interviewed President Gompers. He said he "was not going to criticise the labor movement of Great Britain," and clearly intimated that the workers of Great Britain—and elsewhere—are competent to handle their internal affairs.

In reply to a question relative to details in connection with the solution of an after-the-war question, President Gompers said:

"I have no right to speak in the name of the government and the president of the United States. When the President has something to say, he finds means of communicating it."

NO NEW NEWSPAPERS.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—The post-office department calls attention of postmasters to the ruling of the war industries board regarding the prohibition of new newspapers. Inquiries as to whether a new publication may be established should be addressed to the war industries board pulp and paper section, Washington. Conservation of paper is behind this order.

AMERICAN LABOR DEFEATS PLANS OF BRITISH PACIFISTS

By CAPT. WILLIAM S. SANDERS.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—The outstanding feature of the Inter Allied Labor and Socialist conference, held in London from Sept. 17 to 20, was the influence of the American delegation upon the decisions of the conference.

There were present representatives from the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Serbia and Greece.

Much time was spent before the real business was reached. When the various resolutions were discussed, it soon appeared that the pacifist element was bound to be defeated.

The first motion of importance dealt with the Austrian peace note. The conference decided that any proposal to hold a secret meeting, as suggested by Austria, was open to suspicion and considered that the allies should send a reply to Austria defining their war aims jointly with the United States.

President Wilson having formulated his 14 points had been able at once to reject the Austrian proposal, it was pointed out.

The second motion declared that the treaty of Brest-Ditovsk must not be allowed to stand and that allied intervention in Russia must be influenced by a genuine desire to preserve liberty and democracy in conformity with article 6 of President Wilson's 14 points.

A resolution on war aims was carried declaring the conference determined to do all in its power to assist the allied countries in marshalling their resources to the end that the armed forces of the Central Powers be driven from the soil of our nations which they have invaded and now occupy. The resolution also embodied President Wilson's 14 points. The third resolution, passed after lengthy and stormy debate, expressed satisfaction with the replies received from Bulgarian and Hungarian Socialists and Social Democrats of Austria so far as they accepted the decisions of the previous London conference as a basis for discussion at an international meeting, but it went on to express regret that the majority Socialists of Germany did not accept the London proposals and failed officially to accept the neutrals' proposal as a basis for discussion. So long as these points remain unanswered, they create an obstacle to the holding of an international conference.

The American delegation presented an amendment that no international conference be held with any representative of the Central Powers unless they declare against their respective governments. This amendment was defeated and the resolution was passed against the Pacifist vote of 10. This minority desired an international conference on any terms, but the overwhelming feeling of the conference was against them.

The American delegation strengthened the anti-pacifist element of the conference remarkably.

Arthur Henderson, J. H. Thomas, Sidney Webb and Samuel Gompers made powerful speeches against the utterances of the small pacifist elements of Great Britain and France.

The pacifist elements were and still are very angry with the effect produced by the Americans with whom they are in strong disagreement. Would-be humorists of the anti-war type say that the proper title of the gathering should be "Inter Allied Labor and Socialist Conference."