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RAILROAD LAW HANGS UP WAGE QUESTION

CARRS PAYS GLOWING TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF SPANISH WAR

Labor Congressman Made Leader of Fight for Pensions for Soldiers and Sailors. Signal Honor Conferred on Him; Handles Deputation.

Congressman William L. Carrs of this district is fast coming to the front in congress. As a member of the pensions' committee he was permitted to handle the time for the minority members in the consideration of a bill to grant pensions to soldiers in the war with Spain. Such an honor is seldom conferred on new members. Mr. Carrs handled the bill like a veteran, and he made a corking good speech in its behalf.

The bill provides that all persons who served 90 days or more in the military service of the United States during the Spanish-American war, the Philippine insurrection and the China relief expedition, who were honorably discharged therefrom, and who now or may be hereafter from disabilities that may incapacitate them from performing manual labor shall be entitled to a pension of not more than \$30 and not less than \$12 a month.

The Old Boys are Behind Him.

The bill is backed by the United Spanish War veterans. It has been urged in previous sessions of Congress. A number of local veterans of the Spanish-American war are vitally interested in the passage of the measure. Mr. Carrs has become its ardent champion. He supported the bill in the house with the following eloquent speech:

Mr. Speaker, "in times of peace prepare for war" is a familiar quotation, but I much prefer to believe that in times of peace it is our duty to, in a slight measure, take care of those who during the time of war bore the brunt of the burden.

History deals much with war, but as a rule it deals only with that part concerning the actual battle, the clash of arms, and the numbers of dead and wounded. It devotes little space to the details of preparation, the long days of the training period, or the toil, the hardships, and the sickness which abound in the concentration camps preceding the time of actual battle.

In support of the measure now under consideration, Mr. Speaker I intend to confine my remarks to the subject of the inroads upon the health of the men who served during the Spanish-American war, brought about by the condition of their service, conditions for which the government that asked for that service is to blame.

Number Not Large.

Most of us can remember the call of 1898 and how the patriotic young men from every walk of life, from every city, village and hamlet presented themselves to the recruiting offices. The number called for was not large in proportion to those eligible for service, and as a consequence the medical officers had much material to pick from, so much so, in fact, that the physical standard set for the volunteers of 1898 was the highest of any army that has ever gone forth in defense of a nation's honor in all history.

And well that it was so. Without the high physical standard as a basis the mortality among these men who had so gallantly offered services to the government would have been far greater than it was, and heaven knows it was high enough. Concentrated in camps in the southern states or sent to the tropical climes of Cuba, clothed in woolen when the coldest of lines should have been worn, fed on greasy, bacon and hard tack when fruits and vegetables should have been the diet, it is no wonder that they were an easy prey to dysentery and various kinds of fever. No wonder, Mr. speaker, that these men returned to the northern demobilization camps after that service mere physical wrecks, with pinched and drawn faces and with yellow skin drawn over skeleton frames. No wonder, Mr. Speaker, that this entire army registered an average loss in weight of 26 pounds per man during their period of service.

Death Rate High.

Mr. Speaker, the nation was startled during the winter of 1917 by charges of neglect and lack of accommodation in the hospitals at the training camps throughout the country; but, sir, figures prepared by Surgeon General Gorgas show that among the approximately million and a half Regulars, National Guardsmen, and National army who had been in camp for the preceding five months the deaths from disease alone were at the rate of 8 per 1,000, while during the five months of the war with Spain, from disease alone in the camps of the United States, the death rate was 25 in every 1,000.

It is hard at this late date to say just whether it was the jungles of Cuba, the rice swamps of the Philippines, or the fever-stricken camps in the United States that did more to destroy the health of the soldiers of that period, but this I know, Mr. Speaker, and so does every man within the sound of my voice, that very, very few came back from that service in good health. I know, and all of you know, that for months and months after discharge thousands of those men were unable to perform manual labor, and that when at last their health was in a measure restored they were still left in such condition as to be an easy prey to ailments which normally should have been shaken off.

Law Too Severe.

Mr. Speaker, the pension law as it stands today requires these soldiers to furnish absolute proof that the disability under which they claim pension is of service origin. I state to the house now, after my experience on

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SENATORS CEASE MAKING ATTACKS ON UNION LABOR

As Political Campaign Opens Lawmakers Give 'Attention' to 'Corporate Greed'.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The political campaign has opened.

If one doubts this statement he needs but note that attacks in congress against organized labor are subsiding.

Instead are heard denunciations of "corporate greed" by men who have devoted their energies since the armistice was signed to developing a public opinion that would support "anti-trust" laws and anti-sedition legislation.

These smoke screens do not alarm big business who know they must be slapped on the wrist during the next several months by those who can be depended upon when it is necessary to block remedial legislation.

Senator King illustrates the changed policy of certain law makers who will henceforth out-bolshevik the bolsheviks. In a recent speech the Utah senator said:

"Mr. President, I affirm that there can be no defense for the conduct of many of the great manufacturers of the United States who are today charging enormous prices for their products and making profits so staggering and so stupendous as to shock the moral sensibilities of decent people. There seems to be an absence of conscience upon the part of some of the producers and manufacturers of our country.

"Many of these corporations and enterprises are paying dividends larger than ever paid before and deriving profits beyond the dreams of avarice. Salaries and compensation are paid and expenses incurred and advances and charges laid against the enterprise in order to diminish the income and excess profits taxes, and yet, with all the subterfuges resorted to, the earnings are so fabulous as to excite the skepticism even of those who have knowledge of the facts."

HOLDS WELFARE WORK IS BLUFF

New York City Officials Look Into Expense Account of Trac-tion Company.

NEW YORK, March 11.—The Interborough Rapid Transit company wants street car fares increased and city officials suggest that it reduce excessive overhead costs. The company's welfare department is in charge of a man who is paid \$15,000 a year. For this work he has one clerk on part time, a head nurse who is paid \$150 a month and three other nurses. He acknowledged he has no regular office hours and that his work consists of occasional visits, prompted by a charitable spirit, to the home of some employe in special distress.

The company was also advised to abolish the office of publicity manager. Ivy L. Lee is in charge of this work and is paid \$12,000 a year. Lee was formerly a Rockefeller publicity agent.

600 PER CENT ADVANCE IN COTTON GOODS, BUT 15 PER CENT IN WAGES

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Prices for cotton goods have advanced 600 per cent since 1914, while costs of raw cotton and labor have advanced but 15 per cent, said Congressman Tilgh in urging an investigation of cotton goods manufacturers. These business men were referred to as "profiteers of the worst sort."

WANT AMERICANS EMPLOYED FIRST

Vessel Owners Want to Weaken La Follette Bill—Fight For Yankee Boys.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The attempt of vessel owners to weaken the La Follette seamen's law was resisted by representatives of seafaring unions before a congressional committee that is considering the Rowe bill. The training period of an able seaman is now three years, and 45 per cent of the crew must be able seamen. The Rowe bill cuts the training period to nine months and the able seaman percentage to 40 per cent. The latter condition would permit American vessels to be manned below that of the fateful Titanic, as far as efficiency is concerned.

Vessel owners claim that the Rowe bill will induce American boys to follow the sea. The unionists showed that of 20 years prior to the adoption of the La Follette law these vessel owners insisted that American would never come to the sea.

"Now that we have proved the owners to be mistaken and Americans are coming to the sea," said the unionists, "the owners want to destroy the legislation that proved they were wrong. They would drive Americans off the sea, that cheap labor may be employed."

The owners' demand for Americans was further exposed to the committee, by showing that during the war the Seamen's union asked the owners to agree to employ Americans first, regardless of union affiliation; to give unionists the second preference, and non-unionists other than Americans third preference. The owners rejected this offer.

BAKERSFIELD, Cal., March 11.—The Merchants' association has notified the Retail Clerks' union that its wage scale for women is too high and will not be accepted. There is no objection to the rate for men clerks. The union is battling for the women, with a lot of folks who talk about "the equality of the sexes" standing on the side lines.

WANT THE PUBLIC TO PAY. BOSTON, March 11.—The Worcester Gas Light company asked the public service commission for permission to raise rates, as the recent strike of its employes cost \$234,000. The company declared that the public should meet this charge and suggested that \$25,000 be annually set aside for the next 10 years.

APPLICANTS FOR CITIZENSHIP TO BE 'LOOKED UP'

National Security League Proposes Plan to 'Assist' Court in Dealing With Aliens.

NEW YORK, March 11.—A plan to have every alien in America investigated by a committee of business men and other representatives of commercial interests before being admitted to citizenship has been launched by the National Security League. In a letter sent to all of the 2,500 judges of naturalization courts, asking them to appoint the "proper" committee in their own districts, the league points out the necessity of protecting the country from what is termed "un-American influence."

Upon the report and recommendation of this little group of citizens, chosen from the chamber of commerce, officials of public bodies, etc., would depend the fate of the alien applying for citizenship. Ignorance of American institutions or of the language would be enough to disqualify an applicant if the committee so decided, according to the terms of the plan.

A strong light on the very close relation between the league and the courts of the United States is suggested in the form letter to the naturalization courts, which practically suggests that the members of the bar are appointed by and with the consent of the league.

"We believe that volunteer committees will do this work effectively. Their work will be similar to that done in investigating candidates for admission to the bar. It is our belief that the citizens so appointed will feel honored by the designation and furnish the judges with information which will be of use to them in safeguarding the franchise."

In passing on the admission of the foreigner, the committee are to be provided with league literature suggesting the procedure to be followed. Following this tutelage into "American institutions," the newly admitted citizen is to attend special ceremonies at least once a year, at which these institutions should again be impressed upon his mind.

MONTANA UNIONS CONDEMN MYERS

United States Senator Censured for Opposition to Union Labor Legislation.

GREAT FALLS, Mont., March 11.—The anti-union policies of United States Senator Myers of this state were condemned by the annual convention of the state federation of labor. A copy of the resolution was forwarded to the lawmaker, who has been informed that organized labor will accept his challenge.

In his annual address President Ely urged Montana trade unionists to establish co-operative stores based on the Rochdale system. Under this plan goods are sold at the prevailing market price, but after expenses are met the balance of the receipts are returned to members on the basis of the amount of their purchases, rather than on the amount of stock held.

LIBERTY BONDS DECLINE BUT RAILROAD SECURITIES GO UP

Government Guarantee to Railroads Bolsters Up Stock and Temporarily Effects Market Value of Bonds; Two Million Employees May Be Required to Dicker With Rail Systems.

The first visible effect of the new railroad law was a sharp advance in the price of practically all railroad securities listed on the stock exchange, and a drop in the prices of liberty bonds. With the government guaranteeing five and one-half per cent on even the watered stock of the railroads, investors refused to be satisfied with the lower interest rate paid on the bonds with which the country financed the war.

Within forty-eight hours after the President had signed the bill the attorneys for the various railroad companies began making preparations for presenting an application to the interstate commerce commission for an increase in freight and passenger rates. It was announced on the first page of all the metropolitan papers that the increase would be at least 25 per cent, and that 40 per cent might be necessary. Thus the prediction frequently made in these columns concerning one effect of the return of the railroads to private ownership was completely sustained.

An Added Guarantee.

It was announced that certain of the railroad companies contemplated attacking the constitutionality of the law on the ground that it attempted to limit their earnings. If they succeed in knocking out that provision it will be possible for the stronger roads to pay unlimited dividends while the government will continue to guarantee five and one-half per cent on the over-capitalized roads.

Anticipating just such a decision, the conferees on the railroad bill inserted a provision to the effect that if any section of the bill were declared unconstitutional the rest of the measure would not be affected thereby. So, if the supreme court should sustain the contention of the attorneys for the strong roads, no one will be hurt except the American consumer who, in the last analysis, pays all freight bills.

Real Struggle Now On.

The leaders of the fifteen railroad labor organizations refused to publicly comment on the President's signing the bill, except to briefly express their disappointment. They had made a wonderful record for themselves but they regarded the defeat merely as one battle in a great campaign.

"We have lost first fall," said one of the leaders, grimly, "but no first-class wrestling match is ever decided on one fall. The real struggle is just beginning."

With the railroad bill approved, the executives of the railroad organizations went into executive session to consider the letter President Wilson had addressed to them in reply to their request that he veto the Cummins-Esch bill.

Wage Question Unsettled. This document is of the first importance, for it has a direct bearing on the wage demands of the two million railroad workers.

"The bill having now become a law," wrote the President, "the way is open for immediate action on the wage matter, in accordance with the terms of the bill. Section 301 of the bill evidently contemplates that the carriers and employes should, as suggested by you, select the representatives who will thus constitute a bipartisan board for the purpose of attempting, by conference, to arrive upon a solution of this wage problem."

"In accordance with the assurance I gave last August and repeated in substance in my letter of the thirteenth instant, I shall at once request the carriers and employes to join in this action. I believe such a step will go far toward clarifying and maturing the subject for final disposition."

There is some difference of opinion as to just what the President meant by the foregoing.

Divided Interpretation. It will be recalled that the executives of the railroad organizations, in a letter forwarded to the President on February 14, suggested that he arrange for a conference on the wage question between representatives of the railroads and of their employes, each side to have equal representation on the board and the decision of the board to be final and binding on all effected.

Apparently the President, in his latest letter, accepts this suggestion, but, on the other hand, some officials of the railroad administration insist that that is not the proper construction to be placed on his utterance, and that what he had in mind was that the workers should undertake to negotiate with the officials of each railroad system, which, of course, would mean that hundreds of wage conferences would be progressing in all parts of the country and that uniform decisions would be well nigh impossible.

What Section 301 Says. An examination of section 301 does not throw any light on the subject. It is as follows:

"It shall be the duty of all carriers and their officers, employes and agents to exert every reasonable effort and adopt every available means to avoid any interruption to the operation of any carrier growing out of any dispute between the carrier and the employes or subordinate officials thereof. All such disputes shall be considered and, if possible, decided in conference between representatives designated and authorized so to confer by the carriers, or the employes or subordinate officials thereof, directly interested in the dispute. If any dispute is not decided in such conference, it shall be referred by the parties

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LABOR WILL NOT BE DECEIVED BY THOSE WHOSE LIBERALISM IS SHAM

By SAMUEL GOMPERS.

There is a distinct lesson to be learned from the state of what is called "liberal opinion" in America today. There is in our country a section of the public, such as there always has been in every country, which has sufficiently broken away from traditions and inereasts of the past to look forward to improvement of some kind. Perhaps never in any country has this "liberal opinion" been more scattered than in America today.

The fact is that a great part, and perhaps the greater part, of this opinion which labels itself "liberal" is in reality not progressive in any fundamental sense. In addition, it frequently acts as reinforcement for the powers of privilege.

The reason for the disintegrated state of "liberal opinion" is that it is the opinion of no definitely fixed section of the people, but is the expression for the most part of individuals of different types and interests, bound together by no real tie and likely to go astray at any time because of some purely personal line of reasoning engendered by the individual's own personal surroundings.

The interest of "liberals" is not a unified interest. There are "liberals" among writers, "liberals" who make a profession out of being "liberal" and "liberals" among artists and steel mill owners. The "liberalism" of each is largely a matter of the size of the contrast between him and the rest of his own kind.

There is in America today a certain "liberalism" which sees salvation for everybody in the development of what is called "the shop committee" system. This system is a bogus democracy in industry by which the worker, where not enrolled in an actual company union, is enrolled in an organization away from his fellow workers in the industry. This shrewd and cunning device is for the worker nothing more than organized weakness. Its evil is clear to every trade unionist because the trade unionist has the background of years of struggle and experience against which to measure labor tactics. Yet the number of "liberals" who plead for this system of compulsory helplessness is amazing.

There are "liberals" who clamor for free speech and kindred issues, placing the whole emphasis upon those things. These are things without which no democracy can exist and

trade unionism takes no second place in their championship. But a great number of the "liberals" who are so pronouncedly for these rights also are for recognition of Bolshevism in Russia. They are in favor of some liberty at home, and in favor of some progress in minor things, but in relation to the major things they are for stand-pat at home and for taking off the lid everywhere else in the world. "Liberalism" in advocating recognition of Bolshevism, sees no danger to Kan- kakee, while it sounds terribly progressive and broad-minded to shout for its perpetuation in Russia!

Another section of "liberal opinion" seeks to bring about compulsory arbitration. It believes there is progress in complicated systems of industrial courts, with their interminable tangles of precedent and delay. "Industrial courts" sound like something wide-awake and new. Therefore the fact-dicts of "liberalism" are in favor of "industrial courts" and regional tribunals and boards, and all the rest of the paraphernalia of the newest idiosyncrasy.

"Liberalism" declares that labor must have better treatment, but it is frequently very careful not to advocate any measure by which the

workers shall come into possession of a determining voice in getting better treatment.

There is an honest and genuine liberal and progressive opinion in America. It is found in all walks of life. There are men and women in the so-called middle class and in the class of employers and among capitalists who are sincerely devoted to true progress and who honestly forsake all self-interest and all thought of faddism in reaching their conclusions. Too often this opinion is voiceless and makes itself known only to a few through personal contact and correspondence. The thing that gets itself known as the "liberal opinion" of the country is the nearly always shoddy product that by freak of fortune happens to control mediums of publicity or that finds life pleasant and possible on the fringe of these mediums of publicity.

That is the difficulty. The world knows more about the shoddy and the make-believe than it does about the noble and true. The shoddy loves to talk and to write and to commercialize its very fakery; and because so many people are soul-hungry for honest progress, because so many are still astride with the idealism developed

and released by the great war, the shoddy purveyors are at this hour unusually prosperous.

This is regrettable. It is a situation that is not all that is to be said on the subject. The trade union movement, which so often comes under the fire of these foot-loose and philanthropist "liberals" is a rock of constancy, forced by the nature of its being to stand for those things that mean a better humanity and more of liberty and freedom for humanity. If the trade union movement were to become untrue to progress it would perish. Betrayal of its historic mission is the brew of hemlock to the labor movement.

This fluttering dilletante can not understand, yet it is one of the profound truths of the ages. Labor welcomes with ardency and joyousness the aid and counsel of true progressives who come with a devotion to the cause of human freedom and human progress. But it will not be deceived by those whose doctrine is false and whose "liberalism" is sham and pretense under which is cloaked either reaction or that still more reprehensible thing, learned noise which proceeds from a vacant skull.