

INDEPENDENT

The Labor Advocate

NON-PARTISAN

Official Organ of the Building Trades Council of Cincinnati and Vicinity

Vol. III. No. 31

CINCINNATI, OHIO, NOVEMBER 20, 1915

One Dollar a Year

The Building Trades Council Puchta Cannot Remove Copelan and Retain His Self Respect

Regular Meeting—Protest Sent to Governor Willis Against the Appointment of Callery and Karnell—Organizer Shay of the Painters Again Addressed the Council—Next Meeting Dec. 2, 1915.

He Promised Cincinnati to Give the People a Business Administration, and he Cannot Remove Its Most Efficient Officer for Purely Political Reasons.

The Trades and Labor Assembly of Kenton and Campbell Counties Criticise Building Trades Council for Doing What They Do Themselves.

What Becomes of his Moral Sponsors, Col. Wm. Cooper Procter, E. W. Edwards, Jno. R. Holmes and Others to Whom the Citizens of this City Look Up to for him to Carry Out this Statement?

The Building Trades Council, at its meeting Thursday night, sent the following protest to Governor Willis against the employment of J. C. Callery for chief boiler inspector at Hamilton, and C. A. Karnell as chief deputy boiler inspector at Toledo:

Cincinnati, Nov. 18, 1915.

HON. FRANK B. WILLIS,
Governor of Ohio.

Sir—We desire to call your attention, as part and parcel of the labor movement of the State of Ohio, to appointments being made in the various departments created by and through the efforts of organized labor, of them who will jeopardize the efficiency of these departments, by substituting incompetent men, such as J. C. Callery for chief boiler inspector of Hamilton, Ohio, and C. A. Karnell as deputy boiler inspector of Toledo, Ohio, men who are incompetent for the positions, besides, the above named are well known scabs, they being appointed to fill the positions which were held by efficient union men.

We therefore protest the appointment of men not qualified under the law, and known enemies of labor, to positions in departments created through the influence of organized labor.

And we further protest to these inefficient servants displacing men who have proven their qualifications and efficiency, for the reason that members of organized labor are better qualified for the positions.

We therefore urge and request that these and similar appointments be recalled, and that in departments affecting labor where appointments are to be made, members of organized labor be appointed, that the interests of labor may be justly administered.

Respectfully,

JOS. A. CULLEN,
President.

THOS. McEWEN,
Secretary.

The meeting was called to order with President Cullen in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

A communication was received from the Trades and Labor Council of Kenton and Campbell Counties asking whether a certain advertisement in the LABOR ADVOCATE was fair or not. The consensus of opinion of the members present was that the Trades and Labor Assembly had best clean up its own paper of unfair advertising before it makes such requests of others. Another thing, their paper comes to Cincinnati and does all the business which it can and is welcome, but the minute the ADVOCATE crosses the river, the employees of the Messenger resort to all manner of misrepresentations concerning this paper, while, as a matter of fact, they know no more regarding the business of the ADVOCATE than we do about the Messenger. The communication was received and filed.

A communication from the International Association of Boiler Makers and Ship Builders was received, requesting the Council to send a letter of protest to Governor Willis against the appointment of I. C. Callery and C. A. Karnell. This request was concurred in.

The business agent's report was received and adopted.

The Labor Day Committee reported progress.

All trades reported business as fair. It was moved and seconded that as the next meeting will fall on Thanksgiving, for that reason it be dispensed with and that the next meeting of the Council be held on Thursday, December 2d, unless something should arise, in which case the president will call a special meeting. Carried.

International Organizer Wm. Shay of the painters, addressed the Council and explained the situation as to the painters' lockout in this city, and asked the Building Trades Council to lend its support in the matter, which question was referred to the Board of Business Agents.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned as above indicated to December 2.

TELLING IT TO UNCLE BUCKEYE—IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER



LABOR LAW OPPONENTS TOLD TO BE CONSISTENT

SAN FRANCISCO.—The National Association of Manufacturers has petitioned Congress to reconsider the seamen's law, specific objection being made to the language test, the provision that 65 per cent of the crew of a vessel must be able seamen, and the provision that makes it legal for a member of a vessel's crew to quit his job.

Editor Barry, of the Weekly Star, makes the following comment on the above action:

"To prove its good faith and uncommonly good sense, the association should have passed other resolutions, along the following lines:

"Demanding that fire and police departments may be composed of men who do not understand the language of the officers.

"Demanding that crews of vessels of the navy may be composed of men who do not understand the language of the officers.

"Demanding that railway trains may be handled by conductors and engineers who do not understand the language of train dispatchers.

"Demanding that it be made illegal for any employe in a factory or mine to quit his job without the consent of the employer, and that any Pullman porter who quits his job at the end of a run be arrested and punished.

"There are other demands, equally absurd, that the National Association of Manufacturers might have adopted, but the foregoing would be enough to show what the association really means. The opponents of the seamen's law have now come out into the open and occupy the position of demanding an 'American' merchant marine, of which the only thing 'American' will be the flag floating above an 'American' subsidy."

DAYTON MOLDERS STRIKE.

Dayton, O.—Iron molders employed at the Platt Iron Works are on strike because their demand for a minimum wage rate of \$3.75 a day was refused.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington.—A report issued by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Immigration, shows that 31,096 immigrants were admitted during the month of September. Italy contributed the largest number, 2,030, followed by Greece, with 1,676; England, 1,359; Portugal, 1,261, and Ireland, 1,239. The number of Japanese total 646, while 134 Chinese were admitted.

The effect the present war has on immigration to this country is shown in the Government's report on immigration for December, 1913, when 23,821 Russians were admitted. The last report (September, 1915), shows that 412 Russians were admitted.

Of the 31,096 immigrants during September, 1915, 4,343 were classed as laborers, 1,023 as farm laborers, and 2,700 as servants. In the skilled trades and callings, clerks and accountants led, with 788. Carpenters and joiners were next, with 354; tailors, 236, and miners, 204.

The industrial States received the bulk of these immigrants, 7,318 being ticketed to New York and 2,923 to Massachusetts. The Southern States seem to offer little attraction to these newcomers. Arkansas received only 4; Mississippi, 10; North Carolina, 18, and South Carolina, 7.

REJECT SMALL COMPROMISE.

Cincinnati.—A committee representing Big Four Railroad telegraphers have rejected the offer of a two and one-half per cent increase. The wire men have presented a demand for increases that average fifteen per cent.

SOLVING PROBLEM.

New York.—Unemployment as a serious problem has been abated greatly in New York City, according to a statement issued by the Charity Organization Society today. Among the families asking assistance of the society in October were about 74 unemployed men, as compared to nearly 600 in the early part of last winter.

Rumor as to changes to be made by the incoming city administration are rife, and from sources which appear to be reliable, comes the report to the effect that Mayor-elect Puchta has already determined upon the removal of Col. William Copelan as head of the Police Department.

In connection with the same report it is said the next mayor will name as chief a man not now connected with the department.

Those citizens who are watching developments closely, and who take active interest in civic affairs, are astounded, and almost without exception are unable to offer any explanation for such possible action on the part of Mayor-elect Puchta. Almost to a man those consulted have been loath to believe the newly-elected mayor can so far forget pre-election promises, made by himself and those who stood sponsor for his candidacy, as to thus early, and before he has assumed the duties of his position as head of the city government, determine upon the removal of one of the city's most valuable officials. Men who take this view of the matter are wondering what must be the feelings of such men as Col. William Cooper Procter, E. W. Edwards, John R. Holmes and many others whom the people believe worthy of confidence and who endorsed Mr. Puchta and vouched for the honesty of his statement that he would give Cincinnati a business administration.

Plainly speaking, the reported intention to remove Colonel Copelan, will, if true, serve as advance notice to the people of Cincinnati that the mayor-elect was only making pre-election promises; that those men who stood as his sponsors were badly fooled, and that the voters were bumped again. It would indicate that the newly-elected mayor is to reverse his position, and that Cincinnati is to have a political rather than a business administration.

It is claimed that Mr. Puchta has given no thought to matters which will come before him for attention after January 1, and that he knows nothing regarding possible changes to be made. Despite this statement, the Copelan rumor comes from sources which are very close to the next mayor of Cincinnati, and it is regarded as practically certain Mr. Puchta knows who his Director of Safety will be, and very likely he also knows who that official desires as Chief of Police. Doubtless the next Director of the Safety Department arrived at some understanding with the next mayor before agreeing to serve.

Many business men who have been consulted regarding this rumor are inclined to think it is premature or entirely untrue, and there are many who express great surprise and regret that the continuance of Colonel Copelan as head of the Police Department should be questioned.

Director of Public Safety Holmes, who announced some time since his determination to retire from office at the end of December, is the direct superior officer to whom the Chief of Police reports, and is a strong advocate of the present chief, being outspoken in his statement that Colonel Copelan has made an excellent chief. Mr. Holmes is known as a careful man, who would hardly make such a statement without the best possible reason for doing so. Mr. Holmes further says he will do everything in his power to retain Colonel Copelan in his present position.

Colonel Copelan has served on the police force of this city during practically his entire life, his record being without the slightest stain. No possible charge of inefficiency can be brought against him. He has been on the job practically his entire term as chief. The department is now in better condition than ever before. There is less complaint as to neglect or failure to perform their duty against individual members of the force than at any time in the past. The general peace and safety of the city is excellent. Business interests and the people at large have confidence in the present Chief of

Police, and his removal would meet with instant disapproval in all quarters.

So far as can be learned, Colonel Copelan will be asked to resign immediately after January 1, and his place filled by a man not now connected with the department. Such a move would



Col. Wm. Copelan,
Chief of Police.

immediately bring about confusion and an inevitable shaking up of the entire force. Many of the benefits which have accrued during the administration of the present chief would be entirely lost or rendered nearly useless.

Mayor-elect Puchta will be hard pressed to find any good reason for removing Copelan, and will find that the people will expect a much more definite reason than the "good of the service" statement usually made when it is not intended to make any explanation. The people who voted for Mr. Puchta, those who believed his statements, who placed reliance in the sound judgment of the many distinguished Cincinnatians who actively supported his candidacy, will expect him to give the city a business administration, keeping politics in the background, and to be able to show why the removal of Copelan will be for the good of the service. Certainly it will be hard to convince people that a man not now connected with the department can improve its efficiency.

BREWERY WORKERS TO ASK HIGHER WAGES

Anti-prohibition efforts of the Labor Home Rule League and the work they did talking "wet" and marching in the Liberal League parade should be repaid, beer bottlers and brewery workers say.

A new scale of higher wages will be asked next year, to hold four years. Conditions justify it, speakers said Friday night at union meetings in Central Turner Hall.

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Central Labor Council last night joined in the demand on Governor Willis for the removal of Mr. Carelley and Mr. Karnell from the positions to which they have been appointed in the State Boiler Inspection Bureau. It is alleged the two men are objectionable because they are non-union men and so should not hold jobs that have been created through the special endeavors of organized labor and to look after its interests. The fight on the two officials was started at the recent convention of the Ohio Federation of Labor.