

World's Workers Plead For Unity

**Letters Show War Has Not Chilled Brotherhood Spirit—
A. F. of L. Conference Plan At Close of War Is
Favored—President Gompers Declared to Be "Head
and Father of the English-Speaking Trade Union
Movement."**

Washington.—In the November issue of American Federationist President Gompers publishes correspondence between himself and representatives of trade union centers throughout the world during the present war. In his introduction he says these letters "reveal the strength of the fraternal ties that still bind the workers even of the warring nations," and that communication between the representatives of labor in the several countries "has met with little interference."

At the close of the Philadelphia convention, last year, President Gompers notified the trade union centers of the decision of American unionists, favoring a conference of world's trade unionists after the war closed, to be held at the same time and place where the diplomats convened, for the purpose of insisting that democratic ideals may be included in any settlement agreed to.

Copies of letters that passed between the trade union groups were also forwarded to President Gompers, and the correspondence now published for the first time indicates the depth of fraternal feeling between these toilers, despite the European carnage.

The principal actors in this silent but thrilling drama, staged by the world's workers, are President Gompers, representing the North American trade union movement; Secretary Carl Legien, international federation of trade unions, Germany; Secretary Appleton, general federation of trade unions, England; Secretary Jouhaux, confederation generale du travail, France; Secretary Rigola, Italian trade unionists, Milan; President Oudegeest, federation of trade unions, Holland; Secretary Gray, Trades Council, Melbourne, Australia, and Secretary Crawford, South African Industrial Federation, Johannesburg.

The letters of these unionists clearly indicate that the war has but intensified the spirit of brotherhood and helpfulness between the world's men and women of toil. This is shown by Secretary Legien, who addresses Secretary Appleton as "My Dear Appleton," in a letter pledging fraternity and good will to the British trade unionists. In Appleton's letters to Legien the same spirit is manifest.

Secretary Jouhaux writes President Gompers that the French unionists have accepted America's invitation to hold an

international conference at the close of the war. Jouhaux incloses a circular which he issued to the French workers. The latter closes: "Vive the international, always and everywhere!"

Legien writes to Appleton in which he agrees with President Gompers' views and assures the British unionist: "I am fully convinced that there will be little difficulty to re-establish and even strengthen the trade union bonds again after a very brief space of time after the war is over. For we are not all depending on each other, if we desire to attain our ends?"

Appleton tells Legien of his visit to a camp of German prisoners and pleads against the doctrine of hate.

Secretary Oudegeest writes Appleton: "Especially in these terrible times we on our part do everything in our power to keep up the international relations as well as we possibly can."

Appleton and Jouhaux suggest to President Gompers that the headquarters of the international federation of trade unions be temporarily removed from Germany to a neutral country because of the war, which makes it impossible to freely communicate with Germany.

The British and French unionists plead that "there is not the slightest personal feeling against Legien," and that "we know of no one who would so seriously consider what is suggested or who would more conscientiously act in the interest of international trade unionism than Samuel Gompers." Appleton and Jouhaux also say: "You will understand our anxiety to maintain, irrespective of personal ties, the solidarity of our movement."

In another letter Appleton pays a compliment to the North American trade union movement in the following personal tribute to President Gompers:

"Whenever and as soon as it (the war) terminates, I trust you, whom I always regard as the head and father of the English-speaking trade union movement, will initiate steps for the reconstruction of the international side of it."

The correspondence shows the bonds of brotherhood between unionists of the world, many of whom are now temporarily divided in military camps, but who pledge their faith in the workers' cause and their determination to carry on the work of uniting the men and women of toil after the day of carnage has passed.

FREIGHT TRAFFIC IS LARGE.

New York.—At the offices of the Erie Railroad it was said that freight tonnage figures for last month showed that the business done in September, 1915, was the greatest ever recorded on the books of the company.

Tonnage on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad has increased 40 per cent, it is said, within the past 90 days. The New Haven Railroad is moving more freight today than it has moved for years before and the New York Central lines report that business is so good that hundreds of extra men have been added to handle the traffic and that quick delivery of the several thousand cars recently ordered is being urged.

Steamship companies report the same condition and have pressed into service every possible craft to carry the enormous volume of exports. It is stated that it is no uncommon thing for a trans-Atlantic liner to be turned back to England within 48 hours after her arrival, an unusual procedure before the past few months.

ROCKEFELLERS BAR UNIONS.

New York.—"Trade unions are kept out of the mines controlled by the Rockefellers in Colorado," said Prof. Nearing, in a speech in this city.

"If a labor agitator gets in these mines he is jailed for life."

"When John D. Rockefeller, Jr., went to Colorado he took his press agent with him. He does not want union men in the mines. If you were a Rockefeller employee, asked by the son of the richest man in the world, if unions were wanted in mines, how would you cast your ballot if your living depended on a favorable answer?"

"Lawson did not get a square deal. What is American public opinion going to do about it. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., will be condemned, but we've got to get Lawson out of jail."

NEW UNION EXPANDS.

Wilmington, Del.—The Boilermakers' Union, the youngest in this city, is steadily increasing in membership and interest. Already there are over 100 enrolled, and it is believed this number will grow four-fold before the first of the year.

PROTECT FOUNDRY WORKERS

Harrisburg, Pa.—A subdivision of the department of labor and industry has formulated safety regulations to protect workmen in foundries in this state.

Among the various provisions of the new regulations, it is required that from November 1 to April 1 of each year, covered vestibules be erected at the entrance of foundries to prevent drafts of cold air that would endanger the health of the workmen.

Mechanical means of ventilation must be installed in foundries where smoke, steam, gases or dust arise to endanger the health or eyes of the workers and where a natural ventilation of air does not carry off such gases. Cleaning and chipping of castings must be done in cleaning rooms or behind curtains or screens to protect the employees from flying particles.

Suitable facilities must be provided in every foundry for the thorough drying of employees' clothing. Individual lockers must be provided for employees and placed in a room used exclusively for that purpose. Every foundry employing more than 10 persons, must provide a suitable washroom for use of the employees so located that it may be entered without the necessity of the employee exposing himself to the open air.

Washrooms must be provided with hot and cold water service; must be kept clean and sanitary and properly heated during cold weather. Washroom equipment must be provided in proportion to the number of employees as outlined in tables included in the foundry regulations of the industrial board.

Women working in core making rooms of foundries shall not be allowed to handle material which has a temperature of more than 110 degrees Fahrenheit, nor will they be permitted to make or handle cores when the combined weight of core box and plate exceeds 15 pounds.

BAD BUSINESS IS NO BAR.

Washington.—The United States Supreme Court has ruled that immigration officials can not bar immigrants on the ground that industrial depressions are liable to cause them to become public charges. The case came up on appeal from New York where immigration officials ruled that several Russians, bound for Portland, Ore., should not be admitted, as trade reports showed business was bad in that city and the aliens would, in all probability, fail to secure employment, and accordingly, were "likely to become a public charge." Attorneys for the Russians held that immigration officials were restricted in their powers and that they had no authority to deport or detain except as specifically indicated by the law. The court upheld this position in a decision which will render less elastic in the future the provision of the law under which many aliens have been denied admission and others excluded on the ground that they "were likely to become a public charge."

A FAMILIAR DECLARATION.

Worcester, Mass.—"Professional agitators" are at work among working people of this city "for the purpose of changing conditions of employment," declares the Employers' Association of Worcester County, which has voted to stand together for the so-called "open shop." It is stated that 100 employers are members of the association and these gentlemen are quite sure that "professional agitators" are responsible for workers demanding an eight-hour day and better working conditions. So the manufacturers announce their faith in non-unionism and to create the opinion that a reign of terror is imminent, they "pledge protection" to all employees who "desire to continue as free and independent workers."

The resolutions are identical with hundreds of similar declarations by men who can't understand why "their" workers should not be contented but who insist on a shorter work day that can only be secured through collective action.

Local trade unionists are comparing the policy of local manufacturers, which is resulting in numerous strikes, with the policy of prominent Massachusetts manufacturers, who told the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, in session in this city last week, that trade agreements and conferences with union committees were successful and that they would not revert to the old plan of individual bargaining because unions lived up to their contracts.

EIGHT HOURS IN CLEVELAND.

Cleveland.—The Stearns Motor Car Company has read the signs of the times correct and announces that its 1,500 employees will hereafter work eight hours a day with no change in wage rates. Increasing trade union sentiment at this factory, the workers say, was a factor in the decision.

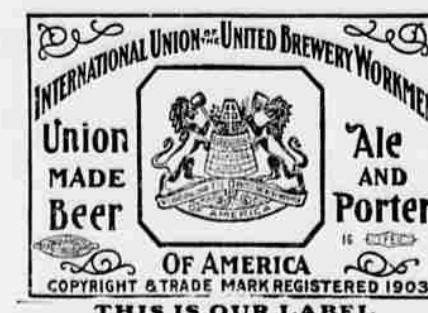
CLERKS WANT EIGHT HOURS.

Boston.—At a meeting of the adjustment board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Clerks of the Boston & Maine railroad it was voted to demand higher wages and an eight-hour day.

STRIKE FOR EIGHT HOURS.

Cleveland.—Over 1,000 employees of the Peerless Motor Company struck for an eight-hour day and other improved working conditions.

VOTE AGAINST PROHIBITION!



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WILL DRINK
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As a guarantee that it is
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UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

Washington.—The United States Department of labor, through its bureau of labor statistics, publishes the results of the third study in the series of investigations being made into unemployment. The following 12 cities in the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast states were canvassed: Butte, Los Angeles, Oakland, Ogden, Portland, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma. In those cities 36,537 families were investigated, and the number of wage earners were found to be 49,335. The unemployed total 6,373, or 21.9 per cent, and the part-time wage earners are 9,971, or 20.2 per cent.

Portland, Ore., with 20 per cent, has the highest average of unemployed. Oakland, with 26.9 per cent, has the highest number of part-time wage earners. The lowest percentage of unemployed, 4.5, was found in Ogden. Butte reports the lowest number of part-time wage earners, 12.7 per cent.

OBJECT TO SEAMEN'S ACT.

New York.—At a meeting of the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers, resolutions were adopted urging congress to reconsider the seamen's law, passed by the last congress, with a view to substantial amendment or repeal.

It is agreed that the bill contains many "commendable features," but as the law stands now it will drive the United States flag off the Pacific ocean, say these business men. Objection is made to the language test which ends the practice of employing Chinese sailors and working them under Chinese conditions. The board of directors would re-establish old conditions, or as near thereto as is possible.

ASKS INCREASE OF \$688,000.

Washington.—The United States Department of Labor is the only self-supporting department is one of the reasons why Secretary of Labor Wilson will ask the incoming congress to appropriate an additional \$688,000 to carry on the various activities of that department. Secretary Wilson shows that the revenues of his department last year were \$7,875,835 in excess of expenditures. This year's estimates total \$4,271,270. Attention is called to the increasing successes of the department in settling labor disputes and strikes by means of conciliation. An additional \$25,000 is asked for this work.

STRIKE COMMISSION REJECTED.

St. Louis, Mo.—The board of aldermen has unanimously rejected Mayor Kiel's plan to create a commission that would handle industrial disputes. Business influences supported the proposed ordinance, as did several civic organizations.

ARIZONA CLERKS ORGANIZE.

Tucson, Ariz.—The retail clerks of this city have organized with a membership of 100.

MACHINE CHILDREN NOT GOOD CITIZENS

Syracuse, N. Y.—Vocational training that teaches only shop work and makes the child a mere machine is not needed in this country, even though it is favored by most manufacturers and employers of labor, declared Prof. Roman of the Syracuse university in an address before the Schoolmasters' club. The educator pointed out the difference between a child that has been developed into an efficient machine and one who possesses a knowledge of those things that result in citizenship as well as manual skill.

"There has been a tendency," he said, "in some States to force upon the vocational school a curriculum that makes an efficient machine out of the child. The country does not need that kind of education. We are now producing more goods than ever before in the history of the nation. Wealth is piling up faster. Everything is materialistic. The question is, 'How can we make more goods and get more money?'"

"If the vocational school is to meet the problem of the future welfare of this country, it must give a well-balanced training. It must teach the child the principles of democracy, citizenship, government and the proper use of its spare time and collective bargaining. As the volume of production has increased the workers' hours have decreased. Ignorant of his civic duties and the fundamentals of good government, the workers are easy prey for the demagogue."

BURBANK FAVORS CHILDREN.

Oakland, Cal.—Child labor profiteers will get little assistance from Luther Burbank, who asks: "Isn't it as important for a nation to raise a good human crop as it is to raise good orchards?"

In a speech before a conference of social workers, the naturalist declared that the first ten years of a child's life should be surrounded by sunshine, cheerfulness, love and laughter, because, he said, it is abnormal and cruel to run all children through the same mill and stuff and cram their little heads to the breaking point. The speaker said a child is vastly more sensitive than a plant and that there is not an attribute lacking in a plant that cannot be bred into it. The same is largely true of human nature, he said. Heredity will make itself felt first, but in child-rearing, heredity and environment are equally important. What then can we expect from children raised in dusty factories, crowded tenements and unventilated schools? We let the weeds grow and then set fire to them by bad environment.

DEATH IN THE MINES.

Butte, Mont.—The worst mining disaster ever known in this State occurred when 500 pounds of dynamite exploded at the properties of the North Butte Mining company. Nearly a score of workers lost their lives, while many were severely injured.