

Everybody Should Help

Let Unionists Contribute One Hour's Pay To Despoiled Hatters—January 27 Will Recall Historic Fight Made By Workers of Danbury.

This Money Will Be Used For the Exclusive Purpose of Relieving the Hatters Who Were Made the Victims of Greed and Rapacity.

Washington.—"The Danbury hatters have performed a service of historic importance in the struggle for industrial freedom," declares the American Federation of Labor executive council, in a circular issued to all unions calling on organized workers to contribute the wages of an hour's labor, the second hour of the work day or shift of January 27, 1916, for the benefit of despoiled Danbury hatters.

The council's action is under authority of the American Federation of Labor convention, held in San Francisco, last month.

"The plight in which the hatters of Danbury, Conn., find themselves arouses the concern and the sympathy of all the workers as well as of all the liberty-loving citizens of America," says the executive council, which recounts the injustices trade unionists have suffered by reason of court interpretations of the Sherman anti-trust law that human beings are in the same category with commodities, and are subject to injunction processes that denied them rights guaranteed free men and women.

The hatters' resistance against these inequities, together with court processes financed by the American Federation of Labor, emphasized these wrongs and resulted in the passage by congress of the Clayton amendment to the Sherman anti-trust law in which it is declared that "The labor power of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce."

In addition to this clear declaration that there is a difference between labor power and articles of commerce—to which trust laws properly apply—the Clayton amendment limits and regulates the use of the injunction writ, and forbids its use for purposes against which the workers had so long and so justly complained.

This establishment of fundamental rights, this acknowledgement by congress that workers own their labor power—without interference or direction by law-maker or judge—is an epoch in American industrial history.

The men around whom this successful battle revolved, however, are now destitute. Their bank deposits and homes have been attached to insure payment of an approximate \$300,000 court award that was made before the Clayton act was passed. Many of the despoiled hatters have reached an age that they are no longer able to work, and with their homes and savings swept from them they are in a destitute condition as a

result of a fight that ended so triumphantly for American toiling men and women.

On this phase of the struggle, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor says:

"The Danbury hatters did not falter in that which they did for the benefit of all organized labor and for all the workers of the country. They did their duty; they made the test and upon them has fallen the consequences of the injustice of the then existing conditions. All other workers participate in the benefits which have grown out of their struggle, and it is but just that they should also help to relieve the victims. If the Danbury hatters or the hatters' organization were left to bear the full weight of the burden, it will mean to them great suffering and great hardship. Every member of organized labor is urged to do his duty in this matter and to bear his share in the common struggle to establish industrial justice."

Members of local unions should pay their contributions to their local secretaries, who should forward the sum collected to Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L., Washington, who will receipt for same and forward it to Secretary Lawlor of the United Hatters of North America.

This money shall be used for the exclusive purpose of relieving the hatters who were made the victims of the greed and rapacity of the so-called "Anti-Boycott association" and Loewe, the Danbury hat manufacturer. Secretary Lawlor will publish a complete list of all contributions received and the payments made and to whom.

The date agreed to by the convention—January 27—was selected as particularly appropriate, because it is the birthday of the president of the American Federation of Labor, who has given a lifetime of devotion to the cause of labor and humanity.

The executive council's circular closes as follows:

"Meetings for the purposes indicated might be held with fitting exercises to help bind the organized toilers of America more closely together with bonds of fraternity, sympathy and mutual helpfulness and a greater determination to struggle unitedly on for the dawn of a better day among the toilers of America.

"Men and women of labor, give an hour—an hour of your labor—in a most righteous cause!"

BARBERS OPPOSE SUNDAY WORK.

Fresno, Cal.—Barbers in this city are demanding a Sunday rest day. Several shops have been closed as the result of a vigorous picketing campaign carried on by these unionists.

INCREASES FOR TRACTION MEN.

Allentown, Pa.—The Lehigh Valley Traction company announces voluntary increases for 300 train service employees. Rates are raised 1 cent an hour with additional increases for those who have been employed 15 years.

WANTS NEW SET OF MINING LAWS.

Secretary Lane Says Present Code Is Beyond Understanding.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Lane, in his forthcoming annual report, speaks of the necessity for a new set of mining laws. "The old code," he says, "is so elaborate and complicated that the best of brains can not tell what the law is. The truth seems to be that between mining engineers and mining lawyers the rules of the game have been refined into obscurity; and if Congress were to say to the President that he might select three men familiar with mining laws and miners' difficulties to suggest a new mining code to Congress it would, I believe, be giving in earnest a new freedom to the mining industry."

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington.—During last October 31, 215 immigrants came to this country, according to a report issued by the federal department of labor. Of this number, Greece led with 2,481, followed by Italy, with 1,990; Ireland, 1,838; England, 1,597 and Portugal, 1,050. There were 731 Japanese and 326 Chinese admitted.

The laborers totaled 4,564; servants, 3,174; farm laborers, 1,772. Of the skilled trades, clerks and accountants led with 781; carpenters and joiners, 294; miners, 265; tailors, 199; cigar-makers, 184.

The industrial States received the largest proportion of these arrivals. New York leads with 4,973; Pennsylvania, 1,923, and Illinois, 906. Few immigrants were ticketed to southern or western agricultural States. North Carolina received 1; Wyoming, 2; South Dakota and Alabama, 5 each; South Carolina, 6; Kansas, 8; Georgia, 10, and Mississippi, Kentucky and Arkansas, none.

CHILD LABOR DAY, JANUARY 23

New York.—The fourth Sunday of this month, January 23, will be child labor day, and churches and Sunday schools affiliated to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America will call attention, by appropriate services, to the evils of child labor in this country. On Saturday, January 22, synagogues will observe child labor day, and on Monday, January 24, secular schools and clubs.

The national child labor committee has issued a circular urging that the day be fittingly observed. It is stated that 2,000,000 children are now at work, suffering physical, mental and moral harm because the American people do not know. If these children are to become useful citizens the nation must be informed and quickened to action. Attention is directed to the Keating-Owen federal child labor bill, now before congress, which will forbid the interstate shipment of child labor products. A similar bill was introduced at the last congress, but failed to pass.

WHY SEAMEN PROTESTED.

New York.—Writing in the New York Times, C. S. Stanworth, a retired United States naval officer, suggests amendments to the seamen's act, although he makes the following acknowledgment of degrading conditions American sailors were forced to accept prior to the law's passage:

"Sailors have for generations been outside the law that protects the ordinary man in his rights, and custom or common usage, that equally with law protects us in our relations to others, has always been invoked against any attempt to better the sailor's life.

"Dragged aboard ship insensible from drugs or drink, he is told that he has signed the articles for the voyage, and that two or three months of his future work has been paid in advance to the man who drugged him and lugged him on board. Ill-clad, ill-fed, hard-worked, he is at the mercy of the officers of the ship, whose code generally is that of brute force, and if he resists being knocked and kicked about, he renders himself liable to death for mutiny. If, when the ship arrives in port, he attempts to escape from his slavery, the law throws him in prison, and then returns him to his ship, and he pays the expenses."

WOULD USE IMMIGRANTS.

New York.—The Garment Worker, official newspaper of the United Garment Workers of America, takes exception to the statement of William S. Kies, vice-president of the National City Bank of New York City, who is quoted as expressing the opinion that labor must prepare for sweeping wage reductions after the war.

"Here is found, very vividly expressed," says the Garment Worker, "the hope of a vast number of employers, that there will be a flood of immigration to this country at the close of hostilities which can be utilized as a club to beat down the standard of wages and living which have been established by the trade union movement after many years of struggle.

"The contention of trade unionists that the much heralded sympathy of the dollar sign patriots for the 'down trodden immigrant' was based upon selfishness and the desire to exploit them to their own, as well as the detriment of the workers already in this country, is now receiving ample verification."



HON. LOUIS J. DAUNER
Vice Mayor

STATE SHOWS UNIONISM PAYS.

Columbus, Ohio.—Investigations conducted in Ohio's fourteen largest cities by the State industrial commission show that thousands of workers have received increases averaging from fifty cents to one dollar a week through trade union methods. In the report union workmen are classified into seven groups: brewery employes, bakery, building, metal, book and job printing, newspaper printing and miscellaneous trades. The report covers the twelve months' period ending May, 1915.

SHOP MEN RECEIVE INCREASES.

Massillon, Ohio.—Wages of 1,000 shop employes of the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad have been increased two cents an hour as the result of conferences between the management and the employes' committee, elected by interested unionists.

PROMISE TO REDUCE HOURS.

St. Louis, Mo.—The Garment Workers' District Council has secured an agreement with the Marx & Haas company, which provides that on or before May 1 of next year workers in their tailor shops will be granted the fifty-hour week. It is also agreed that the five-year agreement now in effect, and which will expire in 1917, will be reopened on or before April 1, 1916, to readjust wage scales and other conditions.

PREPARING FOR IMMIGRATION.

New York.—The Chamber of Commerce of the United States is preparing for increased immigration after the European war. This organization is too astute to say immigration will be large, but it is sending circulars to railroads asking for their co-operation in the proper distribution of the incoming population. The immigration committee of the chamber, of which Frank Trumbull is chairman, has charge of this work. Mr. Trumbull is an officer of the Chesapeake & Ohio railway and is also a leading member of the National Americanization Committee, a New York organization that was recently called upon by Frank P. Walsh to declare for trade unionism if it really believed the immigrant should be Americanized.

WANT UNIONISM STUDIED.

Minneapolis.—The special organizing committee of the Trades and Labor Assembly appeared before the school board and asked that unionism and collective bargaining be made a part of the school studies. The unionists were requested to present their plan in writing and embody their idea of methods.

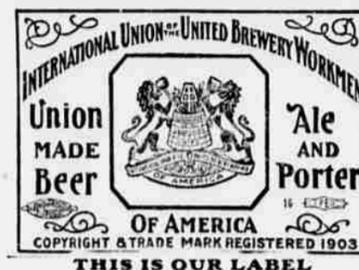
FOSTORIA VOTES WET.

Findlay, O.—Fostoria, O., went wet by a majority of 220 votes in a local law election. This city voted dry in the State-wide prohibition election in November by 412. The total wet vote was 1,437 and dry 1,217.



HON. CHAS. GROOM
City Solicitor

VOTE AGAINST PROHIBITION!



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