

The Labor Journal

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For the past dozen years it has been found necessary at each recurring session of the state legislature to send a strong labor lobby to Olympia to look after the interests of labor legislation. This has been true because the legislature has been made up of men who, for the most part, knew nothing of the actual needs of labor and were out of sympathy with the great labor movement of this country. It was the work of the labor lobby to pound into the heads of the legislators a realization of the deep need for legal protection for those who toil for their daily sustenance. Working with the few members of both branches who were conscientiously trying to aid labor, our representatives by herculean work have been able to so impress the legislature with the absolute justice of labor's demands that each succeeding session has added to the growing list of labor measures enacted into law. How arduous the task of securing the passage of these laws has been, none but our representatives who bore the brunt of the fighting, will ever know. Every known form of opposition has been met. Parliamentary trickery, committee jobbery, destructive amendments, powerful corporation opposition, special interest lobbies, every trick and devise known to the vested interests have been used to kill or destroy the effectiveness of labor measures. In the face of powerful opposition one measure of industrial relief after another has been enacted into law and we have to thank for it the determined stand taken by our people in backing up our representatives at Olympia. The session of 1911 will bring its new labor problems. Labor has mapped out a legislative program which will be met by as fierce resistance from corporate greed as any previous sessions have witnessed. Doesn't it occur to you that the surest way to back up labor's demands would be to elect men to the legislature who are themselves members of the great army of labor? No one understands the problems of labor like the man or woman that has borne in his or her own person the burdens of labor. We are fortunate in this district in having three men running for the legislature who carry union cards and, more than that, know the needs of labor, its aspirations and longing for better economic conditions, from years of actual experience in the world of productive toil. We would rather see Johnnie Campbell in the state senate and Fred Overman and R. J. Olinger in the lower house than any other three men in Snohomish county. We wouldn't have to pledge those three men to work and vote for labor measures, nor would any labor lobby have to prod them into line. We are just as sure that they would work and vote for our interests as we are that two and two make four. Why? Scores of reasons might be given but two that shall be given ought to be convincing. First, their proven ability. Campbell has served two terms in the lower house and made a notable record of achievement, in the way of desired legislation. Overman served last session as a clerk in the house and gained legislative experience that would enable him to go back as a member "onto the ropes." Olinger has no legislative experience, but has shown splendid executive ability in position after position of responsibility and trust. Second, their knowledge of industrial conditions and industrial needs. Each of them has worked years at his trade, rubbing shoulders with other men, sharing their viewpoint. They know what the laboring people want. There are three men to be elected to the legislature from this district and there are three all-wool-and-a-yard-wide union men out for the jobs. The duty of union voters is plain. And it should be a pleasure as well as a duty.

There is no reason why the socialist party, the progressive party, the single tax league, or any other organization formed for the purpose of leading the American people out of bondage should exist any longer. They might as well throw up the sponge and quit. There is no further need for Col. Roosevelt to go up and down the land crying "I am the way." With perfect assurance that the country is in safe hands Teddy may return to the jungles of Africa if he chooses and seek more specimens for the Smithsonian institute. For behold! A greater than these is at hand. Dost remember Thos. Lawson of "Frenzied Finance" fame? How he lashed the animals of Wall street until they howled with frenzied pain? It was the greatest rhetorical entertainment of its time and the reading public showed its admiration by breaking out in a perfect epidemic of reading. That was about all the public did break into at that time, however, and Mr. Lawson left the populace to its fate, informing us as a parting shot that we were a set of "spineless shrimps." Mr. Lawson has received a second inspiration and is back with *The Remedy* which will be unfolded to us in monthly installments of *Everybody's Magazine*. We gather from the opening chapter of *The Remedy* that the Wall street stock exchange is the monster that must be laid low if we are to achieve our ultimate destiny as a free people. We doubt if there is another man in the country that has a greater strange-hold on the English language. Lawson has it hog-tied and branded. Here is a sample from the opening chapter of *The Remedy*: "The American people have been shooting towards Hell at a mile-a-minute gait for the past twenty years. Every one who is not System-doped knows it; and yet efforts of all the statesmen in public life to put on the brakes have had as much real effect on the people's tobogganing as would the insertion of a butter-ball between a million-horse-power flywheel and its brake-block." And another: "The chance of the ordinary American citizen who has had no part in the construction or the working of the System's device for pillaging the American people, to secure a working knowledge of the device, is the same as his chance of securing the key to hell's fire-alarm box after he has been clamped to the boiler." After all, if there is one man in the country that knows every inch of the slimy trail of the Wall street gamblers, Lawson is that man. He promises, first to expose the whole rotten game worked by Vested Interests, and, second, to show the American people how they may effectually and forever crab the game, and he doesn't stutter when he talks. Ninety million people will be listening to Lawson for the next few months. That much is sure.

Aberdeen lawyer issues long document to prove that direct legislation is a bad, bad thing and a dangerous weapon for the proletarian to handle. As was to be expected the revered constitution and the shade of Daniel Webster are summoned to bear out the contention. A lawyer that doesn't live in the dim and musty past is a rare avis.

Didn't somebody say something about Bob Hodge being "illiterate?" Notice any signs of "illiteracy" in his whirlwind speech Wednesday evening?

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LABOR JOURNAL

LABOR EXCHANGES

Right to Get Work Problem Is Solved In Germany.

MAN AND JOB PUT IN TOUCH.

System by Which Unemployment Is Robbed of Its Terror—How the Controlling Board Is Made Up—Difficulties of American Work Seekers.

By LOUIS HEATON FINK In Survey. Hard times bring serious lack of work. But when the country is reasonably prosperous the difficulty is not so much lack of work as inability to find it. In New York, Chicago and all our great cities we have countless vacancies and thousands of carpenters, masons, laborers, waiters, elevator men, porters, drivers, seeking them—blindly groping for a clew. What is more disheartening than to see men lined up before a factory door day after day endlessly waiting!

For most work seekers the "want ads," in the daily papers are the usual source of information. By the time the man out of work gets to the advertised job he finds a line of others ahead of him. One of the other men is taken, or the work or pay is not as represented. The day is lost. Day after day is spent in searching. The heart is eaten out, ambition is killed, temper is soured, the seeker for work is less a man after repeated experiences. He loses his nerve.

There are private employment agencies, but many cannot pay the fee. At best these agencies are as a drop in the bucket. They exist to supply their clients. Their view is that of the employer. It is only incidentally that they find jobs for men.

Given New York or Chicago or Philadelphia, an average of 50,000 men seeking work and 40,000 jobs seeking men, given the erection of huge buildings, development of suburban areas, docks and warehouses, thousands of factories, steamers coming, going, loading, unloading; work shifting, now here, now there—does it require more than the most ordinary intelligence to know that the only way to do away with the heartbreaking and fruitless search for work is to have a systematic network of labor centers, where the job can seek the man and where all men out of work can register for the job? Each center should be in communication with every other, under a central control, so that if the demand for carpenters in one section is greater than the supply, men can be sent from another neighborhood, where there are more carpenters than jobs. Such a system must, of course, be under national or state control. No fee should be paid by the men, and only a small charge should be made the employer. It would be almost self supporting, and might be made entirely so. And what greater economy could there be in the self respect of men, the hunger of women and little children, the prevention of suicides?

The city agencies should be in touch with similar employment centers throughout the state and nation. The farmers of the west, praying in vain for men to harvest the crops, could then be supplied from the overflow of the cities. The great railroads, stretching the bands of steel across the western mountains and prairies, could get their help from the east and would not have to import Chinese and Mexicans.

Unemployment in Germany has been robbed of its worst terrors by the establishment of state labor exchanges and labor colonies. A visit to the labor bureau of Berlin, Munich or Ulm makes the American wish that we were a bit more methodical and logical in our care for the unemployed.

Take the good old medieval city of Ulm as an example. The office is light, clean and cheerful. The man at the desk who interviews applicants does it very much as an American lawyer would do, talking with one of his clients. Courtesy is marked. After all the facts are learned they are tabulated and filed. The index of employers is consulted; an opening is found for which the applicant's experience would seem to fit him. He is given a card to the employer, who fills it out, stating whether the man is employed or not, and, if not, why. If, after diligent effort, suitable employment cannot be found in Ulm, the exchange at Augsburg, Munich or some other city is called upon the phone, and whenever there happens to be a place for the man in question there he is sent. Third and fourth class railroad tickets are very cheap in Germany, but the man out of work is given a card which entitles him to ride for one-third the regular fare.

Thus is unemployment robbed of its worst terror—worry.

We are often told that the German way of doing things is too mechanical. Every effort is made to keep the labor exchanges from drifting into machines. In each city the controlling board is made up of employers, government officials and trade union leaders, so that all sides are represented and the angles are rubbed out.

Perhaps the German scheme is not the best. Certainly it is better than the chaos and indifference which prevail here. We must provide a common ground for the meeting of jobs and men.

Oil is distributed where it is needed; so are sugar and tobacco. There is no confusion, no clogging of the wheels, no needless loss. Why not labor?

It is so simple that our present helplessness would make one weep.

Recall in California.

The California legislature has passed a law providing for the initiative, referendum and recall in cities. The measure will take effect May 13. According to the bill, any elective municipal officer in the state may be recalled four months after taking office if 25 per cent of the voters sign a recall petition and majority of the voters vote against him at the recall election. Municipal legislation may be referred or initiated by a petition of 10 per cent of the registered voters.

No.—
NOTICE AND SUMMONS.
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH.
Dan Neeson, plaintiff, vs. Charles Myer, defendant.
The State of Washington to Charles Myer:

You are hereby notified that the above named plaintiff is the owner and holder of Certificate of Delinquency numbered A 1145, issued and dated the 23d day of July, A. D. 1910, by the county of Snohomish, state of Washington, for the amount of four and 25-100 (4.25) dollars, the same being the amount then due and delinquent for taxes for the years 1908 and 1909 upon real property of which you, the said defendant, Charles Myer, are the owner and reputed owner, situate in said county and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

West nine hundred five (905) feet of south one-half (S½) of northeast quarter (SE¼) of northwest corner (NW¼) of section thirty-two (32) of township thirty (30), north of range six (6), E. W. M., and upon which the above named plaintiff and assignor has paid subsequent taxes assessed against said property as follows:

Taxes for the year 1910 amounting to \$2.80 paid August 31, 1912.

Taxes for the year 1911 amounting to \$2.64 paid August 31, 1912.

The amount of said Certificate of Delinquency, bearing interest at the rate of fifteen per cent (15 per cent) per annum from its date and all of said several amounts so paid for subsequent taxes as aforesaid, bearing interest at the rate of fifteen per cent (15 per cent) per annum from the respective dates of payment as aforesaid, all of which is now due the above named plaintiff.

And you and each of you are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this notice and summons exclusive of the date of such first publication, to-wit, within sixty days after the 20th day of September, A. D. 1912, exclusive of said day, and defend the above entitled action in the court aforesaid, or pay the amount due as set forth, together with the costs. In case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered foreclosing the lien of said Certificate of Delinquency, taxes, penalty, interest and costs, against the lands and premises hereinbefore mentioned and described.

DAN NEESON, Plaintiff.
By RALPH C. BELL, Protesting Attorney and Attorney for Plaintiff, P. O. address, Everett, Wash.
Date of first publication, September 20, 1912.

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READY FOR STRIKE.

Pennsylvania Railroad Telegraphers Are Dissatisfied.

S. J. Konenkamp, president of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, who twelve years ago was a member of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers and employed on the Pennsylvania railroad, said recently that he believed the refusal of the Pennsylvania railroad to arbitrate the demands of its telegraphers east of Pittsburgh would be followed by a strike.

He did not agree with the estimate made in the correspondence made public regarding the controversy by General Manager S. C. Long.

"In this correspondence," he said, "it is estimated that there are about 1,600 or 1,700 of the telegraphers organized and at least 2,300 of the employees in the telegraph department of the railroad, unorganized. I have been in touch with the railroad telegraphers since I left the service of the Pennsylvania, and the union estimates are that while 2,500 are organized."

"The preparations for a strike have been going on for some time, and the indications are that unless General Manager Long changes his decision the telegraphers will vote for a strike."

More Pay For Steel Workers.
The Eastern Steel company of Pottsville, Pa., has announced an increase of 15 per cent in the wages of its employees in the twenty-eight inch mill. Several hundred men will receive from \$20 to \$25 a month more as the result of the increase, and it is said the company contemplates an increase to all its 1,500 employees. The mills have more work than they can turn out, and the company is arranging to pay a bonus to certain departments for an increased output.

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Women Join Trade Unions.

Miss Mary Macarthur, secretary of the National Federation of Women Workers of England, says that last year the membership in women's trade unions increased by over 50,000. Considering that the total number of members is still under 280,000 it is a remarkable advance.

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