

Committees on Relief Committee Request to Meet

Published By the Silver Bow Trades and Labor Council—Weekly—In the Interests of Organized Labor

The American standard of living must be maintained in order that American institutions may not be subject to perils of discontent.

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There can be no prosperity without justly high wages. Earnings of working people are the basis and index of progress in any community.

MORE MONTANA COPPER TARIFF DETAILS

(Continued from last edition.)

By HOVAL A. SMITH.

The foregoing facts taken from our own domestic copper mining industry prove conclusively that we can export large quantities of copper when the industry is rigidly protected, yet prevent the flooding of the domestic market by the foreign product except during excessive domestic copper prices, which was the cause of the 1873 importation.

Copper Tariffs 1846-1894.

We note that the first copper ingot tariff was laid in 1846, practically coincident with the recorded beginning of our domestic copper mining industry. This ingot duty was repealed in 1857.

We find that the first ore-to-ingot copper tariff was passed in 1861, which laid a duty of five per cent as against copper imported in ores, 1.5 cents per pound for old copper and two cents per pound for copper imported in ingot form. These duties prevailed until 1869, except that in 1864 the ingot duty rate was raised to 2.5 cents per pound.

In 1869, we ascertain that the duties were increased to three cents for copper in ores, four cents for copper in regulus also old forms, and five cents per pound for copper imported in ingot form. These duties were in effect until 1883 except for a ten per cent reduction during 1872-4.

The tariff act of 1883 fixed a rate of 2.5 cents for copper imported in ores, 3.5 cents for copper imported as regulus or old, and four cents per pound for copper imported in ingot form. These duties remained in effect until October, 1890.

The McKinley Bill of 1890 practically destroyed the effective copper duties prevailing since 1861, by reducing the duty on copper imported in ores to one-half cent per pound; and the duties to one cent per pound for copper in regulus or old forms; and to one and a quarter cents per pound for copper imported in ingot form. These non-protective duties were in effect until August, 1894.

The Wilson-German Act of 1894 removed all duties from ore-to-ingot stage, thereby placing all the domestic copper miner's product within the free list; the copper miner's ingot, after nearly 48 years of continuous protection, was again placed in the economic arena of merciless and devastating competition.

All the tariff acts passed from 1894 to 1930 have monotonously retained the domestic copper miner's product within the free list, yet accorded ever increasing and exorbitant duties for the manufactured copper article.

Domestic Internationalists.

It was a coterie of Americans after securing control of certain Canadian copper and nickel deposits in 1886, who through specious, sleek and sleazy pleas finally secured the near destruction of all copper ingot duties as of 1890. I am firmly convinced that prototypes of these forty-years-ago domestic internationalists are now suavely, persistently and with the same degree of callous cunning trying to convey the impression that the present day competition from Canada, Chile and Africa is inconsequential.

The domestic copper miner realizes full well the dangerous tariff intrigues of the present day domestic internationalist, for it was this type, a garner of profits irrespective of national origin and human oppression, who placed the copper miner's product on the free list forty years ago and has kept it there ever since.

These domestic internationalists now control the domestic copper mining industry and its ore reserves; also the foreign copper mining industry and its ore reserves. A selective right of domestic or duty free foreign-mined copper for their highly protected domestic copper manufacturing industry is a most menacing threat directed against the domestic copper mining industry. The tendency trend of these internationalists is to persistently curtail their high cost domestic copper output, yet continuously increase the output of their low cost foreign production. They can loftily inform the Chileans and Rhodesians that if they interfere unduly with their monopolistic copper perquisites they will forthwith mine within their United States ore areas. Conversely, if these internationalists feel that our domestic citizenship, institutions, communities, states and government oppress them unduly, they can contemptuously disregard same by securing the total copper requirements for their excessively protected domestic manufacturing plants from their foreign slave, peon, and pauper-labor ore estates.

I submit that such a right of selection of duty-free, foreign-mined copper is most destructive of American labor, industry, institutions and communities, and a parallel thereto cannot be found within any other of the thousands of major highly protected domestic manufacturing industries.

I am desirous of calling attention to the "vertical integration" or "mine to consumer" production policy of the United States Steel Corporation when formed by its banking sponsor thirty years ago. Said corporation, from its very inception, has always secured its total iron requirements from domestic ore areas, consequently aided in developing and increasing our domestic iron ore reserves, likewise maintained American citizenship, communities and industry.

The "vertical integration," or "mine to consumer" policy indulged in by our leading highly protected domestic copper manufacturing corporation, is to ship in free of duty most of its copper requirements from the oppressed labor areas in Chile, and Mexico. A "vertical integration" practice of this type is distinctly un-American and is not permitted to exist within any other major domestic industry.

The constant and unusual tariff immunity so solicitously accorded this domestic distributor of Chilean and Mexican copper the past decade has not alone emboldened it to constantly increase its destructive copper importations but seemingly generated a precedent now being eagerly followed by domestic banking agencies exploiting the huge African copper reserves.

I insist that so far as this copper importing activity is concerned, even though it is carried on decorously, quietly, yet with machiavellian political and publicity thoroughness, likewise affording excessive profits to the domestic copper manufacturer, its end destructive effect is just the same as against the livelihood of the domestic copper miner as if he were directly repressed by the African negro and the Chilean peon.

This form of "mine to consumer" integration is viciously destructive of American labor and American communities and ample American copper ore reserves for national defense purposes. It is not allowed in any of the thousands of rigidly protected domestic industries, and it will not be tolerated or allowed to exist within the partially protected domestic copper industry whenever the constrictive practices of these domestic internationalists are exposed.

The unusual and un-American congressional tariff immunity accorded the domestic internationalist the past decade in connection with his huge importations of foreign pauper-produced copper, has given him the brazen courage to attack the domestic tariff structure as a whole. These domestic internationalists have been exporting billions of dollars worth of domestic

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UTAH CITIZENS URGE COPPER PROTECTION

SALT LAKE CITY—Two thousand names representing approximately 100,000 voters in the state are attached to a petition to the Utah congressional delegation at Washington, urging that the copper mining industry in the United States be given full protection from foreign competition. Plans are under way to have the lengthy document taken to Washington by Harry S. Joseph, Salt Lake City mining engineer and political leader. Joseph stated that congressional delegations from Idaho, Montana, Arizona, California, Oregon, Wyoming, Washington, Tennessee, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado and Minnesota also will be urged to favor protective legislation by their respective constituents.

Reports Support.

Joseph, who has canvassed the state in behalf of satisfactory congressional legislation during the last two months, reported that he has obtained support of the movement from practically every field of endeavor in the state. He mentioned the names of Heber J. Grant, Dr. Richard R. Lyman, Dr. Joseph F. Merrill, former Gov. Charles H. Mabey, Dan B. Shields, Ernest Bamberger and F. R. Marshall as indicative of the high caliber of individuals interested.

In addition to the support of city, county and state officials, including Gov. George H. Dern, chambers of commerce, civic clubs and fraternal organizations, Joseph stated that outstanding representatives of the following organizations have aligned themselves in favor of giving domestic copper adequate protection:

Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' association, Utah Lumbermen's association, Utah State Farm Bureau federation, the Utah State Federation of Labor, the Utah Manufacturers' association, the Utah State Woolgrowers' association, the Utah Cannerymen's association, the American Legion and the Salt Lake Executives' association. In addition, Mr. Joseph stated that he had obtained the support of 800 individual members of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce to a copper tariff as well as the unanimous support of the Salt Lake Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of which he is exalted ruler.

Mr. Joseph stated that the question at issue in the tariff discussions is: "Are we going to compel the American copper miner to continue a life and death struggle in competition with labor in Africa and South America? All that copper is asking for, and all that those dependent upon it seek, is for the right to share in the traditional tariff policy of the United States."

Raw Copper Unprotected.

"Copper in manufactured forms," Mr. Joseph continued, "is protected by a tariff, but raw copper has no such protection. Tariff protection also is granted to lead, zinc, aluminum, iron and steel, and since one-half of the total operating costs in the United States is represented by labor we feel that an adequate tariff is necessary."

The petition which Joseph will take to Washington, follows: "While economic depression has blighted commerce and industry throughout the United States, the domestic copper mining industry is suffering from double adversity. To the general condition of economic stagnation, copper mining has the added burden of meeting a competition unprecedented for magnitude and perniciousness. Conditions of unemployment in the nation are serious but distress among copper miners and their dependents is critical.

"Twenty-two hundred families or about 10,000 persons, are destitute at Butte, Montana, looking to charity for food, clothing, shelter and medical attention; about 17,000 are in the same condition in the copper mining communities of Arizona, and in Salt Lake county there are 35,000 persons whose immediate needs are a public problem. A fund of \$100,000 is being raised at Salt Lake City for the benefit of the unemployed. Situations are similar in other mining districts.

"It is obvious to those of us who live in copper mining states, and who are familiar with present social, political and economic conditions, that an emergency of sufficient magnitude is existent that ought to be given special attention of congress.

Can Work Out Salvation.

"Distress in the copper mining industry among its workers and those dependent upon them should be considered immediately and separate and apart from other problems and issues. Conditions are paramount to the Belgian devastation, Japanese earthquake and other calamities to which Americans have contributed millions for relief, but unlike sufferers from those foreign catastrophes, the American copper miner can and will work out his own salvation if relieved of the oppression of competition of imports of duty-free, foreign-mined copper. The American copper miner wants work, not charity.

"It is patent that the closing of copper mines is causing not only copper miners great distress, but that deplorable conditions have been brought about in farming, livestock raising, railroading, business, commerce, public utilities and other industries, in the supporting of schools, hospitals, churches, other institutions of public welfare, menacing public health and safety and threatening to undermine our social systems and political governments.

Remedy in Protection.

"The remedy for all these dangerous conditions lies in protecting the copper mining industry of the United States from the uncontrolled competition given in our own country by the cheap labor copper of foreign countries. The expeditious and feasible method of control may be had by proper and immediate tariff legislation. We earnestly urge you to exert yourself to the utmost to secure adequate tariff protection for our copper miners, so that the present emergency may be passed without risking a complete breakdown of that which we have built up during the half century past."

MURRAY HOSPITAL LOSES APPEAL

The efforts of the Murray Hospital to appeal the decision of the Supreme Court of the Angove case met with failure. They were denied the appeal. This case was reported in full some weeks ago and is a history maker in so far as compensation legislation is concerned.

The Engineers' Union of Butte, and Attorney Lewis Brown are to be complimented on the fine piece of work they have done in this case. They have made an everlasting contribution to the welfare and protection of the working classes, not only in Montana but in the United States as a whole. The Supreme Court is also to be commended on its unanimous interpretation of the Compensation Laws, favoring labor.

CENTRAL COUNCIL NOTES

Considering the number of competing meetings of public interest, being held last Tuesday Night, the Council was very well attended. We missed many of the lady delegates but we hope they were attending another meeting of vital importance to the public welfare.

The Council endorsed Chas. Whiteley for Utility Engineer of School District No. 1. We hope that Charley is accepted for if there is one man in Butte that deserves the support of Independents that man is Whiteley.

The Missoula Council sent information to the effect that the FLORENCE HOTEL of MISSOULA is UNFAIR to organized labor. All labor sympathizers please take note when attending conventions or visiting in Missoula.

The Council endorsed a protest against wage cuts in our State Schools and Institutions. Such cuts would effect only the low salaried workers and teachers and not the high salaried officials.

The Street Car Men reported that they were to be cut 10 cents per hour, beginning May 1.

The Machinists' Union and the Council protested the action of Senator Walsh in endorsing the appointment of "Injunction" Wilkerson for Judge.

Peterson, Watson and Young were appointed as a committee from the Council to meet with committees from the locals to consider the proposition for open shop, presented by the so-called Relief Committee.

The committee for the State Federation Convention was enlarged, Davies, Krabler, Bradley and Sterns being added to the present committee.

President Graham made a stirring address on conditions in Montana which will be reported in full in the next issue of the paper.

BOTH SIDES OF COPPER TARIFF PRESENT CASE

WITNESS SAYS INDUSTRY MUST HAVE AID OR END IS NEAR.

PRODUCERS FACE RUIN.

OPPONENTS ARGUE LEVY WOULD INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—(AP)—Complaints against taxes already in the revenue bill and appeals for new levies were heaped before the senate finance committee today by a stream of witnesses.

Both sides of the copper tariff question were presented. A. F. Petermann of the Calumet & Arizona Copper company, said a 5-cent tax on copper imports was necessary to save the industry. Heath Steele of the American Metal company of New York, a firm which has some foreign copper interests, argued the duty would increase rather than decrease unemployment at the mines.

The committee also heard opposition to an 8 per cent levy on the amount paid for transportation of oil by pipe lines.

Urges 5-Cent Duty.

A. E. Petermann of the Calumet & Arizona Copper company urged the committee to approve a 5-cent a pound tax on copper imports, which is being advocated by Senators Hayden (D., Ariz.), Wheeler (D., Mont.) and Vandenberg (R., Mich.).

Petermann related that the tariff commission had reported foreign copper cost less at American ports than the domestic metal.

"So far as I know," Petermann said, "there has been no opposition to a copper tax on the part of any American producer."

After telling the group that the copper industry must have some relief, Petermann continued:

"The end is right now. Unless something is done, most of the mines will be closed in six months and the workers will have to have relief from either from the state or Federal government.

"These people are facing a disaster just as real to them as a fire or flood. They know this is a permanent condition unless something is done."

Petermann said he felt the tax was germane to the bill, and asserted "the industry is on the way to destruction—in fact, it's already commenced."

Foreign Competition.

This is due "entirely to new foreign competition which has come into the picture" since 1928, he added, citing increasing imports from Canada and South America, and saying the African fields were taking European markets.

Senator Reed (R., Pa.) said he was convinced a "prima facie case for a copper tariff" had been made, but he expressed doubt on the rate which should be levied.

"We think a 5-cent rate will protect a large part of American producers," said Petermann, "but, even so, many producers still will have to pass out of the picture."

Steele asserted that not one pound of Congo copper has been sold in this country. Replying to Senator Hull, the witness said there is an agreement among world producers to curtail the output 20 per cent.

Philip D. Wilson of the United States Metal Refining company, Carter, N. J., joined in opposition, arguing the copper import tax would involve changes in forty-four tariff items and "still fail to help the condition of copper producers."

LOCAL COMMITTEES ON RELIEF REQUEST TO MEET

A meeting of all the committees, from the locals, Central Council and Building Trades Council will meet Saturday Night, April 30, at 7:30 o'clock to consider the Open Shop request of the Relief Committee to organized labor. ALL COMMITTEEMEN ARE URGED TO BE PRESENT. Remember the date. SATURDAY, APRIL 30. THE TIME: 7:30 P. M. THE PLACE: 3rd FLOOR OF CARPENTERS' HALL. BE THERE!

SOCIALIST CONVENTION CALL

A convention of the Silver Bow Council precinct Committeemen of the Socialist Party will be held at 227 W. Aluminum St., Butte, Montana, Tuesday, May 10, 1932, at 7:30 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of electing eight delegates and eight alternate delegates to the Socialist Party State Convention to be held in Helena, Montana, Tuesday, May 17, 1932.

E. K. DUNCAN,

Chairman County Central Committee Socialist Party. Butte, Montana, April 26, 1932.

Saturday, April 30, 7:30 p. m., Carpenters' Hall