

# ST. LOUIS LABOR

Complete

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PHONE: KINLOCH, CENTRAL 1577. NO. 413

## 1909—Happy New Year—1909

### THE GOMPERS-MITCHELL-MORRISON CONTEMPT CASE

**Organized Labor Throughout the Country Thoroughly Aroused by the Latest Court Decision—St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union Takes Action—Gompers Sentenced to One Year, Mitchell to Nine Months and Morrison to Six Months—Big Mass Meeting to be Called by New York Central Federated Union to Protest Against Decision—Philadelphia Central Labor Union Says Decision Reminds Union Labor That Buck Stove and Range Co. Is Still On Unfair List—What the Labor Press Has to Say—Comments by Van Cleave and Reply by Owen Miller—Capitalist Press Editorials on Judge Wright's Decision—Socialist National Secretary J. Mahlon Barnes Wires Congratulations to Gompers.**

Owing to the Christmas holiday last week's issue of this paper went to press one day earlier than usual. This explains why we failed to get the contempt case decision against Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison into our last week's issue. St.

may not surprise those who have followed the recent development of class legislation and class justice to the detriment of the working class. This does not make such government by injunction less objectionable or less outrageous in the eyes of every fair-minded man and woman. As President Gompers rightly said, in addressing the court: "This is a struggle of the working people for right; it is a struggle of the ages—a struggle of the men of labor to secure some of the rights long denied." Brother Gompers simply stated a plain fact that every workingman and woman will readily understand, but which our fifteenth century judiciary of the highest courts of the land are incapable of comprehending.

Delegates of the Central Trades & Labor Union! At this critical stage in the history of the American labor movement all differences of opinion on side issues must be forgotten, and all petty factional squabbles must cease. In solid phalanx the labor movement and those in sympathy with it must line up for the common cause of the working class. Announce to the world, and let Messrs. Parry, Post, Van Cleave & Co. know in no uncertain language that neither Czar, nor Kaiser, nor any Supreme Court in this or any other country can compel any Union man or woman to patronize the non-Union Buck Stove & Range Co., or any other concern at war against Organized Labor.

The boycott was used by the American Colonists against the plutocracy of King George during the days preceding the glorious Fourth of July, 1776. The boycott is an American institution and will be used by Organized Labor today for the welfare of the millions of workingmen, women and children.

Let your slogan be: United we stand! United we extend the hand of brotherhood to the latest victims of class justice—Brothers Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison! United we stand, ready for the greater battles yet to come.

Assuring you that our press, St. Louis Labor, and our German publication, Arbeiter-Zeitung, will stand by you shoulder to shoulder in this struggle for labor's rights, I remain, fraternally yours.

G. A. HOEHN, Editor St. Louis Labor.

#### GOMPERS, MITCHELL AND MORRISON SENTENCED TO JAIL

**President of Labor Federation Gets Twelve Months, Vice President Nine and Secretary Six Months.**

Washington, Dec. 23.—The famous contempt case of the Buck's Stove & Range Co. of St. Louis against President Samuel Gompers, Vice-President John Mitchell and Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor was decided today by Justice Wright of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia adversely to the Federation officials.

Gompers was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, Mitchell was sentenced to nine months and Morrison to six months.

Pending an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, the three defendants were released on bail. The amounts were as follows: Gompers, \$5,000; Mitchell, \$4,000; Morrison, \$3,000. A local surety company furnished the bonds.

#### Labor Leaders Denounced by Judge.

Justice Wright's decision was a scathing denunciation of the defendants. He first recited the conditions anteceding the injunction and referred to the fact that for 25 years the Buck's plant had operated as a 10-hour shop and always had maintained an "open shop."

He also spoke of the strength of the American Federation of Labor, with its 2,000,000 members, and of its repeated indorsement of the boycott of the Buck's Stove & Range Co., through the American Federationist and by speeches, letters, circulars, etc.

The court referred to the "We Do Not Patronize" list and said that members of the organization were forced into supporting it by various methods.

He read extracts from the Federationist bearing on the Buck's case, and these methods, the court said, seem to be "persuasion."

#### "Insolent Defiance," Court Calls It.

The court continues:

"When, with the parties to this cause in attendance, their dispute heard and the status of the subject of their controversy examined into, the inhibitory process of this tribunal issued forth; it was the law's command to stand 'hands off' until justice for this matter could be ascertained.

"Is not law wide enough and its shield broad enough to avert from annihilation that which its tribunals have taken in hand for the very sake of decreeing whether it shall not be saved?

"Yet everywhere, within the court and out, utter, rampant, insolent defiance is heralded and proclaimed; unrefined insult, coarse affront, vulgar indignity measure the litigant's conception of the tribunal's due, wherein his cause still pends.

#### The Law Has Been Made to Fail, He Claims.

"Before the injunction was granted, these men announced that neither they nor the American Federation of Labor would obey it; since it issued they have refused to obey it, and, through the American Federation of Labor, disobedience has been successfully achieved and the law has been made to fail.

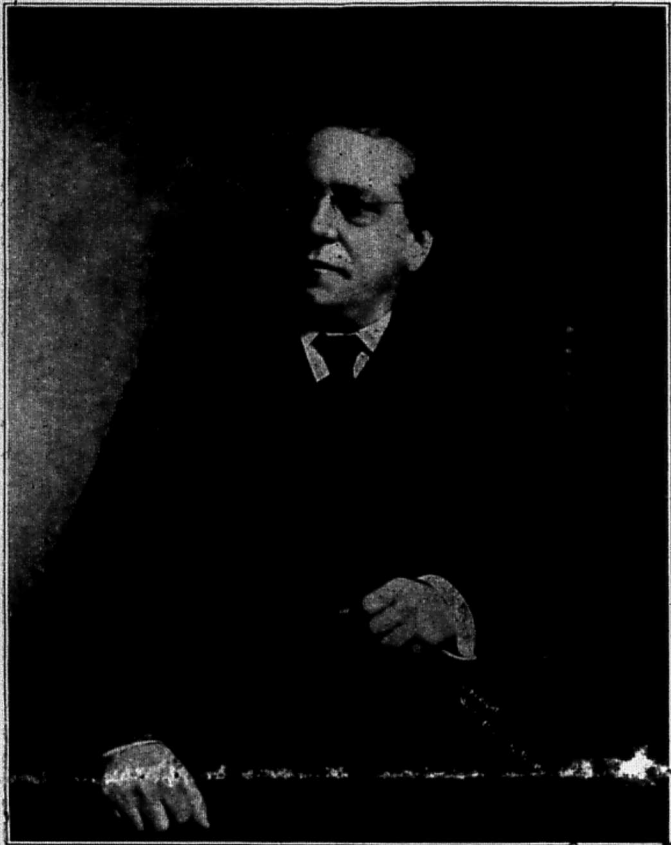
"Not only has the law failed in its efforts to arrest a widespread wrong, but the injury has grown more destructive since the injunction than it was before. There is a studied, determined, defiant, conflict precipitated in the light of open day between the decree of a tribunal ordained by the Government of the Federal Union and one of the tribunals of another federation, grown up in the land. One or the other must succumb, for those who would unlaw the land are public enemies.

#### "Misguiding Leaders, Swollen by Pigmy Power."

"On the sociological aspect of the situation, some faith in the ultimate rightness of American men, whether in labor unions or out,

is to be entertained; for I believe the habit of the land which saturates them with a readiness to yield to authority has undone them before now through the errors of misguiding leaders, swollen by pigmy power.

"It stands in the nature of things that the unlettered be most sensible of that authority which most often shows itself in their



SAMUEL GOMPERS, President American Federation of Labor.

St. Louis Labor had already been off the press and partly mailed when the news from Washington was received.

The following telegram was sent by the editor:

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 24, 1908.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, Washington, D. C.:

Court decision is outrageous; we are with you to a finish in this fight for Labor's rights. G. A. HOEHN, Editor St. Louis Labor.



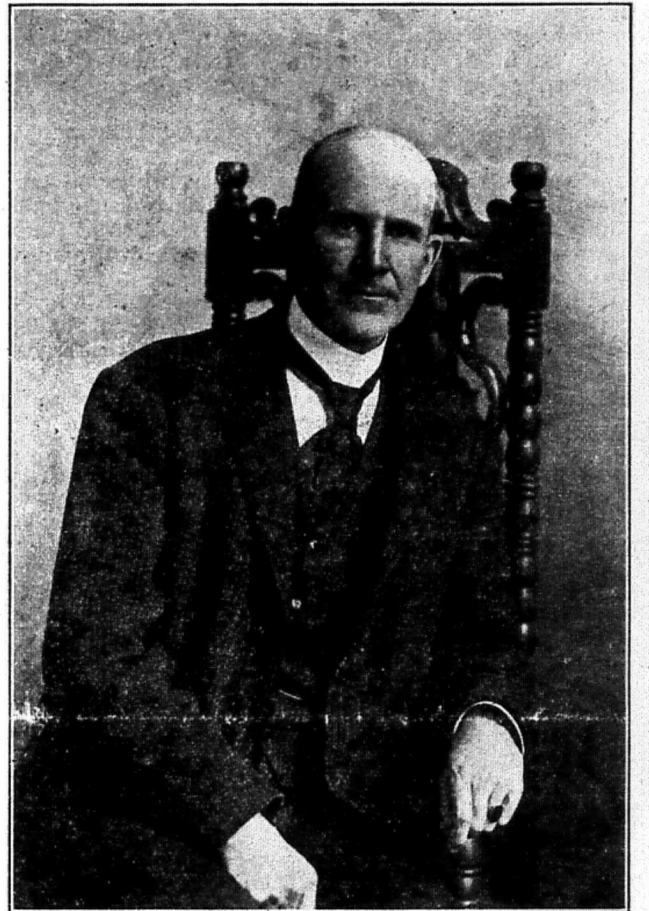
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary American Federation of Labor.

#### LETTER TO LOCAL CENTRAL BODY.

To St. Louis Central Trades & Labor Union of St. Louis and Vicinity.

Owen Miller, President; David Kreyling, Secretary:

Greeting:—The Supreme Court of the District of Columbia added another jewel to the collection of Anti-Labor decisions. President Gompers of the A. F. of L., Vice-President Mitchell and Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor, Vice-President Mitchell and Secretary Morrison were sentenced to jail imprisonment for twelve, nine and six months, respectively, for alleged violation of an anti-boycott injunction. That such decisions are rendered in American courts of justice



EUGENE V. DEBS, The First Victim of the Anti-Union Injunction Disease During the Pullman Strike.

modest affairs, although a higher power may exist to which their attention is not every moment directed by some interference with them, but to which they stand ready to adhere upon the moment that shows them that the lesser authority was in mistake, or leading them wrong.

"It is written in this record that the labor union and its officers



JOHN MITCHELL, Vice-President American Federation of Labor.

meddle into a member's daily affairs deeper than does the law; restrict him in matters that the law leaves free and then so continu-













