

THE LABOR WORLD

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UNIONS MAY BE SUED.

Chief Justice Taft is evidently aspiring to rival John Marshall as an interpreter of the claims of property. If Marshall nailed the lid down for privilege, Taft has clinched it. He has restored labor to property. The opinion written by him in the Coronado coal case nullifies the labor provision of the Clayton act, which declares that the labor of a human being shall not be held to be an article of commerce or trade.

The decision applies nineteenth century reasoning to a twentieth century condition. If unions of labor are to be regarded differently from other voluntary associations and are to be held liable for the acts of all its members, or any one of them, what is to save them from the machinations of the labor spy, frequently a member of the union, but acting in disguise for the employer or his agent?

It matters not that the union in this instance is saved the penalty of treble damages. That is but an expediency. The principle of liability has been fixed by the court. For the first time in the history of our government the law by judicial construction has been changed to permit persons to sue as an entity unincorporated voluntary associations, such as labor unions are known to be. Law has been made. The court has done something congress has long refused to do.

Such decisions emphasize the claim so frequently made by militant labor men that the supreme court has set itself above the people and has become absolute in its law making power.

And yet there may be a silver lining in the darkened clouds. Whom the gods would destroy they first overfeed. The autocrats of industry will applaud the Taft decision. It is what they have been looking for. They may now tie up union funds at will in the midst of a strike, ham-stringing the union and hold the workers at their mercy.

So long as the courts entertain the property point of view, which is the employer's, they will have it pretty much their own way in mulcting union treasuries and possibly outlawing unions, but should the judiciary change and begin to interpret the viewpoint of labor, what then? If a labor union can be sued as such, then by the same rule it should be entitled to sue as an entity. Let the Coronado decision stand and there may come a day when the courts will be kept busy awarding judgments against employers and their associations, even against citizens' alliances that boycott and blacklist, for forcing lockouts, compelling violations of contract, breaking unions and bringing suffering and misery to mothers and children through their associated conspiracies.

In such event it will not be the first time in history that the weapons of the masters were used by their serfs with which to chastize them. The Coronado decision takes its place with the unfortunate Dred Scott decision of slavery days. Let us pray that no such serious consequences shall come in its wake.

THE COUNTY JAIL.

"I am surprised to read that a county in Minnesota contemplates using Barre granite in the construction of a public building. While Barre stone is of the very best quality and is found plentifully in many quarries near Barre, it is also true that there are some of the finest building granites in the country located in Minnesota. The Rockville quarries, for instance, produce stone second to none in the country."

The above is an excerpt from a letter to the editor of The Labor World from James Duncan, president of the International Granite Cutters' International association and first vice president of the American Federation of Labor, to whom we have written on the subject. Mr. Duncan emphasizes in his letter that it is not his purpose to discriminate against any granite, but he can not refrain from calling public attention to Rockville, Minnesota, granite, which is "second to none in the country."

It is proposed, we understand, to build the new county jail with Barre granite. Is not that like "carrying coal to Newcastle"? Rockville is situated in Stearns county on the Great Northern railroad and not over 150 miles from Duluth, Rockville granite is lighter in color than St. Cloud gran-

ite. It is as fine as Barre granite and it is quarried nearly 1,500 miles nearer Duluth, which ought to make some difference in cost.

Jim Duncan says Rockville granite is second to none in the country and Jim ought to know. He is an expert. He knows granite from Aberdeen to Shaska. He has been judging it for 50 years. No wonder, he is surprised to learn that we are going far away for a granite that is not superior to Minnesota granite. Wouldn't it be well to give Rockville a chance?

St. Louis county should not forget Stearns county and its people. We have no better friends anywhere. They have stood by northeastern Minnesota when other sections of the state were united against it. Their members in the legislature, with few exceptions, have consistently fought side by side with St. Louis county members during times of dire trial to this section of the state. Neither they nor their people have ever been shown the proper appreciation from us in a material sense. We owe them a debt. One way to pay it is to give them a chance to furnish the stone with which to build our county jail.

Certain interests in Duluth are recommending a cheaper stone for the county jail. They have in mind Bedford stone of which the post office is built. Bedford is a limestone, and while it answers the purpose for which limestones are used, when compared to granite in a public building, memorial or anything else of an ornamental, substantial and lasting nature, it is like comparing burlap to silk.

While the judges of the district court are considering county jail plans may we not be pardoned for calling public attention to Rockville stone. It is a granite of high merit. Loyalty to the state, if nothing more, should prompt St. Louis county officials to investigate it.

THE STATE'S NEGLIGENCE.

The death by accident of Joseph E. Kreager, deputy game warden, whose body was found in Grand lake Memorial day reveals one more weakness in the workmen's compensation law, which was not generally known until it was found that Mrs. Kreager and her daughter would not be compensated under the act.

It may be that the law makes the state liable for compensation, but even if such were true the legislature has failed to provide a fund for the payment of accident or death claims to employees of the state game and fish commission.

In any event Mr. Kreager lost his life in an accident that arose out of and occurred in the process of his employment. The state requires that all employers in industrial occupations in Minnesota shall be liable for all accidents to their employes which "arise out of and occur during the process of employment." That is the language of the law. Employers must pay a compensation fixed by that law to the victims of industrial accidents. It must be paid promptly and without unnecessary controversy.

The state seems to have provided one rule for employers in industrial plants and another rule for itself as an employer. It has neglected to provide for its own employes. It is not a model employer as it should be. It is setting a poor example to private employers.

Deputy Game Warden Kreager lost his life in the discharge of his duty. His work was of a hazardous nature. His widow and daughter have been robbed of a husband and father. The bread winner of the home has been taken. Unless provision is made for their support they may become dependents upon others. That would be as wrong as it is pitiful. The state should not permit it.

Popular support should be given to a movement inaugurated by the Plumbers' union at a meeting held Thursday evening last to secure the passage of a bill at the next session of the legislature to appropriate an amount of money, equal at least to that which would have been paid to the widow and daughter had Mr. Kreager lost his life by accident while engaged in private employment.

Every civic organization in the city should get behind this movement and every good citizen is urged to interview candidates for the legislature and request them to present and vote for such a measure.

ON SATURDAY CLOSING.

Union workers, their families and all sympathetic persons should get behind the movement to induce the retail merchants to close shop Saturday afternoons and evenings during the summer months.

The most practical way to back the movement is to do no shopping on such afternoons and evenings. There are many Duluth people who have persistently abstained for years from doing any shopping on Saturday evenings, at any time of the year. It is against their principle, if all would remain away from stores, or even a respectable number would do so on Saturday afternoons during the summer months and on Saturday evenings during the whole year, merchants

SCHOOL DAYS By DWIG



would soon find it unprofitable to keep their stores open at such hours. No consistent union member working the 44-hour week would compel another employe to work Saturday afternoons, and when any of them do their purchasing during such hours they are but encouraging merchants to keep open and force their employes to work.

The business women's club and several civic organizations have gone on record in favor of Saturday afternoon and evening closing during the summer months. That's good. Now let everybody back them up.

Saturday afternoon off will be good for merchants and for sales people, and it will be good for the public. Boost it along.

ANOTHER REPUTATION.

The Republicans of Iowa, like the Republicans of Indiana, have repudiated the Harding administration and have voted to turn the old ship of state about and return to the good harbor of normalcy from which it was taken by that brazen gang of privilege grabbers who are now directing its course at Washington.

A liberal Republican, characterized as a radical by the reactionaries, landed the nomination for United States senator at the primary election held last Tuesday. Several candidates with progressive records were lined up against him, together with one reactionary, but he beat the field and polled 41 per cent of the Republican vote. Every vote cast against the reactionary candidate was a vote against the policies of the Harding administration. The progressive voters divided, but the conservatives stood pat and cast their votes for but one candidate.

Colonel Smith Brookhart, the nominee, is said to be a picturesque liberal of pronounced views on public questions. One of his opponents, Clifford Thorne, is noted for his legal victories against the railroad interests. The combined Brookhart and Thorne vote was admittedly anti-Harding.

News comes from Washington that the administration is very much worried about Brookhart's victory. He made a spectacular campaign and won his way to the front rank of candidates by his daring declarations against certain privileged laws recently enacted by congress. He campaigned diligently for the following: Reduced freight rates, Repeal of the Esch-Cummins railroad law, A soldier's bonus to be paid by a tax on the rich, The re-organization of the Federal Reserve system, The re-opening of the Newberry case.

The defeat of the ship subsidy bill. A peculiar feature of the Iowa primary law lent added interest to the race for the nomination. Unless the high man polls 35 per cent of the total vote cast, he is declared "not to have been nominated" and the nomination is then thrown into the hands of a state convention to be called later.

The reactionaries feared Brookhart from the first and they saw to it that a big field of progressive candidates was put up, to divide the opposition vote and in the hope of preventing Brookhart's nomination. The matter would then go before the convention which the reactionary machine expected to control. The standpat candidate, Charles E. Pickett, in that

event would have been forced on the Republican voters of the state. It is all over now. Brookhart's big vote spoiled their plans.

The nomination of Brookhart is not only a repudiation of the present administration, but it is a rebuke to Senator Cummins, one of the authors of the transportation act who escaped slaughter two years ago by the skin of his teeth and before the present storm of reaction against the standpat crowd had fully set in.

The result in Iowa should have a stimulating effect on the forward looking voters of Minnesota. A strong candidate in the Republican primaries against Senator Kellogg would give the state organization which is backing him considerable uneasiness along about this time. And who is to say that the little "trust buster" is not doomed to defeat at the November election? No one can tell what will happen, with the people in their present temper.

DAUGHERTY'S RE-'MORSE'

By J. M. BAER, The Congressman-Cartoonist. It's warmin' up in Washington. It's getting hot in the senate!

Some few weeks ago Senator Carlaway of Arkansas happened to mention to Attorney General Daugherty and Thomas B. Fielder had been promised a fee of \$25,000 for getting Charles F. Morse out of jail.

Morse was sentenced to a fifteen-year term in the penitentiary in 1908 for making false entries in the books of the National Bank of America. He was pardoned by President Taft. Daugherty had assured the president that Morse was dying. Morse is alive today.

Just as soon as Caraway made his statement about the attorney general, Watson of Indiana, a hard-boiled member of the old guard, asserted that he knew that Daugherty "did not get any fee for getting Morse out of the penitentiary."

Then a young and enterprising newspaper of Washington printed a letter from Fielder to Morse asking for the "balance due" of \$25,000 for himself and Daugherty.

So they are having a great time in the senate. It looks as though somebody will have to prosecute the war grafters. Daugherty says that this whole stir is a scheme to protect the grafting Democrats. Why protect them then? Why not put them in jail where they belong? If there were grafting Republicans put them in jail, too. Put every crooked scoundrel who made money out of the war in jail. Why wait? If Daugherty means business let him act. If he does not mean business the people will act.

The war ended in 1918. No grafting has yet gone to jail. If the scandal which now hovers over Washington will get action from "Re-Morseful Daugherty" perhaps some of the grafters will fill the cells now occupied by political prisoners.

READ THEM AND WEEP

Years of reflection convince me that quality of economic opportunity is probably the most serious concern of statesmanship. Class legislation lessens the creative enthusiasm of the group favored by it and restrains the economic development of the group outside the favored class.—Congressman Goldsborough.

It does seem to me that we are going a very long way when we want to put a tariff on dirt and on sand over this country. We are certainly becoming a very entrenched nation if we can not, use a little elbow grease and throw a little sand in a box car without a tariff on it.—Senator Dial.

Mr. Benhead. How much is involved in these two sugar claims? Mr. Kincheloe. About \$3,500,000 in these and about \$750,000 in one that is now pending before the committee on agriculture. How many more there are I do not know. They got these bills on the Union Calendar, and then rushed to the rules committee, and if I am not mistaken informed the committee on July 1st agreed to report the rule for the consideration of the Yeig bill, because it is a public bill, and then every member of that committee knew that these two sugar claims ought to be on the private calendar, and every man in this house knows it. How they got on the Union Calendar, I do not know.

The rules committee did not want to break a precedent. These bills are on the Union Calendar, and if they had been on the House Calendar that committee knew they had no right to report a rule for their consideration. But now they bring out a shotgun rule, wide open as a bootjack, and they give three field days, as the gentleman from Texas says, to the committee on agriculture. What is on the calendar of a public nature? The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Denison) came there with a bill asking for an appropriation of a million dollars to buy seed for the flood-stricken farmers of the Mississippi valley, and it was reported out unanimously. It is on the calendar. You do not hear of any rule for that bill. The game-refuge bill is a bill of a public character and it is on the Union Calendar, where it belongs. The committee on rules is not anxious about it. There is here the bee bill. Officials of the agricultural department testified before the committee that unless we stopped the importation of bees from Europe the bee industry of this country is likely to be destroyed by a peculiar disease. That bill is on the calendar. There is no effort to bring that up. It will not be brought up in these three days, because the sugar claims of private individuals have the board. Within the walls of this capitol and house, office building is the most gigantic lobby I have ever seen since I have been in congress for these sugar bills, and the flood-stricken farmers of the Mississippi valley must step back, because the congress is going to take up these private bills.—Congressional Record.

This economic writer of world-wide repute (Dr. R. Estcourt) seems unable to find any other solution for our present problem except that we shall encourage a still greater piling up of profits by the economically favored classes, so that they may take to themselves and use up our accumulated surplus of production so as to allow industry to go on again. * * * Others * * * hold on the contrary that even with the utmost extravagance the rich do consume and can consume only a very small part of what is produced. * * * Inconspicuously these economists hold that the consumption of the masses must always be rigidly restricted by keeping down of wages or otherwise in order to prevent "impairment of our capital."—Senator Ladd in Congressional Record.

'OPEN SHOP' PLATFORM

The Industrial Research Bureau of New York, a labor organization founded "to promote sound relations in industry by consultation, fact studies and publicity" has just made known to the public twelve very interesting "planks" in the open shop advocates' policy. The national open shop organizations, says the bureau, have placed themselves before the public in plain manner on their pet theory, the demoralization of the industrial world. To accomplish their purpose they have adopted the following summarizing as their program:

- 1. Propaganda declaring the tyranny of the unions under union shop rule, waste in the union shop from the inefficient workers, American ideas of government against union shop.
2. Discharge of members of unions.
3. Financial aid to employers who are in conflict with unions.
4. Refusal of credit and raw materials to employers who do not adopt anti-union tactics.
5. Bribing trade union leaders and then discrediting unionism before the people.
6. Using the black list against trade union "agitators."
7. Employing under-cover men in the plant to spy on those who are agitating for organization of the workers.
8. Under-cover men used in the union to gain confidential information regarding the moves to be made by the unions.
9. Organization of strike-breakers and counter-stickers.
10. Organization of shop committees to counterbalance the trade union.
11. Organization of lobbies to influence anti-labor legislation.
12. The use of company-paid public officials.

THE TEST OF A MAN

The test of a man is the fight he makes. The grit that he daily shows; The way he stands on his feet and takes Fate's numerous bumps and blows A coward can smile when there is not a fear. When nothing his progress bars; But it takes a man to stand up and cheer While some other fellow stars.

It isn't the victory after all. 'But it's the fight that a brother makes. The man who's driven to the wall, Still stands up erect and takes The blows that fate with his head held high, Bleeding and bruised and pale Is the man who will win by and by. For he isn't afraid to fail.

It's the bumps you get and the jolts you get. And the shocks that your courage stands, The hours of sorrow and vain regret. The prize that escapes your hands, That test your mettle and prove your worth. It isn't the blows that you deal, But he blows you take on the good old earth. That show if your stuff is real. —ANONYMOUS.

BIBLE THOUGHTS FOR WEEK

Sunday. All is well: Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.—John 14: 1, 2.
Monday. Why will ye die?—As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Turn ye, urn ye from our evil ways: for why will ye die. O house of Israel!—Ezekiel 33: 11.
Tuesday. Peace with all men.—Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.—Hebrews 12: 14.
Wednesday. The way to peace.—Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.—Job 22: 21.
Thursday. Proclamation of peace.—Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2: 14.
Friday. Refuge, strength, help.—God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—Psalm trusteth in thee.—Isaiah 26: 3.

EATING THEIR OWN WORDS

The defeat of Senator New, the president's buddy, in the Indiana primaries, has left some sore spots. The Vincennes Sun, a Democratic paper, takes some pleasure in quoting what the Vincennes Commercial had to say about Beveridge before he was nominated. The Commercial is a leading Republican organ of Will H. Hay's neighborhood and under his influence. Its editor charged Beveridge with being a "demagogue, traitor, althelt, slacker, and mischief-making agitator." He declared that Beveridge was the only man he knew who had not answered the country's call during the war, and that President Wilson did not have his support. Incidentally it appears that Chairman Hays would not, in 1918, allow a Republican campaign speaker to mention President Wilson's name in his speeches. The Commercial had a rich field to explore, going so far as to tell how Beveridge's book on the Kaiser "was used as German propaganda" until the government threw it out of the mails.

NEW JERSEY BRICK MANUFACTURERS LIKE OLD EGYPTIAN TASK MASTERS

By HENRY F. HILFERS, General Organizer A. F. of L. About sixteen or seventeen years ago, I was sent into the brick and clay district along the Raritan river between South Amboy and New Brunswick, in Middlesex county, N. J., by the American Federation of Labor, to investigate and report on conditions under which employes in the industry were working.

At that time the company store system still prevailed in New Jersey. The men employed were boarded by the brick and clay companies in miserable shacks. Those with families lived in the so-called company houses, and everything they needed was bought from the company stores. They seldom, if ever, saw any real money. When the end of the month arrived, their wages were all spent for rent and board or purchases made at the company stores. In fact, the one that had any money coming was generally reminded that he needed something at the company store which he forgot to purchase. If he failed to take the hint he was let go and some other poor foreigner, ignorant of the exploitation practiced by the company, would be brought in to take his place. This particular company owned all the land for miles around. You could not step off the road without stepping on the company's property.

I thought the exploitation of the workers had reached about the limit as above described, but lo and behold! Upon further investigation I found a condition of exploitation that went beyond anything I ever heard of. These are the facts:

The men employed received \$1.65 per day; for a day's work they had to do a certain task; handle so many thousand bricks; wheel so many barrows of clay, etc. The company charged the single men, whom they boarded, 85 cents per day for board seven days per week. When these men had completed their day's task, they were urged by the foreman to start another day's work, so that at the end of the month some of the men had put in from ten to twelve days overtime. Anybody would naturally figure that these men would be paid the \$1.65 at least per days for these

days of overtime, but the company had a different idea. They charged each man 85 cents for every day he worked, including the overtime, and as no extra meals were furnished for the days these men worked overtime, the company had the overtime work done at the rate of 80 cents per day.

In other words, the more these men worked, the less they were paid. The company charged them for ten and twelve days board a month which they never received. This exploitation had to be abolished through a strike of the employes in that district in 1907. A regiment of militia was sent into the district at the request of the Sayre and Fisher company and other firms, but the soldiers were recalled by the then governor, J. Franklin Fort, within three days, when he was made acquainted with the exploitation that was practiced on the workers.

Seventeen years have brought but a little change in this district in regard to conditions under which these brick and clay workers live. I am informed the company still maintains the company store system, and although the men are not compelled to trade there, it is generally understood that a man's job is safer if he does not trade there. Pay day is only once a month, but the company evades the bi-monthly law of the state by permitting the men to draw on their wages every two weeks, provided they give three days' notice at the office if they want any money.

The employes to a great extent still live in company shacks. One shack, I am told, is occupied by twenty-four families and boarders, every family occupying about two or three rooms; about one hundred fifty human beings all told; no sewers, no water, no gas, no improvements whatever.

The company owns all the land, controls the town and its officials, and is opposed to any and all improvements, for fear some other industry might locate there and absorb some of "their" labor.

A campaign of organization and education is on among these workers, and we have hopes that we will be able to materially change their condition.

CHEAP WAGE ADVOCATES IGNORE RAILROAD ACT

In defending low-wage demands of railroad managers the New York Times joins with these managers in ignoring the Cummins-Esch act which authorizes the railroad labor board to establish "just and reasonable" wage rates. The Times' editor says:

"The Cummins-Esch statute sets seven standards for the fixing of a fair wage. The first of them is: 'The scale of wages paid for similar kinds of work in other industries.' There is not a word in the statute about 'a living wage,' or a standard wage or union wages. The railway workers have set up these and other extra-legal demands on scale beyond the capacity of the industry to support."

The editor is incorrect when he says the Cummins-Esch act "sets seven standards for the fixing of a fair wage." Neither is mention made of "a fair wage." The act calls for wages and working conditions which "are just and reasonable." Neither does the law authorize the board to consider paid for similar kinds of work in other industries. This claim is identical with other low-wage advocates who would create the impression that the railroad labor board is commanded by law to base wages on other industries. Even certain members of the railroad labor board are aiding this propaganda. The board has a free hand in wage

adjustments. The law sets no standard, although seven suggestions are made to the board which shall be considered, "so far as applicable." This leaves it entirely in the judgment of the board, as shown by the following clear declaration of the law (Sec. 307, paragraph D):

"All the decisions of the labor board in respect to wages or salaries made by the board in respect to working conditions of employes or subordinates of the carriers shall establish rates of wages and salaries and standards of working conditions which, in the opinion of the board, are just and reasonable.

"In determining the justness and reasonableness of such wages and salaries or working conditions the board shall, so far as applicable, take into consideration, among other relevant circumstances: "1. The scales or wages paid for similar kinds of work in other industries; "2. The relation between wages and the cost of living; "3. The hazards of the employment; "4. The training and skill required; "5. The degree of responsibility; "6. The character and regularity of the employment; and "7. Inequalities of increases in wages or of treatment, the result of previous wage orders or adjustments."

FACES MANY DANGERS

The "sandhog," the toiler who delves under abnormal degrees of air pressure in the construction of tunnels or mine shafts with tons of earth and stone, and perhaps a river or bay over his head, is safer than he is to be, according to the United States bureau of mines. Health hazards which at one time were regarded as inherent in the occupation of shaft sinking and tunneling, in the high pressure necessary to keep back the water in wet ground and quicksand have been greatly reduced, it is stated.

The compressed-air worker, or "sand hog," is indispensable in tunnel, bridge and mine shaft work.

but the knowledge of the cause, character and treatment of compressed-air illness is still limited to a very few physicians, and thus far little interest in the subject has been evinced by the medical profession at large, says the bureau. The symptoms of compressed-air illness are vertigo, difficult breathing, localized pains, affections of the central nervous system and unconsciousness or collapse. The formation of gas bubbles of nitrogen in the body fluids and tissues is the accepted theory at present of the cause of caisson disease.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS. The current issue of American Pressmen includes a goodly-sized list of wage gains made by locals affiliated to the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union.

Get in Training

Deposits that lay the financial foundations for your home serve another purpose. They give you practice in saving. By the time your home is paid for, the steady depositing has become a habit—one sure to bring within your reach many of the desirable things of life.

The First National Bank OF DULUTH

Capital, Surplus and Profits \$4,000,000 Member Federal Reserve System.