

Talkfest With Officials Planned

Complaint Against Action of Police Toward Teamsters and Pickets to Be Made By Central Labor Council.—Cigar Workers "Walk Out."

Another visit is to be made by a committee representing Central Labor Council to the City Hall within a few days in regard to action of police against striking teamsters and their pickets. This action was decided upon last Tuesday evening in an effort to have police stopped from alleged hindering of the work of pickets in front of stores where a teamsters' strike now is in progress.

The visit is to include the offices of Mayor Puchta, Safety Director Friedlander and Chief of Police Copelan. The chief purpose of the committee, members say, is to ascertain the exact reason why Miss Minnie Meacham, who was picketing in front of a grocery at Thirteenth and Main streets Saturday night, was arrested and arraigned in City Court.

Unionists claim whenever they seek police protection they are refused, but that on the other hand when the Kroger Grocery Co., where the strike is in progress

requests police protection for its wagons, it immediately is given.

Several delegates from the union reported fines of \$5 are being imposed upon members caught dealing in Kroger's stores. Others reported their savings were being transferred from the Provident bank, of which Kroger is president.

President William Brandt of the Teamsters' Union, said he had been informed the Kroger company was willing to pay the union scale but would not agree to the closed shop condition. He also said settlement would never be made unless the closed shop was included in it.

Delegates from the Bakers', Paperhangers' and Overall Workers' Unions reported contracts with the various firms would expire within a short time, but settlement would be made without trouble.

Thomas McMann, of the Label Committee, reported progress in the matter of union members requesting the union label be on everything that is purchased by them. However, he asserted, there were many union members who failed to do this.

The Park Theater, Hyde Park, was placed on the "unfair" list by the Motion Picture Operators' Union.

It was reported 40 cigar workers walked out at the Progress Cigar Company, Third street, yesterday afternoon, when the employer refused to raise their wages \$1 a thousand for stories which, on the union schedule, are to sell at \$12 to \$15 a thousand, and which it is said he sells at approximately \$7 a thousand.

Miss Margaret Maxon, director of the women's employment work of State-City Free Labor Exchange, urged the Labor Council to indorse a resolution that the quarters of the office be removed from the basement of the City Hall into a more sanitary part of the building or into some other building. The council complied with her request.

Carl Minkley, State Organizer of the Trades' Union Liberty League, under the direction of United Brewery Workers' Union, closed the meeting with a short address.

ADAMSON 8-HOUR LAW BEFORE SUPREME COURT

Washington.—Hearings before the United States Supreme Court on the legality of the Adamson eight-hour law for railroad train service employees began Monday, January 8. Federal Judge Hook, of Kansas City, declared the law unconstitutional November 22 last, in the case of the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf railroad.

The federal government is defending the law. The railroad brotherhoods have no official connection with the case. Both sides have a long list of attorneys and the court extended to eight hours the time usually granted counsel to argue a case.

The railroads' brief contends that the law is unworkable, experimental, incapable of application, interferes with liberty of contract, does not fall within the authority of congress to regulate interstate commerce and takes railroad property without due process of law. The claim that the law is only a wage-increasing act is especially emphasized.

In reply to the latter claim Solicitor General Davis, on behalf of the government, told the court that it "reached the heights of imagination" to say that the primary object of congress, in passing the law, was not to limit the hours of toil.

The contention that the law is unworkable, Mr. Davis said, was "a manifest afterthought induced by the necessities of this case."

"It may be congress did not please the railroads, the employes, or the public," he said, "but the body that made the law should amend it and the judiciary must not usurp that function."

It is believed the court will make a ruling in this case in the very near future.

WILKES-BARRE UNIONS GAIN.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—The Vulcan Iron Works has signed a joint agreement with the unions of machinists, boiler makers, blacksmiths and electrical workers. About 1,000 employes are benefited. The agreement provides for an average wage increase for mechanics of 47½ cents per day of nine hours. Helpers are advanced an average of 30 cents a day and apprentices 50 cents a day. Employes are granted seniority rights, the company agrees not to discriminate against any committeeman, overtime rules are established and protection against arbitrary foremen is assured.

This agreement was possible after the interested locals had conducted an organizing campaign among the Vulcan employes. This resulted in the plants becoming 100 per cent union in the four departments covered by the agreement.

UP A STUMP.



—Hodge in Spokane Spokesman-Review.

BAY STATE VOTING PLAN HITS BOSSES

Massachusetts System, Urged by Cox for Ohio, Eliminates Straight Balloting.—Advocates Declare Voters Are Induced to Study Candidates and Issues.

Another step in the elimination of political boss control of elections would result from adoption of the Massachusetts plan of voting, Governor Cox, in his message to the legislature last week, recommended appointment of a commission to investigate this plan and other phases of election reform in Ohio.

The Massachusetts plan does away with straight balloting. Names of all candidates for an office are listed under one head, in one column, with party designation and residence printed to the right of the name. Candidates for governor, for instance, at the last election would have been on the ballot thus:

For Governor.

James M. Cox, Democrat, Montgomery County.
Frank B. Willis, Republican, Hardin County.

Candidates for other offices would be grouped in the same manner. Rotation of names, of course, would do away with alphabetical advantage.

No Party Emblem.

This plan would necessitate an elector's designating every candidate for whom he wishes to vote. There would be no party emblem at the top of a column and no circle in which to vote a straight ticket. New York has a modification of the plan.

Advocates of the plan contend it has a remarkable educational value in that it induces voters to make a greater study of candidates and issues. Governor Cox's message says this about it: "Its chief recommendation is that it encourages independent suffrage action and brings a fuller understanding of the issues."

Professional politicians usually have objected to the Massachusetts plan. Their objection is that it plays havoc with control of the so-called "illiterate vote." A bit more learning than ability to make a cross in the circle under a particular party emblem is needed by the voter.

COMPULSION IN MINNESOTA.

St. Paul, Minn.—The compulsory arbitration wave has struck this state and the executive committee of the state federation of labor warns trade unionists to prepare to contest this scheme. Legislation that would establish a state constabulary is another menace to the workers.

The executive committee will urge the limitation of injunction writs in times of strike and the passage of a bill providing for a system of state insurance in connection with the compensation law.

These four subjects will be given especial attention by the state federation of labor at this session of the state legislature.

WOULD INSURE HEALTH OF WORKERS.

Albany, N. Y.—A bill intended to provide for universal health insurance of workers will be introduced in the legislature here by State Senator Ogden L. Mills of New York tomorrow night. The measure was prepared by the American Association for Labor Legislation in co-operation with the American Medical Association and representatives of labor and industries. The same bill will be introduced this year in the legislatures of many other states, including Massachusetts, New Jersey and Ohio.

UNION IS ORGANIZED

To "Protect Civil Service Employees From Politicians."

Chicago.—Five hundred city civil service employees today organized a labor union, to be known as the Official Civil Service Association. The announced purpose of the organization, which it was stated, would be affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, is to "protect all Civil Service employees from the 'pull' of politicians and to render legal, financial and social aid."

REPORTERS' UNION URGED

By Labor Leader, Who Flays Metropolitan Press.

New York.—A union of news writers as one means to avoid misrepresentation of labor in the daily press was suggested by Hugh Frayne, New York State Organizer for the American Federation of Labor, before the Labor Publicity Organization today at its annual meeting here.

"If we had a better and stronger organization of news writers," Mr. Frayne said, "much of this misrepresentation of the labor world would be impossible. In Scranton, Pa., where the writers are 100 per cent organized and are friendly to and understand labor, they refrain from writing anything but the facts, and that is all we ask."

Mr. Frayne charged he had been misquoted during the transit strike here last summer, and asserted the cause of labor was "helpless" insofar as New York City's press was concerned. He added: "It is a favorite diversion of some of the papers here to refer to the small labor press we have as revolutionary and anarchistic, when, as a matter of fact, the labor press is ten times more conservative than any of the metropolitan dailies, which want sensation and stories of destruction. * * * If anarchy comes in this country it will be due to the papers which appeal to and feed the taste of the people who want that kind of news."

"To aid in systematizing the publicity of the American labor movement to the end that all news shall be more uniform, accurate and official. To aid in the publicity campaigns of the international unions. To deny recognition or aid to any dual or secessionist organization."



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