



Movement for "Open Shop" In Photo-Engraving Trade Fast Receding, Woll Says

By International Labor News Service. Milwaukee, Wis.—The "open shop" movement in the photo-engraving industry is fast losing ground, President Matthew Woll, of the International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America, told the twenty-fourth annual convention of the union here.

"Opposition to our international union and local unions has receded to a remarkable degree," said President Woll in his annual report. He continued:

"The so-called 'open shop' atmosphere, surcharged two years ago with all sorts of pyrotechnics, has greatly reduced in intensity. Reason is again coming into a field where passion reigned supreme. Employers as well as workers more fully realize the dangers and folly of this frenzied fanaticism.

"Attempting to operate photo-engraving plants in the spirit of antagonism toward our organization" has not benefited any one but has harmed the industry as a whole. It is frankly admitted that the cost of production in these so-called 'open shops' has not been lessened; rather, it has increased, and the service has deteriorated to a dangerous limit. Consequently, 'price cutting' has been the despairing hope of these crusaders in prolonging the delusion of ultimate success.

"What these leaders in the so-called 'open shop' movement in our craft hope ultimately to accomplish is difficult to understand. Were we to submit to their dictates, dissolve our organization and submit to individual bargaining, what would these industrial masters do other than cheapen the price of the service and demoralize the industry completely. Indeed, it will be asked what has been their constructive contribution to the industry up to the present time, if any? ?

"All we find them engaged in is to tear down that which has been built up. They are declining to associate with our fair employers in any one thing intended to benefit the craft; they are constantly encouraging strife and friction between employers and our members; they are the leaders in the 'price cutting' movement; they are always working in the dark and under cover of night; they are endeavoring to have our members violate their solemn pledge of faith and loyalty to our cause; they would crucify any employer who would desert their cause and exercise American freedom to deal fairly with our organization and its members—in short they would dominate—and control the destiny of our craft even though their leadership would lead to ruin and destruction.

"We have reached that period when a mere passive attitude toward the practices of these destructionists in our craft must be changed to an aggressive combat. No effort should be spared in ferreting out the insidious propaganda and practices followed by these labor-exploiting destructionists and in bringing them into the light of day.

"From the point of view of the unfortunate workmen employed in these so-called 'open shop' establishments the opportunities extended by our organization, to throw a cloak of protection about them, has been welcomed. Our campaign in organizing the non-union men has been so effective that the leaders of the so-called 'open shop' employers have attempted to stem the tide by trying to organize the non-union men into a union controlled by these masters and for the sole purpose of further manipulation and deception. This latest attempt more clearly indicates than all things else the folly and despair of the so-called 'open shop' movement."

IMMIGRANTS VEER; OLD CLASS COMING

Washington.—For the first time in 30 years the immigration tide to this country has veered the past 12 months from southern and eastern Europe to northern Europe, according to figures compiled by the bureau of immigration. The final percentages, it is estimated, will show that 65 per cent of European immigration came from the north and east, compared with 33 per cent the previous year.

With the exception of Germany, all the northern and western European nations filled, or virtually filled, their quotas under the 3 per cent restrictive law, whereas at the same sections of Europe, in 1922, sent only 47 per cent of those admissible.

United States as compared with those in Europe, is the main reason for the new immigration, it is stated.

WOMEN'S LAW HELD UP

Los Angeles, Cal.—Operation of the Arizona minimum wage law is temporarily restrained by Federal Judge Ross.

An Arizona confectioner asked the court to enjoin the Arizona attorney general from prosecuting him for violating the Arizona law which fixes \$16 a week as the minimum wage for women.

WILL URGE 48-HOUR WEEK

Lewiston, Maine.—An educational campaign in behalf of the proposed 48-hour law was perfected at a meeting in this city of the executive board of the Maine State Federation of Labor. The law will be voted on at a special election, to be held October 16.

Big Events in the Lives of Little Men



CONTRACT PRISON LABOR

DEALT A HARD BLOW BY OKLAHOMA'S GOVERNOR WHEN HE TERMINATED STATE PRISON'S SHIRT CONTRACT; OTHER STATES WAR ON SYSTEM

Utah Manufacturers Take Action to Prevent Prison Labor Being Turned Over to Reliance Company, Big Makers of Workmen's Clothing

By International Labor News Service.

Washington.—The governor of Oklahoma has terminated the shirt contract at the Oklahoma state prison. This victory over a system of graft and exploitation of human beings is the first since the encroachment of contract convict labor upon the free labor market became serious a few months ago and both manufacturers' organizations and labor organizations joined hands to fight a common economic evil.

They were joined by the national committee on prisons and prison labor and other social agencies who are opposed to the contract system of convict labor as a social evil. Politicians are fast learning that they are on the wrong track in associating themselves with the prison contractor.

The unfair competition of prison labor is most serious to garment manufacturers at present because of the concentration of prison labor in garment manufacture. Ironically enough production of prison contractors is particularly heavy in work shirts which are bought by workmen who are ignorant or are misinformed about the source of the product. The union label does not appear on shirts manufactured in prisons.

A strenuous fight is being waged against further encroachment upon free American institutions by the slave system of the prison contractors.

In Utah the Manufacturers' Association is bringing legal action to prevent the state from turning its prison labor over to the Reliance Manufacturing Company. This is the big contract convict labor trust whose business has expanded so rapidly under unfair competitive methods that free manufacturers have been driven out of business. The manufacturers are corresponding with the American Federation of Labor about methods of carrying on the fight.

The leading newspaper in Idaho is conducting a powerful agitation to drive the contractors out of that state.

The Garment Workers of Houston, Texas, have started a campaign to prevent the Reliance Company, of Chicago, from securing a contract for the manufacture of clothing in the Texas state penitentiary. The Reliance Company is using full pages of advertising in the newspapers to introduce the "Big Yank" workshirt. They say this is "America's biggest name in workshirts." They list 252 towns in South Texas where this shirt can be bought and eighty-six stores in Houston alone where this shirt is carried.

As rapidly as possible the Allocation committee of the national committee on prisons and prison labor is conferring with the different state governments to introduce an economically sound system of employing

prisoners that will forever eliminate the vicious contract system.

The governor of Virginia, where the contract system is slated to go as soon as other employment can be arranged for the prisoners, has appointed LeRoy Hodges, Deputy Governor of Virginia, and Mr. Boyd, president of the prison board and central purchasing officer of the state, to represent Virginia on this allocation committee to meet as soon as possible.

The governor of Colorado has written the national committee on prisons and prison labor for recommendations on how to employ prisoners and distribute their products without using the prison contractors. He also is interested in the work of the allocation committee and how it proposes to allocate industries among different states so that the prisoners may be employed, and so that their product may not be sold on the open market in competition with free labor and free industry.

STEEL MARKET SLACK

New York.—Comparatively little buying has been reported in the steel market the past week and many mills are down for summer repairs. This condition exists despite Judge Gary's claim that additional labor is necessary before the 12-hour day can be abolished.

Campaign Led by Unions Results in Driving Sweat Shops From Jersey City

By International Labor News Service. Jersey City, N. J.—Largely as a result of the exposure of sweat shop conditions made by organized labor, the sweat shops have been virtually all driven from Jersey City.

International Labor News Service has already told how organized labor led in the fight on sweat shops, exposing conditions which stirred New Jersey and resulted in a state-wide campaign against sweat shop labor. The campaign routed the Jersey City sweat shop operators, though two of them who were convicted are showing fight and have secured a writ which will take their conviction before the supreme court in Trenton next November.

Evil conditions revealed by the sweat shop investigation were outlined by Health Officer James J. Hagen in a report to Mayor Hague. Hagen made the investigation in cooperation with Mrs. Nellie Smith, counselor of vocational guidance and a member of the Jersey City School Teachers' Union. In his report, Hagen said:

"All public and parochial schools were visited and from the principals we secured a list of children doing work at home. The homes were then visited by our public health nurses and sanitary inspectors to ascertain facts regarding sanitation of premises, ages and health of workers, whether license had or had not been granted by the commissioner of labor and other information of value to the proper authorities.

"Over 1,000 children were reported

doing sweat shop work at home; these children being between the ages of six and fourteen years. Teachers stated that these children were retarded in their lessons and because of this children were compelled to work after school and until late at night, causing many cases of defective eyesight.

"During school hours some were so tired that they fell asleep at their desks. One teacher stated that the majority of children in her class of forty were unable to do their lessons in the classroom because they were compelled to labor at home. None of these children had working papers and all were under fourteen years of age.

"The classes of work are as follows: Night gowns, bloomers, shirts, beading, embroidery, caps, dolls, and doll's clothing, infants' wear, pants and flowers.

"Many homes were found unsanitary and persons suffering from communicable diseases were found employed therein. Cases of tuberculosis, trachoma, malnutrition, hemorrhages, curvature of the spine, defective eyesight, etc., were reported by nurses and inspectors. We are of the opinion that if a medical inspection was made of each person so employed that a great many cases of disease would be located among these people.

"The wages paid these people are pitifully small. Whole families composed of three or four make as low as \$3 to \$5 a week. Some children receive from 70 cents to \$1.20 weekly for their labor."

"EDUCATIONAL" League Condemned By Cloak Makers

Chicago.—The creaking machinery of the trade union educational league has been hard hit by organized garment workers, who have expelled two members who belong to this communist group.

Charges against the two garment workers stated that through caucus meetings, planned and carried out by the league, and directed by persons not belonging to the Garment Workers' Union, attempts were made to control the union.

The joint board, representing all Garment Workers' Unions in this city, appointed a committee to consider the charges. Two reports were presented, but the board accepted the minority report. It declared that the trade union educational league is an opposition organization to the Garment Workers' Union, and recommended that those members or officers who would not withdraw from it should be expelled from the union.

The board's action carries with it belonging to such leagues and groups, endeavor to rule the union and manipulate its affairs from the outside.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN

London, Ontario.—Organized stereotypers employed on local newspapers have raised wages \$4 a week.

LABOR PRESS NOT FOOLED BY COMMUNISTS' NEW NAME

Washington.—"Slick" publicity men of the communist party are having hard sledding with the labor press of this country, which refuses to publish Moscow propaganda now issued under the name of the federated farmer-labor party.

This is the 'stealthy' name the communists have assumed. They have called themselves left wingers, revolutionists, workers' party, and what not. Now they are masquerading as the federated farmer-labor party.

DEFENDS HIGH WAGES

Birmingham, Ala.—In an address to the local trades council, Congressman Huddleston defended high wages.

"Workers support society, so the more they get the more society will have," he said. "The working men are the producers, and the grocer, the merchant, the doctor, the lawyer, the banker, and everyone else who do not work, live off him. It stands to reason, then, that the more the working men earn the more the other fellow makes off them. Yet our Chamber of Commerce boasts of the city's wealth of cheap labor."

CARPENTERS WINNING

New Orleans.—Organized carpenters in this city are winning their strike for improved conditions. They are being resisted by the general contractors' association.

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