

STATE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION HOLDS PRINTERS' STRIKE JUST

Reports on Hearings Held in 1921; Union Representatives Say State Bureau Was Influenced by Politics.

One year and a half after hearing evidence in the strike of St. Paul and Minneapolis Typographical unions for the 44-hour work week the state industrial commission of Minnesota has this week filed its report in which it declares that the unions were justified in expecting the shorter work week on account of the agreement made by the national organizations of employing printers and the printing trades unions, which was repudiated by Minnesota employing printers.

Urges Industrial Court. The state commission regrets that it has not the power or authority to enforce its awards and suggests that "arbitrations and agreements resulting from collective bargaining should be construed and enforced by some impartial agency, whenever a dispute arises relating thereto."

James Fullerton, business agent of Local No. 20 of the Pressmen's union of Minneapolis, declared that the commission had purposely held up the report until after the election in the interest of the Republican administration. He said that the release of the report on the eve of the meeting of the legislature, with a recommendation for an "impartial agency" to enforce decisions was for the purpose of creating "propaganda" for the enactment of a law in Minnesota similar to the Kansas industrial court law.

The report of the commission contains 10 typewritten pages in which the events leading up to the strike are reviewed. Considerable space is devoted to answering criticism directed at the commission for its failure to make formal findings of the facts disclosed at the hearings with its conclusions and recommendations.

"In view of the fact that there is no power vested in the commission to enforce any judgment or conclusion with reference to the relative rights of the parties in a controversy of this character," the report declares, "it will seldom, if ever, serve any useful purpose for the commission to aggravate the local conditions resulting from a national movement involving employers and employees in any particular industry."

Informal Conference Held. The first move for a hearing, according to the report, was made by the commission on July 11, 1921, when representatives of all parties in the controversy were invited to an informal conference at which the commission was to hear the views of some of those present did not feel that they were authorized to act for the various interests involved. At the second meeting persons representing the employers stated they did not desire to enter into any negotiations with the organization representing the employees on any basis whatever.

Upon petition of the Minneapolis Typographical union No. 42, Minneapolis Pressmen's union No. 20, Minneapolis Press Assistants' union No. 6, Twin City Book Binders' union No. 12, and similar organizations in St. Paul, the commission adopted a resolution and served it upon all of the employing printers of the Twin Cities calling for a public hearing to be held in St. Paul starting Aug. 1, 1921.

The St. Paul Typothetae appeared at this hearing and filed a petition restating the position of the employers that there was at that time nothing to arbitrate and objecting to a public hearing on the grounds that the striking printers had not complied with the law by seeking mediation before the industrial commission in the calling of the strike on June 1, 1921. The Minneapolis Typographical representative appeared but afterwards withdrew from participation in the hearing.

Origin of Wage Dispute. The outstanding facts disclosed by the investigation, the report declares, are that for more than 15 years prior to 1920 there had been a system of collective bargaining between the employing printers of the Twin Cities and the various printing crafts, and during that time harmonious relations existed, but on account of the rapidly advancing cost of living, as well as the general increase in wage scales in all activities existing in the beginning of 1920, the wage scale that had been agreed upon in the contracts entered into in 1919 became inadequate, and certain actions were taken during the winter of 1919 and 1920 on the part of the employees to bring about a modification of the wage schedules embodied in the agreements commencing June 1, 1919, for a two-year period.

While these negotiations were pending a large portion of the men who seemed to be dissatisfied on account of what they regarded as undue delay on the part of the employer, left their employment as individuals on April 20, 1920. It does not appear that this was the result of any formal act of the union or the direction of the officers, but the street was the same as a formally authorized strike. On account of the economic conditions existing at that time, the employers were obliged to grant an increase in the existing wage schedule.

The employees contend that this (Continued on page 2)

STANDARD GETS FINAL LEASE IN WYOMING FIELD

Secretary Fall Signs Contract Granting Concessions.

By International Labor News Service. Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—Virtual control of the Wyoming oil field by the Standard Oil group was acquired on Dec. 20 through a contract which Secretary Fall of the interior department awarded to the Sinclair Crude Oil Purchasing company a five-year deal covering the purchase of all royalty oil accruing to the government from the Salt Creek field.

This contract is an inevitable sequence to the Teapot Dome deal which, it is charged, Secretary Fall and Secretary Denby of the navy department, negotiated in secret with the Sinclair interests and which is now under investigation by congress. The Standard Oil group, already having the contract for taking the oil of the Wyoming field, is in a favored position with reference to taking over that part of the oil which accrues to the government as royalty.

The procedure in the latter contract is in direct contrast to the Teapot Dome negotiations. In the Teapot Dome deal independent companies had no opportunity to bid and the public was not informed that the deal had been made. The government even denied the existence of a contract until forced by congressional pressure to admit it. In the last deal a carefully prepared statement had been issued by the secretary showing that thirteen firms competed for the contract for the purchase of royalty oil.

It is expected that congress will include this contract in its investigations of the oil industry, which is now pending in the senate.

G. N. CASUALTY LIST JUMPS UP

Killed and Injured For October Higher Than Last Year.

St. Paul, Dec. 28.—The number of employees killed or injured on the Great Northern railway company's lines during the month of October, 1922, was 96 per cent greater than October, 1921, according to a report of C. L. LaFontaine, general safety supervisor of the Great Northern, made public today.

The same report indicates that the number of employees killed or injured in October of the present year was 28 per cent greater than the same month in 1920, and 84 per cent greater than that of October, 1919. For the 10 months ending Oct. 31, the report shows that the number of employees killed or injured was 1,727, as against 1,270 for the same period last year. The report also shows that 321 persons, including employees, were killed or injured during the month of October, 1922, as against 167 during October, 1921; 248 during October, 1920, and 188 during October, 1919.

Laid to Equipment. R. A. Henning, manager of the shophmen's strike for the northwest, in commenting upon this report declares that the increase in the number of persons killed and injured is due to the unrepaid and poorly repaired equipment, as a result of the company's refusal to settle the strike.

"Our investigation shows that practically every wreck since July 1 has been the result of either unrepaid or poorly repaired equipment," Mr. Henning said. "We have tended right along that the so-called replacement men employed by the road which have refused to settle, are incompetent. As a result of their poor work, the wrecks have occurred."

PLUMBING LAW ILLEGAL. County Judge Dunn of Littleton, Colo., has declared illegal the state law which delegates to the state board of plumbing inspectors the power to license and withhold licenses from plumbers.

BARNES STANDS WITH LABOR ON WAGE QUESTION

Holds Only Well Paid Workers are Good Buyers.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—Julius H. Barnes of Duluth, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, stands for a program of higher wages, according to a speech made here last week. Intelligent merchants throughout the country have long admitted labor's contention that higher wages mean more buying of commodities, necessitating increased and more efficient production, which in turn makes possible the payment of still higher wages. Mr. Barnes said he was submitting his statement "for the consideration of those who believe that wages and salaries must return to the standards of 1912." He said:

"This ability to produce more and more things with fewer and fewer employees, and therefore, lower costs, can not help but by the very pressure of this ever-increasing industrial production press into more and more homes. The very industrial production itself and the increase assures us of wide distribution of the buying power of our people. That production can not be secured or maintained by the expenditures of the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few. It can only come from a very widely disseminated earning and spending power of our people generally.

"As the ability of each worker to produce more by the aid of mechanical power increases, the earning capacity and the earning value of that worker increases. That is a very serious statement and I submit it for the consideration of those who believe that wages and salaries must return to the standards of 1912. The earning power of a man today, better equipped, better educated, more productive, because of mechanical aids, does not have to return to the standards of 1912 to establish a normal balance of earning and productive power. That this is not the tendency is shown by every measure which you can apply. Between 1914 and 1920 the wage scales of this country in six years increased by hourly wages one hundred and fifty per cent; weekly wages, one hundred and twenty; and monthly wages, one hundred and twenty. The average family income in the United States in 1919 was \$1,470. In 1919, \$2,700. These are not inflation figures. They are the evidences, exaggerated, if you please, and subjected to some setback, but the evidences of a distinct and sound economic tendency in buying."

COURT DECLARES LABOR ACT VOID

Pennsylvania Mine Cave-in Law Held to Be Confiscatory.

COMPANY UNION BOUND TO FAIL

Organizer Formed by Western Timber Bosses Slumbers.

The timber bosses' company "union" is traveling the inevitable road to oblivion. This "union" is known as the local legion of loggers and lumbermen. At the meeting of its board of directors in Portland, Or., the president reported that "the greatest difficulty" in the past six months was the number of employees who have deserted the "union," as they "have felt no immediate need of protection against industrial radicalism."

Officers of the bona fide union of timber workers remind workers of the claim by trade unionists that the employers would throw over the board the enormous value others have created and which are being concentrated in the hands of those who refuse workers a living wage and the right to organize.

Stock dividends are an answer to the continuous whine by the defendants of reaction and privilege that alleged high wages are a drag on industry. The stock dividend is evidence that the employer and profiteer are making new records and that wage earners are not being justly compensated.

The stock dividend does not tell the full story of corporate profits. Behind these are princely salaries and numerous funds and holdings that can not be untraced or understood save by one acquainted with the intricacies of accountancy.

The "trickery" of corporations in the

SHIP SUBSIDY SCHEME STRIKES SNAG FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

Validity of Measure to Be Attacked on Floor of Senate; Will Discriminate Against Ports of Various States.

By International Labor News Service. Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—The constitutionality of the ship subsidy bill before the U. S. senate will be attacked on the floor of the senate shortly in a manner that will make short shrift of the elaborate preparations made by the proponents of the measure to put it over.

The basis for the attack is the following provision of the U. S. Constitution: "No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another."

One of the striking features of the ship subsidy bill is the great number of provisions for preference to the ports of one state over those of another by regulations of commerce or revenue.

A greater evil, considering the spirit of the Constitution, is the fact that congress by this bill would delegate to the U. S. shipping board the power to make almost any discrimination it chose in favor of one port against another.

The bill, as illustrated by the following clause, admits that discriminations will result and purposes to remedy the evil by empowering the U. S. shipping board to establish new preferences: "Whenever the board and the commission are both of opinion, and certify, that putting into effect or keeping in effect the provisions of this section will result in unjust discrimination between ports of the United States on commerce accustomed to move through such ports, or in materially changing the character of transportation within the United States, or in unduly congesting one or more of the ports of the United States, the commission shall, by order, suspend the operation of said provisions until such time as it and the board reach a contrary conclusion in the premises, whereupon such suspension shall, by order, be terminated by the commission upon 20 days' notice as hereinbefore provided for the termination of their senators to the unconstitutionality of the measure. They assert that it is unconstitutional."

from the standpoint of the commerce clause, because the U. S. shipping board is given power to pay subsidy to ships sailing a certain route from one port and not to ships sailing the same route from another port. They also assert that the measure is unconstitutional from the standpoint of the revenue clause for two reasons; first, because of the income tax exemption, and second, because of the 10 per cent reduction of duties on cargoes allowed to vessels operating from ports favored by the U. S. shipping board.

No prudent business man would risk making a subsidy contract with the U. S. shipping board knowing that a suit to annul the subsidy was inevitable.

What is the Constitution among friends? It has long been a maxim of big business. Somebody has made the mistake of taking that literally. Many acts passed by congress would probably be declared unconstitutional if referred to the U. S. Supreme court. Nobody bothers to raise the issue in many instances. For instance, nobody has yet had nerve to question the constitutionality of the Mann White Slave law although lawyers will admit readily that a good case could be built up attacking it. Not so with the Ship Subsidy bill. The question will arise. That is not the point, however. It will be interesting to know how many senators will ignore the Constitution in their desire to serve proponents of the Ship Subsidy bill.

If this is a pertinent question, members of the house and senate have waited until this late day without raising such an obvious question about the constitutionality of the measure, how many of them understand even a little of the ramifications of the thousands and one other curious provisions of the bill?

Judge Harris of the district court at Emporia, Kan., has dismissed the state's case against William Allen White, who was charged by Governor Allen with violating the "can't-strike" law when he posted a sign protesting "49 per cent sympathy" with striking railroad shop men.

"This case was commenced recklessly or maliciously, without investigation of the facts to ascertain whether the prosecution was justified," said the court.

William Allen White posted his sign a short time after the shop men's strike started. The governor claimed this was sympathizing with an unlawful act, and was a violation of the law. The governor secured enough publicity over the case for half a dozen lectures, and then paid no more attention to it. The accused insisted he was denied the right of free expression of opinion. On three occasions he appeared for trial.

IS THIS A LIVING WAGE? The bureau of census reports that the average wage last year for 7,816 workers in the leather gloves and mittens industry was \$14.80 a week.

concealing profits is indicated by the recent account of how a well-known 5-and-10-cent store corporation "lost" profits aggregating \$20,000,000. This concern was carrying on its books "good will" as an asset, which it valued at \$50,000,000. Aside from some leaseholds, this asset was intangible and pure guesswork. The corporation had profits of \$50,000,000 and had to dispose of these 100 million "good will" to reduce the \$50,000,000 "good will" asset to \$40,000,000.

In other words, the corporation took \$20,000,000 from one pocket and put it in another pocket. By this jugglery \$20,000,000 in profits were wiped out, with the money remaining in the hands of the corporation. This "tricky bookkeeping" is useful if the government would call for a record of profits that have been "sweated" from immature girls and little children.

RISK COMPANIES READY TO FIGHT STATE FUND ACT

State Agencies Assessed to Raise Big Fund, Rumored.

There are well founded rumors in St. Paul and Minneapolis, according to the Minnesota Star, that the agencies for the big stock liability insurance companies doing business in Minnesota have just levied a one per cent assessment on state premiums and a 2 1/2 per cent assessment on all agencies within the state for the purpose of raising a fund to fight any proposed legislation in the form of a state insurance law.

The assessment, it is declared, will raise between \$100,000 and \$125,000 which is to be used in a campaign of advertising, principally in the country papers, to show the people that a state insurance law would be against the interests of the working people.

It is well known that the insurance interests have succeeded in killing every attempt that has been made in Minnesota to pass a so-called state insurance law.

The Minnesota State Federation of Labor many years ago declared for the state fund plan for administering the workmen's compensation act. The law creating the present state industrial commission was enacted in the hope that it would put a quietus on state insurance. It has not succeeded.

The state fund plan has succeeded admirably in Washington and Ohio. In the latter state many millions of dollars have been saved to employers and the injured workers were actually compensated, whereas in Minnesota the compensation is but a pittance.

The employers' liability companies have frightened the other insurance people into believing that the state fund system of administering workmen's compensation is but an entering wedge for state socialism and unless the plan was killed now it would not be long before the state would be doing a general insurance business.

Of course there is nothing to such argument. There are reasons why the state should administer a workmen's compensation law which is not applicable to life, fire or other insurance. In any event the entire insurance fraternity is lined up against labor in its desire for a state industrial insurance law. A pretty fight is expected at the coming session of the legislature.

LOGGERS SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Real Trade Unionism Scores Fine Victory on Coast.

The International Union of Timber Workers has won its eight-hour fight at Weed, Cal., and at Klamath Falls, Or. These movements have been on during the entire year. The Klamath Falls timber bosses were ungracious enough to publicly state that they "voluntarily restored the eight-hour day," despite the fact that they were soundly licked in an attempt to establish the long work day.

"The winning of this strike means much more to the workers of the northwest than immediate gains to those directly involved," union officials declare.

The lumber lords cannot successfully defeat workers who are properly organized. It also means that workers have again been impressed with the fact that complete and proper organization is the only safeguard for the present; their only hope for the future."

The significance of stock dividends and other profit concealments is not discussed by our "molders of public opinion."

Those who have the publicity machinery to enlighten the people on this subject are in the stock-dividend game themselves. They, too, are interested in profit despite their idealistic pretenses.

HIDES FIGHT ON PROGRESSIVES WITH "SCIENTIFIC" SMOKE VEIL

Wall Street Banks Cover Opposition With Big Biz Propaganda; Attempt to Chloroform Public to Sleep.

By CHESTER M. WRIGHT. The National City Bank of New York and the New York Trust company are among banking concerns which publish periodical reviews of important economic financial and political events. It appears to be the intention to give these reviews the appearance of impartiality and to create the impression that they speak as the final word of authority. Presumably they are distributed among stockholders and depositors but they find a growing circulation outside of these ranks and they may be had by anyone who will inquire for them.

CITY OWNED CAR LINE TO RETURN TO 5-CENT FARE

Seattle Council Determined to Lower Present Rate.

Under the three-rides-for-a-quarter purchase price and interest thereon, Seattle's city council is determined to lower appreciably the \$1-3 cents cost of a trolley ride and let the question of practicability be settled as best it may.

Under the three-rides-for-a-quarter system, Seattle's municipal railway has been just about "breaking even" in paying off the \$15,000,000 purchase price and interest thereon. Presumably the increase in patronage under a lower fare would enable the lines to continue to "break even." Or perhaps, some other source of revenue can be found for paying off obligations. These are side questions. The essential fact is that Seattle's street railway must serve a greater number of Seattle persons and this cannot be done without a cut in fare.

The method of cutting is the only subject in dispute, all members of the council except John E. Carroll, being seemingly agreed on the need for a cash reduction. Mr. Carroll is advocating a system of weekly passes under which a pass may be sold at \$1.00 and the holder be allowed to ride free for one week.

Several methods are being discussed, including the proposal of a 5-cent fare for the sale of five tokens for 25 cents, transfers being allowed only on token fares or from a few specified "feeder" lines.

Under the bill school children's rates are to remain at 3 cents for cash fare, two children for 5 cents or tickets good for 10 rides for 25 cents, transfers being allowed either on cash or ticket fare for school children.

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FREAR STILL ON MELLON'S TRAIL

Wisconsin Congressman Making It Hot For Him.

Congressman Frear of Wisconsin has renewed his attack on Secretary of the Treasury Mellon for permitting great wealth to escape taxation.

Under the law the secretary can levy a penalty of 25 per cent where he believes corporations hold surpluses to evade payment of income taxes by individuals. These corporations are now dividing their surpluses through stock dividends. Congressman Frear says upwards of \$2,000,000,000 in surpluses are escaping penalties and individual surtaxes because Secretary Mellon refuses to enforce the law.

"On the floor of the house Congressman Frear submitted a list of questions to the treasury official: 'Is it true,' he asked, 'that due to legal evasions possible under existing law, disclosed by the secret records of your office, that Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Mellon and others of great wealth are not paying one-fifth of the income tax they are popularly supposed to pay under the law based on their wealth, due to investments in tax-free securities, stock dividends, trusts, stock and bond exchanges and other forms for tax avoidance? I gather this is so from your official report. These are matters that congress has permitted to remain secret for legal reason, apparently, and I am hoping your answers will be specific, so that the necessity for full publicity can be determined by congress.'"

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