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# THE LABOR WORLD

AMERICAN LABOR WILL NOT BE OUTLAWED OR ENSLAVED

# MR. WORKINGMAN

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## ALL HAPPY WHEN RAILROAD STRIKE WAS CALLED OFF

Brotherhoods Yielded to Pressure Brought to Bear by Railroad Labor Board.

The country breathed a deep sigh of relief when it was learned that the railroad strike had been called off. The brotherhood chiefs did the only thing that could be done. The cards were stacked against them. The press attended to public opinion and the administration carried the club. But that was not all, the shop crafts were not ready for a walkout. Their grievances against the railroads had not been brought to a head, and they felt they would not be justified in striking until they knew just where they were going to land. On top of that the brotherhood did not give them the necessary assurance that if they walked out together they would all go back together and none singly. The railroads were really trapped before the strike was called off. They wanted a strike. Their publicity agents were busy informing the public that the strike would not be against the railroads but against the railroad labor board and the government. Word was sent out to all the commercial clubs to adopt resolutions demanding that labor obey the rulings of the labor board. The Duluth Commercial club called on labor and the railroads to adhere to the decisions of the board.

**Assurance Is Given.**  
When the railroad labor board stepped into the breach its members assured the brotherhoods that there could not possibly be any further changes in wages until next July and they asked that the status quo be maintained until they could consider the question. After two days of parleying the unions called the strike off. That is what the railroads did not want to have done. It was upsetting the plans of the anti-unionists from their headquarters in the House of Morgan. They were forced into an awkward position and they have since abandoned their howls for obedience to government orders. They cannot now bring about an additional cut in wages at their own sweet will. L. E. Sheppard, president of the Order of Railroad Conductors, stated the case of the men and gave reasons for calling off the strike. "We were influenced in our decision," he said, "because of the growing public opinion that the strike would be against the labor board, and consequently the government, and not against the railroads."

**Propaganda Does Its Work.**  
"It was evident also that the entire Washington administration was opposed to us and that we had little chance of gaining our objective. We called the strike to gain certain rights to which our men were entitled. It soon became apparent, however, that the roads were succeeding in their misleading propaganda to the effect that we really would be striking against the government."

"The railroad propaganda found its way to the United States Railroad Labor Board. The governmental agency told us that it would look on a strike as against it and the government and not against the roads, and that the full force of the government would be brought to bear against us if we walked out. Under the circumstances there was nothing to do but annul orders for the October 30 walkout."

"There were several factors which contributed to bring about a peaceful settlement of the controversy," continued Mr. Sheppard, "notably the promise of the representative of the managements, T. DeWitt Cuyler, chairman of the Association of Railroad Executives of the United States States."

**Relying on Cuyler's Promise.**  
"Mr. Cuyler before the United States Railroad Labor Board guaranteed in effect that there would be no arbitrary cancellation of schedules or working conditions or further requests for wage reductions except in negotiation with representatives of the men on the respective lines or by collective effort should the same be agreed upon and that in failure to agree in negotiations resulted the question would be referred to the Labor Board for action in accordance with the board's announced procedure."

**INSURANCE DOCTOR SAYS LIFE CAN BE LENGTHENED**  
NEW YORK, Nov. 3.—Dr. A. S. Knight, president of the national association of life insurance medical directors, told delegates to the convention of that organization that a six-year test has shown that human life is prolonged by periodical health examinations.

The mortality of a special group of 5,937 men, who have taken voluntary medical examinations regularly since 1914, has been only 53 per cent of the rate expected on standard insurance tables, Dr. Knight said. The company, he added, in defraying the expense of the tests for its policy holders has had its principal returned and has made on the investment, through reduced insurance claims, a profit of 200 per cent.

**FAVOR ANTI-LYNCH BILL.**  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—The Dyer anti-lynching bill, imposing heavy penalties on persons involved in mob action resulting in the taking of life, has been favorably reported by the House Judiciary committee.

## WORKERS' WAGES DOWN; OFFICIAL'S SALARY UP

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—Secretary of War Weeks has inaugurated an economic policy in the Panama canal zone, on recommendation of a commission headed by Brigadier General Connor.

Wages of workers are reduced and the many concessions given them as an independent to go to Panama when health was menaced is taken from them. These reductions are estimated at \$90.95 a month for married men and \$60.60 for single men.

The "economy" program stopped with the wage workers, for the commission recommended that the salary of the governor of the canal zone be increased 50 per cent and that he also be allowed an additional \$4,000 as president of the Panama railroad, for "entertainment expenses."

It also stated that henceforth the canal zone will be operated under what anti-unionists term "open" shop.

Officers of the A. F. of L. metal trades department took the matter up with the secretary of war and the president, but without success.

## UNION MEN QUIT INJUNCTION JAIL

Hoboken Machinists Serve Year and Leave Jail Defiant of Injunction Writ.

HOBOKEN, N. J., Nov. 3.—Eight machinists who served a year's imprisonment for violating an injunction, have been released and are more strongly opposed to the injunction writ than when they entered jail.

The workers are Samuel Peterson, William Murray, Patrick E. Musto, Abraham Ebert, Vincent Grammona, George Miller, Albert Thorpy, and Stephen Reithman.

When a strike was called by the Machinists' union against the Bijou Motor Appliance company, the workers were enjoined from picketing by Vice Chancellor Buchanan. The strikers refused to desist telling their story to employees and were jailed by the chancellor, who now finds that his un-American order creates no terror among workers.

Before leaving jail the unionists signed a letter of appreciation to district No. 15, International Association of Machinists, for making common cause in the fight and for aiding their families while they were in jail.

## MARKET SYSTEM CAUSE OF WASTE

TRENTON, N. J., Nov. 3.—A crop of 10,000,000 heads of lettuce is going to waste on New Jersey farms because the public cannot get it at reasonable prices, says the New Jersey department of agriculture.

Growers who are anxious to sell at a little more than the cost of packing and marketing, in order to recover some fraction of the cost of production, find the big city markets blocked, with customers charged "war prices" plus for this product.

Comparisons of prices paid the farmer and prices paid by the housewife show a maximum spread of from 400 to 600 per cent. Many growers are plowing under the crisp heads of lettuce for which the public is hungry.

Lettuce growing is extensive in this state largely because of the educational campaigns of the use of greens containing minerals beneficial to health. The lettuce growers say this campaign is futile because dealers have needlessly put lettuce beyond reach of the average family's pocket book.

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## COAL MINERS ON STRIKE AGAINST ANDERSON'S DICT

Nearly 30,000 Miners Walk Out; Union Leaders Operate to Contact.

Press reports indicate that 30,000 coal miners in Indiana have quit work in that field although no strike order has been issued by the district officers. It is predicted that every mine in the state will be closed this week in protest against Federal Judge Anderson's injunction decree.

The officers of the United Mine Workers' union, it is said, are insisting that the provision of the contract with the operators relating to the "check off" of dues and assessments shall be enforced. That contract was made under government pressure, by government consent and with government approval. The officers will regard its discontinuance by the operators in spite of Judge Anderson's order, as a violation of their agreement.

Union chiefs declined to amplify the telegram, sent Tuesday evening to the 17 district presidents, virtually instructing them to stand pat on the present agreement, which they pointed out was arrived at with the government's approval.

In some quarters belief was expressed that the sending of the telegram by John L. Lewis, international president of the union, and his colleagues might be construed as "open defiance" of Judge Anderson's decree and lead to repetition of the contempt of court proceedings of two years ago. Frederick Van Nuy, United States district attorney, was silent on this phase of the situation.

Gompers Warns "Antagonist." "Judge Anderson's injunction," forbids men to organize," said Samuel Gompers president of the American Federation of Labor. "The bill of right gives them constitutional freedom and the Clayton act gives them the guarantee of statute law."

Judge Anderson sweeps away both of these guarantees as if they were but the merest scraps of paper. He plays the part of autocrat well, but sooner or later every autocrat has his fall.

"There is a great moral issue at stake, and the side of justice and freedom and humanity will not be abandoned, even at the behest of this modern Jeffries, Judge Anderson."

## SENATE FAVORS BIG RAIL LOAN

Committee Makes Favor Report on Bill Granting Roads Additional Half Billion.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—The senate committee on interstate commerce has made a favorable report on the bill that would pay the railroads \$500,000,000 and postpone their debts of an equal amount to the government.

It is claimed this legislation will permit the railroads to buy equipment and give work to unemployed men. At a recent unemployed conference, called by the president, President Carter of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, suggested that the bill be indorsed with the understanding that the money be used for equipment. Advocates of the bill refused to accept indorsement under these conditions. The brotherhood official said that if former practices of the railroads were followed, they would use this \$500,000,000 to pay deferred dividends to stockholders.

## JOHNSTON TELLS WHAT HAPPENED TO LABOR IN "FREE" SOVIET RUSSIA

There are few members of the labor movement who are still howling about the Russian Soviet government and preaching revolution for this country.

Not very long ago many in the movement were deceived about the conditions in Russia through listening to "soap boxers" who were never nearer Russia than the corner of the street upon which they stood to preach their false doctrine. But some of our brothers "fell" for the dope handed out.

At the last International convention of the Machinists the president, William H. Johnston, was instructed to go to Russia and there attempt to secure some trade agreements for his organization with the Bolshevik government.

Mr. Johnston was denied admission to Bolshevik territory, but learned much of what was going on there. In a report issued by Mr. Johnston to the membership of his international he tells many things of interest to the American workers, and some startling truths concerning the Bolsheviks' attitude toward the trade union and cooperative movement of Soviet Russia. Mr. Johnston states in part as follows:

The attitude of the Bolshevik government toward workers and their trade unions can be summed up as follows:

## LA FOLLETTE WINS OUT IN TILT WITH OLD GUARD

Things have been going badly with the Old Guard in the Senate and there are sound reasons for the statement that it is going to get a few more hard knocks before consideration of the revenue bill is completed. Its first decisive defeat came with the approval of Senator La Follette's amendment striking out the tax exemption on foreign trade, drawn by the Finance committee in the interest of international bankers and industrial concerns that are planning a conquest of world trade backed by the American government and who had hoped to avoid paying anything for the service to be rendered.

Scarcely had the smoke of this struggle blown away when the Old Guard was compelled to accept the compromise amendment covering excess profits, the high surtax bracket being placed at 50 per cent on large incomes. The House bill set the tax at 32 per cent and the Finance committee incorporated that figure in the draft. Big Business had constructed the dominant party's campaign pledge of reduced taxation as applying particularly and exclusively to its select circle.

## GRAFTERS WILL BE SAFE AFTER ARMISTICE DAY

There Will be Joy Among War Looters When Nation Mourns Loss of Unknown.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—There will be joy among war grafters when the nation mourns at the interment of the unknown American soldier boy on Armistice day, November 11. After that date the grafters will be immune from prosecution by the statute of limitation.

A few weeks ago attention was called to the probability of the grafters escaping, and much talk was heard about rushing a bill through congress extending the statute of limitation from three years to six years. The plan was dropped, however, but Attorney General Daugherty was not so busy at that time that he could not journey to Cincinnati and tell the American Bar association of the need for compulsory investigation of industrial disputes that strikes may be stopped by law.

A house committee headed by Congressman Graham has been investigating the war grafters. The committee made this report on the Standard Steel company:

"There were fraud and bribery admitted by the government agents, but all such accounts were allowed in full. The company stole a car load of small tools from this plant and removed them clandestinely to their own plant."

Reference was also made by the committee of the sale of the company for \$300,000 of buildings and material which had cost \$3,500,000, though there was a bid in for \$700,000,000, which the negotiating army officer "concealed from his associates."

**WORKERS RAISE WAGES.**  
FORT WILLIAM, Ontario, Canada, Nov. 3.—Organized railway clerks and freight handlers employed by the Western Stevedore company have raised wages and retained old working conditions. Rates for truckers and checkers were advanced four cents an hour, and loaders and coopers will be paid an addition five cents an hour.

**THEATER SIGNS.**  
TACOMA, Wash., Nov. 3.—The Bijou theater has signed an agreement with the Motion Picture Operators' union.

## SURTAXERS AIM TO GET FURTHER TAX REDUCTIONS

Congress Agrees to Less, But They Are Not Satisfied and Look for More.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—Both branches of congress have agreed to reduce the 65 per cent surtax—or additional tax—on large incomes. The house favors a reduction to 32 per cent, but this has caused such a protest throughout the country that the senate has made the surtax 50 per cent.

Under the senate amendment the surtax starts with a charge of 1 per cent on annual incomes from \$6,000 to \$10,000. Another 1 per cent is added for ever additional \$2,000 income, until the \$200,000 and over income is reached, when the surtax will be the maximum 50 per cent, instead of 65 per cent, as provided under the present law.

The few thousand excessively rich individuals, who will gain by this reduction have not lost their fight for a still greater cut in their income taxation, for when the revenue bill goes to conference amendments can be made and these must be accepted by the house and senate, or the entire revenue bill must be rejected and the long fight reopened.

Advocates of the low surtax claim that persons with large incomes are taking their money out of industry and placing it in tax-exempt bonds of all description, which are estimated to total \$30,000,000,000. The high surtaxers reply that the tax-exempt bonds will be owned by some one, and if the present owners sell them the ownership will be merely transferred and no reduction of income taxes can prevent the sale of these securities.

The revenue bill also calls for the abolishment of excess profits. Linked up with these revenue losses to the government are whispers that the government's economy program has proven a "flash in the pan" and that deficits aggregating millions of dollars are facing the treasury.

## ESCH-CUMMINS LAW IS SCORED

Governors and Other State Officials in Middle West Condemn Railroad Law.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Nov. 3.—The Cummins-Esch railroad law was condemned at a conference of governors and other state officials of middle western states in this city.

"The Cummins-Esch law," said Governor Blaine of Wisconsin, "discourages efficient and responsible management, for it guarantees the carriers a fixed return. Railroad stocks are greatly inflated and the fixed guarantee is upon the inflated value, commonly known as 'watered stock.'"

"A guarantee to a private enterprise is dangerous and vicious, yet there is no more justification for guaranteeing a return on railroad investment than guaranteeing the farmer, merchants, manufacturer, professional man or woman a return."

"Under the Cummins-Esch law the transportation companies have found an excuse for organizing subsidiary companies with over-capitalized assets in connection with transportation, which results in further increasing the burdens of rates."

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## UNION LABOR UNITES TO DEFEND FEDERAL BUREAU

Organized labor is making a determined effort to prevent the United States Department of Labor from being emasculated by the Harding administration. A conference of trade-union legislative representatives in Washington was held recently at American Federation of Labor headquarters to map out a program. Forty-five legislative agents, representing national and international organizations, were present. It was unanimously voted to strenuously oppose any attempt to weaken, destroy, subordinate or amalgamate the Department of Labor.

President Samuel Gompers presided at the meeting. He was directed to bring the matter to the attention of the rank and file of labor in the United States and to the people generally. It was the expressed opinion that the proposed changes would, if carried out, operate to prevent the normal activities of labor and would aid the designs of those who seek to oppress the workers and to curtail their constitutional rights.

## PRINTERS HAVE FAT BANK ROLL

I. T. U. Prints Page Advertisement in Toronto Papers Showing Financial Condition.

TORONTO, Ontario, Nov. 3.—In a page advertisement printed in local papers for the benefit of delegates to the convention of the United Typographical union presents statistics to refute the claim by some delegates among the employers that the union is financially embarrassed because of efforts to enforce a 44-hour agreement, made two years ago.

It is shown that the union's general fund has increased \$287,222.50 since April 20, 1921. The balance in all funds on September 20, 1921, was \$75,968.82.

"All the union demands is the fulfillment of the contract made in good faith with employers," says the advertisement.

"The International Typographical union has always believed that a contract is not 'crap of paper.'"

"It had a contract with employing printers for the eight-hour day with a Saturday half holiday."

"If there is any odium connected with the unemployment conditions in the printing industry at this time, it is with the employer and not with the Typographical union."

## GUNMEN BLAMED FOR W. VA. WAR

BECKLEY, W. Va., Nov. 3.—At the convention of district No. 29, United Mine Workers, it was declared that "the men working in and around the coal mines of West Virginia, for the past 30 years, have not been allowed to exercise their state and constitutional rights, and have been forced to work under the most brutal gun mine guards system."

"For the past 12 months the miners of Mingo county, of this state, have been locked out from their work because they joined our union, and during this time thousands of our women and children have suffered and sacrificed, and numbers of our men have given up their lives in this struggle."

At the present moment 861 of our members, including the president and other officials of both districts in this state, are indicted by frameup evidence, charged with conspiracy and murder."

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## COUNTRY UNITES IN CAMPAIGN TO PUT END TO WAR

Public Men Meet With Gompers and Define Position on World Disarmament.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—At the conclusion of a two-day session in this city the national disarmament advisory committee invited to convene by President Gompers formed a permanent organization to be known as the general committee for limitation of armament.

The organization will be directed by a board of governors of 21 members and an executive committee of five. There will be a chairman, honorary chairman, secretary, treasurer and an executive secretary. Offices will be opened in Washington at once.

Membership on the board of governors will be so arranged as to make that body representative of all organized groups which favor limitation of armament.

The two-day conference, presided over by President Gompers, was remarkable for its unity of view point and for its expression of determination to give force to Mr. Gompers' declaration for "the furthest limit" of disarmament.

**No Definite Proposals.**  
In its declaration of principles and purpose the conference said, in part: "It is not our purpose to attempt to suggest definite proposals to end war. The heavy responsibility rests on the appointed representatives of our own and other governments."

"But we believe that a few general principles are accepted as self-evident by a great majority of our fellow countrymen, and that it may be helpful to restate them at this time."

"The United States alone and single handed cannot best serve the great cause of peace by disarming. Even is such solitary disarmament were possible to a limited extent, it would not make for world peace. It would only lessen our power to stand for freedom and to protect democracy throughout the world. Disarmament can be made effective only by international agreement. There is no other way."

**Chief Cause of War.**  
"Great armies and navies are not the chief causes of war. Rightful as is the burden they put upon the peoples of the earth a great world war is infinitely worse. Great armaments are not the only means of destruction. Terrible as will be the devastation of the world by its armies and navies, the poison gases and deadly chemical compounds now being discovered in the secret laboratories of many nations, even those which may have a peace-time use, may annihilate civilization in the next war. Against such destruction no disarmament can protect us."

"The limitation of armaments is a good thing in itself. It will save the great nations of the world from threatened financial collapse. It is a long step forward but it is not peace."

"The causes of war lie far deeper. The awful madness of war is rooted in economic necessities and greed, in paralyzing fear of unprovoked attack, in ancient wrongs not yet righted."

"The agenda of the coming international conference give us reason to believe that together with the limitation of armaments some of the causes of war will be considered."

**Confession of Faith.**  
"It is in this hope and in support of our American representatives that we submit on behalf of ourselves and of the millions of men and women in the United States the following confession of faith:

"We pronounce to the world our deep and abiding faith in democracy and therefore in peace."

"We proclaim to the world a faith that has not been dampened or smothered by past official lassitude or diplomatic delay and evasion."

"We demand international peace."

"We demand an official policy which shall lead the nations of the world into the thinking of peace, the building for peace, the will to have peace."

"We have just gone through a great war—a war without precedent. This we did for a great cause. We fought for the life of democracy, that its institutions and its spirit might be preserved."

"We have assured to democracy the right to live and to function."