

THE LABOR WORLD

AMERICAN LABOR WILL NOT BE LAWFUL OR ENSLAVED

DULUTH AND SUPERIOR, OBER 22, 1921.

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FIVE CENTS.

UNION HEADS TO STOP STRIKE IF ROADS ARE FAIR

Some Concession Must be Made and Assurance Given of Future Good Conditions.

Officers of all the railroad labor unions are in possession of sealed orders from their respective international presidents to be opened only after the receipt of telegrams on the evening of October 30. It believed these orders contain the complete details of the strike call.

All eyes are this day centered on Chicago where the heads of the brotherhoods are in conference with the railroad labor board. The representatives of the other 11 railroad labor organizations are on hand, but have not been called into the meeting. It may be decided today whether the 16 unions will walkout together should a strike be called on October 30.

They Want No Strike. Most railroad men believe there will be an eleventh hour adjustment of some kind, possibly an armistice. There is one thing certain, the unions can not back down without some concession. Every bridge has been burned behind them. Some assurance must be given that there will be no further wage cuts and that working conditions will not be made more severe and less favorable to satisfy the great army of workers who have empowered their executive officers to call a strike.

Contrary to press reports the union officials are not eager for a strike. They are doing everything within their power to avert one. If a strike is called it will be after every means to prevent one has failed. It is the railroad executives who are obdurate. They seem to be courting trouble.

Let it be said one of them the other day. Like Pullman of 1894 they have "nothing to arbitrate," or like Jay Gould, the first of the railroad plunderers, "the public be damned," and all the time through their publicity agencies they are attempting to fasten the blame on labor.

Their Petty Bickerings. Back of all the labor unrest on the railroads is their peevish policy of contesting every trifling complaint of the men. The employees have a million grievances against the roads, all little in the eyes of the managers, but big indeed in the lives of each of them.

F. D. Underwood, one of the railway executives said this week that a railroad strike at this time would be a strike against the railroad labor board, he held, because the men are protesting against the recent 12 per cent wage cut.

On the other hand the roads have contested every decision of the railroad board that was unfavorable to them. There is a feeling of protest on the Duluth, Missabi & Northern where the railroad labor board ordered the re-instatement of several shophmen unjustly discharged, one of whom was to be given full pay for the time he was out of the service through unwarranted dismissal. That decision has been ignored by the road's officials as has been most every decision favorable to the employees rendered by the labor board.

The underlying cause of the present controversy in the railroads is not the wage question so much as it is the failure of the roads to tote square with the employees and there is an abundance of evidence to verify the truth of this claim.

UNIONS DISCUSS CEMENT PRICES

Recent Pennsylvania Decision on State Owned Plants Bring Down Price.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—Building trade unionists in St. Louis are discussing a recent decision by the Pennsylvania state supreme court which upheld the legality of a state-owned cement plant and refused to enjoin the selling of bonds by the cement commission of that state.

The court ruled that cement and its product commodities are necessary to the people and that the manufacture, distribution and sale of it by the state will tend to promote public welfare and secure equality of economic opportunity.

In a letter to President Gompers Maurice Cassidy, secretary of the St. Louis building trades council, said that the actives to start a state-owned plant may be responsible for the low price of cement in Pennsylvania. In September the Pittsburgh price was \$2.02 a barrel as against \$2.23 at Indianapolis, \$2.28 at Cleveland, \$2.31 at Detroit, \$2.37 at Cincinnati, \$2.40 at the New York docks and \$2.86 at Boston.

ADMINISTRATION UP IN AIR OVER ITS TAX POLICY

Rock Upon Which Party is Splitting in Congress Into Separate Class Groups.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—The fiscal policy of this administration is the rock upon which the Republican party is splitting in Congress and upon which it will split throughout the nation if the administration plans are carried out.

The word "policy" is used figuratively, for the proposed procedure in matters of taxation particularly, involves no policy that includes either the principles of finance or economics. The word is the better word for it amounts solely to a scheme to relieve profiteering corporations of a just tax and shift that burden unjustly upon the already overburdened small taxpayer, including the smaller corporations.

This split among the Republicans in the Senate is so much in view that even the President's Washington newspaper mouthpiece is compelled to note of it. After citing a proposed compromise between the Progressive Republicans and Democrats on the tax bill and the alleged plan of the Democrats to vote for a sale tax amendment and then vote against the bill in company with Republicans opposed to the sale tax, the Washington Post says:

Threatens Disaster. "Either horn of the dilemma threatens disaster to the Republican party in whose ranks the split of discord is daily growing wider. The present situation at the Capital disclosing to public view a fact which cannot much longer be concealed, that the Republican party today is not functioning smoothly and efficiently apart as the poles on some of the greatest questions underlying what is attempted to be made into definite policy.

"The bonds which held its component parts together during the campaign, when Republicans of all shades of opinion were actuated by a common opposition to what became known as 'Wilsonism,' are today falling asunder. The serious feature of the situation from the party's point of view is not that the party is not working harmoniously, but that the fundamental differences between Republicans are today as great. If not actually greater, than they were in 1912."

And then, as if to show the helpful and constructive efforts of the Democrats in behalf of honest taxation, the Post adds:

Proposed Amendments. "The Democrats have seized this opportunity to propose to the Progressive Republicans certain definite amendments which might be written into the pending tax bill to make it more acceptable to both."

All of this, mind you, comes from a newspaper, accepted as the administrative organ at the Capital, which faithfully chronicles the activities of the administration, political and social, including the marvelous feats of Budget Commissioner Dawes and his invisible fingers as he goes on his comings in of the valiant Brigadier General Sawyer, the diversions of Lauder Boy and the bull pup with the editorial page liberally spread over with the lemon meringue of adulation.

However, the Post is to be complimented upon the accuracy of its vision and the boldness to a point out "a fact which cannot much longer be concealed."

BRAINERD MILL RESUMES. BRAINERD, MINN., Oct. 20.—The Northwest Paper company resumed work on Monday, Oct. 3. The paper and pulp mills have been shut down since May 1 when a strike was called and the resumption of work means much for Brainerd.

100,000 HOMES NEEDED. NEW YORK, Oct. 20.—There are 100,000 more families than houses in this city declares Dr. Royal S. Copeland, municipal health commissioner.

ALLEN LAW DON'T WORK AGAINST CORPORATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Kan., Oct. 20.—This is how Governor Allen's "can't-strike" law operates, according to the Labor Bulletin, published in this city:

"Allen has been preaching all over the country about the success of his industrial court; said it had teeth in both jaws; one to crush labor and one to bring the corporations to time, but now the Wolff packing company has done the same thing that Howat did—defied the power of the industrial court. However, no one of the Wolff packing company is in jail and Howat is."

"The truth of the matter is that court was never expected to do anything to corporations except some big blowing for effect on the public. Its main object, aside from killing the unions, was to give Allen a chance for publicity which they were certain would land him in the vice president's chair."

ALL UNITING TO MAKE ARMISTICE DAY MEMORABLE

Mayor Snively Appoints Strong Committee to Take Full Charge of Celebration.

A great disarmament demonstration will be held in Duluth on Friday, November 11, Armistice day, at the date of the opening of the International Conference on Armament Limitation in Washington.

The Federated Trades assembly has appointed a committee of ten, headed by Henry Perault, and that committee is co-operating with civic, religious and patriotic organizations, all of which are jointly represented on the committee having the arrangements in charge.

The decision to organize the local demonstration was reached after the receipt of a communication from Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, conveying to the local labor organizations the decision of the A. F. of L. Executive Council to the effect that a great demonstration is being organized, of which the local demonstration is a part.

The importance of the disarmament issue is shown by the fact if the tax levy for war purposes were evenly apportioned every man, woman and child in America would pay yearly \$28.04 for war, while paying but 54 cents national research, education and general development. The great disparity between our destructive effort and our constructive effort is thus graphically shown.

The local demonstration will not include a parade, but at 11 o'clock in the morning there will be a meeting at all the churches. At 12 o'clock there will be silent prayer and during the afternoon there will be a monster mass meeting at the new armory.

The American Legion, Interchurch Council, Rotary, Kiwanis and other clubs are joining with organized labor in the demonstration. Mayor Snively has appointed the following committee to have full charge of the arrangements: W. S. McCormick, John E. Jensen, Harvey Hoshour, W. L. Smithies, Rev. H. A. Flyod, Thos. Olafson, Dr. W. J. Eklund, Rev. W. F. Scoular, George Pine, E. A. Silberstein, Mrs. C. C. Colton and Mrs. A. F. Swanson.

WANTS MINES NATIONALIZED. INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 20.—Nationalization of mines was reaffirmed by the convention of the United Mine Workers.

The "one big union" idea was shoved down the coal chute by an overwhelming vote without discussion. The miners have complete control of this industry and they are not impressed by the "logic" of sky shooters.

FORCE EMPLOYEES TO VOTE IN MEAT PLANTS

Butcher Workmen Face "Open Shop" Campaign to be Waged by Unholy Big-Five.

At this writing it begins to look as if a general strike among the packing house employees of the United States is imminent. More than 900 employees walked out of the John Morrell Packing company plant at Ottumwa, Iowa, Wednesday afternoon, following failure to agree over wages and working conditions in the trimming department. Four hundred more left work yesterday and the tie-up is complete.

The Ottumwa strike comes as a surprise to those who have been keeping in touch with the labor situation in the packing industry, for the various local unions throughout the country in the Amalgamated Meatcutters' and Butcher Workmen's union have just completed voting on a proposition to authorize its executive officers to call a strike should they fail in negotiations with the packers.

A short time ago the packers announced they would run "open shop" in the future, following the expiration of the Alschuler agreement on September 15 last. The "Big Five" declared they would recognize "collective bargaining" through a "company union with no outside interference." That would mean the end of the Amalgamated among the packers.

When the packers advised the officers of the Amalgamated that they would refuse to deal with them further and would treat them as individuals, a strike vote was taken which was carried in every local by big majorities. Further attempts to negotiate with the packers were contemplated before the executive officers would use the power vested in them to call a general strike in the packing industry. The Ottumwa strike will in all probability bring the whole situation to a sudden head.

The big packers underestimate the strength of the union among their employees. They have publicly declared that the union were making the majority, while the union officers announce that the industry is nearly 100 per cent union. The fact that 900 employees out of 1,300 walked out of the Morrell plant at Ottumwa Thursday would indicate that the union officials were correct in their claim.

Eighty-five per cent of the packing house employees at Omaha, 80 per cent at Milwaukee, 94 per cent at East St. Louis and a big majority at Fort Worth, all strongly union have voted favoring a strike in the event of the failure of their officers to effect a decent settlement with the packers. The officers are now busily engaged in counting the big Chicago and Kansas City ballots.

A railroad and a packing house strike at the same time in the United States would involve more than 2,500,000 workers directly and more indirectly. It is the greatest crisis that has confronted the American labor movement in its history. The meat trust is part of the organized anti-union bloc that has sworn to destroy organized labor.

BUILDING TRADES WAGES REDUCED; WHY NOT BUILD?

CLEVELAND, Oct. 20.—A writer in one of the local newspapers says: "Of course, we all know it was camouflage when the advocates of wage reduction last spring said that if building wages were cut, building would boom again. Well, mechanics' wages have been cut now for over four months, and lest we forget allow me to draw attention to the fact that building operations in July (new) were fewer in number and involved less expenditure than in any month since last February."

DODGES FEDERAL BENCH; WILL STAY IN SENATE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20. Senator Kenyon has declined the appointment of federal judge of the northern Iowa district. It is stated that he has informed the president to this effect.

Senator Kenyon is active in the agricultural bloc, a non-partisan group of senators from the west and middle west.

Reaction in the senate, always non-partisan, fears this group, whose latest exhibition of strength is to force the administration crowd to revise the revenue bill, passed by the house.

This is bad enough, but worse yet, the bloc menaces the two-party hobgoblin that is so necessary for the continuance of our form of government—according to reaction's spokesmen.

And now Senator Kenyon refuses to be pushed into a life job on the federal judiciary.

HEFLIN ANSWERS SENATOR NELSON ON WAGE ATTACK

Shows That Workers' Wages Are Coming Down While Officials Are Going Up.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—While the government swells the deafening chorus for wage reductions, there is no censure against the federal reserve bank of New York—maintained and controlled by the government—for its salary increased of nearly 300 per cent to 21 officials.

The figures were prepared by John Skelton Williams, former comptroller of the currency and were used by Senator Heflin, of Alabama, in a reply to Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, who disapproved "high" wages.

The figures show that 21 persons connected with federal reserve bank of New York were formerly paid a total of \$12,800 a year. They are now paid a total of \$349,000 a year.

Formerly the average for each of these persons was \$5,800 a year, but the average is now \$11,800 a year. Some of the increases are: Benjamin Strong, from \$30,000 to \$50,000; Pierre Jay, from \$16,000 to \$30,000; J. H. Case, from \$20,000 to \$30,000; E. R. Kenzel, from \$4,000 to \$25,000; L. F. Sailer, from \$7,000 to \$25,000; G. L. Harrison, from \$4,000 to \$22,000; L. H. Hendricks, from \$6,000 to \$13,000; Shepard Morgan, from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

"The next time one of you senators feel called on to get up here and lambast labor," said Senator Heflin, "I suggest that you clean up the high salary scandal at the reserve bank in New York."

ABOUT TIME TO FIND ANOTHER SCAPEGOAT

WILMINGTON, Del., Oct. 20.—"Five years ago," says the Bulletin of the National single tax league "there were 'too many people in the world.' That was how some university 'economists' explained the high cost of living. Since then about ten million people have been killed off, in addition to the regular number of deaths through natural causes. And the cost of living is still up with a tendency to go higher. Unemployment, these same economists attribute to overpopulation. But at the end of a whole-sale slaughter of principally laborers, employment is scarcer still, and wages are dropping.

The 'economists' had better find another scapegoat before too many of the 'unlearned' observe that monopolizing of natural opportunities has some effect on production and distribution.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION IS HIT BY BIG BIZ

Gradually Shorn of Power It Merely Sits as Legal Board; Teeth Taken From Law.

The Federal Trade commission has lost its power to investigate and furnish the public with accurate information on the doings of the big business interests. The Farmers' National council, the central national committee of farmers' organizations at Washington so declares.

"We have issued frequent warnings about the concerted efforts of the big business interests which wish to practice unfair methods and fear the daylight of publicity, are making to abolish the Federal Trade commission," says a statement of the council issued this week.

"The commission is today doing statement, 'although it should be investigating in a thorough way such as it investigated the meat packing industry, the entire coal industry, the steel and other combinations, notably manufacturers of farmers' implements and the fertilizer and feeding trusts.

Court Against It.

"The trade commission has not investigated the coal industry because a federal court issued a perpetual injunction restraining it from doing so. It had an appropriation of \$150,000 with which to make this investigation, which undoubtedly would have resulted in lower prices for coal, and it had to turn this appropriation back into the Federal treasury.

"The Newton-Kenyon bill, pending before Congress empowers the Federal Trade Commission to secure and make public the necessary information regarding the coal industry as a means of reducing prices for coal.

"There is imminent danger that unless farmers and other friends of fair dealing and honest business methods register their protests very emphatically with the president, the Federal Trade Commission will be abolished, or its functions distributed to the Department of Justice and to the Department of Agriculture and the United States reserve bank of New York.

To Shift The Burden. "There is also a well-defined plan being considered by the President's commission re-organizing Federal departments to transfer many of the functions of the Department of Agriculture, particularly those dealing with marketing and distribution, to the Department of Commerce.

"Every farmer knows that the Department of Agriculture should be giving farmers the utmost help in developing cooperative marketing, direct trading, and commodity marketing. Many of the big business interests of the country are opposed to farmers going into the distribution of their own products. They would like to see the Department of Agriculture crippled.

"It is incumbent upon the farmers of America to vigorously protest against the proposed subordination, or not destruction, of adequate machinery to help farmers market their crops profitably. Write your protest directly to the President of the United States. Many crimes are committed in the name of 'efficiency and economy,' but the crime of further crippling agriculture must not be permitted."

RETAILERS ARE BLAMED FOR HIGH FOOD PRICES

NEW YORK, Oct. 20.—Retailers are responsible for high food prices, according to Ewin J. O'Malley, commissioner of markets. He said the present food supply is on the whole, the largest in the history of the city, and that if dealers were not seeking excessive profits food prices would be lower than at any time since the commencement of the war.

HANDCUFF LABOR IS ONLY WAY TO GET GOOD TIMES

Majority Report of Committee on Manufacturers at Job Conference Opposed by Labor.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 20.—An expression of minority opinion on the measures proposed by the Committee on Manufacturers of the President's Unemployment Conference was presented to the Conference on the final day of its session here over the signatures of Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor; Sara A. Conboy, Secretary of the United Textile Workers of America; and Roy Dickinson, Associate Editor of Printers' Ink, New York City.

Inasmuch as only unanimous committee reports were taken up by the Conference for action, this minority report, as well as the majority report from which it dissented, was merely presented to the Conference and not acted upon. This was the case with a number of other reports which came to the Conference without unanimous committee support.

Artful Majority Report.

The report signed by Mr. Gompers, Mrs. Conboy, and Mr. Dickinson, declares that the majority report was artfully and adroitly drawn in the interest of the railroads and the big business interests. It holds that the basis eight-hour day on the railroads was conceded by the roads through negotiations with the unions long before the supreme court had upheld the validity of the Adamson law. Therefore, its repeal by Congress could not effect the situation.

The majority advised the abolition of the railroad labor board, the only responsible governmental board to which the railroad workers can take their claims relating to wages and conditions on employment. The minority protests against again making labor a commodity. It protests against and reduction in the earning power of the workers, which would also reduce consumption and bring harder times to all the people.

The minority report endorsed the recommendation of W. S. Carter, president of the E. of C. F. & E., to the effect that the roads should be compelled to use the \$500,000,000 they are asking of the government for the employment of labor and the purchase of material to rehabilitate the railroads. It suggested further that if any road failed to abide by any decision of the railroad labor board it shall not participate in the big grant.

The majority report of the committee on manufacturers, summarized, would provide for the repeal of the Adamson act, the abolition of the railroad labor board, the granting of money to the railroads, and for the tolling masses the lengthening of their workday and the reduction of their wages.

"And this, says the minority report, 'has been seriously proposed by a majority of the committee as a remedy for present and future unemployment.' The minority report placed before the conference the following recommendations:—

"1. There must be adopted a policy of wage reduction. On the contrary, there must be a policy calling for the highest possible rate of wage in every industry. In terms of industrial well-being this means the adoption of a policy of placing in the hands that there may be the greatest possible consumption of commodities and the greatest possible conditions. (Continued on page two.)

P. O. ADVOCATES CALLED TO MEET

Big Conference on Public Ownership and Democratic Control to be Held Next Month.

There is to be a public ownership conference at Chicago next month. It has been called by the Public Ownership League of America and will be held at the Congress hotel, November 19, 20 and 21.

"Delegates to the conference have been elected by the miners, farm organizations, an railway employees, John Brophy has been elected to represent the miners. He will speak on the 'Nationalization of the Coal Mines.'"

The Plumb Plan League, representing the 16 railroad labor organizations, will be officially represented by Glen E. Plumb, Warren S. Stone and Timothy Shea.

The farmers organizations will be represented by United States Senator Edwin F. Ladd, Lynn J. Frasier, governor of North Dakota, William Lemke, attorney general, and other big men of the farmers' movement of the northwest.

Among other speakers will be W. G. McAdoo, Senator Robert M. La Follette, Rev. John A. Ryan and Oscar E. Keller of St. Paul, member of Congress. Frank Hodges, secretary Miners' Federation of Great Britain is also billed to be present.

The general purpose of the conference is to bring together, organize and federate the public ownership forces

UNDERCOVER MAN INCITES STRIFE, SAYS NEW INTERCHURCH REPORT

The commission of inquiry which made the report on the steel strike for the Interchurch World Movement last year has prepared a supplementary report covering special studies made by the committee's investigators during the strike. The members of the commission of inquiry are Bishop Francis J. McConnell, chairman; Daniel A. Poling, vice chairman; George W. Coleman, Alva W. Taylor, John McDowell, Nicholas Van der Pyl, Mrs. Fred Bennett; advisory, Bishop William Melvin Bell and Bishop Charles D. Williams; Heber Blankenhorn, secretary.

These are persons of the highest possible standing are of nation wide repute, whose statements must be accepted as being based upon the best obtainable facts. It may be recalled that either Judge Gary nor his immediate associates in the steel industry have ever disputed the statements contained in the report of the steel strike investigation, though one or two unknown preachers were "induced" to write letters controverting the report which were given wide circulation by the United States Steel Corporation. The new report, which is made with

the technical assistance of the Bureau of Industrial Research, New York, deals with the use of "undercover men" or spies in the strike; the abuse of civil rights in western Pennsylvania; the relation of the press and the strike as studied in Pittsburgh; public opinion in immigrant communities; the welfare work of the Steel Corporation.

Conditions Remain the Same. Besides the reports of the investigators, accepted and edited by the commission, there are made public certain records of the commission's activities, since the investigation as well as during the strike. The commission's work is just as pertinent now as it was a year ago. There are problems in the steel industry, notably the 12-hour day and 7-day week, and the denial of collective action among the workers which will not down. A central idea which runs through this supplementary report is suggested in the general title, "Public Opinion and the Strike." In the foreword, signed by Bishop McConnell, chairman, and Daniel A. Poling, vice chairman, this illuminating interpretation is given:

"In every labor controversy there is more or less talk about the 'weight of public opinion.' This report affords some of the data to be reckoned with in deciding what public opinion is in reference to a strike—the opinion as checked or controlled or molded by the relations of industrial companies to the organs of civil government in industrial communities, the opinion of groups of workers, opinion as influenced by reports of spies, opinion as to the conceptions or misconception of foreign communities. From this point of view it seems to us that the material of this report has value altogether apart from its specific relation to the steel strike.

Daily Reports of 600 Spies. Hundreds of original documents are quoted in the report on "Undercover Men in the Steel Strike, and After, a Study of Modern Industrial Espionage." It first analyzes 600 daily reports made by "undercover men" or spies in the town of Monessen, Pa., during the strike. The reports were furnished to the commission, along with blacklists, etc., by the steel company which hired the spies from two labor detective agencies; the chief

ing the widespread Corporations Auxiliary company. The spies, designated by code "Z-16," "X-199," "No. 203," etc., mixed with the strikers or held jobs inside the plant dressed as workers.

The Corporation Auxiliary company professed to have 500 such "operatives" at work in the steel strike and the concern's Pittsburgh manager told the investigator that many of these were inside the unions frequently as officers. The undercover men were mostly "foreigners" like the workmen they mix with. Their reports were very generally sent to the detective agency's headquarters to be "edited" or rewritten, then mailed to the employing steel company. Their duties were to "break the morale of the strike."

Work among the Strikers. Extracts are given from scores of the undercover men's reports showing how they wormed their way among the Nonessen strikers, what sort of conversation they report what sort of strikebreaking rumors they spread. A general unreliability and worthlessness characterizes their reports, offset by human touches such as:

"I think prohibition has a good deal to do about this strike for every time I enter a saloon I hear someone saying, 'To hell about working if you cannot get a drink once in a while. Water is no good, it only makes one sick. Let Mr. Carnegie drink water.' I told them that the whiskey might come back when the strike is over." (Report of "Z-16.")

One undercover man works inside the plant with the few strike-breakers and tells how "the office clerks are shoveling coal and they seem to be working very fine." Others attend the strikers' mass meetings at the one point in this region where the authorities had not forbidden meetings. A spy report blames these meetings for the strikers' morale and says: "It is very difficult for me to understand why the local authorities permit these regular meetings to be held in 'Shariel.' . . . Undoubtedly it occurs to me that our clients have considerable influence with the local authorities. No meetings are being held in Monessen territory, nor in any of the other nearby mill centers and I can not see why these meetings (Continued on page two.)