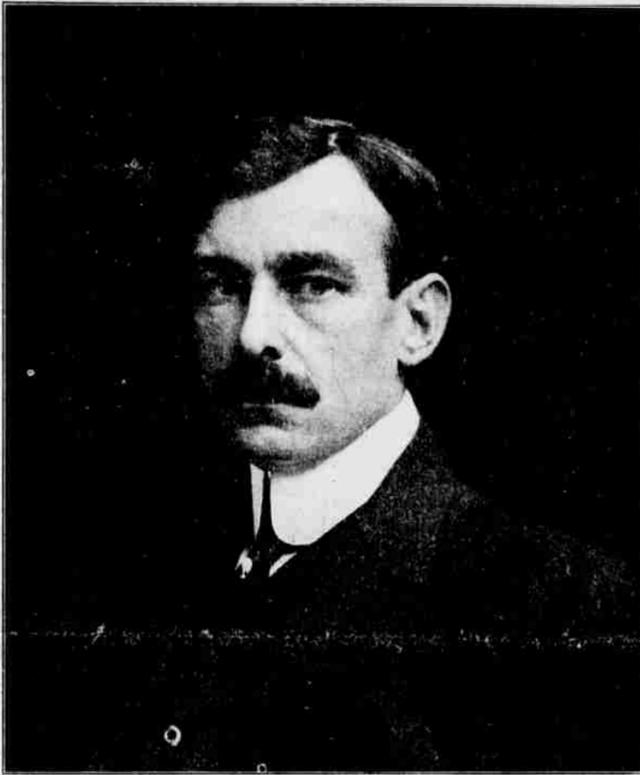


Rapid Transit Ordinance Endorsed

By the Building Trades Council, After a Thorough Investigation By the Board of Business Agents.—A Majority of the Commission Are Friends and Employers of Union Labor, While Opposition is Handled By Agents of B. H. Kroger, Arch Enemy of Trade Unionism.



E. D. EDWARDS

Chairman of the Rapid Transit Commission, President E. W. Edwards Manufacturing Co., and an employer of Union Labor.

The important business transacted at a largely-attended meeting of the Building Trades Council, Thursday night, was the unqualified indorsement of the Rapid Transit Loop ordinance. Some time ago a letter was received by the Council from E. W. Edwards, President of the Rapid Transit Commission, asking the indorsement of the body. This letter was referred to the business agents, and after a thorough investigation it was found that the Commission was friendly to union labor, and the indorsement of the project was authorized. There was not a dissenting vote against the approval of the ordinance and the result was loudly cheered. It was realized that the building of the loop would furnish work to thousands of artisans and that its provisions were perfectly fair to the people generally.

The action of the governing body was watched with the greatest interest by B. H. Kroger, the man behind the guns of the opposition. W. A. Julian, Kroger's man Friday, was also very much interested in the outcome. The latter gentleman was on the first commission appointed, and because he was not appointed on the present body he would not play. Our old college chum, Mike Keefe, is also taking a hand in the interests of his champion, Frank Pfaff, who would like to grab the Democratic nomination for mayor this fall. As Mike is usually on the losing side, his attitude in the present instance is not causing alarm among the splendid body of business men who believe in bettering the good old Queen City.

The meeting of the Building Trades Council was called to order by Vice-President Fisher, who presided in the unavoidable absence of President Cullen. After the adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting the report of the business agents was concurred in. All trades reported work for the week fair. A bulletin from the Civil Service Commission regarding examinations was received and ordered posted.

There being no further business the Council was declared adjourned.

FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW CAN FOLLOW SUPREME COURT'S DECISION

Washington.—Fugitive slave laws can be established as the result of the United States Supreme Court's decision upholding by a 5 to 4 vote, the Adamson law for railroad employes, writes President Gompers, in the American Federationist.

Under the caption "Five to Four On Slavery," the trade union executive says: "The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Adamson law, is extraordinary—in strange contrast to its usual careful observance of the etiquette of precedence. The court justifies the Adamson law by what it assumes would have happened had Congress not enacted the law. The justification thus rests not upon principles, but upon a hypothetical emergency.

"In addition to reversing its usual method of reasoning, the court emerges from the judicial domain, to lend a helping hand to legislation under consideration by Congress. All of the forces of reaction united in the Sixty-fourth Congress to enact compulsory legislation to render workers helpless—by one form of law or other, to compel the toilers to compulsory service—involuntary servitude. They failed; Congress considered the proposed legislation contrary to the spirit and the principles of our free republic.

"The Supreme Court attempts to influence the legislative situation by giving in advance an unsolicited opinion upon a question not before it—the constitutionality of compulsory arbitration: "We are of opinion that the reasons stated conclusively establish that from the point of view of inherent power the act which is before us was clearly within the legislative power of Congress to adopt, and that in substance and effect it amounted to an exertion of its authority under the circumstances disclosed to compulsory arbitrate the dispute between the parties by establishing, as to the subject matter of that dispute, a legislative standard of wages operative and binding as a matter of law upon the parties—a power none the less efficaciously exerted because exercised by direct legislative act instead of the enactment of other and appropriate means providing for the bringing about of such result."

"Not satisfied with this gratuitous assistance and suggestion to the legislative representatives of reaction, the chief justice interpolated the following denial of the right to strike in public service:

"The right is necessarily surrendered when men are engaged in public service. They are comparable to soldiers in the ranks who, in the presence of the enemies of their country, may not desert."

"This opinion of our chief justice is in vivid contrast to the declaration of the Russian government that replaced the old despotism; a declaration which Russia enunciated in a time of great stress, when the country was confronted by the exigencies of a world war. It is—

"Liberty of speech and of the press, freedom for alliances, unions, and strikes with the extension of these liberties to military officials within the limits admitted by military requirements."

"That the court's decision is open to criticism is manifest from the fact that only five out of the nine justices concurred in it. The other four criticize it without reserve.

"The situation presents a very serious problem for the nation to consider. Five men out of our one hundred million have interpolated into our political institutions a principle destructive of the fundamentals of freedom. The Supreme Court has provided the way for establishment of industrial slavery and a fugitive slave law, and if followed out by the government or enacted into law the Supreme Court's decision by a vote of 5 to 4, the working people of the United States may be compelled to work at the command of their employers or go to prison.

"The court's decision came as an anti-

Campaign For Transit Loop

To Be Inaugurated By Citizens' Committee.—Leaders in the Business World Are Named To Work For Favorable Vote on the Lease.—Speakers To Be Assigned To Address Public Meetings on Benefits of Proposed System.

Organization of a Citizens' Rapid Transit Committee, to have charge of the campaign in favor of the proposed rapid transit loop ordinance, was effected last Saturday by the selection of Stewart Shillito, Chairman, and A. M. Hopkins, former Secretary of the Dow Drug Company, Secretary.

Permanent headquarters have been established on the first floor of the Union Central Life Insurance Company, in charge of Secretary Hopkins. Speakers will be assigned to address public meetings in support of the ordinance and literature will be distributed advocating its adoption at the referendum election on April 17.

Many of Cincinnati's most prominent business and professional men are affiliated as members of the committee, and many more additions to its membership are expected tomorrow. An active campaign will be waged from now until the election.

The following committee has been announced: Stewart Shillito, Chairman, The John Shillito Company; A. M. Hopkins, Secretary; R. K. LeBlond, The R. K. LeBlond Machine Tool Company; B. A. Gidding, The J. M. Gidding Company; J. G. Kidd, The Stewart & Kid Company; Albert Bettinger, lawyer; George F. Dieterle, Union Distilling Company; Frank J. Zumstein, Zumstein Taxicab Company; Charles A. Hirsch, Fifth-Third National Bank; James J. Heckin, The James J. Heckin Company; Arthur R. Morgan, U. S. Printing and Lithographing Company; Justin Rollman, Rollman & Sons Company; M. F. Quill, contractor; T. E. Alyward, Grand Opera House; D. C. Kellar, Dow Drug Company; W. S. P. Oskamp, Oskamp Jewelry Company; Jesse R. Clark, Union Central Life Insurance Company; Charles F. Williams, Western and Southern Life Insurance Company; A. G. Rist, milliner; Fred A. Geier, Cincinnati Milling Machine Company; James Wilson, President Pattern Makers' League of North America; Otto Armleder, Otto Armleder Company; Edward C. Gibbs, The Neare-Gibbs Company; Joseph V. Zimmerman, Moerlein Brewing Company; Thomas J. Cogan, lawyer; D. C. Jones, the Lunkenheimer Company; Howard N. Ragland, lawyer; James P. Orr, Potter Shoe Company;

B. S. Armstrong, the Mabley & Carew Company; F. L. Emmert, Moving Picture Association; William H. Lueders, Judge Probate Court; A. C. Weiss, the Mabley & Carew Company; C. H. M. Atkins, Warner Elevator Manufacturing Company; George McG. Morris, the John B. Morris Foundry Company; Louis Rauh, Frederick Rauh & Co.; Robert Mitchell, the Robert Mitchell Furniture Company; Ernest Griess, Griess, Pfeuger & Co.; W. G. Brown, W. G. Brown & Co.; Harry Walter Hutchins, Hutchins & Henry; Paul Verkamp, G. H. Verkamp & Sons; Frank P. Atkins, the Atkins & Pearce Manufacturing Company; H. T. Atkins, the Atkins & Pearce Manufacturing Company; Paul M. Millikin, insurance; John M. Manley, National Metal Trades Association; William Lodge, Lodge & Shipley Machine Tool Company; Robert Henshaw, G. Henshaw & Sons Company; Dr. J. M. Withrow, surgeon; I. M. Martin, Chester Park; H. Q. Cleneay, Cleneay & Nourse; Walter S. Schmidt, Frederick A. Schmidt & Co.; Dr. C. R. Holmes; I. Libson, Libson Amusement Company; George Lampe, Crown Brewing Company; Richard Ryan, Western and Southern Life Insurance Company; Julius Bauer, French Bros.-Bauer Company; Emil Cordes, Westwood Planning Mill Company; E. F. Walter, baker; Edwin C. Cordes, Hyde Park Lumber Company; Andrew J. Murphy, plumber; J. G. Cooper, real estate; A. H. Cordes, Cordes Lumber Company; Chapman R. Hirsch, Hirsch-Briscoe Lumber Company; James C. Gregson, President Hyde Park Business Men's Club; John Eckerle, leaf tobacco; E. H. Bardes, Bardes Range and Foundry Company; S. B. Sachs, Avondale; Myers Y. Cooper, real estate; Sanford Brown, attorney; W. W. Coney, Moores-Coney Company; F. Lawson Moores, Moores-Coney Company; Louis J. Dolle, attorney; Frank H. Kinney, Hyde Park Supply Company; E. M. Costello, real estate; Ralph Costello, real estate; Walter McCammon, L. H. McCammon Bros. Company; James B. O'Donnell, attorney; Walter C. Taylor, attorney; Chas. Tribbey, Tribbey Coal Company; John M. Stoner, the Clay Products Company; William C. Lawson, manufacturer; Harry Hake, architect.

climax too long delayed to be helpful in the purpose for which it was enacted. Has the court permanently abandoned the field of justice, to play in the hands of the employing class, the wealth-poseurs of our country, by taking away from the working people the only effective power they possess to compel a decent regard for their rights, their freedom, the American standard of life?

"Would it not be well for the nation to consider the necessity of curbing the assumption of power by the Supreme Court rather than to supinely permit the court to 'curb' the freedom of the masses—the workers?"

LAUNDRY WORKERS WIN STRIKE.

Fresno, Cal.—The Laundry Workers' Union has won its strike against the Fresno Steam Laundry, which broke an agreement two years ago. Union officials state that the organization has won a complete victory and all employees will join the union. The struck plant was picketed almost continuously during the strike, despite police interference and the arrest of pickets.

PROTEST PORTION OF DECISION.

Washington.—President Gompers and Secretary Morrison, of the A. F. of L., presented to Attorney General Gregory a protest in the name of the workers of this country against the supreme court going out of its way in matters not before the court and in dragging in compulsory arbitration when deciding the legality of the Adamson eight-hour law for railroad employes.

The supreme court, it was stated, by injecting into the law and argument a foreign matter, denial to workers of the right to quit work, pointed the way to those who wish to tie workers to their work in order to protect the supposed convenience of the public.

President Gompers called attention to the progressive fundamental declaration, in both Mexico and Russia, countries which are passing through a period of danger and national stress, assuring to the workers of those countries the right to strike.

It was declared that this portion of the court's opinion belongs to the old reactionary despotism of Russia and Mexico, and is out of harmony with the free institutions of the United States.