

ISSUES OF INTEREST TO ORGANIZED LABOR

Over 20,000 People Will See this Page Mr. Advertiser

WANTED NEWSPRESS

Big Business vs. National Labor Board

The Manufacturers' Council of New Jersey, in their meeting at Trenton, passed a set of resolutions calling upon President Wilson to remove Basil Manly as joint chairman of the national war labor board.

The American Federation of Labor passed a resolution in condemnation of the manufacturers' action.

Manly commented on the matter as follows: "This is not an attack on me but on the national war labor board, of which I have the honor to be joint chairman with ex-President William Howard Taft. Mr. Taft was nominated by the employer members of the board and I by the labor members."

"The motive of the attack on the war labor board is obvious. Certain selfish and unpatriotic employers, some of whom are in New Jersey, entered into solemn agreement during the war to abide by the decisions of the war labor board. Their employees kept faith and remained at work, but now these employers seek to violate their agreement and reduce wages below the figures fixed by the war labor board. Such employers seek to cover their own bad faith by their attacks on the board. This is obviously the motive which inspired the intemperate action of the manufacturers' council of New Jersey."

"As regards the demand for my resignation, I have no concern. I spoke the truth and nothing but the truth as every unbiased observer of the industrial situation knows."

"The part of my speech which evidently got under the hide of the New Jersey manufacturers was that in which I gave the results of a study of the war-time profiteering of a large number of American industrial corporations, many of which had New Jersey charters. The figures taken from the corporations' own reports, show that their net profits during the war after the payment of all corporation and excess profits taxes were nearly three times as great as the profits of the same corporations during the pre-war years. If the denunciation of such profiteering incited the manufacturers of New Jersey, I am ready to take the consequences."

"I note also that at the same meeting the New Jersey manufacturers found occasion to denounce the income tax which sought to secure for public use some portion of these excess profits."

"In my speech I urged that the serious industrial disturbances which I feared might be averted if the president of the United States should call an industrial conference of the leaders of capital and the leaders of organized labor at which a substantial basis and orderly progress might be reached. I said that an understanding might be reached if the big men who control American industry and are accustomed to doing things in a big way were summoned to the conference, and that it was the small manufacturer who was causing most of the trouble by his failure to understand that we have entered a new industrial era. The action of Mr. Brown and his colleagues of the New Jersey Manufacturers' Council seem to prove that I was right."

"This is a portion of the report of the speech which inspired the Council of Manufacturers to telegraph President Wilson demanding Mr. Manly's discharge from the office of chairman of the national war labor board."

"We are about to enter a period of the most acute industrial unrest of every kind that the American nation has ever known. Unless effective and radical steps are taken to bring about a better understanding between labor and capital and to establish an equitable basis for orderly industrial progress, we are certain to see within the next year strikes and mass movements of labor beside which all previous American strikes will pale into insignificance."

"Since the signing of the armistice we have had a large number of small strikes and a few great spectacular strikes—the Seattle strike, the New York harbor strike, the Lawrence strike, the garment trade strike, the Toledo strike, and a number of others of lesser consequence. But these have been so limited in comparison with the labor upheavals in other countries—in England, in Germany, in Canada, in Australia and in the Argentine—that there has been a public disposition to regard the industrial situation with complacency and to assume that, having passed through the first part of the period of transition without serious industrial disturbance, we were about to enter an era of industrial peace."

Trouble, Not Peace. But those who take this complacent attitude are deceiving themselves. Since the armistice American labor has been waiting. It has been waiting because the outstanding leader of the American labor movement, Samuel Gompers, was on an important government mission in Europe. It has been waiting because the American labor movement, expecting the war to continue much longer, had not formulated its definite policy before the signing of the armistice. Labor has been waiting also for the completion of the demobilization of troops and for the transition of our factories from war production to peace production. The period of waiting is now nearly completed. Demobilization is nearing an end. Our industries are beginning to swing into their nor-

mal production and next week, her in Atlantic City, there may be formulated, at the convention of the American Federation of Labor, a definite policy for the American labor movement.

I am making no threat that but sweep the Spaniards out of the American labor movement will not go but sweep unless it is driven to the course by the goadings of selfish and unrighteous capitalists and capitalist agents.

Those who ignore the American industrial situation with complacency ignore both the psychology of the workers and the compelling facts. The workers of the world have been told that they were engaged in a war for democracy; that out of the ruins of the war would arise a new and more beautiful world. They are asking now, "Where is that democracy for which we fought? Where are we to enter into this new world with its greater reward for the right of the common man? They see no change for the better, but they find themselves in conditions in some respects worse than those against which they protested before we entered the war."

Workers Waking Up. The masses of the people are being rapidly disillusioned, and when the people lose their illusions there is danger ahead. They have seen the prices of nearly every commodity including rents, advance to beyond the increases which they have secured in their weekly wage since the beginning of the war so that they are now actually able to buy less of the necessities of life than before the war began. There are exceptions, it is true, where the percentage of wage increase has been greater, but if you will examine these cases of unusual wage increases as I have examined them you will find that in a majority of instances these increases have come to groups of workers who are admitted, even by their employers, to have been miserably underpaid during the pre-war period.

During the war, it is true, the increases in prices were in a measure compensated for to the wage earners by the greater steadiness of employment and by the frequency of opportunities for overtime, as well as for large earnings at piece work. But that this is now past and the masses of American workers, I say with some degree of assurance, are actually able to purchase less of the necessities and comforts of life with the wages which they receive today than they were able to buy with wages which they received before the beginning of the world war.

No Hope. No hope is held out to them of relief from this condition through a rapid or even a gradual recession of prices. Judge Gary tells us that prices will remain high over a long period of years. Otto H. Kahn, the spokesman for the American bankers, tells us the same thing, and Julius H. Barnes, formerly an operator in the Chicago grain pit and now successor to Herbert Hoover, tells us that there is no hope for cheaper bread.

But it is not merely that the cost of living is high and beyond the capacity of the wage earner's pocket-book. This might be endured with some degree of patience and fortitude if the people who toil believed that no one was profiting from their necessities and that all were bearing the burden alike. But they have seen with their own eyes and heard with their own ears of unconscionable profiteering of American corporations during the war, and they know that that same profiteering is now continuing unabated. I have just completed a study of the earnings of 82 representative American corporations, a record of whose profits is available for each year from 1911 through 1918. This is not a list selected either because the profits were large or because the profits were small. It is a list of all the corporations whose earnings covering this entire period were available to me. A compilation of these figures shows that the same 82 corporations which, in the pre-war years, had an average net income of \$225,000,000, had net incomes in 1916 amounting to more than \$1,000,000,000, in 1917 to \$750,000,000, and in 1918 to \$736,000,000. This is after the deduction of every dollar of state and federal taxes and the deduction of every conceivable charge which these companies could devise for reducing and concealing their apparent profits.

Huge Profits. I am convinced as a result of my study that the actual profits even after the payment of taxes in 1917 and 1918 were just as great as in 1916, the difference being accounted for by the fact that in 1917 and 1918 these corporations set up all kinds of excessive reserves for depreciation, amortization and other mysterious and fanciful contingencies for the purpose of evading taxation and concealing their excessive earnings from the public and the tax collector.

But even taking the figures as they stand we find that these 82 corporations earned, net, \$3 in 1916 and \$17 for every dollar which they earned in the pre-war period and over \$2 in 1918 for every dollar earned in the pre-war period. This is profiteering with a vengeance and the profiteers may well tremble lest the people may avenge themselves for their shameless exploitation during a period of the nation's greatest necessity. And yet, with the people, and particularly the workers, in this state of exasperation as a result of their daily struggle with an unjustly inflated cost of living, attempts are already being made by selfish and foolish employers to reduce wages. Sometimes these attempts to reduce wages are made directly, but far more often by the device of shutting

ORGANIC CHANGES URGED.

Chicago, July 24.—The executive boards of the Illinois state federation of labor, Chicago federation of labor and the labor parties of this city and state have issued an address in which included a program for the forthcoming constitutional convention in the state. The first proposition provides that where 50,000 electors petition for a change in the state constitution, same shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular election. During the past 20 years the people have been successful only twice in securing constitutional changes.

The address states that "it is a grotesque spectacle presented by a people, sovereign in theory, whose minds are bound and whose will is paralyzed by the letter of a document which the living generation had no hand in making. The dead hand should be lifted. The living should be free to make their own laws to prevent the spread of anarchy if we lock the door against constitutional progress."

Other suggested changes include trial by jury in injunction cases, no laws to be invalidated without a unanimous court, home rule for cities, taxation of swollen fortunes, democracy in industry, old age pensions, home and farm loans and compensation to soldiers.

TRY TO SHIFT BLAME

Boston, July 24.—Employers have failed to shift the blame for high prices of cigars on their striking cigar makers, who show that their request for an increased wage will amount to less than 1-3 of 1 cent on each cigar. They say that the employers' claim that 10-cent cigars would be increased to 15 cents is ridiculous, and show that the increased cost on a 5-cent cigar would be less than 1-5 of 1 cent.

"In 1917," the strikers say, "cigar makers received \$16 a thousand for making 10-cent cigars. The manufacturers' wholesale price was \$60 a thousand. Cigar makers received \$19.50 a thousand for making 5-cent cigars. The manufacturers' wholesale price was \$22 a thousand. At present we are receiving \$19.80 a thousand for making 10-cent cigars. The manufacturers' wholesale price is \$90 a thousand, an increase of \$30 a thousand."

"We are receiving \$12.65 a thousand for making 5-cent cigars, an increase of \$2.15 a thousand. The manufacturers' wholesale price is \$52 a thousand, an increase of \$20 a thousand. Now we ask, who is responsible for the high cost of cigars?"

GRAND JURY IN "PUERILE."

Cleveland, Ohio, July 24.—"Puerile and inefficient" are terms used by a special committee appointed by the local federation of labor to report on a report made by a special grand jury in this city.

The unionists declare that the report is a tissue of inconsistencies and contradictions, and to hide its inability to make constructive recommendations it attacked the trade union movement. The personnel of the grand jury is also referred to, and the workers declare that it was composed of what they term "preferred citizens."

"Democracy is a grand and glorious thing when it comes to purifying the world's ills," continues the report, "but when we wish to purify our own municipal ills we find autocracy in the saddle."

FINALLY GETS VACATION.

Portsmouth, N. H., July 24.—Editor Clarke of the Union Labor Advocate has been elected delegate to the state federation of labor convention and the paper has suspended publication for one week, because, says its editor, "this is the first honest-to-goodness vacation this gentleman of elegant leisure has been able to secure for several years."

He then gives notice that "the one-man aggregation who edits the intellectual pabulum, prints the paper, solicits subscriptions and advertises, collects money and pays bills, acts as mailing clerk and receives the various kicks of the dissatisfied and humbly accepts advice as to how the paper ought to be managed will take his first vacation, which, he intimates, is favored by certain citizens of Portsmouth."

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Cincinnati, Ohio, July 24.—The Street Car Men's union has secured a new agreement which raises rates of three-months' platform men to 45 cents an hour; one year, 48 cents; over one year, 50 cents. Barn men's rates will range from 42 1/2 to 58 cents, and other employees will be paid from 37 to 40 cents.

This union was organized six years ago and since that time wages for platform men have advanced over 50 per cent and for other employees over 60, with less hours and improved working conditions. down the plants for a short period to repair the ravages of high speed war production and then employing new men at reduced rates, and the burning shame of it is that in many instances these new men who are being hired at reduced wages are our soldiers, the gold-striped veterans of the great war, who return to America ignorant of the new wage levels, and are easily made the dupes of unscrupulous and unpatriotic employers.

TO SETTLE R. R. ISSUE.

Washington, July 24.—The Plumb plan league has established headquarters in this city and is preparing plans for a campaign to secure public ownership and democracy in the operation of this country's railroads.

The league bears the name of Glenn E. Plumb, general counsel of the organized railroad employees, who originated what these workers declare will be a solution of the railroad question. This solution, in effect, provides for the operation of the railroads by a commission consisting of an equal number of representatives of the employees, managers and the government. Profits are to be divided equally between the government and the operators. The government's percentage shall be put into a fund to be used to take up the bonds of these properties, the government thereby owning the roads. The operators' 50 per cent share shall be divided on the basis of the wages and salaries received by the workers and managers.

President Gompers is honorary president of the league, and the honorary vice president is A. B. Garrett, adviser and former president of the Order of Railway Conductors. Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, is president of the league. The vice presidents are the executives of the other railroad brotherhoods and the various international trade unions whose members are employed in the railroad service. All of these represent over 2,500,000 workers.

TAKING ANOTHER GUESS.

Toledo, Ohio, July 24.—Business men in this city are taking another guess on their attitude toward the lockout of 16,000 Overland automobile employees who refused to lengthen their work day. When the lockout started the business men joined in the bus and cry against these unionists, but the lockout has been on for several weeks and bank deposits are shrinking and less commodities are being sold. Mr. Business Man is now beginning to inquire into "the facts of the case."

The strike has created an unusual condition—a federal judge issuing an injunction in which picketing is "regulated" and the company ordered to operate its plant. The court, Federal Judge Killet, has appointed a representative to see that his order is obeyed. The court official is now in control of the plant, which is filled with school boys and strikebreakers. Toledo trade unionists are assessing themselves 50 cents a week to aid the locked out, 1,000 of whom are women.

FAVOR SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Atlantic City, N. J., July 24.—Sick, disability and old age pensions for those engaged in the pottery industry was favored by the convention of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters.

The plan does not provide that legislators be petitioned, but the workers themselves, together with employers, will work out details, with each side bearing one-half of the expense. The proposal will be submitted to the referendum and also to the manufacturers. "The plan includes every person engaged in the industry with the brotherhood and employers maintaining supervision over the system."

TRIAL HAS BAD ODD.

Washington, July 24.—In discussing the Mooney trial, the Washington Herald says "the entire affair smacks of rotteness."

"From the witnesses for the commonwealth to the prosecuting attorney up through officialdom connected with the case there is an air of corruption without a parallel in the annals of the American courts and American justice."

"Federal investigators of the case have recommended a new trial for Mooney. Yet the commonwealth of California apparently ignores justice by refusing a retrial, because by a retrial Mooney might be set free and thereby the travesty on justice would be exposed."

STRIKERS ENJOINED.

Los Angeles, Calif., July 24.—Judge Weller has issued a temporary injunction against striking metal working employees of the Los Angeles Ship Building and Dry Dock company. Stripped of its ponderous legal verbiage, says the Los Angeles Citizen, the order prevents a union man from conversing with any strikebreaker who may go to work in the ship yard.

The injunction does not interfere with agents of the company, however, who are visiting homes of the strikers in a vain attempt to have them return to work. Judge Weller has also issued a permanent injunction against striking telephone girls employed by the Southern California Telephone company.

"HAPPY FAMILY" STRIKE.

Chicago, July 24.—While Wilson & Co. meat packers are telling the public, through advertisements, that the management and employees are a "big happy family," 4,000 of these employees suspended work because of trade union victimization. Union officials will take the matter up with Federal Judge Abschuler, arbitrator in the packing industry.

8 HOURS IN CANNERIES.

San Francisco, July 24.—Cannery employers throughout the country have continuously resisted the establishment of the eight-hour day in this industry on the ground that their product would spoil.

This theory has been rejected by R. P. Merrill, former state food administrator, who was appointed by Governor Stephens to set a wage scale for male employees in canneries and dried fruit packing houses. For the first time in the history of these industries they are now placed on an eight-hour basis and wages for unskilled labor for the 1919 season will be as follows: First eight hours, 45 cents an hour or \$3.60 for an eight-hour day; ninth hour and every hour thereafter, 55 cents an hour. The latter rate shall include work done on Sundays and holidays.

The decision applies only to male employees. The state industrial welfare commission has ordered a minimum of 28 cents an hour or \$13.50 a week for experienced women canners and laborers. Cutting and packing of fruit is on a piece-work basis, with a minimum of \$13.50 a week.

TIMBER WORKERS GAIN.

Seattle, July 24.—The International Union of Timber Workers is enforcing a snow scale of \$4 a day in lumber camps and \$4.80 in saw mills, although meeting with opposition because of a lower scale adopted by the Local Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen. This company "union" was formed during the war and its membership includes employees' representatives who have set a wage rate that is 84 cents a day lower than the bona fide unionists.

This situation is proving an effective argument to show why the local legion is favored by the bosses.

EMIGRATE FROM ENGLAND.

London, England, July 24.—A desire to emigrate from England after demobilization and assistance rendered by the government are possibilities, according to a report of a special committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions, which interviewed the British colonial office on this question.

It was intimated to the trade unionists that emigration to British colonies only would be assisted, as the government "can be under no obligation whatever to assist the migration of labor of any kind to countries outside the empire."

"Even unemployed labor possesses special qualities and to assist its migration to alien countries would be unwise."

In answer to the claim that soldiers would not return to indoor life, the trade union committee says: "Had the war lasted only 12 months this assumption might have been realized. Four and one-half years' direct association with the mud and suffering of Flanders has modified original conceptions of the desirability of outdoor life. All the surviving clerks who left the General Federation of Trade Unions to serve with the army are anxious to return, anxious to settle down at home."

FLINTS WANT MORE.

Bellaire, O., July 24.—At the annual convention of the American Flint Glass Workers' union it was voted to ask for a 35 per cent advance for employees in the press war department, which is the largest unit of this organization. The flints have contractual relations with employers, and wages are adjusted by conferences. These workers are practically 100 per cent organized.

JUSTICE FOR SOLDIERS.

Washington, July 24.—The president has vetoed the sundry civil appropriation bill, which carried three-quarters of a billion dollars, because of the failure of congress to provide in a fitting manner for the rehabilitation of men in the military service.

Under the vocational rehabilitation bill of June, 1918, provision was made for disabled military men to secure at the expense of the government such training as they need to overcome the handicap of injury. The president is entirely out of sympathy with the petty economy of congress, which has refused to appropriate sufficient money to carry out the intent of the law.

The president says it is a matter of very grave concern that at the very moment these disabled men are coming in constantly increasing numbers to the government to avail themselves of the general plan that the sundry civil appropriation will not only retard the beneficial work of restoring these men but will "nullify the whole purpose of the act and render its administration practically impossible."

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Syracuse, N. Y., July 24.—Local trade unionists are preparing to welcome the 56th annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor, which will convene here Aug. 26.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES UNITE.

Washington, July 24.—Officers of the National Federation of Federal Employers report that new locals have been formed in Dover and Wharton, N. J., and Boise, Idaho.



DEMAND THE UNION LABEL

and be assured it was not made in a sweat shop

UNION MADE GOODS AND WHERE SOLD

Heavy Canvas Gloves 10 Cents Per Pair

YOU WILL FIND HUNDREDS OF OTHER SUCH BARGAINS AT THE BIG SALE NOW GOING ON

CANNON'S SHIRT SHOP
RIALTO BLDG.

We can outfit you from head to foot at the

The Employment Store
34 E. Park St.

Palace Clothing and Shoe Store
53-55 E. PARK STREET

Clothing, Shoes and Furnishings of all kinds with the Union Label

CHICAGO SHOE STORE
7 S. MAIN ST.

Union Made Shoes FOR WORK AND DRESS
BRANCH 43 E. PARK ST.

UNION LABOR

MEN'S HATS

NICKERSON THE HATTER
112 W. PARK STREET

O. K. STORE
24 E. PARK ST.

Union Made
Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Overalls, Jumpers, Gloves Suspenders, etc.

AT THIS TIME IS REQUESTED TO UPHOLD YOUR BROTHER AND SISTER IN THE FACTORY BY REFUSING TO BUY GOODS THAT ARE NOT MADE UNDER UNION CONDITIONS

BIG 4

17 W. PARK STREET

UNION MADE

Hats, Caps, Ties, Work or Dress Shirts, Suspenders, Overalls, Tailoring, and Clothing.

We recognize the fact that the way of the worker is the right way.

Union Made Shoes for the Entire Family.

Golden Rule Shoe Store
39 E. PARK ST.

Always the best possible shoes at the lowest possible price.

SHIRLEY CLOTHES SHOP

14 N. MAIN ST.

Union Made Suits and Hats

ASK FOR **HOLSOM BREAD**

For sale by all dealers Made by **HOME BAKING CO.**

SEND YOUR JOB WORK TO THE **BULLETIN**

BULLETIN TICK .00 PER SHARE NECESSARY ALL TOGETHER FOR THE