

ganized labor, to make common cause for the protection and advancement of all the wage-earners.

Let pessimists and opponents take uncton to their souls for their mastership of the past. The present and the future are for labor, which in its organized, federated movement will stand as a protest against injustice and wrong toward any of our fellow-men, as the vanguard to proclaim and achieve the rights to which the toilers, the masses, are entitled.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR DURING ELEVEN YEARS.

In his report Secretary Morrison gives the following interesting account:

A resume of the progress made numerically by the American Federation of Labor during the past eleven years, can not but encourage the trade unionists to redouble their efforts to educate, organize, and federate the wage workers of the world. The growth of the American Federation of Labor from 1897 to 1904 was phenomenal. The membership jumped from 264,825 in 1897 to 1,676,200 in 1904. This marked increase in membership caused me to say, in my report to the Boston convention, that where organizations are formed rapidly within a short period, it must be expected that in adjusting the members into unions the membership must decrease somewhat from the high-water mark which it reached during the time the organization wave held sway. There was a decrease in membership in 1905 from the high-water mark of 1904. This decrease was almost entirely caused by internal strife, which led to secession and a number of ill-advised and unsuccessful strikes caused by international organizations. Since that time, with but two exceptions, these organizations have recovered their membership. The two unions referred to give ample evidence that during the coming year they will entirely recover from the effects of the secession movement and the disastrous strike. A careful tabulation of the membership of the affiliated unions of the American Federation of Labor shows that there was 1,683,424 members paid or reported upon for the last month of this fiscal year, an increase of 7,224 members over the high-water average membership of 1904. If we add to that number the 40,000 membership of the United Brewery Workers, whose charter was revoked in June of this fiscal year, it would give a total membership of 1,723,424 for the month of September. A remarkable increase in membership for the past eleven years, when you take into consideration the number of strikes that have taken place and the organized, determined efforts of the employers to retard organization and disrupt the unions now in existence.

Following is the average membership paid upon during the past eleven years:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Average paid-up membership. Rows from 1897 to 1907.

PRAISE FOR THE LABOR PRESS.

Speaking of the Labor Press, Secretary Frank Morrison concludes as follows:

While the secretary's report is intended to be confined entirely to financial matters, I will digress to the extent of taking this opportunity of expressing my earnest appreciation of the splendid and efficient work which has been and is now being accomplished by the Labor Press of America. The editors of these papers are certainly entitled to, and should receive, the most friendly and generous consideration in every way from the officers and members of every single union under the jurisdiction of the American Federation of Labor:

FINANCIAL GROWTH OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Receipts, Expenditures. Rows from 1881 to 1907.

Totals Receipts \$1,614,976 42 Expenses \$1,487,066 40

RECAPITULATION. Receipts \$1,614,976 42 Expenses 1,487,066 40

THE EIGHT-HOUR MOVEMENT STEADILY GAINING ALL ALONG THE LINE.

On the subject of Eight Hours, President Gompers says:

The general movement for the reduction of the hours of daily labor, that is, the establishment of the eight-hour workday, has made considerable progress within the last two decades, and this is largely due to the encouragement given by our federation to the crystallization of the hopes and demands of labor. The first convention of the Federation declared for the general eight-hour workday. In 1884 we declared for a concentrated effort of all labor to secure that boon and since then no convention has passed without a declaration for, nor has any effort been spared to secure, the extension of enforcement of the eight-hour workday. For your information and for the general interest it may have I submit to you a statement of the hours of labor prevailing among a number of trades:

- Carpenters—Eight hours; Saturday half holiday generally.
Electrical Workers—Eight hours generally.
Plasterers—Eight hours generally; some places seven hours.
Bricklayers—Eight hours generally.
Granite Cutters—Eight hours; universal.
Masons—Eight hours generally.
Painters—Eight hours generally.
Decorators—Eight hours generally.
Paperhangers—Eight hours generally.
Plumbers—Eight hours generally.
Gasfitters—Eight hours generally.
Steam and Hot Water Fitters—Eight hours generally.
Tilayers—Eight hours generally.
Roofers—Eight hours generally.
Building Laborers and Hod Carriers—Eight hours generally.
Compositors, Afternoon Papers—Eight hours generally.
Compositors, Morning Papers—Eight hours generally.

Compositors, Book and Job—Eight hours generally.
German Compositors—Eight hours, five days constituting a week's work.

- Stereotypers and Electrotypers on Newspapers—Eight hours.
Coal Miners in Bituminous Regions—Eight hours.
Coal Miners in Anthracite Regions—Nine hours.
Cigarmakers—Eight hours generally.
Coopers—Eight hours generally.
Brewers—Eight hours on Pacific coast; nine hours elsewhere.
Iron and Steel Workers—Eight hours; three shifts.
Stationary Firemen—Eight hours (50 per cent).
Papermakers—Eight hours.
Bookbinders—Establishing eight-hour day. Generally successful.

The International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union and the International Association of Machinists are now preparing for a movement for the inauguration of the eight-hour workday.

Other organizations, more particularly of a local character, are engaged in similar efforts. But it is quite true that immense numbers of workmen, particularly in the unskilled trades and callings, still work generally ten or nine hours a day, and remnants of other trades and callings toil many more hours each day.

BERGER ASKS FOR RETURNING OF CHARTER TO BREWERY WORKERS.

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 13.—The appeal of the Brewery Workers' Union to the American Federation of Labor from the action of the latter's executive council in revoking the Brewery Workers' charter because of their refusal to relinquish jurisdiction over the affiliated brewery engineers, firemen and teamsters, came before the national body in convention here upon resolution by Victor L. Berger of Milwaukee.

This resolution calls for the return of the revoked charter on the ground that the act of revocation is a policy of coercion and, further, that the Brewery Workers have always been one of the most loyal of the international unions.

The International Engineers, Firemen and Teamsters, all strong factors in the Federation, will make an effort to have confirmed the action of the executive council, which said the revocation became mandatory in view of the action of the Minneapolis convention in 1906.

BREWERY WORKERS' CHARTER RESOLUTION

Introduced by Delegate Walker of the United Mine Workers.

The following is taken from the convention proceedings of last Thursday, Nov. 14: Resolution No. 127—By Delegate J. H. Walker of U. M. W. of A.:

Whereas, The revocation of the charter of the United Brewery Workmen of America marks a break with the old established principle, that the American Federation of Labor is a voluntary association of sovereign unions; and

Whereas, Inherently an international union is sovereign unto itself, an our Federation can rightfully exercise only such functions as are delegated to it by the component parts which have instituted it and which constitute its make-up; as the president so well expressed in his report, and

Whereas, The American Federation of Labor can only act as a mediator and conciliator in the disputes of the affiliated international unions, and has no right to enforce its decisions in an arbitrary manner. Such powers have never been delegated to the American Federation of Labor by referendum vote of all the international unions affiliated, nor in any other legal way, and

Whereas, The members of the United Brewery Workers' Union have always been true union men, always conscientious in patronizing the various union labels and always eager to assist both morally and financially every union in trouble, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the twenty-seventh annual convention of the American Federation of Labor considers the policy as inaugurated in New Orleans of the case of the United Brewery Workmen as very dangerous to future success, and as diametrically opposed to the "first essential principles upon which our Federation is founded;" and furthermore, be it

Resolved, That we hereby instruct the executive council to return to the United Brewery Workmen of America the same charter which that international union has possessed before.

Referred to Committee on Adjustment.

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 16.—To guard against an industrial crisis following the financial panic, the American Federation of Labor today decided to suggest to congress a remedy which would save the working population of the country from hardship.

The resolution calls on the national assembly to find "ways and means to ameliorate and mitigate the crisis by issuing money without interest to states, counties and cities for the purpose of building highways, schools, bridges and public utilities, provided, however, that such work be done at union wages, under the eight-hour law." The money proposed to be loaned is to be returned in easy installments.

Takes Up Porto Rico Cause.

The Federation took the first step toward espousing the cause of the Porto Ricans. A committee was named to consider the proposal of the Porto Rican delegates that a deputation headed by President Gompers wait on President Roosevelt with a list of grievances which they aver need redressing. Among the things to be demanded are:

- Full American citizenship; economies in the insular administration; doubling the school fund, with salaries of teachers equal to those paid in America; investigating why \$80,000 worth of school books have been destroyed; eight-hour workday and enforcement of American liability act; abolishment of convict labor; prosecution of corporations holding over 500 acres of land; laws to protect labor; preventing the Porto Rican police from being used to end strikes, and laws preventing child labor.

Powderly Stirs Delegates.

A notable feature was the address of T. V. Powderly of the department of commerce and labor, who said he hoped the day would come when the president of the United States and his cabinet officers would not consider it beneath their dignity to visit and address the American Federation of Labor.

The Socialists at the Federation of Labor convention held a meeting and decided that no attempt would be made to introduce any resolution that would in any way seek to commit the American Federation of Labor to the inddorsement of the Socialist party or of Socialism.

J. Mahlon Barnes, delegate of the Cigarmakers' Union, and national secretary of the Socialist party, pointed out that the adoption of such a resolution would not add a single Socialist member to the party or make a single Socialist.

"All the Socialists ask," he continued, "is a free field for the discussion and an opportunity to place our principles before the members of organized labor."

FEDERATION TO BOYCOTT DRUG STORE CIGAR STANDS

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 19.—The American Federation of Labor, after a long session today, rejected an amendment to its laws proposing that no arbitration on a jurisdictional dispute between two or more unions be considered unless all parties in interest agree to be bound by the decision.

The Federation adopted caustic resolutions against the American and Continental Tobacco companies, and calling for the boycott of drug stores all over the country having certain kinds of cigar stands.

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Another volume of the Standard Socialist Series. Like the rest of the booklets of this series, nicely bound. Lafargue's writings are too well known to require any comment. Price, 50c. For sale at 324 Chestnut street.

ASSIST THE BAKERS' UNION BY BUYING NONE BUT UNION LABEL BREAD.



The union men and union women who fail to patronize the Bakers' Union Label will commit a crime against the labor movement. The Union Label on every loaf of bread is the only guarantee that the bread you eat has been made in a strictly union shop. Let the union men and women of St. Louis remember that from this time on the very existence of Bakers' Union No. 4 depends on the success or non-success of the union label. It is true the union signed a contract with the American Bakery Co. which does not make the use of the union label by that firm obligatory, but this is a plain business proposition. The moment the American Bakery Co. could get along without the label the union would be dropped, because it would show that union label bread is no longer desired or asked for by the consumers. Therefore, buy no loaf of bread without the union label on.

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518 PINE ST. HATTER AND HABERDASHER THE BEST \$3.00 HAT IN THE WORLD

Van Cleave's Buck Stove Injunction

Application Argued in Supreme Court of District of Columbia---Little Boycott Sticker Which Will Have Its Effect.

BOYCOTT

St. Louis House Furnishing Co.,
904 Franklin Avenue,
Agents for

BUCK'S STOVES AND RANGES,
Which Are
UNFAIR TO ORGANIZED LABOR.

Indorsed by:

- Metal Polishers' Union No. 13.
- Stove Mounters' Union No. 86.
- Steel Range Workers' Union No. 34.

Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis and vicinity.

The attention of union men and their friends is also called to H. C. Hackmann's hardware store, 3154 South Grand avenue. Mr. Hackmann, for several weeks, has been making a special display with Mr. Van Cleave's "unfair" stoves and ranges. Carpenters and other union building trades mechanics will please take note of this and keep their fellow unionists informed. Remember the address, 3154 South Grand avenue.

(Associated Press.)

Washington, Nov. 15.—When the case of the Buck Stove and Range Co. against the American Federation of Labor, involving issues of great importance to labor, was resumed in the district supreme court today, the prosecution presented affidavits in support of its motion for a preliminary injunction against the publication of the plaintiff company's name in the unfair list. These affidavits included extracts from the Federationist, the official publication of the Federation, and from the official records of the Federation's conventions, and the minutes of the executive council.

The effort to make the present proceeding a final hearing, subject, of course, to appellate rights, was unsuccessful, but the court allowed the prosecution forty days and the defense thirty days in which to offer evidence on the final hearing.

The case is to be resumed Monday.

(Special Dispatch to Globe-Democrat.)

Washington, Nov. 17.—With counsel on both sides admitting it is the most important capital-labor litigation since the Debs case, national interest has been attracted to the suit testing the labor boycott principle now pending in the supreme court of the District of Columbia, in which the Buck's Stove and Range Co. of St. Louis is seeking, with the Sherman anti-trust law as its weapon, to have the American Federation of Labor restrained from promoting a boycott against its products.

This is the most notable instance in which a federal court recently has been asked to decide whether the practice of the Federation, to concentrate the displeasure of its 1,700,000 affiliated and subordinate members upon an "unfair" firm, is a restraint of commerce.

The Buck's company has applied for a temporary injunction prohibiting, while the case is pending, the continuance of the boycott.

Argument began last Thursday before Judge Ashley M. Gould in the supreme court of the District of Columbia. Last Friday James M. Beck, formerly assistant attorney general, made his argument for the exercise of that law against the conspiracy, with which the Federation is charged to be seeking the ruin of the company's business. Tomorrow, T. C. Spelling of New York, counsel for the Federation, will argue for the defense.

The position of organized labor is that any effort through the courts to interfere with boycotts is a violation of constitutional rights. Whatever the decision, the case will be carried to the supreme court of the United States.

The case is the more notable because the Federation officials are bitter against James W. Van Cleave, president of the Buck's Stove and Range Co., and president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The case began when James M. Beck of New York, J. J. Davenport of Bridgeport, Conn., counsel for the Buck's Stove and Range Co., filed in the supreme court of the District of Columbia last summer a bill invoking the Sherman anti-trust law against the boycott. The bill set forth that the Buck's Stove and Range Co. operated an open shop at St. Louis, but it employed several hundred union men, with whom its relations were harmonious and satisfactory.

Despite this fact, on Aug. 29, 1906, the members of the Metal Polishers' International Union employed in the works struck and left their employment, without waiting for the adjustment of any grievances.

As a result of this dispute, the bill declares, the American Federation of Labor at its national convention in Minneapolis in November, 1906, adopted a resolution providing that the product of the Buck company be placed on the "We don't patronize list."

(Associated Press.)

Washington, Nov. 18.—Argument was continued today before Justice Gould in the district supreme court on the application of the Buck's Stove and Range Co. of St. Louis for a temporary injunction restraining the American Federation of Labor from maintaining an alleged boycott against the company's products. The labor-organization was represented by Attorneys J. S. Ralston and T. C. Spelling.

Attorney Ralston took the general position that under the common law the court was not concerned with the motive inducing boycotts and strikes and that the only remaining question was whether the defendants had acted within their rights or the plaintiffs been deprived of any legal rights. He declared that all they had done was to withhold their patronage and urge their sympathizers not to buy products of the boycotted company, a right they had to do singly and in combination as well.

FEDERATION TO FIGHT INJUNCTION SUIT.

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 18.—The American Federation of Labor, amid great enthusiasm, today adopted without a dissenting vote the report of its special committee on the anti-boycott Van Cleave-Buck Stove & Range Co. injunction, pending in Washington, the report making provision for the immediate assessment of a 1c per capita tax on all affiliated organizations, international and local, to be used in fighting this suit and as a general fund for defense against any other attacks by the Manufacturers' Association.

The whole question of the defense of the Van Cleave suit was left to President Gompers and the executive council, who are given authority to make any other necessary assessments and such expenditures as they may deem wise and expedient.

The Federation today placed itself on record as favoring the absolute exclusion of all immigration from Asia and the islands of the Pacific Ocean to the United States or its possession. Delegate Young of the state of Washington declared that the influx to this country of Japanese soldiers, who, returning from Russia, found that others had taken their places of employment is proving tenfold greater than the Chinese immigration.

Missouri Socialist Party

THE FOLLOWING LOCALS have engaged Henry Laurens Call, who lectures in Missouri, beginning Jan. 1: Hannibal, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Sedalia, Kansas City, Springfield, Monett, Joplin, Carthage, Webb City and Duenweg. Comrade Call's subject, "The Concentration of Wealth," is very timely, and he writes that his meetings in the east have been so successful that locals are demanding return dates. Missouri locals will be notified in good time of their exact date. The 100 pamphlets for each local where Call speaks will be expressed from St. Louis. Railroad fare will be about \$1.75 per local.

THE NATIONAL OFFICE is arranging a 90-day tour for John G. Chase, State Secretary of New York. He will be in Missouri about February. Locals in the state desiring a date should write the State office as soon as possible.

GOEBEL'S REMAINING DATES in Missouri are: Eldon, Nov. 22; Union, 23; St. Louis, 24; Flat River, 25; St. Louis, 26; Valley Park, 27; Maplewood, 28. Secretary Brazel of Kansas City says Goebel was late in arriving, but the meeting turned out all right. While the distance from Ulrich to Kansas City is short, yet it seems the train service is bad, necessitating a long drive on Goebel's part to get a train into Kansas City.

THE LOCAL AT NOVINGER was reorganized with 18 members. Goebel's lecture woke the comrades up and set them to work again. Novinger is a coal mining town, and the local there has never fully recovered from the last strike. The comrades of Springfield say that Goebel is the first speaker in a long while that has paid all expenses, and they are sorry they did not take two dates.

IN ADDITION TO THOSE announced last week, the following nominations were received: For National Committeemen, L. H. Schenkel, Wm. Scott and O. Pauls. For State Secretary, W. L. Garver and C. A. Berry.

THE TENTH WEEK OF SHOE WORKERS' STRIKE

By Referendum Vote Strikers Decide to Continue the Struggle.

This is the tenth week of the great Shoe Workers' strike of this city, in which over 20,000 people were directly involved beginning with the very first week of the struggle.

Ten weeks out on strike on the eve of winter! Only those who have gone through lengthy strike movements of this kind know what this means.

Yet when a referendum vote was taken, last Monday and Tuesday, on the question of returning to work, the result was in favor of continuing the strike.

While the millionaire A. D. Brown of the Brown Shoe Co. is making \$4,000 donations to the Third Baptist Church to pay promissory notes on an \$80,000 church auditorium, his employees, men, women and children, are struggling desperately for a little improvement in their conditions. These poorly paid wage workers of pious Mr. A. D. Brown and his millionaire colleagues of the St. Louis shoe industry ask for a nine-hour workday and for the abolition of the blacklist system which is in vogue under the name of the three days' notice or release system.

No matter what the outcome of this great strike may be, this one fact remains:

The shoe workers of St. Louis have made a splendid fight for the cause of Organized Labor!

This is generally acknowledged by everybody who has been following the struggle for the last nine weeks.

The shoe manufacturers have shown themselves as brutes, wretches without any human feeling or consideration toward their fellow men, forgetting that their millions have been created by these many thousand men, women and children who operate their tremendous shoe factories.

One thing is certain: The St. Louis millionaire shoe manufacturers will not risk another strike like the present one. What the striking shoe workers must do, above all things, is to come out of this present battle with a good organization. With four thousand shoe workers solidly organized there will be a security for the future welfare of the St. Louis shoe workers, and many of the abuses in local shoe factories will then disappear, because the manufacturers will not invite a repetition of the present troubles.

The financial crisis which surprised the country some weeks ago was not a favorable thing for a local strike in which over 20,000 people were directly involved. This financial "flurry" worked many hardships on the strikers.

FOR THE STRIKING SHOE WORKERS.

- Formerly acknowledged\$10.75
- David Allan 1.00
- B. Brockmeyer 1.00
- Guillaume Coinard50
- W. H. Scott 1.00
- Geo. D. Sauter25
- Mich. Hummel25
- Robert Albrecht50
- Martin Brosin50

Total\$15.75

The October number of the International Musician, the official organ of the American Federation of Musicians, of which President Owen Miller of the C. T. & L. U. is the editor, published the following editorial on the shoe workers' strike:

A Remarkable Strike.

Without any organization, no treasury, no preparation, 25,000 employees of all but four shoe factories went on strike at noon Sept. 20, 1907. At this writing (Oct. 24) they are still out. They demand nine hours instead of ten per day. Their employers refuse the demand and insist that the employees shall work ten hours per day. Many of these employees are women and children, in fact, a majority are. The shoe manufacturers are among the wealthiest of the wealthy of St. Louis. Most of them are called "prominent, enterprising, God-fearing, humane, upright, Christian gentlemen." God save the mark. What would the author of "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for such is the kingdom of heaven," have to say to such Christians, who, after making millions out of the very body and souls of little children, insist that they work in a shoe factory, a veritable hell on earth, even under the best conditions, ten hours per day?

Every dollar of the great wealth accumulated by these "Christian gentlemen" was earned by the labor of these women and little children.

This industry is one of the few that still grinds out human bodies and souls ten hours per day. Experience has proven that the shorter workday is more profitable, because healthier than the longer day.

Modern humanity will not tolerate the factory system of a century ago.

As usual, the daily press either says nothing at all or makes disparaging comments upon the employees' attitude. The Associated Press never lets the outside world know a word about this remarkable strike. Not one arrest has been made on account of the strike, although the police did all they could to raise disturbances. Although these fellows are from the ranks of the proletariat, as soon as they

are clothed in policeman's rags they turn upon their own class like ravenous wolves.

Every good man and woman in St. Louis is in sympathy with the employees.

IT IS NOT NECESSARY for you to collect the money for a new subscriber who lives in St. Louis. Just send the name and address to Labor, 324 Chestnut street, and we will collect the subscription some Sunday morning later on.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
The subscription price is fifty cents a year to any address in the United States, Canada, Mexico, or any other country in the Postal Union. Clubs of four, \$1.50.
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