



# WHY DOES AMERICAN LABOR FIGHT?

## PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR MINING DEPARTMENT, JAMES LORD, HAS ANSWER.

### New Home For Machinists' International To Be Erected In Washington D. C.

Local Lodge Contributes \$100 To Project.

Hamilton Lodge No. 241, Machinists, met in regular session Wednesday night. A large attendance was present. The regular routine business was transacted and a large number of applications for membership were received. A large class of candidates was initiated into the organization.

A communication was received from the International organization, informing the local lodge of its decision to build a home of its own in Washington, D. C. The new home is to cost \$150,000. The ground has already been purchased and cost \$48,000. It is to be right near the American Federation of Labor building. The reason for the decision of the International is that the quarters, which it now occupies in the A. F. of L. building, are becoming so crowded because of the large volume of business to transact, due to the enormous growth of the organization, that the step taken was deemed necessary.

The cost of the new home is to be met by donations from the various local lodges and individual members. At the meeting Wednesday night the local lodge donated \$100 for the purpose and will make further donations if necessary.

Never be dismayed at the failure of your plans; find the reason, and attack the problem with stronger weapons next time.

### MADE GOVERNMENT HIS BENEFICIARY

Union Man, Killed in War, Had His Insurance Policy Running to The United States.

Members of the American Flint Glass Workers' Union assembled in Memorial Hall, Toledo, were told an inspiring story of patriotic devotion by a member of their union at the unfurling of a service flag, with 866 stars representing union men in the army.

After an introductory speech, in which John J. Quinlivan, business agent of the Toledo Central Labor Union, told of the determination of the unions to back the Government, President William P. Clarke described the heroic death of Charles H. McCarthy, who sacrificed his own life in France for the sake of a friend.

Not only had McCarthy, a former member of the Glass Workers' Union, died heroically, but he had lived patriotically, Mr. Clarke said, for in taking out \$10,000 insurance when he entered the Army, he asked that the sum be made payable to the United States Government.

### SOCIETY GIRL MAKES MUNITIONS

Miss Catherine Lee Does Her Share To Win The War As Worker In Plant Near Baltimore.

One of the girls most widely known in Maryland, because of her many interests and her family connections, has gone to work in a munition plant. Miss Catherine Lee, a granddaughter of James McLane and a resident of Baltimore, is now employed at the Bartlett-Hayward Co.'s plant, where she is making good.

The state supreme court has upheld the Washington women's minimum wage law.

### Says Workers Love Nation So Well They Want To Insure Its Freedom Forever.

#### If We Should Lose, The Lights Of Liberty Go Out All Over The World

I have never had any illusions as to who started the war and why. Those in the ranks of labor who kept in touch with the international affairs of labor and politics knew and felt for some years that a volcano was seething in our international life that was ever a disturbing feature to the progress of democracy.

We had in season and out of season discussed and debated the cause of international peace. We felt that there was nothing in the differences of men, organizations and nations that could not be settled by the rule of reason, if that rule were properly applied.

We received a rude awakening. We saw the war clouds gathering in Western Europe. We saw a great, modern state, proud of its culture, boastful of its progress, arise in its bestial night, declaring that the "hour had struck," and, tearing up treaties, denying its pledged word, glorying in its infamy, launched forth a campaign of murder and rape such as the demons of hell would shudder to think of.

Their idea was to do it quickly and explain afterward. They expected to

explain it all from the vantage point of world dominion. They thought to catch an unsuspecting world asleep. They nearly did. They almost went to Paris. They told their murdering hordes that the shortest way to Russia was by the way of Paris.

Instead of going to Paris, Berlin now seems to be their objective. We are now at war in a very effective manner with murdering, raping Germany. We are with our Allies, going through. We are going to "Bing'em on the Rhine."

Why is labor so concerned in war? Organized labor has so well earned the right to public regard that she needs no eulogies from me. Organized labor has no apologies to make to anyone for her existence or activities. She has nothing to hide, nor is she begging for favors. Organized labor demands the right to solve her problems, to work out her own destinies. Organized labor loves this republic so much that she is desirous of making every part of it, from coast to coast, from the lakes to the gulf, fit for a working man to live in.

On the 12th day of March, 1917, a conference of the representatives of all national and international unions in the United States was held in the American Federation of Labor Building in Washington, D. C., nearly a

### Hamilton Boy Awarded War Cross For Bravery

Was Formerly Operator of Moving Picture Machine at Jewel Theatre.

Cecil M. Murray, a former Hamilton boy, has been awarded the American service cross for heroism on the firing line in France. For four years he operated the picture machine at the Jewel theatre. He also worked at his trade of electrician in this city and was a member of the local electricians' union. He was also a member of the moving picture machine operators' union. After leaving Hamilton, Brother Murray went to Cincinnati and lived at 306 West Seventh street, when he was called into the service, being assigned to the 323rd Machine Gun battalion. He is married and has one child. Brother Murray's friends were much pleased to learn of the distinguished honor conferred upon him.



CECIL M. MURRAY

month before we formally entered the war. A document, the most historic document ever written by the workers, in my opinion, was, after a full day's discussion, unanimously adopted, outlining labor's position, in peace or in war.

By and through this expression, the organized workers of America showed the world what the true concept of democracy must be, that they fully understood the underlying causes of this world upheaval, and knowing the cause, they knew the cure. By this timely action, the organized labor movement of our country was intelligently, democratically mobilized in the world have more at stake than have cause of human freedom.

We know that no people in the men and women who do the useful work of the world, and we are willing to be judged, now and when victory is achieved, not alone by our spoken and written expression, but by our deeds.

I remember when the expression went out among the workers of all countries that we should so regulate our affairs that workingmen would refuse to kill each other in commercial wars—that the workers of the world could prevent wars of aggression. We saw the representatives of the German labor movement and the German Social Democrats go through the different countries, especially this country, preaching pacifism.

We welcomed them. Scheidemann, Legien, Baumeister, Liebknecht and others. We thought the ideas expressed were noble ones, and we drafted the resolution in the Seattle convention of the A. F. of L. to be introduced in the international trade union and mining congresses pledging the workers of all nations not to kill each other.

As time went on, we were dismayed to find the representatives of the Imperial German Government leaving the Hague Peace Conference and the representatives of the German working class returning home, and Germany building more armaments, increasing and improving their hideous killing machinery. We find that when the resolution was introduced in the international labor meetings, the delegation of every country heartily approved of and voted for it but the Social Democrats from Germany. We have had a rude awakening, but we are awake.

I want to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to Karl Liebknecht. He, and a pitifully small coterie of his associates, kept the faith. Liebknecht has never hesitated to speak out against the monstrous wrong Germany has visited on the world. He and his few associates are the one illuminating ray of hope in all this aggregation of Teuton-Turkish treachery and iniquity.

The Turk has been despised and loathed by humanity the world over for his beastliness of heart, his atrocities and cruelties. But even the Turk can now smile on the German and say, "I am bad, but you are even worse

ers of the working class in Germany, with the few exceptions I have named will perform the most creditable act of their lives when they lie down and die. They have submitted to the proclamations of the Imperial German Government that provides for annexations and indemnities. They have never protested against the ravishing of Belgium, the invasion of France,

other side I had opportunity to study the attitude not only of the British, but the French, Belgians, Serbians and Italians. I saw the results of this frightfulness. I have seen sights it is not good for a man to see. I have seen the mutilated, the outraged, the blind and shell-shocked. I have seen sights that would make the angels weep.

The most terrible thing I saw was the shell-shocked man. It is a sad sight to behold a group of young blinded fellows led along the streets by a nurse and you realize that for these men the light has gone out forever. But, even worse, to my mind is the shell-shocked man. His nerve centers are paralyzed. He has no control over himself. Some have to be strapped into their chairs to keep them from flying out. They cannot feed themselves. Some are so bad that they cannot get their tongues back in their mouths. Some I have seen squalling like babies, fully realizing their helpless condition. It is some satisfaction to know that many of these cases are now being successfully treated.

Everybody over there has somebody either in the war or killed. They have invariably one or two replies, "He has joined up," or "He has gone under." Yes, they have joined up, or gone under in the greatest and holiest cause that ever engaged the mind and heart of man. A cause that cannot fail.

Yes, labor is meeting and will continue to meet its obligation to democracy. The labor movement is not a movement composed of perfect individuals, neither is any movement within ken so constructed. But if all other elements of our body politic render service in this crusade in the same proportion that organized labor does, there can be no doubt about the outcome. And I believe society as a whole is going to render this service.

The world is awake and the awakening spells the doom of murdering, raping Germany. We say that Prussianism, the Kaiser and his six rotten sons and all are playing their last tune. We say that we have no feeling against the German people that cannot be set aside when the war is ended. We, the organized workers of the Allied countries, declare that when the conference of the society of nations is held, the representatives of labor must be on those delegations. We declare that we will hold a labor conference at the same time and place. We want something to say about the reshaping of the world's affairs. We declare that this must be the end of all wars, that the maximum of good things existent in any country shall become the minimum for all countries, that the trade routes of the world must be free to all participants in the society of nations. When the world has thus been put on a human rather than a dollar basis, when man is rated above money, a pathway of peace and progress will be opened up for all the children of men, and in that day we will again extend the hand of brotherhood to the German and every other worker.—James Lord, President, Mining Department, American Federation of Labor.

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