LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

THE BULLETIN'S DOUBLE PAGE OF NE

Domestic Labor News

Military Atrocities.

Chicago. — While England and Canada have liberated their conscientious objectors, the United States, still living in the darkest ages is ill treating hers afresh.

On Aug. 18, over 100 of the absolutist "C. O.'s" were ordered to do military work by Colonel Byram, commandant at Fort Douglas, Utah. They had been working ever since they arrived at the fort, looking after themselves and their quarters, but as absolutists they could do no no more. They have proven the sincerity of their conscientious objections to such work through a fear of torture and suffering, so that the authorities knew before giving the order the boys must refuse.

No attention was paid to their protest, and upon their refusing to do military work, they were put in a compound on bread and water (murderers get better treatment). The commandant threatens to hold them thus indefinitely, not allowing them to write or see people, even after their sentences have expired. Three of the boys were to have been released on the twentieth, but they are held with the rest. Some of these boys are in very poor physical condition, due to their ill treatment by the military, and this bread and water diet places their lives in jeopardy.

And all this goes on in a nation whose constitution guarantees freedom of conscience!

Co-operative Theaters Launched.

New York.—One of the most important developments of the strike of the Actors' Equity association is the opening of a number of co-operatively owned and operated theaters in New York city. Since Aug. 18, the striking actors have nightly given an all-star performance at the Lexington theater, leased and operated by themselves. A crowded house greets each performance, and large collections are taken up at the end of the performances to help the striking Thespians.

The success of this first undertaking has been so marked that the Actors' Equity has appointed a committee for looking into the possibilities of a national chain of co-operative theaters, owned and managed by the actors themselves for their mutual benefit. Besides the Lexington, Thomashefsky's theater has been taken over, as have also three other downtown theaters, and Convention Hall, Saratoga, N. Y., has been engaged for a "one-night stand." Also the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, and the Auditorium theater, Chicago, have been leased by the strikers.

Only two of the large play houses in New York city are running their nightly programs. All the others are dark, for the stage hands and musicians refuse to work in houses in which scab actors are employed.

There was some speculation as to the stand that Samuel Gompers would take upon his return from Europe. But his endorsement of the strike has shown the producers that the whole strength of the A. F. of L. will be put behind their demands for fair play.

How terrified the producers are is apparent from the fact that George M. Cohan, manager and actor, has started a rival organization, called the Actors' Fidelity league, in the hope of thus breaking the strike. The contract he and his organization offer to managers includes practically all the demands of the Actors' Equity except the crucial one of recognition of the actors' union.

Troops Enforce Quiet.

Hammond, Ind. — All is quiet in Hammond, where the 2,000 employes of the Standard Steel Car company have been on strike for several weeks. More than that, the plant is gradually resuming operations and engaging scabs.

This "victory" for the bosses has been achieved by the fact that 11 companies of Indiana state militia have been mobilized, four of which are camping inside the company's plant. Capitalist "law and order" once more reigns!

Labor Party to Convene.

Chicago.—On Nov. 22, at Chicago, the newly formed American labor party will hold its first national convention. A call has been issued, which announces that the basis of representation is to be one delegate from each state and local organization with a membership of 500 or less and one delegate for each 500 additional members or major fraction. Continuing the call says:

"Organizations selecting delegates shall subscribe to the plan for the formation of a political party of hand and brain workers based upon political and social democracy embodying the following:

"1. Restoration of all civil liberties.

"2. The national ownership and democratic management of the means of transportation and communication, mines, finance and all other monopolies and natural resources.

"3. The abolition of excessive land ownership and holding land out of use for speculative purposes."

"Agitators" Provoke Race Riots.

Washington.—Of course, it is the "agitators" and "bolsheviks" who are responsible for the race riots. Capitalism has nothing to do with it—nothing whatever.

Representative James F. Byrnes of South Carolina on Aug. 25, asserted on the floor of the house that the race antagonism which flared up in Washington and other sections of the country recently had its inspiration in incendiary utterances of negro leaders circulated through negro publications. That settles the question, and all that it is necessary to do to restore "law and order" among the colored folk is to suppress radical negro journals. The capitalistic papers of the country have been at great pains to spread Mr. Byrnes' remarks broadcast.

Especially is it the "Messenger," published in New York by two prominent negro socialists, that is exciting the ire of the southern gentlemen. "It is evident that the I. W. W. is financing it in an effort to have the negro of America join it in their revolutionary plans," gasps Mr. Byrnes.

The "Crisis," too, though a moderate organ of negro opinion, is such a thorn in the flesh of Mr. Byrnes that he wants the department of justice to suppress it. His ban is further extended to the Boston "Guardian," another negro paper.

Meanwhile nobody in official life is apparently bothering to look into the economic injustices that have made for the unrest among our negro fellow citizens.

Maurer Made Victim of Bourbon Democracy.

New York.—Three minutes before sailing time James H. Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania state federation of labor for eight consecutive terms and socialist member of the Pennsylvania legislature for three terms, was on Aug. 26 removed from the S. S. "Lapland" on which he had taken passage for Europe to study old age pension systems in various countries of the Old World.

Maurer was en route in his capacity of chairman of the Pennsylvania old age pension commission, a body created by the state legislature. Application for his passport had been made by the attorney general on behalf of the state, and Maurer and his companion were farther armed with a special letter of Gov. William C. Sproul as well as with letters of introduction to President Poincare and Premier Lloyd- George.

Yet the department of state at Washington, evidently remembering Maurer's connection with the people's council and other progressive movements, at the last moment cancelled the passports—so late, in fact that Maurer's baggage could not be removed from the steamer.

Maurer left at once for Washington to demand the reason for this affront to his native state. At the present writing the state department is maintaining a discreet silence, Secretary Lansing declaring that perhaps a technical mistake in the passport is the cause of this humiliating action. In radical circles the rumor is current that the cancellation was effected at the request of the British government which, though finally giving its visa to Maurer's passport, nevertheless dislikes his espousal of the right of political asylum for Hindus in this country whom John Bull wants to see deported.

Cap Makers Winning in St. Louis.

St. Louis.—The cap makers have won their first important victory. Eight manufacturers have conceded all the demands of the union and their workers have returned to work. The demands were for a 44-hour week, recognition of the union, and a considerable increase in pay.

The manufacturers have evidently lost all hope of breaking the strike, but in their madness of despair they employ all means, fair or foul, just to spite the union. The working girls are being persecuted and terrified by hired thugs; and the police instead of affording protection, make scores of unprovoked arrests among the girls. The mayor has finally promised, however, to look into the situation.

In an open letter addressed to the Manufacturers' association the president of the union, Saritzky, accuses the bosses of using un-American methods; while they themselves are well organized, they refuse their workers the right to organize and to do collective bargaining.

Public opinion is against the manufacturers and sympathy towards the strikers is on the increase. Ladman, one of the largest manufacturers, tried to have his St. Louis work done in his Chicago factory, but the union has called out his Chicago workers also.

Cloth Workers Win.

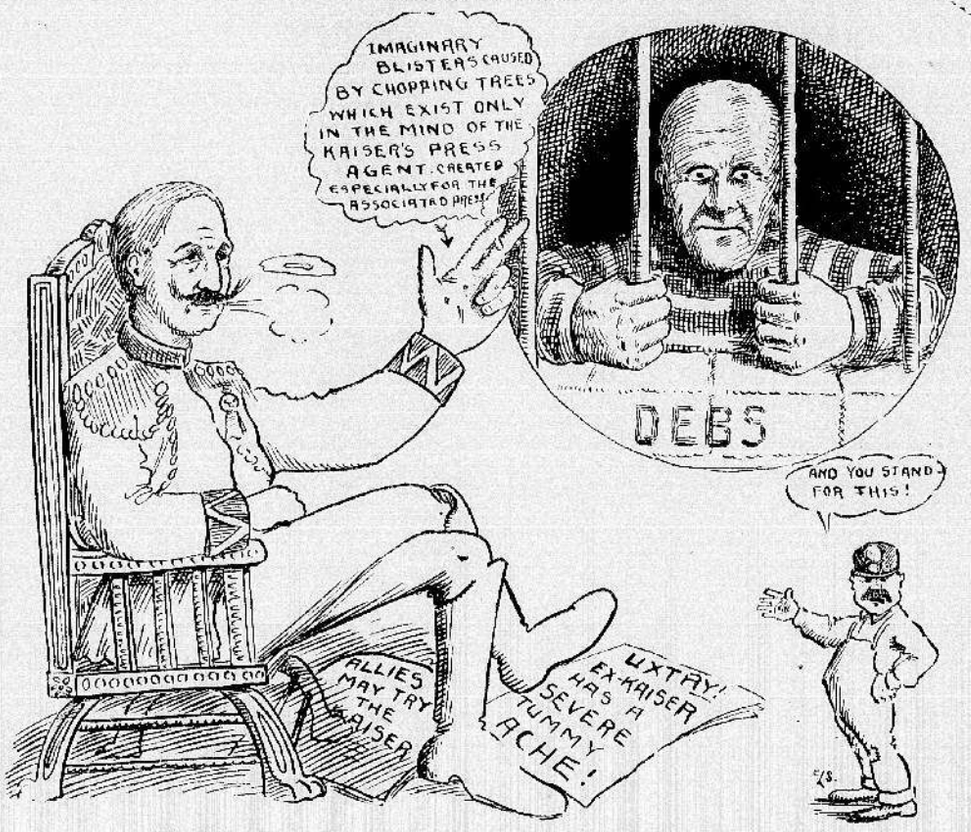
Philadelphia. — After a short struggle, Cloth Workers' union, local 1, of the Amalgamated Textile Workers of America, on Aug. 25 scored a big victory in establishing a minimum wage scale and better working conditions for weavers and spinners in the industry in Philadelphia. Recognition of the union and of the shop steward system were further concessions obtained.

FARMERS AND WAGE-EARNERS UNITE!

The NONPARTISAN LEAGUE is fighting the ENEMIES of you both. Big Business is robbing Farmers and Wage-Earners alike. You must come together, fight together and you'll win together. The NONPARTISAN LEAGUE is the LINK that will bring you TOGETHER.

Farmers, Join the League! Wage-Earners, Support It!

JUSTICE?



The Man Who Caused the War and the Man Who Pays for It.

Significance of Labor Day 1919

By JULIUS DEUTELBAUM,
Editor, Detroit Labor News.

Perhaps the most hopeful sign and greatest achievement of the past year to be recorded on this Labor day is the ever decreasing confidence of the rank and file in those of the international officers who arbitrarily set policies which are not in conformity with the will and the wishes, and often out of keeping with the interests of the rank and file, and the corresponding increased confidence they place in themselves, coupled with the recognition of the great power that lies in their own hands and the keen determination to carry on their own work to the best of their understanding, irrespective of the mandates of the higher-ups.

What I consider the greatest step in the life of the American labor movement, is the determined effort on the part of the rank and file to discard the old shibboleth of a "fair days pay for a fair day's work" and in its place inscribe across their banners the words "industrial democracy." Labor no longer desires merely a wage to keep it in tolerable comfort and decency, but is bent upon winning the right to a voice in the management of the affairs in which their lives are involved.

The progressive element is growing and making progress in every community and they are the nucleus of a formidable opposition that is threatening the royal hierachy seated at Washington with Samuel Gompers as the high priest of rescition.

There is hardly a community today "where the labor movement is regular" and the officers of the American Federation of Labor who have long ceased to be leaders of labor, are now proving themselves to be even poor followers of the rank and file. The membership of the American Federation of Labor is awakening to the realization of the potential possibilities that lie before them and are made impossible of accomplishment because of the reactionary policies pursued by so-called leaders to whom the plaudits of the prostituted press and the master class sound sweeter than the praises of their own constituents.

At the last convention of the American Federation of Labor the reactionary element has plainly proven its fright and cowardice. They have enacted laws by which they hope to discipline and disown individuals, organizations and localities which possess sufficient intelligence to repudiate their reactionary policies and to transact their business from the modern viewpoint.

Another great significance of Labor day this year is, that it is being observed in but very few localities, not because there is no desire for labor to hold communion in the various industrial centers, but rather because of the hostile attitude of the A. F. of L. towards International Labor day—May 1.

It has truly been said that the worst fault of blind followers is that they create a demand for blind leaders, and it is now equally true that an intelligent, awakened rank and file demands intelligent leadership, signs of which none of the holy family now gathered around the throne of Samuel Gompers have betrayed within the past year.

Labor's hope lies in what it will accomplish for itself and not what the men at the top can get for them by vote-swapping arrangements. These things cannot be enduring and never have been.

The great significance of Labor day, 1919, is, that the workers are beginning to think for themselves in such numbers that the stand-patters are worried over the result. Reactionary leadership will have to give way to men of sympathy, understanding and capacity, whose personal egotism and political ambitions will not sway them from their chosen course to fortify, to further and to promote the interests of labor. The days ahead of us are pregnant with possibilities and we have good reason to be hopeful and cheerful, having these prospects in mind.

Labor's aim for 1920 is to preserve what it has achieved, to improve social conditions, to increase the share of the fruits of its own labor, to educate itself to the steadily growing responsibilities of modern life, and to make the material, intellectual and moral interests of the working class the paramount interests in society.

RAILROAD EMPLOYES NOT PAID HIGH WAGE

Washington.—The claim that railroad employes receive high wages, so persistently urged by the public press, is not supported in the report of a railroad wage commission, made last year. The chairman of this commission was Hon. Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior.

The commission said:

"It has been a somewhat popular impression that railroad employes were among the most highly paid workers, but figures gathered from the railroads disposed of this belief. Fifty-one per cent of all the employes during December, 1917, received $75 per month or less, and 80 per cent received $100 per month or less. Even among the locomotive engineers commonly spoken of as highly paid, a preponderating number receives less than $170 per month, and this compensation they have attained by the most compact and complete organization, handled with a full appreciation of all strategic values. Between the grades receiving from $150 to $250 per month there is included less than 3 per cent of all the employes (excluding officials) and these aggregate less than 60,000 out of a grand total of 2,000,000.

"The greatest number of employes on all roads fall into the class receiving between $60 and $65 per month—181,693; while within the range of the next $10 in monthly salary there is a total of 132,761 persons. In December, 1917, there were 111,477 clerks receiving annual pay of $900 or less. In 1917 the average pay of this class was but $56.77 per month. There were 270,855 section men whose average pay as a class was $50.34 per month; 121,000 other unskilled laborers whose average pay was $58.25 per month; 130,075 station service employes whose average pay was $58.57 per month; 75,325 road freight brakemen and flagmen whose average pay was $100.17 per month, and 16,465 road passenger brakemen and flagmen whose average pay was $91.10 per month.

"These, it is to be noted, are not pre-war figures; they represent conditions after a year of war, and two years of rising prices. And each dollar now represents in its power to purchase a place in which to live, food to eat and clothing to wear, but 71 cents as against the 100 cents of Jan. 1, 1916."

Since this report was issued the railroad shop employes secured wage increases that approximate 34 per cent to meet the 71 per cent increase in living costs that the commission acknowledged. The railroad workers now ask for another increase to maintain advancing living costs.

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NEW LABOR LAWS ENACTED IN 1919

Annual Output of Protective Legislation Shows Gains for the Workers in More Than 40 States.

New York, Sept. 4.—Protective labor standards in the first year after the armistice have made substantial progress in new legislation providing still further safeguards for workers and strengthening existing statutes, particularly in the field of social insurance, according to the summary of labor laws enacted during 1919 in more than 40 states and by congress just issued by the American Association for Labor Legislation.

"Especially important is the enactment of workmen's compensation laws in four additional states, making a total of 45 states and territories now having this form of social insurance, in addition to the model act of the federal government for its million civilian employes and the soldiers and sailors' insurance act," says the secretary, Dr. John B. Andrews. "Almost all states amended their compensation laws, with the trend encouragingly toward more liberal benefits, shorter waiting period and wider scope, indicating that protective laws for labor are regarded by legislators not as a matter of sentiment, but of sound economics. North Dakota joins the list of compensation states with enlightened provision for an exclusive state fund. Ten states raised their scale of compensation so that there are now 23 states which require employers to pay workers when injured at least 60 per cent to 66 2-3 per cent of their wages. Even more significant is the impetus given to the movement for compulsory workmen's health insurance to protect wage earners and their families against the hazards of sickness as workmen's compensation now safeguards them when accidentally injured. A health insurance bill passed the New York senate, while in several states official commissions, after investigations, submitted comprehensive reports as a preliminary aid to health insurance legislation, the Ohio report in particular strongly urging adoption of laws along the lines of the health insurance bill advanced in New York. Women's hours were reduced in half a dozen states, including an eight-hour limit in Massachusetts, after a full half-century's struggle. Minimum wage legislation for women and children was enacted in one additional state, North Dakota, making 14 in all, in addition to the District of Columbia. Congress re-enacted the child labor regulations, which had been declared unconstitutional by the supreme court, using the taxing power as the means of enforcement, while eight states improved their child labor acts. While congress continues to hold back well considered measures for a federal-state employment service, as embodied in the Kenyon-Nolan bill, and vocational rehabilitation for industrial cripples, several states have taken action to meet these urgent needs. Four states, in addition to Massachusetts, where beginnings were made a year ago, authorized aid in re-educating and finding employment for industrial cripples, and the Smith-Bankhead bill extending the present federal-state system of vocational education to cover the maimed victims of industrial accidents has passed the United States senate."

Social Insurance.

With new workmen's compensation acts in Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama and North Dakota, the North Dakota law including an exclusive state fund, there remain only six southern states without this enlightened form of accident protection. In practically every state in which the legislature met, the workmen's compensation law was amended. In general, benefits were made more liberal. Some states shortened the waiting period and extended the scope of their laws. Administration has, in many cases, been made more efficient. Four states have provided for rehabilitation and vocational education of industrial cripples. California requires employers to pay certain sums to the rehabilitation fund in cases where fatal accidents occur and the deceased leaves no dependents. Indiana created a commission to investigate social insurance and child welfare. Minnesota passed a law requiring employers to obtain a license before they can charge employes for any kind of benefit or insurance fund. North Carolina extended the employers' liability act previously in force for railroads to cover also employes on logging and tram roads.

Safety and Health.

Child labor was attacked in eight states, seven of which passed laws for compulsory education in part-time schools even after the legal working age has been reached. Enforcement is provided either by reducing the legal working week during the school term, or by penalizing employers who refuse to allow employed children to attend such schools. North Carolina raised its legal age for day work to 14, and for night work or employment in mines to 16. Delaware created a child welfare commission. Seven states improved their mine regulations, and New Jersey created a bureau of mines and enacted a safety code for mining operations. Four states increased safety and sanitary regulations in factories or bakeries, and Minnesota regulated foundries. Five states enacted further general safety regulations affecting boilers or machinery. California regulated sanitary conditions in labor camps.

Hours and Wages.

Several notable changes were made in hour laws, particularly the enactment of an eight-hour law for women in Massachusetts and an eight and one-half hour law for women in North Dakota. California extended its women's eight-hour law to cover additional groups. Oklahoma added to its women's nine-hour law the restriction of a 54-hour week. Utah reduced its nine-hour day for women to eight hours and the 54-hour week to 48, and also widened the scope of the law. Minnesota and Wyoming declared an eight-hour day on state works. New Jersey limited the working day of prison guards and deputy keepers to eight hours. South Carolina and Oklahoma limited firemen's working hours. In eight states laws requiring prompt payment of wages, in negotiable form, were either newly passed or rendered more effective. Seven laws provided for, or strengthen, workmen's liens for labor performed.

Trade Disputes.

Labor unions were expressly legalized in three states, while in two of these the use of injunctions in labor disputes is strictly limited. Oregon created a state board of conciliation for industrial disputes and South Carolina established penalties for violation of its conciliation and arbitration act. Six more states passed criminal syndicalism and sabotage laws.

Employment Service.

California created a special commission on unemployment and increased the appropriation for its state employment bureaus. New Jersey created a state employment bureau. Indiana created a commission to administer public employment offices and regulate private agencies, and to study employment conditions, while Wyoming passed a law regulating private employment bureaus. California made special provision for finding employement for discharged or paroled prisoners.

Administration of Labor Laws.

California, Minnesota and Oklahoma increased the powers of their industrial commissions to facilitate enforcement of safety regulations and other labor laws. Wyoming reorganized the office of the commissioner of labor statistics, providing an assistant, and increasing the powers and duties of the department.

HENS WORK OVERTIME

St. Louis, Mo.—The advice "produce more" that is being dinned into the ears of American workmen can not apply to the American hen since the government has uncovered vast holdings of eggs in cold storage plants. In this city over 16,000,000 eggs have been seized, and it is reported that millions of eggs, stored by speculators, have been found in Detroit, Buffalo, San Diego and elsewhere.

HERE'S YOUR UNION

AND WHERE IT MEETS

Notice to Union Officials!

The Bulletin is publishing a directory of unions with the names of officers, place and time of meetings. This directory will keep your union constantly before the public and your members. It is a short-cut road to well attended meeting nights and greater interest in your organization. Your union should be represented in this column. The rate is very low. Write to our Labor Editor or Advertising Department for rates.

The Bulletin is the official organ of the State Metal Trades Council.

BUTTE STREET CAR MEN'S UNION, Division No. 381—Meets every first and third Wednesday at Carpenters' Union hall. President, D. A. McMillian. Financial secretary, Ben Ivey. Recording secretary, Wilbur A. Hoar.

BLACKSMITHS AND HELPERS No. 456, postoffice box 838—Meets every Friday at 7:30 at Carpenters' hall, 156 West Granite street. President, George MacKenzie, 2037 Whitman ave., phone 2962-J; recording secretary, Ed A. Davis, 1901 Roberts ave.; business agent, J. F. Buckley, room 106 Penn. Blk. Phone 2126.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYES AND MOVING PICTURE MACHINE OPERATORS OF U. S. C. LOCAL 94.—Meets the second Monday in the month at 10:30 a. m., at T. M. A. hall, 41 North Wyoming street. Sam Spiegel, Sec., P. O. Box 737.

BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS', IRON SHIPBUILDERS' and HELPERS' Local No. 130—Secretary, Walter Goodland, Jr., 1819 Whitman ave. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays at 215 N. Main st.

BROTHERHOOD RAILWAY CARMEN OF AMERICA, Copper Lodge No. 430—Meets second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Odd Fellows' hall, Front street.

BUTTE METAL TRADES COUNCIL—Meets every Wednesday evening at 101 S. Idaho. President, James F. O'Brien; secretary, Leo Daly; treasurer, Fred Allen; postoffice box 770. Telephone 2085.

BUTTE TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, No. 126—Meets second Sunday in the month at I. O. G. T. hall, 215 North Main st. Secretary, F. J. Glenn. Box 585.

CENTRAL PIPE FITTERS' UNION No. 710—Meets first and third Fridays in each month, at K. of P. hall. John Kerrigan, secretary, 1339 Iowa ave., Butte. Executive committee meets every Friday night.

MILL, SMELTER AND SURFACE WORKERS, UNION. — Affiliated with One Big Union of Wage Workers. Holds regular meetings each Friday evening at 101 South Idaho street. All Mill, Smelter and Surface Workers are requested to attend. M. D. Smith, Treasurer.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL UNION No. 65.—Meets every Monday evening at Moose Hall, East Park street. President, John L. Daly; vice president, E. E. Brown; recording secretary, Nick Marick; financial secretary and business agent, W. C. Medhurst. Secretary's office room 106 Penn. Blk.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS' HELPERS, No. 859—Meets every Friday evening at I. O. G. T. hall, 215 N. Main st., at 7:30 p. m.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS, No. 38—Meets every Thursday evening at K. of P. hall, South Main st. F. J. Lynch financial secretary; J. F. O'Brien business agent, Carpenters' hall.

MUSICIANS' UNION—Meets third Tuesday in each month; board of directors meets first Tuesday. A. Budd, president; E. C. Simmons, secretary, 116 Hamilton st. Tel.2858-W.

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS, Local No. 41—Meets every Monday, 8 p. m., Carpenters' hall. Secretary, M. J. Dignan, Box 740. Office: Room 8, Carpenters' hall.

SHEET METAL WORKERS' UNION—Meets second and fourth Tuesdays in each month, at Carpenters' hall. M. O'Neill, secretary, Box 196, Butte.

METAL MINE WORKERS' UNION (Independent) — Affiliated with One Big Union of Wage Workers. Meets every Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, at hall, 101 South Idaho st. Open meetings on "change" Sundays at 2 o'clock. Fred G. Clough, secretary.

CASCADE COUNTY TRADES AND LABOR ASSOCIATION — Meets every Friday night at 8 o'clock at Carpenters' hall. A. Budden, president; A. T. Woodruff, secretary, Box 560, Phone 6834.

GREAT FALLS MILL AND SMELTERMEN'S UNION NO. 16, I. U. OF M. M. AND S. W.—Great Falls, Mont., A. T. WOODRUFF, secretary treasurer. Box 1720.

JOURNEYMEN BARBERS' LOCAL No. 635 meets every first and third Mondays, American hall. Chas. Rollman, Pres. J. R. Costello, Sec.

BUTTE BUTCHERS' UNION—Meets every Thursday at 8 p. m. at Eagles' hall, Lewisohn building. F. A. Geiser, secretary. P. O. box 82.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, inside wiremen, local No. 623, meets every Monday night at Carpenters' hall at 8 o'clock.

BUTTE FOUNDRY EMPLOYES, NO. 23, meets every third Friday in I. O. O. F. hall on East Front street. Sam Johnson, Rec. Sec., 1024 Emma street.

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