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Willis the Politician, Writes The Building Trades Council

That He Has Been Fair to Them, While Willis, the Governor, Has Done All He Could To Destroy Union Labor—He Appointed More Scabs Than Any Other Governor—Now Appeals For Votes Under the Name of "Fair Play."

The Politician's Letter

State of Ohio
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Columbus
November 29, 1915.

Mr. THOS. McEWEN, Secretary
Building Trades Council,
Cincinnati, O.

Dear Sir—Your favor of the 24th inst. duly received and contents noted. It is the desire and purpose of this administration, in the making of political appointments, to give organized labor fair and satisfactory representation.

However, as you are aware, the authority and power of the administration to make political appointments is decidedly limited and circumscribed by the Civil Service law. No prior State administration has been bound by such limitations.

A considerable number of appointments have already been made from the ranks of organized labor and, as Governor of Ohio, I assure you that the interest of labor will continue to have, not secondary, but careful consideration.

With reference to the particular subject matter of your letter, permit me to advise that I will cause a complete and thorough investigation to be made. Pending this investigation, I sincerely trust you will suspend judgement and await a final finding of the facts.

As a matter of interest to union organizations, if you desire it, I shall be very glad to forward to you a list containing the names of many union appointees under this administration. I assure you this will convince you that there has been no disposition to ignore organized labor.

Yours very truly,
FRANK B. WILLIS,
Governor of Ohio.

P. S.—I shall be gratified to have you kindly see that this reply receives the same consideration in your local organization which the original communication sent me received. F. B. W.

THE GOVERNOR'S RECORD

He discharged more union men and appointed more scabs than any other governor.

What influence he had he used on the side of capital as against labor.

He appointed an insurance commissioner whose rulings nullified the Workmen's Compensation law and made the wounded laborer a prey for lawyers and sharks.

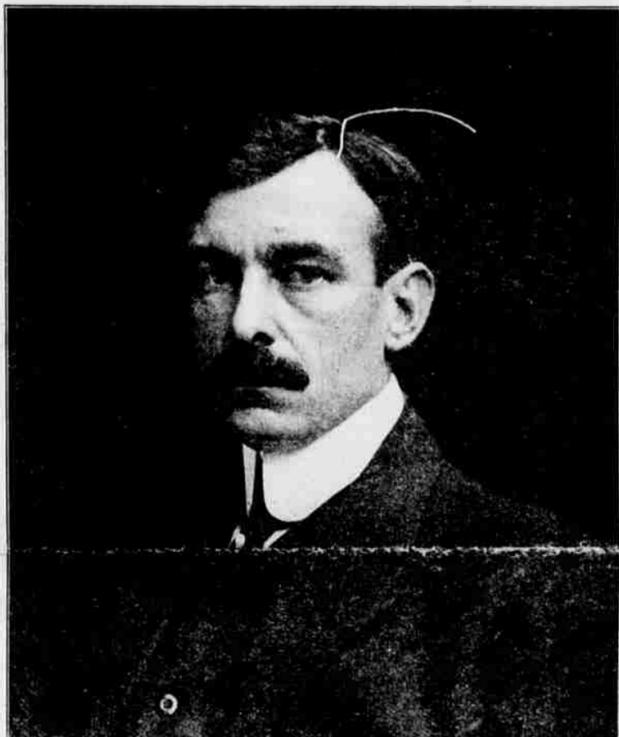
He forced the repeal of the Green law and made slaves again of Ohio's miners.

He loaned his name and encouraged people in promoting "the no strike scheme," so that they could make money out of their abuse of labor.

He fought organized labor and its bills because Governor Cox favored them; whatever Cox favored appeared wrong to Willis.

His egotism was so great that he felt flattered by the attention of the captains of industry and forgot labor until he wants to run again, and now he whines that he has always been fair.

Organized labor in Cincinnati and Ohio is endeavoring to find a reasonable excuse for further patience with the claims of Governor Willis to the effect that he has endeavored to treat labor with fairness and justice. The governor has claimed that he is treating labor fairly, and that he is a friend of the laboring men of the State. In a letter addressed to the Building Trades



E. W. EDWARDS

President of The Rapid Transit Commission, President of E. W. Edwards Co. and Employer of Union Labor.

Council of this city, the governor claims he has endeavored to be fair in the making of appointments to State offices, but the entire record of his administration is against such a claim.

Leaders of organized labor, as a rule, have not sought to be appointed to State offices, and there has been no urgent demand made upon the governor that he appoint men from the ranks of labor to such offices as he has had at his disposal. What labor has demanded, and what the present governor promised during the last campaign when he was seeking the support of organized labor, was that he be fair with labor in the matter of appointments which directly concerned the laboring men of the State. Labor leaders did not ask that these appointments be made from the ranks of organized labor, but it was plainly understood that appointments to such offices would not include men either grossly incompetent or directly antagonistic to organized labor.

It was further understood, prior to the election in 1914, that certain measures to be presented to the next legislature, in the interest of labor, would receive the support of the governor. That the then candidate was thoroughly familiar with the intent and purpose of these proposed measures can not be doubted. Organized labor is now wondering why it is that, of the many labor measures introduced in the last session of the legislature, only two were enacted into laws. One of these amended the miners' anti-screen law and was bitterly opposed by the miners and by the State Federation of Labor. The only other labor legislation enacted provided for vestibules on all electric cars, and was favored by organized labor.

There were more than sixty bills introduced during the sessions of the last legislature which had for their object the improvement of labor conditions. Better conditions were asked for women and children; various forms of safety legislation were asked for, but with the one act providing for vestibules on electric cars, labor was forced to be satisfied, while the amendment of

the mine screen law is regarded as a direct slap and repudiation of promises on the part of Governor Willis.

The records do not show that Willis has been friendly to labor in the matter of the State Insurance Department, where the action of the industrial insurance of the State has been practically brought to a standstill by the rulings of the commissioner, an appointee of the governor. This insurance department is one for which organized labor struggled for many years, and is one of the really great concessions which has been obtained by workmen in Ohio during the past history of the State. It was placed on the statutes for the benefit of the employer and employe alike, and is immensely popular with both.

The governor can not deny that he is responsible for the acts of those whom he appoints and maintains in office, and the action of the insurance commissioner in granting licenses to industrial insurance concerns, thus placing them in direct competition with the State, is regarded, not as an act of fairness, but of positive unfairness by labor all over the State.

In the matter of appointments to public office, Governor Willis has not only failed to regard the wishes of labor, but has gone directly contrary thereto, disregarding the expressed wishes of the most responsible labor men and organizations. In some cases "scabs" have been placed in positions where the interests of union labor are directly concerned, while in others strikebreakers have been favored and placed in office where they will have supervision over union men.

Not only has organized labor little reason to regard Governor Willis as being friendly, but there is every possible reason, all being based absolutely upon his record as governor, to regard him in the opposite light. There appears to be no redeeming feature in his entire record, so far as the interests or wishes of the men who toil are concerned, and Mr. Willis will be hard pressed when he goes before the people asking further support of his political ambitions.

American Federation of Labor Finally Decides

The Question of Metal Trim in Favor of the Sheet Metal Workers—The Carpenters Must Obey This Order or Stand Suspended—Carpenters Rush Into the Daily Papers With a Misrepresentation of Facts, in an Effort to Muddle Things Up.

Great interest was taken in local labor circles during the week concerning the action of the American Federation of Labor at San Francisco during the closing hours of the convention last week, when the various disputes between the constituent organizations came before the parent body for adjustment. The following article which appeared in a daily paper, attracted especial attention:

John H. Potts of Cincinnati, member of the Executive Council of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters, received a message from the carpenters' headquarters at Indianapolis Tuesday, announcing a victory for the carpenters in their controversies with other unions in the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor. Said Mr. Potts: "The carpenters had a controversy with the machinists' union regarding millwright work, and now comes the news that the machinists have been expelled from the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor. The carpenters also had a controversy of long standing with the sheet metal workers' union regarding the right to put up metal trim in buildings. At a previous meeting of the Building Trades Department of the Federation, a decision was rendered in favor of the sheet metal workers, but the Building Trades Department has now annulled that decision. These are two clear victories for the carpenters. Before these two decisions there was some talk of the carpenters withdrawing from the Building Trades Department of the Federation of Labor—but we are in now."

Commenting on the above, Fred Hock, business agent of the Cincinnati Building Trades Council, who has just returned from the convention, stated the report is without foundation so far as the metal workers and carpenters are concerned. According to Mr. Hock, the dispute between the carpenters and metal workers is one of long standing, the former having withdrawn from the Building Trades Council because of the rejection of the claim of jurisdiction over the sheet metal work used in this line of business. At last year's convention of the American Federation of Labor this matter was referred to a committee for

final settlement. This committee reported at the convention just closed, the majority report favoring the carpenters and giving them jurisdiction over all sheet metal work while the minority report favored the sheet metal workers' contention that the erection of sheet metal properly belonged to their organization. There was a lengthy debate, which was participated in by President Gompers, who served on the committee and signed the majority report. The convention refused to be influenced, and voted to adopt the minority report, thus settling the dispute in favor of the metal workers, the final action being taken at 2 o'clock Sunday morning, immediately after which the convention adjourned.

The carpenters have demanded that the question of metal trim be settled on the floor of the American Federation of Labor, and such was the case at San Francisco. The resolution granting the work to the sheet metal workers carried with it positive instructions that the president of the American Federation of Labor, the president of the Building Trades Department, and the president of the International Sheet Metal Workers, "are hereby instructed to appear before the next international carpenters' convention and notify that body of the action of the A. F. of L., and to command them to obey the said ruling or immediately suspend them from the American Federation of Labor."

Insofar as the dispute between the machinists and carpenters is concerned, Jack Doyle, of the machinists' union, said: "There has been a controversy between the machinists' and the carpenters' union in some cities as to where the jurisdiction of each ends in regard to millwright work. But I have heard nothing of the machinists being expelled from the Building Trades Department of the Federation of Labor, and I do not believe they have been expelled. I suppose the Building Trades Department merely made somewhat more definite the line of demarcation between work that should be done by each union. At Cincinnati our machinists' union has always gotten along in a satisfactory manner with the carpenters."

The Building Trades Council Ask Board of Education to Call New School After Jos. Heberle

The Building Trades Council was called to order Thursday evening with President Cullen in the chair.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

A communication from Governor Willis was read and received. After some discussion and in the light of the facts that all of his appointments here have been scabs, it was unanimously adopted that the governor be asked to send down a list of his appointments as suggested by him.

Business Agent Hock read a lengthy

report on business conditions, which was adopted.

All trades reported business as being good.

Under the good and welfare, a resolution requesting the Board of Education to name the new high school after Joseph Heberle was adopted after several members had eulogized Heberle's work as an educator. The following committee was appointed to draw up the communication: Brothers Anderson, Lane and Meinder.

There being no further business Council adjourned until next Thursday evening.

BREWERS' WAR ON GAMBLING

Uplift of Liquor Trade Discussed By Association.

New York.—A campaign for the suppression of gambling is being considered by members of the New York State Brewers' Association, according to an announcement by Jacob Ruppert, its president. Methods of eliminating saloons which can not be profitably operated also are under discussion, Colonel Ruppert said. Brewers who attended the annual convention of the association, heard Colonel Ruppert declare in favor of a campaign to educate the public concerning the prohibition movement and to elevate the tone of the liquor trade.

COMPENSATION LAW ATTACKED

Sacramento, Cal.—When Supreme Justice Henshaw dissented from his associates, who upheld the state compensation law, he gave an idea, it is claimed, to a San Diego company who now use Justice Henshaw's argument in an appeal from a decision of the state industrial accident commission.

If this decision is upheld it will deal a severe blow to the law. The appeal is based on the ground that when the constitutional amendment was passed in 1911, which enabled the passage of the law, it did not specifically provide for the compensation of dependent relatives of victims of fatal accidents, but merely compelled employers to pay employes for injuries.