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STATE LABOR MEETING LARGEST EVER HELD

Minn. Historical Soc. Comp State Capitol Bldg.

WORKING PEOPLE'S POLITICAL LEAGUE OUT FOR SHIPSTEAD

Delegates to Second Annual Convention at Rochester, Minn., Decide to Stand With Non-Partisan League Farmers Candidate at Fall Election; Choose Officers for Coming Year.

Decision to join with the Nonpartisan League farmers in the plan to re-enter Dr. Henrik Shipstead as a candidate for governor at the fall election was made by the Working People's Nonpartisan Political League in its second annual convention held at Rochester, Minn., this week. The same action was also decided upon as to the other farmer-labor candidates who were defeated in the recent Republican primaries.

The delegates to the convention waxed enthusiastic over the action thus taken and cheered long and loudly when it was accomplished. It came after a long afternoon and evening session of the 300 delegates and is in absolute accord with the action taken at the informal convention of the farmers at Minneapolis on July 7. It was presented upon the recommendation of the executive board.

Executive Board to Fill Vacancies.

In addition to the foregoing action the delegates to the convention voted to give the executive board full authority to select other candidates in the event that some of those who were defeated at the Republican primaries are again unable to make the run. The delegates were given to understand that Dr. Shipstead, Captain George Mallon and T. V. Sullivan have given their consent to making the run.

On the question being raised as to whether the candidates of the farmer-labor ticket who were defeated in the June primaries can again make the run in the fall election, Thomas Van Lear explained that this point had been carefully looked into and that the legal phase of the matter would offer no difficulty.

It was also voted by the convention that the present political and legislative program to which all candidates shall be pledged shall be adopted for the fall election.

William H. Mahoney of St. Paul was unanimously re-elected president of the Working People's Nonpartisan Political League at the closing session of the convention, which was held in the Rochester armory. Thomas Van Lear was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the league by acclamation.

On proposal of Representative Miner of Minneapolis it was unanimously voted to elect Miss Victoria McAlmon, a Minneapolis school teacher, as first vice president. There has been no incumbent of this office during the last year.

Of numerous candidates who were nominated for the executive board of the league the following were chosen: A. E. Smith, police commissioner of St. Paul; Fred Tillquist, St. Paul railroad man; C. Z. Nelson, Minneapolis; W. W. Royster, Glenwood, and Leo Frank, St. Paul.

The program to which all candidates of the league are pledged is as follows:

Candidates' Pledges.

1. The unqualified right of workers to organize and to deal collectively with employers through such representatives of their unions as they may choose, to be recognized and enforced by appropriate legislative enactments.

2. A maximum eight-hour day, of 44 hours a week, with one full day's rest in seven, in all branches of industry with minimum rates of pay which, without the labor of mothers and children, will maintain the worker and his family in health and comfort, and provide a competence for old age with ample provision for recreation and good citizenship.

3. A workmen's compensation plan administered by the state, that will bring to injured workmen, their families and dependents, sure, certain and full relief regardless of question or fault and to the exclusion of every other remedy without recourse to the courts.

4. Abolition of unemployment by the stabilization of industry through the establishment and operation, during periods of depression, of government work on housing, road building reforestation, reclamation of cutover and swamp land and development of waterpower plants.

5. Public ownership and operation of railways, steamships, banking business, stockyards, packing plants, grain elevators, terminal markets, telegraphs, telephones and all other public utilities, and the nationalization and development of basic natural resources, waterpower and unused land, with the repatriation of large holdings to the end that soldiers and sailors and dislocated workers may find an opportunity for an independent livelihood.

6. Reduction of the cost of living to a just level immediately by governmental restriction and supervision and as a permanent policy, by fostering the development of co-operation, which will eliminate wasteful methods, parasitical middlemen and all parasitical middlemen and all profiteering in the creation and distribution of the products of industry and agriculture in order that the actual producers may enjoy the fruits of their toil.

7. Revenue for the payment of public debts and for the expenses of government shall be obtained mainly from taxes on incomes and inheritances and from a system of land-value taxation, which will stimulate rather than retard production.

8. Continuation of soldiers' and sailors' insurance; extension of such life insurance, by the government without profit, to all men and women, and the establishment of governmental insurance against indus-

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UNIONS TO PASS UP LOS ANGELES

Skilled Laborers Advised to Give That City Wide Berth, It's Fighting Unions.

The Duluth Painters' union has sent out word to journeymen painters to give Las Angeles a wide berth. There is an open shop movement there in which the master painters are taking part. They are advertising extensively for non-union painters.

In a circular recived in Duluth the Master House Painters and Decorators' association declares it had adopted a governing plan of action such as importing labor to the city, opening a clearing house for labor establishing ways and means to assist union master painters to open their shops by furnishing non-union labor, stabilizing prices and measurements, co-operation not competition, checking up estimates and finally to make the customer pay for time consumed in estimating by adding five per cent to every estimate and to pay into the association one per cent on all successful bids. The unsuccessful bidder will receive payment for his time.

From the above it will be seen that the Los Angeles master painters are endeavoring to establish a closed shop for themselves and an open shop for labor. They are perfectly willing to charge their customers for work they heretofore have given freely, but they would have the labor situation so that they can beat down at will the wages of labor.

ENEMIES OF ORGANIZED LABOR CRAFTILY ATTEMPT TO MOULD PUBLIC SENTIMENT AGAINST SAFETY COMMISSIONER MURNIAN

The News Tribune says it has reason to know that the transfer of Commissioner Murnian from the safety to the public welfare division is "opposed by all the evil influences in the city, by the baser element and by those who would use this element in politics and for police favor." Well, the News Tribune ought to know. The element to which it refers joined hands with the morning paper to get rid of Chief Troyer during the Silberstein administration. It assisted by that act in placing the Duluth police department on the toboggan.

The Labor World happens to know, however, that a certain organized group of class conscious rich and well-to-do is more interested in the transfer or removal of Commissioner Murnian than the so-called baser elements are in retaining him where he is.

That clique sent a representative to Governor Burnquist shortly after the lynching to urge him to summarily remove Commissioner Murnian from office. When the governor looked up the law he found he did not have the power to do so, so when he heard of the grand jury report in Duluth he readily declared that he was without authority to remove Mr. Murnian, but he thought that the attorney general might possess the power to begin ouster proceedings such as was done when Mayor Robinson was removed in St. Cloud.

Thereupon the class conscious organization sent sets of persons to the judges of the district court and urged them to forward a copy of the grand jury's findings to the governor, but the judges saw no reason for pursuing such an unusual course. It had never been done before. Why should it be done now? The judges recognized that the matter could be settled in Duluth by the people, and in a manner provided by the charter.

The next step was to draw up a set of resolutions and present them to the various civic and business organizations for passage. The Rotary club was the first to fall for them. They were presented to the Lion' club, but that organization refused to pass the resolutions without a week's consideration. It is expected that other business organizations will be urged to take action as they meet. A systematic campaign is being conducted to mould public opinion and to create an atmosphere unfavorable to Mr. Murnian.

The conspiracy was hatched in the rooms of the Commercial club on the day following the lynching. The Duluth papers did not say anything about it, but the Twin City papers carried stories about the meeting at the club and in the issue of June 18, the Minneapolis Daily News, under the caption "Ask Ousting of Official in Duluth; Commercial Club Starts a Movement to Force Resignation of City Safety Commissioner," it printed the following: "W. F. Murnian, city safety commissioner, was attacked by members of the commercial club and a movement started to force his resignation."

For obvious reasons that story was not printed in the Duluth papers, although it was common gossip on the streets that the anti-labor bunch was "out to get Murnian," and the movement against him had been started at the Commercial club.

Had Mr. Silberstein been in charge of the situation on that fateful night of the lynching the business organizations that are now assailing Murnian would be as quiet as clams. They would not dare to attack a fellow business man. But Mr. Murnian is not a business man; he went fresh from a worker's bench to the city hall. He is a labor man and that is why they are after him, and we thing we have the goods.

Think of it, the sputterings against Murnian, the sympathy for the families of the three men who were lynched; the demand for law and order; the assaults upon the police, and not one word of pity for the unfortunate young girl whose life has been ruined, of her parents who are crushed and heart broken, of the awful crime those beasts committed, all are forgotten in the mean zeal of the class conscious labor baiters to drive a labor representative from the safety department.

Since Mr. Murnian became head of the police department a new order has been introduced. Peaceful and lawful assemblages have not been disturbed; police protection from mobs of superpatriots has been given to speakers and persons attending such meetings; striking workers have not been clubbed and beaten; police power has not been delegated to private concerns to be used against labor, and the Citizens' Alliance was not permitted to dictate to the commissioner as to the personal rights of policement to form a labor union.

The anti-labor crowd wants a police department that it can control and an executive head who will take orders. Labor has no orders to give. It wants no special privilege; it merely insists that the workers be given the same treatment under the law as is given to other folks. Mr. Murnian has accorded such treatment to labor, and it is up to every worker and every friend of labor in the city to stand by him.

The police department is to be re-organized in so far as the civil service rules will permit. A new chief of police in all probability will be appointed from the force. He will and ought to be a man of police training and experience. A way will be found to increase salaries so that the best men will be attracted to the department, and the present members will be given new spirit. There is work to do, and Mr. Murnian ought to be given an opportunity to do it. In any event it would be a crime to turn him out through the despotism of a public opinion, manufactured by the enemies of labor.

After the lynching the militia was sent here for fear that a "race war" would follow in its wake. There could be no "race war" in Duluth, but the organized enemies of union labor are doing their blamed best to provoke a "class war," and should they succeed, pause for a moment and think of the consequences.

DEFEAT BONUS PDAN.

LORAIN, Ohio, July 23.—After a nine-weeks' strike against the National Stove company, stove mounters have abolished a bonus system, raised wages and established the eight-hour day.

STOVE MOUNTERS QUIT.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, July 23.—Recently organized stove mounters employed by the Emrich Stove company were compelled to cease work to enforce improved conditions.

PATTERN MAKERS OUT.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., July 23.—Pattern makers employed by the American locomotive works are on strike to enforce a wage rate of $1.25 an hour. These highly skilled workers have been receiving 90 cents.

WILL ARBITRATE.

BURLINGTON, Iowa, July 23.—After resisting demands of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' union for seven months, the Iowa Biscuit company has concluded to arbitrate differences.

CULINARY WORKERS GAIN.

FRESNO, July 23.—Arbitration ended a short strike of culinary workers in this city that tied up most of the eating places. The wage advance includes everyone from chef to dishwasher.

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL.

NEW YORK, July 23.—The board of education will start a "go-to-school" drive to reach the 200,000 illiterates and non-English speaking persons in this city. A large number of these are children.

500 LABOR REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND GREAT CONVENTION

People of Rochester Turn Out in Numbers to Welcome Delegates and Visitors; Warm Debate Over Resolutions; Senator Boylan Puts Over Resolution Favoring the Recognition of Ireland.

With a registered attendance of 496 delegates and all of the leading officials present, the Minnesota State Federation of Labor opened its Thirty-eighth convention under the most favorable auspices in the city of Rochester last Monday morning. The number of visitors was almost equal to the number of delegates, and it was announced that 26 cities and towns were represented in the convention.

W. H. Sykes, president of the Rochester Trades and Labor assembly, called the gathering to order promptly at 10 o'clock, and, after tendering the delegates a cordial welcome to the hospital city on behalf of the labor organizations located in it, introduced Rev. C. E. Burgess, pastor of the Christian church, who invoked the divine blessing on the convention, the cause it represented and everybody connected with the labor movement.

Hon. M. O. Smith, president of the city council and acting mayor of Rochester, was the second speaker. He welcomed the delegates and visitors in behalf of the community and its residents and pledged them every contribution both could make to the success of the meeting, the management of its business and the social and sight-seeing enjoyment of all.

Glad Hand From Business Interests.

The civic and commerce association, through its president, ex-Judge George W. Granger, extended the glad hand of hearty welcome to the whole body of the convention and attending friends of the delegates, and, at the end of his short but pithy address, a representative of the Rochester Trades and Labor assembly presented President Hall with a beautiful gavel made of varigated wood, bearing the union label and ornamented with a silver plate containing this inscription: "E. G. Hall, Rochester, Minn., July 19, 1920."

President Hall responded appropriately to the addresses of welcome, expressed his appreciation of and thankfulness for the gavel, and then formally declared the convention open for business.

The first business transacted after the formal opening was the announcement and unanimous and enthusiastic acceptance of an invitation from the state hospital located in Rochester to the whole convention and its accompanying friends to visit that institution and take luncheon there on Tuesday at noon, the invitation being tendered by the superintendent of the hospital.

The report of the committee on credentials followed the anncuncement by President Hall that the delegates were present to legislate for no class conclusively but for all classes of the people of the state and for the promotion of the welfare of all. The report of the committee was accepted without a single contest, and this fact was very unusual and very gratifying.

Standing Committees Announced.

The convention being ready for whatever work it could properly find to do, President Hall announced the personnel of the standing committees to carry on that work.

Miss Maud McCreery, Milwaukee, a delegate to the Wisconsin Federation of Labor and an official spokesman for the Federated Press recently organized to furnish labor news from labor's point of view to the labor papers of the country, was heard at length and forcibly in behalf of the new organization, for which she asked financial assistance through the purchase of bonds at $25 each, good for five years at six per cent interest.

At the close of her remarks the convention adjourned at 2 o'clock p. m.

Afternoon Proceedings.

When the delegates reconvened in pursuance of their adjournment the report of the committee on rules and order of business was read by Secretary Lawson and unanimously adopted.

The annual reports of the president, the secretary and the executive council were distributed among the delegates without being read to the convention, all of them having been printed in pamphlet form.

Six fraternal delegates accredited to the convention were cordially received and warmly welcomed. They were: N. M. Aune, representing the North Dakota Federation of Labor; F. A. Canfield, representing the Iowa Federation of Labor; Mrs. Julius Bailey, representing the Rochester Ladies' Union Label league; C. O. Parsons, representing the World War veterans; W. W. Royster, representing the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and Charles E. Fitzgerald, representing the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors.

John P. Gardiner, state labor commissioner, read an excellent report of the work of the Minnesota department of labor and industries during the past year, with a resume of desired labor legislation and needed amendments to existing laws governing the department and the interests of the workers of the state. This was referred to the committee on legislation.

Re-Education of Injured Soldiers.

A very interesting and instructive account of the work of the rehabilitation department of the federal board for vocational training was read to the convention by W. J. Norris, placement officer for soldiers, Minneapolis division of that department, stating that the government meets the states dollar for dollar in providing money

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SAYS RAILROADS GOBBLE UP COAL

Editor of Miners' Journal Declares They Are Re-Selling It at Big Profit.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., July 13.—Because of the opportunity to make gigantic profits from the present high prices in bituminous coal, the railroads of the country are gobbling up practically all of the coal that is produced and are reselling it to dealers, according to reports which have been received at the headquarters of the United Mine Workers of America, in this city. Ellis Searles, editor of the United Mine Workers Journal, said that trustworthy information is to the effect that the railroads assign practically all available coal cars to mines with which they have contracts for coal and these mines work steadily while other mines on their lines are able to work only one or two days a week owing to a lack of cars.

"According to thes reports," Mr. Searles said, "the railroads take all of this coal. They are not burning it nor are they storing it, but they are reselling it at a huge profit. Mines that have no contracts for railroad coal get but few cars and that fact largely accounts for the scarcity of free coal on the market, according to our information. By such a plan the railroads not only make a profit on hauling the coal but they can make an outrageous profit on the resale. And by refusing to allow other mines to have cars they compel the public to buy the coal which they sell and at outrageous prices.

RAISE IN PRICE OF COAL IS THREE TIMES INCREASED LABOR COST

Following the rejection by the Anthracite Coal commission of the documentary evidence submitted by the Mine Workers to show the secrets of the industry which the operators have fought for two weeks to suppress, W. Jett Lauck, consulting economist for the United Mine Workers of America has summarized the first of these documents for the public. It relates to the costs, prices and profits of the hard coal business. The Lauck summary prepared as a statement of facts without deductions or arguments is as follows:

"1. The production of anthracite coal is fairly constant from year to year, the variation from the maximum to the minimum being in general less than 12 per cent. On the other hand, the number of employes in the industry fluctuates greatly from year to year, the pre-war number being close to 180,000 while during the war the number dropped to 147,000 in 1918.

"2. In order to obtain the requisite production with a fluctuating number of employes, the mines are obliged to keep open a fluctuating number of days per year, and so when the number of employes dropped during the war, the mines had to be worked an abnormal number of days per year.

"3. Thus the number of employe-days, that is the number of employes multiplied by the average number of days worked, is fairly constant, varying directly with the production, and in substantially the same degree.

"4. The old, pre-war number of employes is returning to the industry, the number in 1919 being 5,000 greater than in 1918. It is manifest, therefore, that the days worked to be expected in the future, with a constant production and a rising number of employes, cannot be as great as during the abonrmal years of 1917, 1918, and even 1919.

"5. The earnings, therefore, of the employes during these abnormal years can form no criteria as to earnings that may be expected during the future, because the opportunity afforded for work will be less than was afforded during 1917 to 1919. In all probability, the average number of days worked that may be expected in the future is around 240 per year, and any adjustment that may be made in wage rates should be on the basis of ensuring suitable yearly earnings with this limited opportunity to work.

"6. The value of anthracite coal has increased much more than have wage rates. Since 1912 the value of the product per ton at the mine mouth has increased up to 1919 a little over 102 per cent, while the wage rate to the miner has increased only 49.8 per cent, so to raise the wage rate to the same proportional relationship to the value of the product per ton that it possessed in 1912 would necessitate an increase amounting to 34 per cent.

"7. In other words, while the miner produced coal in 1912 worth at the mine mouth about 5¾ times his wage, in 1919 it was worth about seven times his wage.

"8. The margin of sales realization over total mine costs has risen during the past several years, showing that the operator has not suffered any loss himself due to increases given to the employes. This margin, in spite of the increase, is still conservative and moderate, but it by no means represents the total profits derived from the anthracite industry by its owners. Another source of profit is obtained through the sales corporations, owend by the same interests that own the mines, through which the product is marketed, while a third profit is obtained through the frieght rates charged by the railroads. Inasmuch as the railroads carrying the coal derive a considerable portion of their receipts through the anthracite freight rates, it is possible to conduct the purely mining operations with a small margin.

"9. The point to bear in mind is that there is one ownership of the coal mines, the coal sales companies, and the railroads, and the total profit to that common owner resulting from all three branches of the industry should be considered as a unit, and not simply the profit from one branch which admittedly is on a conservative basis.

"10. The increase in retail prices has been about three times the increase in labor costs at the mines. From 1914 to December, 1918, the increase in labor cost at the mines was $1.41 per gross ton, while the increase in retail prices at New York and Boston was respectively $4.37 and $4.48 per gross ton. Since December, 1918, there has been little or no increase in labor costs at the mines while the ratail prices have further increased (in New York and Boston) an average of $2.40 per gross ton.

"11. A large portion of this recent increase in retail prices, of course, has been made in anticipation of an increase in wage rates resulting from the award of the United States Anthracite Coal commission, which award will be retroactive to April 1, and if this increase in retail prices proves to be three times the increase in labor costs at the mines, as was the case above, it means that the coal trade expects an award that will increase the labor costs $0.80 per ton, which is an increase of 27 per cent over the labor cost of December, 1918.

"12. The labor cost at the mines forms only a little less than one-quarter of the total retail price of domestic coal in New York city, and less even than that of the retail price in Boston. An increase in the wage rates, therefore, that would add 50 per cent to the labor cost of mining coal would increase the retail price by less than 12½ per cent, if the other costs and the profits were maintained as before.