

KNOWLEDGE IS MANKIND'S Greatest Benefactor; False Teaching Is Civilization's Greatest Adicap.

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THE LABOR WORLD

AMERICAN LABOR WILL NOT BE OUTLAWED OR ENSLAVED DULUTH, MINNESOTA, MAY 6, 1922.

WE WANT EVERY PERSON OF Liberal Thought in Duluth and Elsewhere to Be a Patron of The Labor World.

FIVE CENTS.

DUMMY CONTRACTS MAY INVOLVE RAILROADS IN NATIONAL STRIKE

Decision of Workers to Quit Will Be Followed by Order of Executive Council; Plans Made for Defense Fund and Commissaries to Feed Strikers and Their Families.

By CLINT C. HOUSTON.

Chicago, May 4.—Two strike votes are being taken among the 500,000 mechanical shop craft employes on all railroads in the United States. The first vote deals with farming out shops and employes to dummy contractors to evade paying the scale of wages fixed by the Railroad Labor Board and the re-establishment of piece-work through coercive measures of the managers.

Overtime Pay an Issue. The second strike ballot will be on final acceptance or rejection of the board's decision eliminating overtime pay for Sunday and holiday work, a practice hitherto prevailing on some railroad systems for as long as 40 years.

This action was taken by unanimous vote of 500 delegates at the sixth biennial convention of the Railway Employees' Department, American Federation of Labor, which closed a two weeks' session in this city last Saturday afternoon. Immediately upon the strike vote the board's decision eliminating overtime pay for Sunday and holiday work, a practice hitherto prevailing on some railroad systems for as long as 40 years.

Will Establish Defense Fund. Judging from sentiment of delegates in the convention, the vote to strike will be practically unanimous.

These landlords, whose gouging have become a state scandal, objected to the ordinance because the installation cost of \$25 would have to be paid by them.

The disorder began when Chief Kenlon suggested that landlords where making enough through high rents to assume the cost. Howls greeted the statement. The disorder continued when the fire fighter asked: "Who are the people who are opposed to this ordinance? They are the landlords, many of whom are getting large sums of money for single rooms."

Mr. Kenlon said that leaking gas is one of the greatest menaces which firemen have to contend and the question of lives is more important than dollars. But faint applause greeted his inquiry: "What man or woman is there here who would not spend \$25 to save the life of a fireman?"

Fists were shaken in the face of the representative of brave men who risk their lives every day to save property of those gougers who trembled with rage at the thought of being assessed \$25 a building to install gas cut-offs.

Whartons Given an Ovation. Mr. Wharton attended the convention for one full day and made an address in which he gave interesting information as to the work of the board. He said that the shop crafts continue to agitate for the creation of bipartisan boards of adjustment as provided for in section 302 of the transportation act, with the provision the carriers have consistently refused to comply. It was given a great ovation by the delegates, many of whom have been associated with him in the organized labor movement for many years.

McCleod Defends His Policies. "Your telegram received. Please assure the members of the convention of my cordial appreciation of their generous telegram. My sole guiding principle as director get out in dealing with railroad employes was to square justice to them with public interest, and this as done. In spite of the falsifications of certain soreheads and discredited railroad officials and their paid propagandists the irrefutable truth is emerging. During my recent testimony before the Senate committee on interstate commerce at Washington Senator Cummins said: 'I think the men have been slandered all the way through' (see p. 1895 of hearings). I agree with the Senator, and the public will agree with him once the truth is published. With patient and determined courage of good citizens, let us see that it is not suppressed."

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TREASON TRIAL BEING HELD IN HISTORIC TOWN

Hundreds of Miners Brought to Charles Town Where John Brown Was Executed

By International Labor News Service.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—The Morgan and Rockefeller interests dominate the coal industry. Control of the industry is both direct and indirect, following along lines of financial organization which will result in the greatest net profit to the Wall Street banking group.

The International Labor News Service has given in detail the relationship between the U. S. Steel Corporation and the coal industry and has shown the control of the anthracite industry through the railroads.

A third interest is that of Standard Oil, which controls operations in Colorado through the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company and has large coal holdings throughout the northern coal field. The Standard Oil group at one time stood out as a rival to the Morgan group but now they are merged and the interests are identical. The merging of these interests is through interlocking boards of directors whose interests can be traced through the Wall Street banks to the coal railroads and coal companies.

Clever manipulation of the railroad and coal companies by the financial interests has resulted in covering up the profits and has been the principal reason for the increase of the price of coal to the consumer.

"Separation" Leads to New Device for Profit-Making. Ostensibly the mines and the railroads have been separated, but virtually the idea of separation has been carried a step farther in the formation of a third class of corporations, all three of which divide the profit from coal. The third corporation is the coal sales company, which does not handle any coal but acts as a broker or middleman. When the householder buys a ton of coal he pays five profits in addition to the wages of the coal miner. The first goes to the mining corporation, the second to the coal sales company, the third to the broker, the fourth to the railroad, and the fifth to the retailer.

The arrogance of the coal interests is a source of much worry to the administration in Washington. Apparently the chief offenders are above the law. So far, however, the government has been able to prevent increases in the price of coal. It is admittedly the policy of the coal interests to maintain the lockout until their supply of coal has been sold, and it has been their expectation to sell this surplus coal at a big profit. The government as well as some of the operators realize the danger of such a policy because of its probable effect on the public.

Coal Business Graft Hidden; Many Plans, None in Operation. Washington is full of plans for settling coal strikes. Some of these would frankly recognize the control by Wall Street and attempt to control the mines through these financial interests. Most of the plans are not based upon sound information, principally because there is no sound information about the coal industry. Congressman Nolan would remedy this through a commission whose purpose would be to obtain the necessary information.

Any attempt at obtaining information about the actual condition of the coal industry has been fought by the coal operators and especially by the financial interests who are reaping such extraordinary profits through the present method of profit-making. The chief weapon of the monopoly of capital is the unregulated control of the coal supply. This unregulated control can best be maintained by discouraging actual knowledge of the facts. The coal industry is reeking with graft.

When called upon by Judge Woods to select the first defendant for trial the state nominated William Blizard, the boyish-looking president of the subdistrict that has jurisdiction over gun-men-controlled Logan county.

"That was to be expected, seeing as how I was the only defendant in the state when the Logan march occurred," said Blizard, who declared that he can prove "that instead of being a traitor, I was really trying to head off the marchers and get them to turn back."

TEAMSTERS SIGN. Organized teamsters of Seattle have renewed their yearly agreement with employers, despite the latter's claim that they would enforce the anti-union shop.

PLUMBERS STRIKE ENDS. Employing plumbers of Marinette, Wis., have been defeated in their attempt to install the anti-union shop. They accepted last year's wage rate and working conditions.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., May 4.—Large anti-union coke and coal interests are surprised at gains made among their employes by organizers of the transportation system of New York City, and the H. C. Frick coal and coke company, which is controlled by the steel trust.

The miners claim that they have closed over 150 workings in the Fayette-Connellsville field. The coal owners make no attempt to conceal their surprise at the ironworkers' unionists have hit points that were considered invulnerable and the experience of the western Pennsylvania coal owners will make them more cautious in dealing with their non-union employes, for they now realize that every one of their employes is liable to join the union.

U. S. SUPREME COURT PUTS BAN ON DECEPTIVE LABELS. WASHINGTON, May 4.—The United States supreme court has ruled that trade names and labels that are deceptive to the purchasing public can not be used. The case was brought by the federal trade commission against manufacturers of certain brands of underwear.

The court upheld the commission's order forbidding the company to label goods "merino," "wool" and "worsted" unless the underwear is actually made of these materials.

The company's attorney, tried to convince the court that the public knows the underwear is not what it is claimed to be but the court replied:

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ROADS, BANKS, OIL AND STEEL IN ALLIANCE TO EXPLOIT COAL

Morgan and Rockefeller Interests Dominate Industry Through Financial Relations; Five Profits on Top of Wages Paid by Consumers of Coal; Business Graft-Ridden.

By International Labor News Service.

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FEDERAL COURT FAVORS PENNSY AGAINST LABOR

Railroad Labor Board Loses in Fight Against Road That Defied Its Ruling.

By International Labor News Service.

CHICAGO, May 4.—Federal Judge Page has upheld an injunction secured against the railroad labor board by the Pennsylvania railroad wherein the board is restrained from making public its seizure because the railroad violated the board's order.

The court's refusal to dismiss the injunction, originally issued by Federal Judge Landis, has dumbfounded the board which finds itself gagged when it attempts to apply the only weapon congress armed it with—publicity.

Under the Cummins-Esch law the board is given wide powers to interfere with the railroad industry in the event that transportation is liable to be interfered with. Last year when the Pennsylvania was establishing its company "union," organized shop men on that system presented proof to the board which showed that the railroad was ordered to hold a new election, but ignored the order. The board then prepared a censure, but before the document could be made public the railroad secured an order from Federal Judge Landis which enjoined the board from in any manner interfering that the railroad refused to accept an award by the board.

May 4.—Small railroads, at least, must obey orders of the United States railroad labor board or be branded public enemies of the laws of the United States.

This is the ultimatum of the board in handing down a decision adjudging the Interstate railroad, a Virginia line, guilty of disobeying its orders to reinstate two employes who were discharged because they gave advice to other employes on wage questions.

While this road is declared by the decision to be "only a small road down in the Virginia mountains," it is further stated that "it connects with other roads which extend the effect of its illegal acts to the rights of its men and for the authority of law extends to employes of other roads."

United States Railroad Labor Board decisions are binding as law and can be enforced in the courts, according to a decision of the Supreme Court of Mississippi, received by the Labor Board today.

The Mississippi court's decision is opposed to the popular conception that the Board's decisions can be enforced only by opinion and to a recent decision by Federal Judge George T. Egan of Illinois, who ruled that unless the parties to the controversy agreed to a joint submission to the Board, the Board had no power to rule on a case except when commerce was likely to be hindered, and who also ruled that the Board acted only in an advisory capacity in making decisions.

Michigan Voters Break Away From Party Lines. DETROIT, Mich., May 4.—In inaugurating the convention call for the state federation of labor, Secretary-Treasurer Sounelle declared that in this spring's election in cities and townships there was more independence of partisan political party voting than ever before.

A recognition of the "need for choosing men and women because of fitness for offices to be filled rather than a loyalty to party heresy was evidenced in every section."

COAL OWNERS SELL PRODUCT THROUGH BOGUS OPERATORS. WASHINGTON, May 4.—By means of a system of bookkeeping which confuses the public, big coal owners, through bogus independent operators and faked sales, sell coal many times and charge a profit each time, said Nelson P. Gaskill, chairman of the federal trade commission, testifying before the house labor committee.

The federal trade commission, he said, knows of numerous instances where a single car load of coal has been sold 12 times without delivery being made to any of the "purchasers," but with all of them exacting a profit.

The witness urged an investigation of the industry. He said that big producing companies often own the coal they produce down through the various hands to retail distribution, but cover up this fact by a bewildering system of bookkeeping.

ANCIENT STAR CHAMBER JURISDICTION ASSUMED BY AMERICAN COURTS OF EQUITY. By JOHN P. FREY.

Trial by jury does not exist in equity court proceedings. The great difference between the court of Star Chamber and the law courts of England was the fact that no jury listened to evidence and determined the facts in Star Chamber proceedings.

The notorious Star Chamber was vested with a large measure of the high courage and character of a few indirection and discretion which is at present exercised by American equity courts.

The right of the act of Parliament creating the Court of Star Chamber contained the expression that it was established "to secure the certain and speedy punishment of all persons who, in the opinion of the court, deserved punishment."

All of the judges who sat in the Star Chamber were not corrupt, unlearned or violently prejudiced men, many were selected from the most honest, able, learned and conscientious among the judges, but the high courage and character of a few did not save the court from becoming an instrument of gross injustice, and history has recorded the sinister part played by this court.

It became so vindictive, cruel, pitiless, and gathered so much power to itself that it would have put an end to the liberties of the British people if they had not abolished it. As one distinguished publicist said:

"Had there been no Star Chamber there would have been no rebellion against Charles I."

From the earliest Saxon days Englishmen have based the protection of their liberties upon the jury system.

Over 300 years ago, a British jurist said:

"By the laws of King Ethelred it is apparent that juries were in use many years before the conquest; and they are, as it were, incorporated in our constitution, being the most valuable part of it."

OPEN SHOP CAMPAIGN FAILS TO BREAK SPIRIT OF UNION LABOR

Anti-Union Employers Surprised at Way Workers are Sticking. No 'Dog-Eat-Dog' Attitude; They Confront Unemployment Period With Grim Determination to Hold Up.

By CHARLES M. KELIE.

Washington, D. C., May 4.—A charge not frequently made against the workers is that "they won't stick." The exploding employer wants to believe that they maintain a dog-eat-dog attitude and can be relied upon to cut each other throats in a struggle for existence becomes accentuated by reason of unemployment or any other condition that tends to reduce the level of subsistence.

Perhaps they may have been some basis for the indictment in the past, but it is rapidly losing its force, if it has not definitely been laid on the shelf along with many other popular conceptions.

Faced with the greatest unemployment in the history of the nation, driven and battered by laboring employers, confronted with all the resources of the "open shop" crowd, and trod upon by legislative bodies amenable to the coercion and dictation of the employing class, the workers at this particular moment might be forgiven if they fell back on nature's first law and sought to preserve themselves at the expense of their brethren who are making a similar fight to live.

No Scramble for Jobs. Dogs eat dogs only when they are hungry. Workers, the employers thought, could be relied upon to indulge in a merry scramble for jobs if jobs were scarce. This was the inspiration of the "open shop" campaign. There was to be widespread unemployment, followed by an attempt to cut wages and lengthen hours.

The idea was to starve a few million men for a few months and then offer them a chance to scrounge on other workers who were to be put through the starving process, preparatory to calling upon them in turn to scab upon those who were to get another dose of "deflation."

It was a beautiful theory, but like many theories, it didn't work out in practice.

The workers prefer staying to scabbing as the records will show. What Happened in New England. In New England textile workers have for three months made a brave fight against starvation wages and back-breaking hours. They have held up the mills and they remain tied up. A resolute effort has been made to get strikebreakers, but they are not to be had in sufficient number to make mill operation profitable.

There are in New England more than 600,000 jobless men and women. They have been hungry for more than a year. The employer regarded them as strikebreaking material, because the employer never learns any new ideas. He has his face to the wind and he rules by tradition and precedent. He can not understand that there is new social leaven in the economic lump. He has forgotten, if he ever knew, that the war that didn't exactly strike home for democracy did not do so for the workers. The heads of workers that are sticking there like cockle burrs to the tail of a mule. Hence New England textile bosses are facing staggering losses resulting from the idle mills and a costly campaign for strikebreakers who are not to be had.

COAL MINERS STRIKE. When the 600,000 coal miners of the nation struck for a wage scale and working conditions the operators realized that the jig was up and went off on a vacation. The former unworked mines are an idle field. Tennessee's mines are there until the miners, in their own good time and their most approved way, decide how and when the men shall take up their picks. As proof of the solidarity of workers the miners strike means nothing to be desired.

In addition, however, the thousands of non-union miners, counted upon to dig enough coal to keep the nation's needs supplied and thus enable the operators to settle the strike by the favorite starvation method, laid down their tools joined by their union brethren in protest against starvation wages.

The coal barons were not looking for this unexpected attack and are beginning to realize that the old order has changed.

Workers Make Common Cause. The fact that non-union workers have gone into a strike, and that a life and death struggle seems to be pretty conclusive proof that mining conditions are as bad as they possibly can be, and that the workers, regardless of their affiliations or lack of them, are making common cause to secure better conditions.

The Western Maryland railroad farmed out its shops and maintenance work to a dummy contractor, who immediately proceeded to cut wages and impose degrading conditions upon the 1900 men employed by that contractor. They would stand for this raw deal and struck.

That, apparently, is what the management wanted them to do. Hitherto it has been comparatively easy to recruit a trainload of strikebreakers to take the places of protesting railway workmen and the Western Maryland people probably thought that all that was needed

PROVIDENCE, R. I., May 4.—More than 2,000 textile strikers stood in front of the state house, and with uplifted hands, repeated after President McMahon of the United Textile Workers a pledge to "go out and clean up this state from the rottenness that controls it," and "to do all in our power to urge the house of representatives."

The strikers through the state house in an effort to induce the senate to act on the 48-hour bill, which is now in the judiciary committee. By a vote of 25 to 7 the senate refused to take it from the committee. One senator declared that his colleague "would go down in history as a moral coward unless he brought the bill out on a vote on it on its merits."

When the strikers were denied admission to the senate gallery, they adjourned to the plaza in front of the state house.

CONGRESSMAN ANDERSON HITS FREIGHT CHARGES. WASHINGTON, May 4.—Freight charges on farm products and many other commodities "bear a disproportionate relation to the price of such commodities" and should be immediately reduced, according to Congressman Anderson, chairman of the joint congressional commission of agricultural inquiry.

These rates should not only come down but rate-making bodies and railroad traffic officers are advised to give "greater consideration to the relative value of commodities in the making of rates" and let existing charges on high-priced finished products stand, if necessary, to reduce cost business from basic materials.

Federal Judge J. V. Quarles in issuing an injunction against striking molders restrained them from "impeding or hindering" the defendants above named, and each of them is, ordered, commanded and enjoined to desist from assaulting or committing personal violence upon any of the persons in the employ of, or seeking employment with said companies.

Another prominent feature of many injunctions has been the indefinite character of the language used.

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