

Kroger Grocery Company Still Unfair

To Union Labor.—The Mere Fact That They Signed An Agreement With a Few Drivers Does Not Put Them On the Fair List.—Kroger's Fight Against Paying Living Wages To His Clerks Continues.—Meat Cutters and Other Employees Are Still Unfair.

The Kroger Grocery and Baking Company signed up last Thursday with their union drivers, after a six months' fight, wherein Kroger lost thousands of customers who are members of union labor. As soon as they saw it was cheaper to settle the strike than to lose trade, they promptly did so, but the following excuse, given by the company, is humorous:

"The union is given recognition; the men receive a scale of wages satisfactory to the union, and they will participate in the profits of the Mutual Hauling Company, organized by the Kroger Company," Mr. Albers said.

"B. H. Kroger felt that in view of the fact that the country was at war there was no time for strikes," he said.

No, Mr. Albers, that's not the case and Kroger is not so patriotic; if so, either he or one of his sons would have enlisted before now. If Kroger serves the army it will be as a soldier.

The idea is, that union labor cut into his profits and they have been endeavoring to organize his clerks and meat cutters so that they can get a living wage and cut down the hours of servitude. This has opened a field for grafters known as private detectives, and Kroger has hired and paid a number of these parasites to have them assist him in keeping the clerks from organizing. But if the clerks have any brains they can see that the only way to get favorable conditions and wages is to organize and fight for it the same as the teamsters did. Kroger won't give you anything; you must demand it; and with the support of organized labor you have a chance to better your conditions.

Union men and their wives must not be misled in this matter, as the mere signing up with the teamsters does not put Kroger on the fair list with the street car men or hundreds of others unions who have declared that his company is unfair to their organization.

Kroger laughed at union labor, but when they drew nearly half a million dollars out of his bank he quit laughing and started to destroy the unions, but failed. The brewery workers alone withdrew nearly two hundred thousand dollars at one time.

Kroger's pride was stung when he started to fight the rapid transit loop. His gang of financiers were evidently on the wrong side of the fence; but when we stated that Kroger was behind the opposition to the loop, organized labor voted solidly for it, and the ordinance was carried two to one.

Organized labor should demand that the legislature pass a bill abolishing trading stamps and premiums and put Mr. Kroger on the same basis as any other grocer or butcher.

BONUSES IS SPY AID.

Indianapolis.—Detective agencies have realized the value of the bonus system in their work of smashing trade unionism, according to the United Mine Workers' Journal, which reprints a circular issued in West Virginia, while the miners were negotiating with operators. "Our experience has convinced us that the bonus system that is now in operation gets the desired results," says this agency. "We find the best way to control labor organizations is to lead and not force them. We are also convinced that the conservative elements in all unions will control when properly led and officered, which we are prepared to do. We help eliminate the agitator and organizer quietly with little or no friction.

"Our spotters are going from place to place, and you will find that they will be able to put over the bonuses that we offer, that has for its purpose the destruction of the mine workers, and a quieting effect upon the men who are restless. It makes them believe they don't have to pay dues in an organization in order to get an advance in wages. It has the desired effect for this reason—when all the agitation has subsided, we can take the bonuses back off."

WOMEN'S 50-HOUR LAW SIGNED

Columbus, Ohio.—Gov. Cox has signed a bill limiting the hours of women workers to 50 in any one week. Seats for women shall be supplied wherever possible.



—Pancoast in Philadelphia North American.

AMERICAN MOTHER, "ARE YOU GOING TO STAND FOR THAT, BOYS?"

Court House Strike Called Off

The Sheet Metal Workers and Carpenters Divide the Metal Trim—Work Resumed Last Wednesday Morning.—Final Adjustment Entrusted to Arbitration Board, Who Must Render a Decision in Twenty Days.

An agreement to end the strike on the new Hamilton County Court House was reached at a meeting of the New Court House Building Commission last Tuesday. Unions contesting the right to set the metal door bucks and jambs and install locks, agreed to divide the work equally, pending the decision of an arbitration committee to be appointed, and the men returned to work Wednesday.

To date, the strike, which has been in progress since January 26, has cost the county \$45,000 figuring a day's delay in the completion of the new building for each day of the strike. President Herbert B. Knox said, with the co-operation of the union men, a part of this time may be made up.

Many Propositions Submitted.

Several propositions and counter propositions were submitted at the meeting of the New Court House Building Commission. H. H. Stewart, of the Metal Workers' Union, proposed an equal division of the work. Members of the commission and President John H. Donlin, of the Building Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, declared the proposition submitted by Mr. Stewart was a fair one, but John H. Potts, of the Carpenters' Union, would not agree to it.

When the commission was in executive session to determine upon future action, Potts consented to a submission of another proposal providing the work be divided, but that Hamilton County residents only be permitted to work on

the job, and that an arbitration committee be appointed to settle the difficulty. The following proposition was accepted finally by both sides:

"Referring to the proposition submitted by the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' Alliance and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, and in order to arrive at a settlement of the controversy as to who shall erect the metal door bucks and jambs and metal trim in the Hamilton County Courthouse it is agreed:

To Resume Work Immediately.

"1. This work shall be resumed immediately by dividing the same between the two above-named unions, 50 per cent to be erected by each, and all other trades now on a strike shall return to work immediately.

"2. The work shall be resumed by the sheet metal workers and carpenters subject to an arbitration as to whom the work belongs and by whom it shall be erected.

"This arbitration shall be conducted by an arbitration committee consisting of six members, three to be chosen by the sheet metal workers and three by the carpenters. If the six so chosen are unable to agree without the appointment of an umpire, or seventh member of the Committee of Arbitration, the six members chosen as above set forth shall choose or select a seventh member of the Committee of Arbitration, who shall act as umpire and whose decision shall be final and binding upon both the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and

Joiners of America and the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance.

Decision in Twenty Days.

"The Committee of Arbitration shall render a decision upon this question within 20 days from the date of this agreement. Pending such a decision and until the work on the new Hamilton County Courthouse shall have been fully completed the work herein involved shall be continued without further interruption on a basis of an equal division."

The agreement is signed by John H. Potts, Harry Cordes and William Reinke on behalf of the carpenters and H. H. Stewart and Harry J. Dorsey on behalf of the metal workers.

An equal division of the work will be made by placing the carpenters in the north half and the metal workers in the south half of the building.

Resolutions thanking the union officials and President John H. Donlin of the Building Trades Department A. F. of L., who came here from Washington in an effort to settle the strike, were adopted by the Commission. The members of the Commission also extended their thanks to Judge Otway J. Cosgrave and Frederick L. Hoffman, of the Common Pleas Court, who sat in the Commission during four meetings in an effort to reach an agreement.

PAINTERS TO PICNIC

The Boosters' Club, of Painters' Local No. 308, will give a big family picnic at Rosedale Park, Covington, Ky., on June 3, and it is expected to be one of the few big outings of union labor this summer.

CITY FIREMEN ORGANIZE.

Seattle.—Municipal firemen have organized and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. About one-third of the entire force has already joined the new organization.

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL

Hold Regular Meeting—A Mass of Routine Business Transacted—Cincinnati Better Housing Committee's Campaign for More Inspectors Endorsed.

The Building Trades Council held its regular meeting last Thursday night. Jos. A. Cullen presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

A communication from the Slate and Tile Roofers stated that Sam Specht had retired as delegate to the Council and that Ben W. Stewart had been elected in his place. Brother Stewart being present he was duly obligated.

A communication from the Cincinnati Better Housing Committee was read, requesting the Council to endorse its movement of securing more tenement house inspectors. The letter paid a high tribute to Dr. Landis and Geo. E. Rendigs.

Upon motion the same was unanimously endorsed.

The minutes of the Board of Business Agents was read and adopted.

The report of the business agent was read and concurred in.

All trades reported business good.

SEIKMAN APPOINTED

Robt. Siekman, formerly business agent of the Painters' District Council, has been appointed assistant fire mar-



Robt. Siekman.

shall by Gov. Cox. This appointment is pleasing to organized labor as "Bob" has been a hard worker in the ranks for a number of years, and Labor wishes him good luck.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Orange, N. J.—Painters' union No. 242 has negotiated a one-year agreement that raises wages from \$3.75 to \$4 a day.

Augusta, Ga.—After a four-hours' strike Painters' union secured a union-shop agreement, a 44-hour week and a wage increase of 5 cents an hour.

Pittston, Pa.—Wages have been increased from \$3 to \$3.40 a day by Painters' union No. 488.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Painters' union No. 119 is winning its strike for higher wages. Over 100 of these workers are being paid the new 50-cent rate.

Peoria, Ill.—Members of Painters' union No. 157 are now working under their new wage agreement, which raises wages 5 cents an hour.

Topeka, Kan.—A three-days' strike of organized painters secured an agreement with employers. Wages are raised from 45 to 50 cents an hour.