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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1920.

Hypocritical Wage Commissions

The studied insults handed out to the workers by the various "commissions" appointed to discover the subsistence level of the wage-earner are becoming unbearable. Particularly do these commissions take advantage of the unorganized condition of the average female wage-earner to class them with domestic animals that are systematically fed on refuse.

The latest organization to bring in one of these reports giving the minimum amount of sustenance on which a female factory slave can exist is the Massachusetts Minimum Wage Commission. This body has decided that a Massachusetts working girl can worry along on \$13.75 per week and still save forty cents.

Commenting on the report, The New Textile Worker, official organ of the Amalgamated Textile Workers, says:

Another one of those ghastly practical jokes at the expense of female wage workers has been perpetrated by the Massachusetts Minimum Wage Commission. This creature of "reform" labored heavily and brought forth a decision that \$13.75 is a sufficient minimum wage for women and girls rated as experienced employees in the regular branches of the knit goods industry. An experienced employee, it is explained, is one who has been employed at the work for at least 40 weeks.

The honorable commission arrived at this figure of \$13.75 after "an inquiry into the cost of living of a self-supporting girl in Massachusetts." That the inquiry was profound is proved by the budget laid out for the "self-supporting" girl. To begin with, the munificent sum of \$8.50 a week is allowed for board and room—not for board or room, but for board AND room! Any girl who can accomplish that ought not to be wasting time in a knit goods mill, but ought logically to be assisting the supreme council to save Europe from bankruptcy! How anybody in Massachusetts or anywhere else can eat sufficiently varied and nourishing food for less than \$4.50 a day or \$10.50 a week, is a mystery. The answer is, they can't.

Other items in the commission's budget are equally impossible. Forty cents a week is allowed for recreation! Evidently there is a puritan strain in the commission. There would be no danger of dissipation on 40 cents a week.

To cap the climax, the commission allows 20 cents a week for savings. By careful figuring we find that barring accidents, a "self-supporting" girl employed in the knit goods industry would be able in fifty years to save a little over \$500. Just enough to buy admittance to an Old Ladies' Home so as to be able to die respectably.

In our opinion, any body of men and women that brings in a report such as the one referred to above, should be compelled to eke out the balance of their life on the weekly sum they recommend for the wage-earners.

"The Hope of the World"

What organizations of workers "who know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain," can do to prevent a bloody baptism of themselves and other workers when they have once convinced the exploiters of their determination to preserve the liberties of free speech and assemblage is well exemplified by the enormous mass meeting, or rather series of meetings, held by the British workers in Trafalgar Square during their recent demonstration for peace with Russia.

The meeting is described by the Christian Science Monitor as follows:

The police found their task of keeping order simple, for the crowd belonged to a nation which invites free speech and shows no fear of it.

A gauntlet was thrown down, revolutionary things were said and a revolutionary resolution passed. England was threatened with a stoppage of all her trade, her industry, her social life if the government fail to comply with the wishes of the workers.

Moreover the mass of the people was urged to refuse to take up arms if the country went to war. Yet this meeting has received quiet notice in the papers and its views are being discussed with consideration by all classes of society; so widespread is its faith in the essential level-headedness of the race.

Yet, calmly as the event has been taken, Sunday's great gathering marked an epoch; a turning-point. It was a day which will probably stand out in the history of the world.

George Lansbury, the venerable editor of the London Daily Herald, was one of the speakers who addressed the tremendous throng and was tendered a wildly enthusiastic reception. His speech, according to the Monitor, was a

bitter denunciation of the political policy of the government in Ireland and Mesopotamia, and deprecated war in Turkey, Russia, Ireland, or anywhere else. Russia he termed the touchstone of the situation, and he called upon all men to refuse naval and military service, even if the conscription acts came into force. "We believe," he said, "that if the workers remain solid, Socialism can be enforced by peaceful means." If the workers refuse to fight, war must become impossible. Factions in socialist circles had now disappeared and they were now a solid body for peace—peace with Russia, Ireland, India—and peace at home.

The following resolutions were read to the meeting and unanimously adopted by this assemblage of workers, gathered in the capital of the British empire, meeting in the shadow of the parliament buildings:

"The trade union and Labor movement hails with satisfaction the Russian government's declaration in favor of the complete independence of Poland, as set forth in the peace terms to Poland, and, realizing the gravity of the international situation, pledges itself to resist any and every form of military and naval intervention against the Soviet government of Russia.

"The Council of Action is, therefore, instructed to remain in being until it has secured:

(1). An absolute guarantee that the armed forces of Great Britain shall not be used in support of Poland, Baron

Wrangel, or any other military or naval effort against the Soviet government.

(2). The withdrawal of all British naval forces, operating directly or indirectly as a blockading influence against Russia.

(3). The recognition of the Russian Soviet government and the establishment of unrestricted trading and commercial relationships between Great Britain and Russia.

"The Labor movement further refuses to be associated with any alliance between Great Britain and France or any other country which commits us to any support of Wrangel, Poland, or the supply of munitions or other war material for any form of attack upon Soviet Russia.

"The Council of Action is authorized to call for any and every form of withdrawal of Labor which circumstances may require to give effect to the foregoing policy, and calls upon every trade union official, executive committee, local council of action, and the membership in general to act swiftly, loyally, and courageously, in order to sweep away secret bargaining and diplomacy, and to assure that the foreign policy of Great Britain may be in accord with the well-known desires of the people for an end to war and the interminable threats of war."

Similar resolutions were adopted at mass meetings held in every industrial center in England and the police and the military did not interfere; neither were there any mobs organized to break up the meetings. The government of the British empire was forced to abandon its war policy because labor was tired of war, because labor said it was tired and announced its intention of closing every factory and mine in England if its rulers did not at once decide to end their murderous plots.

There is yet hope for the world when such things can peacefully come to pass. More than ever is apparent the truth of the saying:

"The unity of labor is the hope of the world!"

Royalty Offended

Paul Hanna and Laurence Todd, two of the best-known correspondents in America, now employed by the Federated Press, have been excluded by Secretary Colby from the formal interviews granted to the representatives of the press.

It is probable that the action of Secretary Colby will arouse a storm of protest from the correspondents in Washington as the policy of the state department has already been the subject of much unfavorable criticism. Even though the threat of exclusion from the interviews has been held over the head of any correspondent who evinced the slightest desire to give the public real news, the fact has become known that the administration has surrounded itself with a veil of secrecy exceeding that of any royal court.

Knowledge concerning vitally important matters affecting the entire population of the nation, knowledge which, if in the possession of the people, would probably force an entire change in the conduct of foreign and domestic affairs, is suppressed. Sometimes this news is imparted to the newspapermen under a pledge of secrecy, more often it is entirely withheld.

Hanna and Todd have protested against this attitude on the part of the state department and have now been treated with the Wilsonian magnanimity accorded everyone who has so far tried to protect the interests of the masses of this nation.

It is very probable that the matter will not end with the barring of the representatives of the Federated Press. It will not end there if there is any manhood left among the newspaper fraternity in the United States.

It is about time that the slimy cabal that has been organized among the White House retainers was exposed for what it is—a bureaucratic conspiracy against the liberties of the people of this nation.

Wool and the Government

Mr. Wood, president of the American Woolen company, closed up his mills. They were his mills, so no one had the right to complain. Forty thousand lost their jobs, 200,000 souls were threatened with starvation.

The workers are people of all nations: Italians, French, Canadians, Lithuanians, Poles, Syrians, and Franco-Belgians. Of course, patriotic Americans call them "aliens," but they are just the right people to produce \$13,000,000 profits for the American Woolen company in three years.

It is tough enough that 200,000 people had to look somewhere else for work and bread. But what about the government?

The government told us that "production" was the need of the hour. Production and more production! And Mr. Wood shut down his mills.

Was it because there was an over-production of clothing? If that were the case, clothes ought to have been cheap instead of being out of reach of the working classes. Was it because there was no wool? The storehouses are piled high with wool.

Then what was the reason? Mr. Wood said he was not satisfied with the profits. So he cut down his expenses and boosted prices.

And the government?

Oh, the government has laws ONLY FOR THE WORKERS! If the workers "conspire" to keep wages up by striking, they go to jail. If they unite to better their condition, the Lever Act knocks them on the head. Wool and the government are working hand in hand—against the worker.

Quite so!

Under the Soviet government the Russians have a queer way of treating their prisoners. When they capture an Englishman, they throw him into jail and then they give him a good meal, for the English like to eat. Then the guard asks him: "Are you an Englishman?" Then the prisoner answers: "I am an Englishman," for he is usually very proud of it. Then the Russian red guard goes out and shortly returns with a lot of Bolshevik literature for the Englishman to read, and he is given plenty of time to read. Bernard Shaw says it is very hard on the English. This is the terrible punishment dealt out to the prisoners that is causing the Brass Check Press of America to be filled with the stories of the way the Reds are treating the prisoners.

We notice that in the cut of Assad Jahray, alleged murderer, appearing yesterday morning in the two morning papers, the Shriner's emblem on the fez he is wearing has been blocked out. Had he been a member of the I. W. W. or of some other so-called radical organization the fact would have been played up in the headlines.

Let the useful people rule.

Democratic State Ticket

Endorsed by Nonpartisan League and Montana Labor League

- Governor—B. K. WHEELER, Silver Bow County.
- Lieutenant Governor—R. C. ARNOLD, Valley County.
- Secretary of State—R. A. HASTE, Yellowstone County.
- Attorney General—LOUIS S. IRVINE, Glacier County
- State Treasurer—ELLA D. LORD, Cascade County.
- State Auditor—OLE SANVIK, Hill County.
- Railway Commissioner—J. P. MEADORS, Richland County.
- Superintendent of Public Instruction—MARGARET A. HANNAH, Sweet Grass County.
- Justices, State Supreme Court—HARLOW PEASE, Beaverhead County (6 years); W. W. PALMER, Custer County (6 years); JOHN A. MATTHEWS, Broadwater County (2 years).
- Congressmen—BURTON WATSON, Missoula County; M. M. M'CUSKER, Roosevelt County.

SENATOR MYERS REPUDIATED

In most emphatic terms the democracy of Custer County denounces the action of United States Senator Henry L. Myers in deserting his ticket. The senator's course in eulogizing Dixon and Riddick is looked upon with the utmost contempt.

A meeting of members of Custer county democratic central committee was held at the courthouse in Miles City on Tuesday evening, and consideration was given the action of United States Senator Myers in bolting the party which has so generously honored him with political preferment. After a thorough discussion of the matter the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, instructions also being given the secretary to forward copies thereof to the daily press of the state, as well as to various democratic leaders:

Whereas, this organization has been informed of the shameful betrayal of his party by United States Senator Henry L. Myers; be it

Resolved, by the democratic central committee of Custer county, that we unreservedly and unqualifiedly condemn and repudiate the action of Senator Myers in deserting the party which has so signally honored him and to which he owes so many unrequited obligations, and we denounce his course as not only treacherous and perfidious but utterly and entirely without justification. And we resent, as true, loyal democrats, the wholly gratuitous insults offered the supporters of Hon. Burton K. Wheeler and wherein he says he "cannot stand his backers and associates." Furthermore, we regard with utter contempt his maudlin eulogy of the republican candidate for governor, and we characterize such utterances as the merest subterfuge, wholly unbecoming a man holding membership in the highest lawmaking body of the land. And we beg to call his attention to the fact Jos. M. Dixon has been most active among the reactionary leaders in disparaging, vilifying and abusing, with a malignity heretofore unknown, the great president of this nation. Not content with thus stultifying himself in behalf of Mr. Dixon, he further demeans himself by urging the re-election of the unspeakable Riddick, a man whom he must know only attained his present position through his affiliations with the nonpartisan league, an organization which Mr. Myers is now so busily engaged in denouncing with all the invective at his command. We regard Senator Myers' efforts to apologize for his betrayal of the democratic party as merely a camouflaged effort to conceal some selfish and ulterior motive, and we extend to him the assurance that in his efforts to forestall democratic success in the present campaign he will receive neither encouragement nor support from the loyal democrats of Custer county. As men who in the past have labored earnestly, zealously and faithfully to secure for Senator Myers the fruition of his political ambitions, we can not but deeply deplore that he should now at this time display the spirit of an ingrate, and despite the statements to which he has given publicity, we can yet hardly bring ourselves to realize that he could be guilty of the base ingratitude which he is now exhibiting. And, be it further

Resolved, that we also join with all true adherents of democracy in condemnation of the efforts being made by hybrid politicians to form "Independent Voters clubs," the real purpose of which is to deceive and mislead democratic voters, with the ultimate object of inducing them to stultify themselves by voting the reactionary ticket. Wherever such clubs have been formed the leaders of the movement are either pliant tools of interests seeking the attainment of selfish advantages, or they are disgruntled office-seekers who have been repudiated by the electorate in their efforts to acquire office. And if the report be true that these "independent" clubs are being financed by the republican state central committee, that alone should be sufficient to deter any honest democrat from having any connection with them whatever.

The capital stock of a bank is like the capital stock of a co-operative society. There is no more difficulty in raising capital for one enterprise than there is for another. Labor must realize that there is nothing sacred about the banking business. Banks can be given a co-operative character. It is an easy matter to buy coal, sugar, or supplies of any kind through a bank and have the commodities distributed to the consumers. There is no mystery about it; in fact, it is dead easy and the wonder is why the workers have not gone into the banking business long ago instead of putting their money in a savings department of the other fellow's bank.

Arthur Brisbane is the highest paid editorial writer in the United States. In speaking of Russia in a long leading editorial for the Hearst papers, he says: "Lenin's brother, revolutionist, was hanged by the czar when Lenin was 17 years of age. Lenin said he would get even. He did. He has put the czar to death and he sits as dictator in the room of judgment. Interesting picture in history. Think what you please of Lenin; he DID 'get even.' He put the czar's system to death as well.

COUNCIL ESTABLISHES

(Continued from Page One)

age than was being paid for such work throughout the country. The communication was signed by the notorious "Raincoat."

A communication from the Hud Carriers' union stated that the union scale as established was \$5 for eight hours but that the city engineer was paying the men only \$7 for eight hours. It declared it was evident that the city engineer was doing all in his power to destroy the established union scale in Butte.

A worker in the audience groaned and said he was one of the men working on the city paving. He cited from his time book the number of hours he had worked each day, the periods during which the men were laid off and the periods during which the work was done on a piece-work basis.

When we started on work he said, "the city engineer told us we were to get \$3 per day. He seems to have forgotten that now." Alderman Freudenstein declared it had always been the policy of the city council to recognize the scale as established by the unions. He cited the fact that other organized workers employed by the city had been granted wage increases and said it was only just the increase should be granted to the hodiearriers. He moved the council go on record as establishing the \$3 scale.

Alderman Wilson sarcastically wanted to know who had granted the union the \$3 scale. The union spokesman arose and declared that all of the recognized contractors had granted it.

"Name one," said Wilson. "Name just one." The union spokesman named a number and declared that the only contractor who had refused to pay the scale were the few who were members of the Associated Industries. "They are contractors without a contract," he declared, "and refuse to work for them."

Wilson then quieted down and more gently suggested that since there was a difference of opinion between the Associated Industries and the unions as to the scale the matter should be referred to a committee.

After Freudenstein and Itess had declared for a settlement of the question at once, the motion of the former was put and carried, with all the councilmen, including Wilson, voting for the \$3 scale.

The city engineer's brother, City Treasurer Herman Strasburger, also had his period in the spotlight. Earlier in the meeting an application from the city firemen, requesting permission to use the city treasurer's books was under discussion. The city treasurer made a lengthy statement declaring he had furnished the firemen with a complete set of copies of all his books and asserted that if they could not understand his method of "keeping the accounts" it was not his fault.

He expressed his objection to an audit in his office at this time on the grounds that he had already spent some time on several occasions endeavoring to show the firemen how their disability funds in the payment of warrants, stood, and asserted he could not readily devote any time to assisting an auditor.

Fire Chief Martin was called on and declared on behalf of the firemen that there was a determination on the part of the firemen to find out what had become of the sum of \$752 in connection with their warrants. Strasburger explained the missing sum was interest lost by the firemen under the previous regime when, he said, former City Treasurer Ward had issued a warrant call without sufficient funds on hand to redeem all the warrants included in the call. He said the call automatically stopped the unpaid warrants from drawing interest.

Freudenstein went to the but for the firemen and succeeded in getting a majority vote in favor of granting the firemen permission to make an audit at their own expense. Callow voted no.

A communication from the Butte Woman's council asking the enactment of an ordinance to prevent boys from riding bicycles on the sidewalks, brought out a statement from Chief of Police Murphy, who declared that with the exception of the few paved streets there was no street in the city on which they could ride. He asserted that because of automobiles and street cars it was highly dangerous to force children to ride their wheels in the streets off the sidewalks. He declared children in Butte have very limited places in which to play except on the sidewalks and streets.

A representative of the Gilman Commercial company appeared and entered protest against the use of any of the corporation's property for alley purposes, on the ground that the property adjacent to the Gilman property was less valuable, and should be condemned.

In the closing minutes of the session Alderman Hoss sought the secure suspension of the rules and immediate passage of an ordinance repealing the present slaughter house ordinance and replacing it with the one repealed last year. His effort met with considerable opposition from Freudenstein and others, who declared their objections to acting on any ordinance with the contents of which they were unfamiliar. The ordinance was laid over.

"A Kansas girl has been sleeping seven days. Here's a suggestion: Let someone whisper in her ear that the breakfast dishes are all washed and wiped and put away and see if she doesn't begin to stretch and yawn and show signs of waking up.—Emporia Gazette.

The modern day laborer is more wretched than the slave of former times, for he is fed by no master nor any one else, and if his position is one of more liberty than the slave, it is principally the liberty of dying of hunger.—Max Nordau.

Well, summer's gone and autumn's here, and wise folks now begin to digger how their fuel bills. They're going to pay next winter.—Tennyson J. Dait in Kansas City Star.