

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

Montana Labor News

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MONTANA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

Vol. VIII.

BUTTE, MONTANA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1932.

No. 37

CONGRESS MAY PROBE POSTAL TELEGRAPH CO.

Discriminatory Ruling Against Weekly Newspapers On Press Wire Rates Sure to Arouse Resentment—Ekern, Noted Wisconsin Lawyer, Studies Issue Raised—Editors Should Act in Self-Defense, Say Rail Pension Association Heads.

By JOSEPH A. WISE.
CHICAGO.—Herman L. Ekern, general counsel of the Railroad Employees' National Pension Association, has under advisement the proper course to pursue in reference to the recent ruling by the heads of the Postal Telegraph Company that press rates are meant for daily newspapers only.

Mr. Ekern, a former attorney general of Wisconsin, has but recently returned from a business trip to Texas and has not yet had time to thoroughly go into the matter.

Wire Story Starts Row.

The objectionable ruling came as an aftermath of the sending of a 200-word wire news story to 240 weekly and eight daily newspapers at the end of the second day of the convention of the Railroad Employees' National Pension Association, held at the Congress hotel, Chicago, from Oct. 10 to 13, inclusive. The story was accepted and sent at the night press rate, which is one-sixth of the day commercial rate. The national officers of the association were notified of the ruling a week later.

W. W. Royster and E. J. Ellingson, national chairman and national secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the Railroad Employees' National Pension Association, are of the opinion that the matter is of first concern to the weekly newspaper editors themselves, and that the editors should initiate efforts through their various editorial associations to override the ruling. All weekly newspaper editors will be forever barred from sending or receiving press dis-

patches at press rates if the ruling is permitted to stand.

Can't Stop Publication.

Having established a publicity department for the purpose of supplying newspapers published in railroad terminal centers with news stories in reference to the latest developments and progress made in promoting the passage of the Hatfield-Keller industrial retirement pension bill, now pending in Congress, it was and is the purpose of association officers to transmit these stories quickly by wire when the exigencies of the situation so demand. The ruling of the Postal Telegraph Company will not defeat that purpose, although the cost will be much greater. The United States mails, of course, will continue to be used for the sending of the bulk of the stories.

Solons May Intervene.

W. W. Royster, national chairman of the Railroad Employees' National Pension Association, will be stationed in Washington during the short session of Congress, which convenes in December. Mr. Royster will endeavor at that time to interest congressional leaders and members of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the discriminatory ruling of the Postal Telegraph Company, if the latter has not backed down from its unfair position meanwhile.

The possibility of a congressional investigation is being considered. The Hatfield-Keller bill has many ardent supporters in both the Senate and the House who certainly would be inspired to strongly resent any unwarranted interference with the progress of the measure.

The Washington Scene

By LAWRENCE TODD

WASHINGTON—(F.P.)—In every branch of the federal government service there was to be observed a letting-up of political repression, after President Hoover's speech Oct. 31 in Madison Square Garden. The great majority who were going to vote for Roosevelt or Thomas, and even the scattered few scientists and scholars who would, if they voted, cast their ballots for Foster, began to relax the padlocks upon their tongues. The worst threat from the Hoover administration had gone on the air. People still lived and worked and planned for tomorrow. Government buildings still stood on their foundations. Hoover was only one week from oblivion, and the long-terrified public servants could laugh. Go through the city from the Bureau of Standards to the Munitions building and the Library of Congress, you could scarcely find a salaried official in the civil service who did not look happier at the impending relief from the individualism of Herbert Hoover.

A high official in the State department talked quietly—and in confidence—of the prospect for the United States. He is a Republican, a former university professor. He reads a good deal about hunger marches, here and abroad. He is an expert on American foreign trade. He has seen it slip ruinously down, in the three years of economic collapse, while factories, farms, mines, railroads, steamship lines—every part

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CIGAR MAKERS PRESENT NEW PRODUCT

PLANS NEW EMPLOYMENT

Lasco Brake Products Corporation Expansion Program Will Assist Prosperity Return.

Western business recovery was given additional impetus today by the expansion announcement of Lasco Brake Products Corporation, Ltd., of Oakland, manufacturers of Lasco brake lining. The outstanding quality of this western-made lining is indicated by its use on the racing cars of such record drivers as Leon Duray, Ernie Tripplett, "Howdy" Wilcox, "Shorty" Cantlon, William Claus, Ralph Hepburn and Chester Gardner; and its use as standard equipment on racing cars made by Harry A. Miller, leading racing car manufacturer.

According to F. J. Laher, president, the company's expansion program calls for immediate plant enlargement, extra machinery and equipment, additional men both in the shop and on the road, and an intensive advertising and merchandising campaign throughout the entire country. Through the inauguration of this program it is planned to make this enterprise, built and developed by western men through the support of western patronage, into one of the outstanding companies of its kind in all America, and the name Lasco the dominant name in the entire brake lining field.

SAMUEL GOMPERS 5-CENT CIGAR MAKES FOR NEW JOBS

The Cigarmakers' International Union, which organization gave to the world the Union Label as it is used today by all labor unions, has now given us a new product, the outgrowth of an idea which, it is predicted, will have a great bearing upon the course and policies of organized labor in the future of that great movement. This product is the Samuel Gompers 5-cent cigar—a cigar made, financed and promulgated by the Cigarmakers' Intl. Union.

VAST CHANGES INVOLVED IN MILITIA PLAN

WASHINGTON—(F.P.)—Confident that Hitlerism in Germany is dying out, the French government has at last made terms with the Von Papen dictatorship in Berlin, under strong pressure from Washington and Wall Street, and has agreed to begin demolishing the Versailles Treaty. Premier Eduard Herriot has published his arms-reduction proposal, and the French Chamber of Deputies has given him an overwhelming vote of confidence. The French parliament knows why Herriot has proposed to put Germany and all the rest of the European continent on a conscript-militia basis of self-defense. He makes this offer because the French people want to stop paying good money to the United States on their war debts. He knows, and the French know, that only after a big reduction in armament expense is agreed upon in Europe will the Washington government consent to a scaling-down or final cancellation of these debts. Between maintaining the Versailles Treaty against Germany and freeing herself from war debt, France has turned away from the Treaty and reached out her hand for forgiveness of payments.

Every economist knows that the existence of these war debts has been one of the prime factors in deepening the economic depression and paralyzing industry around the world in the past three years. American national wealth would have been far greater today if it had been decided three years ago to wipe the debt slate clean. European politics is powerfully swayed by the debt burden. Neither Herriot nor any other politician can remain in power in France unless he can secure a solution—unless he can get the United States to reduce or cancel the payments due. That was the bait which Norman Davis, American special envoy, held out to France in recent weeks, with the warning that the American Congress would never agree to any reduction of the payments unless French armaments were sharply reduced.

Herriot drafted his plan. It called for the abolition of standing professional armies in continental European countries and the creation of a conscript militia, whose size in each country would depend upon its population and certain other general factors. The powers having colonies could keep standing armies in those colonies. There would be drastic reduction of all other elements of the war machine, to satisfy in part the Hoover proposal of a cut of one-third in all armaments.

Davis was consulted and he reported to Washington that the French were beginning to see reason. For the sake of money saved they were willing to remove their standing army from Europe and to let Germany have a militia comparable in size to the militia that would be maintained in France. Better still, Foreign Minister Benes of Czechoslovakia was one of the authors of the Herriot plan, and the French satellite states in the Balkans would fall into line. Poland would resist, but Poland could not stand alone.

Germany's dictatorship of junkers was delighted. Here was the answer to Hitler's Brown Shirts, the Nationalist Steel Helmets, the Social Democratic Reichsbanner force and the Communist Red Front Fighters. All of these armed forces of the political parties could be dissolved and suppressed as soon as a national conscript militia could be armed. More important for the Von Papen government, the Herriot plan removed the main political stock-in-trade of Hitler and the Nationalists—the cry that the French were oppressing the

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

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

PENNSYLVANIA'S HUNGRY JOBLESS GET ANOTHER DOLE

WASHINGTON—(F.P.)—An additional \$5,462,265 of emergency relief funds was allotted to Pennsylvania, for use in 63 counties during November, by a reluctant decision of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation on Nov. 4. On that day grants were made to New Hampshire, Indiana, and Washington as well. It happened that in all these four states the Hoover administration and its Republican senators—Davis, Moses, Watson and Jones—were in dangerous political situation, and that this was the last day on which a grant of relief funds would be effective, in softening the voters' resentment at the G. O. P. policy of "let 'em starve."

In a statement on the Pennsylvania allotment, which supplements earlier grants amounting to \$5,842,183, the R. F. C. said: "The need for further action by the state and political subdivisions at the earliest possible moment is apparent when it is realized that the supporting information supplied by the Governor of Pennsylvania, and which forms the basis of the application for federal funds for November, shows that approximately one-sixth of all the families in the state (not including those receiving only Red Cross flour) are in need of relief and that federal funds are necessary to supplement local and state funds in 63 of the 67 counties of the state. The importance of early action is also emphasized by the statement made by the Governor, Oct. 25, to the effect that any action of the legislature meeting in January would not become effective in providing relief before April 1."

Governor Pinchot estimated that the November relief needs in these 63 counties would be \$9,348,800. Of this total, 28 per cent could be raised inside the state, the remaining 72 per cent had to come from federal funds.

The fact that President Hoover was roundly booed when he was introduced to a Philadelphia crowd by Boss Vare, who blocked Pinchot's hunger relief program in the legislature, is claimed to have had no influence on the decision to feed the hungry unemployed before election day. The R. F. C. voted the money on the morning after Hoover had been thunderously booed by 5,000

war veterans in a Philadelphia meeting at which Gen. Smedley Butler and Gen. Pelham Glassford denounced the smashing of the bonus army in Washington by Hoover's use of gas and bayonets.

In the official statement on the grant of \$667,420 to New Hampshire for relief of destitution was contained the first news the capital had received from any official source as to the suffering which the depression had brought to the workers in that state.

"Local political subdivisions of the state are said to be virtually without funds available for relief at this time, and under the law unable to provide such funds," the R. F. C. declared. "It was certified that no funds under existing statutes are now available in the state treasury for poor relief, and that no such funds can be made available under existing statutes. The legislature will meet in January, next."

So granite-faced New Hampshire, which sends Senator Moses to Washington to sneer at the need of the unemployed for food, has no law under which her own state revenues can be used to feed the starving. This triumph of the organized employers in the legislature may have its reaction in the defeat of Moses and the Republican governor this year.

John D. Gets Profit On Low Wages, Maimed Men

NEW YORK—(F.P.)—John D. Rockefeller Jr. is getting his fine big Radio City built at the cost of the maiming and crippling of men working for 40 cents an hour, it was divulged when house wreckers struck on the job.

"In their efforts to cut prices, employers have done away with safety devices, and dozens of our men have been maimed and crippled," Business Agent Laurance Truchan said.

SCHOOLS SACRIFICED TO DEPRESSION FIRST TIME IN U. S.

WASHINGTON—(F.P.)—School opportunities for American children are being sacrificed, for the first time during a depression.

Throughout the history of the United States, according to a bulletin issued Nov. 4 by the National Education Association from its Washington headquarters, no previous period of hard times has been permitted to interfere with the extension of free education. The past two years have been the first in which general economic distress has been passed along to the crippling of the schools. This change for the worse has occurred at the very time when great increases in enrollment are taking place—due to the lack of jobs for the older boys and girls.

"About three out of every four cities throughout the United States are attempting to operate on a smaller school budget this year than last year," the bulletin states. "Present estimates are that 1932 school budgets were about 4 per cent below 1931, and that 1933 will show additional cuts averaging about 8 per cent. Such retrenchment cannot continue indefinitely if the schools are to perform their important functions with reasonable success.

"The curtailment of educational support which has marked the past two years stands in sharp contrast to the policy followed in previous periods of economic recession. During the 1837-43 depression public school support, both legislative and financial, increased in most states outside the slave-holding region. Under the leadership of Horace Mann, school revenues in Massachusetts increased 35 per cent in the 7-year period, and similar gains were registered in other states. During and following the depression of 1873-78 school expenditures rose about 53 per cent. The panic of '93 and the business recession which followed it until 1898 did not bring about material reductions in expenditures for public education. Teachers' salaries rose slightly, school opportunities were extended, and the increase in expenditures for schools outran the increase in property values. Similar statements might be made for the depressions of 1907 and 1921.

"The fact remains that the present depression is the first one in which school support has been generally reduced. This fact constitutes a challenge to educational leadership which cannot be ignored.

"The proportion of municipal expenditures devoted to education is lower now than at any time since 1922."

In its early years, the American labor movement made the extension of the free public school system one of its first demands. Jeffersonian Democracy has always asserted special guardianship over the free school system. Next to the obligation to

see that the people shall not die of starvation, the government of the United States has always been assumed to hold itself responsible for providing school opportunities for its coming citizens. The fact that the golden age of mass production in industry and of manipulation of the government by huge corporations has been followed by a withdrawal of financial support from the free public schools—a course adopted by the MacDonald Tory government in England—is one of the most significant developments of the Hoover era, in the opinion of professional educators.

RAIL LABOR RESENTS ATTACK ON WAGES

WASHINGTON—(F.P.)—Senator Peter Norbeck of South Dakota, who voted to confirm Judge Parker, has the rail labor organizations fighting hard against his re-election. A front-page article in "Labor," the rail labor political organ, dated Nov. 7, says that Norbeck is "up to his old tricks," telling rural audiences that the farmers' troubles arise from high wages paid to railway workers. "Time and time again," it says, "he has given utterance to the same viciously false propaganda on the floor of the Senate. He has ignored the reports of half a dozen official bodies which have investigated railroad wages, and which in every instance have reported that railroad workers were underpaid, not overpaid."

Rail labor is supporting U. S. G. Cherry, the Democratic candidate.

A. F. OF L. MAIN PROBLEM IS DISTRIBUTION

WASHINGTON—(F.P.)—"Today's problem is distribution," says the A. F. of L. Monthly Survey of Business, published Nov. 5. "Industry is paralyzed because we have not succeeded in distributing what we produce. The trouble has been in the distribution of income at its source."

Of the wage problem it says: "Our basic wage rates must be raised—work hours must be shortened; at present there is less than 30 hours' work a week for each wage and salaried worker if all are employed. As hours are reduced, wage rates must be increased to maintain buying power. . . . Since 1929, workers' income has fallen 23 per cent below the 1922 level, while dividends are still 32 per cent above it."