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The Labor Journal

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE
DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST

EVERETT TRADES COUNCIL.
OF ORGANIZED LABOR.

Ask for the Label
A Sign of Progress

VOL. XXV.

EVERETT, WASH., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1915.

No. 35

WAR TO END GUN AND CLUB RULE IN STRIKES STARTS IN CHICAGO—SOCIALIST ALDERMEN GRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

FORCE INVESTIGATION OF
OUTRAGES

By J. L. Engdahl

CHICAGO, Oct. 18.—War on police brutality during strikes has been started by the two Socialists in the Chicago city council. Before this war is over it is hoped to end the rule of the policemen's gun and club in all industrial struggles in all the cities of the nation.

With one boy dead, many men, women and girls injured, and 400 unjustifiable arrests having been made during the garment workers' strike, the Chicago Socialist aldermen met with little opposition in their demand for a thorough probe of police brutality.

The resolution demanding the investigation of why Chicago workers must face a Russian reign of terror every time they strike for a little more bread and butter was introduced by Socialist Alderman William E. Rodriguez, of the Fifteenth Ward, where many of the strikers live. Rodriguez is also one of the lawyers fighting for the strikers in their court battles for a little justice in their struggle against Chicago's big clothing barons. He was supported by Socialist Alderman John C. Kennedy, of the Twenty-seventh Ward, who is a member of the Committee on Schools, Fire, Police and Civil Service, that will carry on the investigation.

For the first time in the history of the nation a chief of police, his captains and lieutenants will be called upon to answer the question why the entire police force, mounted and on foot, supported by motorcycle squads, has been mobilized and turned loose on the 20,000 strikers, a large number of whom are mere girls.

FORGOT BLOODLESS STRIKE

Although Chicago's bloodless street car strike came to an end only a few months ago, largely because of the brilliant work of the Socialist aldermen, the Chicago police department, the most brutal in the land, supported by a big business Republican administration, did not learn the lesson that the workers are not responsible for the riots that come with every strike. In spite of the lesson of the street car strike, the police started out with their usual brutal, murderous methods of handling labor struggles.

"There have already been 400 arrests," Rodriguez told the city council. "Men, women and girls have been beaten up, arrested and thrown into filthy, disease-breeding police dungeons."

He said he could not blame the policemen, who, he pointed out, received their orders from those higher up. "The responsibility for this police brutality rests on the head of the department and upon the present city administration," declared Rodriguez. "The actions of the police are directed by the powers above them."

"The police force is being used in the interests of one party to this great labor struggle and we want to know why this is so."

Alderman Kennedy urged all of the old party aldermen to go out and investigate the charges of police brutality for themselves.

SOMETHING RADICALLY WRONG
"There is something fundamentally wrong in the manner in which police handle strikes," he declared, after citing several cases of brutality.

Kennedy told how the police in London helped maintain order at the great mass meetings in Trafalgar Square during the world-famous dockers' strike, instead of using all their power to break up parades and mass meetings of the revolting workers.

"I hope that the present policy of the Chicago police department in handling strikes will be radically changed," continued Kennedy. "Immigrants from Russia and other countries come to this country to escape the tyranny of oppressing European governments. We hold our Fourth of July celebrations to give them an idea of the great and glorious rights of American citizenship. But as soon as these immigrants engage in an industrial struggle for better working conditions, increased wages and a shorter workday, they become the victims of police brutality that causes them to form another opinion of the rights of American citizenship than that re-

FAVORS SEAMEN'S LAW

SANTA ROSA, Cal.—In a speech before the California state federation of labor convention Congressman Kent made this declaration:

"I will never stand for the repeal of the seamen's act. It may be necessary for us to have a merchant marine, but I would rather see the American flag floating over a raft out in the ocean than to have a merchant marine of great magnitude where the men employed are treated like slaves. "The seamen's act protects sailors against peonage, slavery and abuse and affords greater safety for those who travel the seas."

SUBWAY BUILDERS BLAMED

NEW YORK.—Commissioner of Accounts Leonard Wallstein has made an official report to Mayor Mitchell in which the construction company is blamed for the two recent subway cave-ins that resulted in the loss of many lives and the injury of over 100 persons. The report states the timbering consisted "of a combination of wood and steel loosely constructed," placed in such positions that "the knocking out of any post below the steel or any steel beam was sufficient to collapse the whole structure."

"As to the physical causes of the accidents, my conclusions as to both is that the progressive collapses of roadway were due to inadequate supporting structure beneath the surface."

The Central Federated Union, representing organized labor in this city, had previously declared the accidents were caused by cheap labor and to the "greed, avariciousness and criminal carelessness of contractors and city officials alike."

Custom does often reason overrule, And only serves for reason to the fool.

—Earl of Rochester.

NEW DAY DAWNING

Chicago has set the pace for the nation's cities in the killing and maiming of workers during labor struggles. Every strike has demanded its martyrs. But with the action just taken by Chicago's Socialist aldermen a new day is beginning to dawn when strikes will be bloodless and crowned with victory at less sacrifice of human suffering than has been the case in the past.

This is the first action taken by the two Socialist aldermen in the Chicago city council in aid of the 20,000 striking garment workers. It is hoped that this action will result in forcing the garment barons to arbitrate the questions at issue.

Socialists and trade unionists by the thousands sought admission to this session of the Chicago city council, Monday night, October 4. But the frightened Republican administration packed the galleries with its henchmen before 6 o'clock. The Chicago Federation of Labor had voted the previous day to attend the council meeting in a body. The Teachers' Federation, 4,000 strong, were on hand with 1,000 more teachers belonging to other organizations. Then there were the thousands of garment strikers anxious to see the city fathers perform. In addition to the discussion of the garment strike, the council also expected to receive Mayor Thompson's anti-labor appointments to the Board of Education that is fighting the teachers.

After having jammed the galleries with Republican machine hirelings, however, the school board appointments were not made and the strike situation alone was discussed. The packing of the city council galleries is the worst slap Chicago organized labor has received from the politicians in many a day. Future council meetings promise to develop the great demonstrations seen when Yerkes put over his great traction steals. Only now labor is more alert and better organized. And, most of all, it has its representatives on the "inside" and it intends to elect more Socialists to the city council of Chicago next spring.

REPORT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

7th Installment—Sickness Insurance

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH—SICKNESS INSURANCE.

The investigations which have been conducted by the Commission under the direction of Dr. B. S. Warren of the public health service, are the basis for the following conclusions:

1. Each of the thirty-odd million wage earners in the United States loses an average of nine days a year through sickness. At an average of \$2 per day, the wage loss from this source is over \$500,000,000.

At the average cost of medical expenses (\$6 per capita per year) there is added to this at the very least \$180,000,000.

2. Much attention is now given to accident prevention, yet accidents cause only one-seventh as much destitution as does sickness and one-fifteenth as much as does unemployment. A great deal of unemployment is directly due to sickness, and sickness, in turn, follows unemployment. The Commission's recent study in Indiana showed that 17.9 per cent. of unemployment among women in stores in that state was due to illness. In 1901, a federal investigation of 25,440 workmen's families showed that 11.2 per cent. of heads of families were idle during the year on account of sickness and that the average period of such unemployment was 7.71 weeks. Other investigations show that 30 to 40 per cent. of cases requiring charitable relief are immediately due to sickness.

POVERTY CAUSES SICKNESS

Sickness among wage earners is primarily the direct result of poverty, which manifests itself in insufficient diet, bad housing, inadequate clothing, and generally unfavorable surroundings in the home. The surroundings at the place of work and the personal habits of the worker are important but secondary factors.

3. Sickness among wage earners is primarily the direct result of poverty, which manifests itself in insufficient diet, bad housing, inadequate clothing, and generally unfavorable surroundings in the home. The surroundings at the place of work and the personal habits of the worker are important but secondary factors.

4. There are three general groups of disease-causing conditions: (1) Those for which the employer and character of the industry and occupation are responsible; (2) those for which the public, through regulatory and relief agencies is responsible; and (3) those for which the individual worker and his family are responsible.

5. The employers' responsibility includes, besides conditions causing so-called occupational diseases, low wages, excessive hours, methods causing nervous strain, and general insanitary conditions.

Many employers already partly recognize their responsibility; aside from "welfare work," many contribute liberally to employees' sick benefit funds or provide for the entire amount.

6. The public has in part recognized its responsibility in such matters as housing, water supply, foods, drugs and sanitation. But the recognition of responsibility has not been thorough-going and in the case of local health officers the tendency has been too frequently to provide for the better residential sections and neglect the slums.

7. The greatest share of responsibility rests upon the individual, and under present conditions he is unable to meet it.

This inability exists by reason of the fact that the majority of wage earners do not receive sufficient wages to provide for proper living conditions, and because the present methods of disease prevention and cure are expensive and sickness is most prevalent among those who are least able to purchase health. The worker is expected to provide for almost certain contingencies in the future when he lacks means of existing adequately in the present.

8. If we might reasonably expect a rapid increase in the wages of all classes of workers to a standard which would permit proper living conditions and adequate medical attention, it would perhaps be inadvisable to recommend any governmental action. But we feel assured that no such condition is to be expected in the near future, and believe that new methods of dealing with the existing evils must be adopted.

9. The remedial measures for existing conditions must be based on the co-operative action of those re-

sponsible for conditions; must be democratic in maintenance, control, and administration; must distribute costs practically and justly; and must provide a powerful incentive for sickness prevention.

MOST FEASIBLE MEASURE

10. A system of sickness insurance is the most feasible single measure. This conclusion is based on the following:

(a) The losses occasioned by the wage earner's sickness affect employer and community, all of whom share in the responsibility. Insurance is the recognized method of distributing loss so as to reduce individual risk to a minimum.

(b) The strongest of incentives—that of lessening cost—is given to efforts to diminish frequency and seriousness of losses; sickness insurance in this respect is a preventive measure of a positive and direct kind. The amount necessary for benefits and the lower the insurance rate.

(c) Sickness insurance is no longer experimental, but is rapidly becoming universal. It is not a novelty even in the United States. Although not provided for nor subsidized by government here, it is most widely used, there being several million workers so insured.

(d) The cost would be no greater than at present. The conclusion appears sound that medical benefits and minimum cash benefits of \$7 per week for a period not exceeding 26 weeks in one year, and death benefits of \$200 can be provided at a total cost of 50 cents per week per insured person. Budgetary studies of large numbers of workmen's families show that under present conditions from 25 and 50 cents a week, up to 70 cents and even \$1.86, is spent for little more than burial insurance. Workers would thus receive immeasurably greater benefits for much less than they now pay.

REASONS WHY—

1. A governmental system of sickness insurance is preferable because—

(a) More democratic; the benefits would be regarded as rights, not charity.

(b) Compulsory features, obnoxious under private insurance, would be no longer objectionable.

(c) On account of the reduction in overhead charges and duplication, higher efficiency in administration would be secured at less cost.

(d) Co-operation with other public agencies is impracticable otherwise.

(e) European experience has proved the superiority of government systems to private insurance.

(f) Taxation of industry by federal government in sickness insurance system is thoroughly established by the Marine Hospital Service. Law taxing vessels for such fund was passed in 1798 and its constitutionality has never been questioned.

12. The conclusion seems warranted that a sickness insurance system for the United States or the several States, similar in general principles and methods to the best European systems, will be less difficult and radical than has been foreboded. It will not so much introduce new ideas and practices as it will organize existing plans and principles into more effective accomplishment. Existing agencies, in trade unions, mutual benefit societies, and establishment funds, can be utilized just as they have been in Europe. The real problem becomes one of constructive organization.

It is suggested that the commission recommend a federal system of sickness insurance, constructed along the lines here briefly summarized.

FEDERAL SYSTEM OF SICKNESS INSURANCE

1. Membership.—The membership shall comprise all employees of persons, firms, companies and corporations engaged in interstate commerce, or whose products are transported in interstate commerce, or which may do business in two or more states. The employees of intrastate establishments to be permitted to be insured if they so elect, under regulations to be prescribed by the commission.

2. Fund.—The fund is to be created by joint contributions by employees, employers and the government, the

last named sufficient for expenses of administration. Such contributions should probably be in the proportion of 50 per cent. from workers, 40 per cent. from employers, and 10 per cent. from the government. Individuals or groups desiring larger benefits may arrange to make larger payments, and the rate in any trade, industry or locality may be reduced where conditions so improve as to make a lower rate adequate. The contributions are to be secured through taxing each interstate employer a certain amount weekly for each employee, the part contributed by workers to be deducted from their wages, thus using the regular revenue machinery of the government.

3. Benefits.—Benefits to be available for a limited period in the form of cash and medical benefits during sickness, non-industrial accidents and childbearing; death benefits to be of limited size and payable on presentation of proper evidence.

4. Administration.—The administration of the insurance funds is to be carried out by a national sickness insurance commission. The national commission should be composed, by presidential appointment with senate confirmation, of a director (who would be chairman), representatives of employers and representatives of employees in equal ratio, and, as ex-officio nonvoting members, the federal commissioner of labor statistics and the surgeon general of the public health service. The commission should be empowered to supervise all funds and determine their character and limits of jurisdiction; promulgate all regulations necessary to enforce the Act; establish and maintain hospitals; maintain staffs of medical examiners, specialists, dentists, and visiting nurses; provide for medicines and appliances; make contracts with local physicians; co-operate with local funds and health authorities in disease prevention; and provide for collecting actuarial data.

Correlation of the insurance system with the medical profession, the lack of which has been a serious defect in German and British systems, is absolutely necessary. Contracts with physicians should allow to each a per capita payment for the insured persons under his care, the right of selection of physician to be retained by the insured. For the signing of certificates entitling the insured to benefits, and for treating the insured in hospitals, the surgeon general should detail physicians from the public health service, their entire time to be given to these and other duties (consulting local physicians, enforcing federal laws and regulations, and co-operating with local authorities.)

MORE CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

PHILADELPHIA.—The board of education is preparing to enforce the new child labor law which takes effect the first of the year and which provides that employed children between the ages of 14 and 16 years must attend continuation school classes eight hours every week. A survey shows there are 18,722 children of this class in Philadelphia, and 130 additional teachers will be required to carry out the purposes of the law.

FOR WAR SUFFERERS.

The Workmen's Circle has raised \$20,000 by means of picnics, concerts and war relief stamps during the past six months for the relief of the Jewish war sufferers in Europe. This amount has just been sent to the American Jewish relief committee.

TEAMSTERS ARE UNITING

PHILADELPHIA.—Organized teamsters in this city are arranging to conduct a series of open air meetings in the interest of trade unionism. These workers report continued gains.

In the state of Georgia there are ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THOUSAND child slaves.

Why Everett Citizens Should Vote In Favor of A Mini- mum Wage Ordinance

Unless all signs fail, the year 1915 will see a great deal of suffering in this country through unemployment.

While we do not relish the epithet "calamity howler" which our remarks are almost certain to invoke, sincerity demands that we recognize and acknowledge the fact that the coming winter may be a very hard one for wage earners in the northwest. Nothing can be gained by wilfully ignoring this deplorable probability. Rather let us honestly look facts in the face and make our preparations accordingly.

With increasing competition for jobs, the normal rate of wages will tend to fall even lower than the cost of living, at least on the basis of the average standard in this part of the world. Such a lowering of the wage scale could result in no benefit to the people of Everett as a whole. And it is distinctly to the interest of all permanent residents of this growing city that they take steps to maintain a living wage for city employees, most of whom are married men, and all of whom are permanent residents, some owning their own homes here.

The minimum wage proposed is \$2.65 a day, or \$802.95 a year, on the basis of 303 working days.

The bureau of standards of New York city has recommended that the wages of city employees be raised from \$720 to \$840 with increases of \$24 after not less than one year in the service. This is the result of a study of the cost of living in New York city and of the rates of wages for unskilled labor prevailing in New York and other cities and in private employment, a study made for the purpose of determining the proper wage for unskilled laborers. The bureau reached the conclusion that it is impossible for an unskilled laborer's family of five, consisting of husband, wife and three children under 14 years of age, to live in New York city on less than \$840 a year and maintain a standard of living consistent with American ideas.

The cost of living in Everett is higher than in New York, so the proposed wage of \$802.95 a year is certainly conservative enough for the most selfish taxpayer. Employees of the street department in Spokane are paid \$3 a day, for an eight-hour day. No one who is not a natural-born slave-driver would begrudge our city employees their miserable stipend of \$2.65 a day, with the cost of living still mounting skyward.

MUST PAY FOR POLICE

FORT WAYNE, Ind.—City officials have notified the Fort Wayne and Northern Traction company that if it wants police to protect its property and its employees from "anticipated violence" against striking street car men, it must pay for same. The company requested the city to detail special policemen around its property and on each car during the noon and evening hours.

In a letter signed jointly by the mayor, chief of police and the board of public safety, the company is notified that:

"The mayor has sought your co-operation to make a final attempt to have your difficulties settled for the benefit of the traveling public who are entitled to adequate street car service as provided in your franchise, for the benefit of business men of our city so that there shall not be a continuation of business depression produced by this controversy and for the benefit of our taxpayers that they may receive the adequate and normal police protection of which they are now being deprived by using the same mostly for your benefit. But you did not see fit, when it involved the interests and right of our public, to cooperate. You now ask us to assist you by the expenditure of the public's money after you refused to co-operate for the benefit of the public, and we feel that we are not justified in so doing, when the statute provides that in this character of difficulties you should pay the additional police service you request."

Just the Reason—Judge (of divorce court): "Aren't you attached to your husband?" Plaintiff: "Certainly. I came here to be detached."—Boston Transcript.

COST OF LIVING GOES EVER UPWARD

A glance backward over the government Bureau of Labor statistics shows that the cost of living in the United States has been steadily climbing upward since the year 1897. Taking 100 as the average cost of living for the decade 1890-1899, we find the increase to have proceeded from 89.7 in 1897, to 101.7 in 1899, 115.9 in 1905, 126.5 in 1909, 129.2 in 1911, 133.6 in 1912, and 135.2 in 1913, the last year for which the figures are available at this time. But we all know that the cost of living has not been lowered since 1913.

AGAINST PRIVATE POLICE

Tuscon, Ariz.—Discussing the evils of private armies, maintained by corporations, President Warren made this report to the state federation of labor convention:

"We must insist upon the enactment of a law which will prevent a private corporation from constituting itself an independent police power. As the law now stands, a private corporation can employ and arm as many men as will agree to bear arms for them, and wherever this is attempted a condition obtains wherein otherwise peaceful communities are resolved into armed resistance against such attempts to overawe and intimidate them. The irresponsible and privately owned and privately armed gunman is the proximate cause of such industrial disturbance now so widely prevalent throughout the country."

RESIST FREE SPEECH GAG

WORCESTER, Mass.—Trade unionists and sympathizers are resisting the proposed city ordinance which is intended to "regulate" public speaking, but which, in fact, gives the chief of police complete authority over all public speaking.

The objectionable section in the ordinance provides that:

"The chief of police shall issue written permits authorizing any person or persons to hold a public meeting for such purposes, at such times and in such places in or near any street as he considers reasonable and proper; and such meetings, when conducted in an orderly manner, shall not be deemed in violation of the foregoing section."

DISCONTENT IS NECESSARY

SAN FRANCISCO.—In his report to the convention of his organization, General President Tobin of the Brotherhood of Teamsters declared it was impossible for men to be satisfied and he did not favor that condition. While urging caution in the conduct of the union, he said: "I never want to see, and I believe I never will see, men and women workers thoroughly satisfied. Discontent is the breeder of ambition. Ambition arises as the result of the unsatisfied cravings of human beings and spurs them on to still greater achievements."

"Life, after all, is nothing more than one continual struggle, in which those who refuse to take part must fall by the wayside. The union that is not up and doing is bound to be chopped to pieces."

DEFENDS TAX ON RICH

WASHINGTON.—The government has filed a brief with the United States supreme court in which the income tax is defended. The government says that "congress has, in its discretion, determined that the heavier burden can be carried more easily by the larger income and it is not for the courts to say that such classification is outrageous."

"The ordinary system of indirect taxation upon consumption places upon the poor person a disproportionate share of the burden of government support," say the brief.

SEVEN MILLION PROFIT.

Bond experts estimate the profits of the American underwriters of the allies proposed half-a-billion-dollar loan at a cool \$7,000,000.

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