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**LEWIS ENTERS FIGHT FOR GOMPERS'S JOB**

Head of Mine Workers Said to Have Support of More Than Half of Delegates.

OLD CHIEF STANDS PAT

Will Not Ask for Votes and Will Not Quit His Position.

DEFIES HEARST PAPERS

Talk of Big 'Slush Fund' to Defeat Veteran Labor Leader Heard in Convention.

DENVER, June 20.—Supporters of Samuel Gompers and John Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, who today announced his candidacy, to-night were marshalling their forces for the contest which will decide whether the veteran labor leader shall be returned to the presidency of the American Federation of Labor.

Both sides are making a canvass of the situation and already declare they have mustered sufficient votes to win. The Gompers forces went into action immediately following the announcement by Lewis, with a declaration that the veteran labor chief would be a candidate and had no intention of withdrawing from the race.

Mr. Gompers stated, however, that "I consider the position of president of the American Federation of Labor so exalted and so dignified, I would not stoop to politics to attain it."

"No man in this convention, or out of it, can truthfully say, and I do not believe he would untruthfully make such a statement, that I discussed the presidency with him or asked him for his vote."

**Scorns Hearst Dictation.**  
"It has been stated in the Hearst newspapers and by the Hearst press service that in the event there is opposition to me for the presidency of the American Federation of Labor, I will decline to be a candidate and will withdraw."

"That statement is absolutely false. My course will not be determined by what any individual or group may do. The Hearst interests cannot dictate my course. That can be done only by labor. My life has been given to the service of the wage earners of our country. It remains at their command."

"I have given my life to the labor movement and have always held that the office is too exalted to attempt to intrude myself by any political maneuver. I have no other aspiration in life and have no interests in anything, public office, business or financial advantage; no political or civic position. The Amer-

ican Federation of Labor has given me the opportunity to acquire some information, some experience—it is theirs to do with me as they see fit.

"I am not engaged in any political maneuver and it shall be my endeavor to see that every subject brought up before this convention shall be considered on its merits and decided by the convention."

**'Slush Fund' Charge Comes Up.**  
Before the convention adjourned its morning session a motion was made to appoint a committee to investigate published reports that certain anti-Gompers interests were operating among the delegates with a \$100,000 "slush fund" to prevent President Gompers's reelection. The move was declared out of order as a motion for adjournment was before the convention.

Mr. Gompers, who was one of the founders of the Federation in 1881, has served as its president for thirty-five years, with the exception of one term. In Denver in 1894 he was defeated for reelection by John McBride, who was a mine worker.

Except for his brief announcement that he was a candidate, Mr. Lewis, who heads the largest union in the United States, declined to make any statement. His supporters, however, were active, and said they had pledged more than 20,000 of the 38,294 votes in the convention.

Although electioneering on behalf of Lewis has been in progress here for the last week, his announcement came as a surprise to many of the delegates. Many had believed that the miners' chief would formally withdraw from the race instead of being a candidate.

Labor leaders pointed out to-night that the candidacy of Lewis would change the "whole political complexion" of the convention. They said that there probably would be candidates put into the field in opposition to the present members of the executive council. Up to to-night, however, there had been no indication of such a move.

In order to find a "sound" basis for our social life as a whole, the convention instructed the executive council to investigate the "manner in which wages are fixed, with a view to getting a better basis than the cost of living for determining wage scales." Fixing wages by the cost of living, the executive council report said, brings "death through a perpetuation of a static condition."

The convention instructed the executive council to take steps to oppose any legislation by Congress that would tend to weaken or destroy the Department of Labor.

A resolution was adopted pledging the Federation against all efforts to destroy the United States Department of Agriculture.

Resolutions disapproving the second class mail zone rates and an increase to be effective July 1 were adopted.

A report of the executive council disapproving of plans to prohibit lobbying at Washington was adopted.

A proposal to take a referendum vote on a proposition to raise \$10,000,000 to finance the establishment of five universities of industrial and agricultural economics, four in the United States and one in Canada, was rejected.

Indorsement of the world war veterans provided for in a resolution was refused, with the declaration that the federation held to its principle, adopted last year, of impartiality toward all organizations of war veterans.

A resolution calling on the federation to take steps to establish ten daily newspapers throughout the country in as many industrial centres was also rejected.

**PRINTERS IN 44 HOUR WEEK.**  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, June 20.—The forty-four hour week became effective to-day in all the union printing plants in Saratoga county. That agreement was reached by arbitration.

**U. S. RAIL BOARD WILL ORDER 12 P. C. PAY CUT**

All Roads Not Named in June 1 Rating Affected.

**Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.**  
CHICAGO, June 20.—Announcement of a wage reduction order affecting practically all railroads involved in the \$100,000,000 wage award of July, 1920, not named in the reduction order of June 1, is expected this week. It was learned at the United States Railroad Labor Board to-day.

A brief hearing covering about thirty roads asking wage cuts was held to-day. The board's decision on this case and on the hearing of June 4, when more than 150 roads presented petitions, will be rendered simultaneously.

The decision, it was learned officially to-day, will be drawn as an addendum to the wage reduction order of June 1, and the reductions will be virtually identical with the average 12 per cent. cut granted by that order.

**CLOTHING INQUIRY HELD UP.**

**Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.**  
NEW YORK, June 20.—The Senate Committee on Education and Labor of the investigation of the clothing industry has been blocked for a time by the departure from this city of Senator Kenyon, chairman. He has gone to Iowa for several days, and in his absence nothing will be done by the committee on a final decision as to whether the inquiry shall be held.

He is expected back in about a week, after which the committee again will consider the question of having an investigation.

**10,000 MINERS GO ON STRIKE IN TWO PLANTS**

Men Charge Violation of Wage Agreement.

**Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.**  
WILKESBARRE, June 20.—Ten thousand miners employed by the Pennsylvania Coal Company and the Hillside Coal and Iron Company in the Pittston district went on strike this morning, their leaders say because of the company violating agreements for the readjustment of company men's wages, the removal of a mine foreman at No. 14 colliery and the reinstatement of a driver boy at the Central colliery at Avoca.

About one month ago I. K. Morris, vice-president of the Pennsylvania company, requested that the grievance committee at each colliery be cut down to

three men. This the various locals have done. Since that time, the insurgents say, Superintendent Brown at No. 6 colliery refused to allow the committee to go in certain openings.

**COST OF LIVING DOWN 20 P. C., BUT STILL HIGH**

Greatest Reduction in Food, Says Industrial Board.

The cost of living since July, 1920, has decreased 20.8 per cent., the National Industrial Conference Board announced yesterday, but it still is 8.9 per cent. higher than it was in July, 1914. The estimates of the board are said to be based upon retail prices for the principal items of a wage-earner's family budget.

The cost of living for wage-earners in the country as a whole during May and June 1 this year, the board says, A decrease of 4.6 per cent. was reported in the price of food and 3.8 per cent. for clothing during the month. Average prices of the other major items remained the same.

Since last July food prices have dropped 33.3 per cent.; shelter shows a decrease of 8.2 per cent.; fuel and light 7.2 per cent., the board's figures show.

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An Important Sale of  
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Summer Negligee Shirts  
(all soft-cuff models) made of printed madras and fine percale  
offering extraordinary value at  
**\$1.35 each**  
On sale at the same time will be  
300 Dozen Batwing Ties  
made of fine-quality imported and American silks, presenting a large variety of smart patterns and color effects; freshly taken from stock and marked, for clearance, at the greatly reduced price of  
**85c. each**  
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**Men's Suits**  
Reduced to  
**\$36.50**

High-grade fabrics, well tailored. Styles most popular this season. The many patterns include pencil stripes, herringbones and a wide selection of mixture weaves.  
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Two or three button styles.

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