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MINNESOTA F. L. P. TRIES FOR UNITY

Farmer-Labor Federation Is Formed to Promote Affiliation with the Party

From the reports in the daily newspapers it was impossible to understand what took place at the conference of Farmer-Labor Party forces in Minneapolis, September 8. The outstanding feature of kept press stories seemed to be that the farmers and labor could not get together to build their state party on a solid basis.

More dependable reports are at hand, however, which indicate a strong probability that labor and the farmers will overcome all obstacles placed in their way by political manipulators and unite in a party of their own, repudiating those who wish to force a return to the so-called nonpartisan method.

Following the election triumphs of Senators Shipstead and Johnson on the Farmer-Labor Party ticket, the Working People's Nonpartisan Political League, which is the labor end of the Minnesota Nonpartisan League, promoted a Farmer-Labor Conference for the purpose of unifying and further developing the party effort. Certain farmer organizations sat in on the drawing of plans for a Farmer-Labor Conference and the call was sent out to farm as well as labor bodies.

Nonpartisan League Met Alone

The Nonpartisan League, which takes only farmers into membership, participated in the call, but adhered to the custom established by it and the Working People's Nonpartisan Political League, of holding separate simultaneous conventions, with joint committees working between them. So the Farmer-Labor Conference, with both farmer and labor delegates, met in one hall and the Nonpartisan League delegates met in the Minnesota Daily Star building.

It appears from the reports that there were three views represented. The one adopted by the conference was in favor of a Farmer-Labor Party with its foundations in the economic organizations of labor and the farmers; one, held by State Chairman Pike, of the Farmer-Labor Party, was for a party on a more conventional political basis, with delegates from districts based on the votes at elections, and one, led by former Mayor Van Lear of Minneapolis, opposed a party, at least at this time, and favored a return to the so-called nonpartisan method.

The reports that there was no agreement arose from the fact that the Nonpartisan League meeting heeded the counsel of the old leaders who opposed an independent party.

Federation Is Formed

The Farmer-Labor Conference, however, went ahead and did business. It set up the framework of an organization to be called the Farmer-Labor Federation and adopted a constitution for that body, providing the machinery for operation and stating the purpose of the federation to be "to unite the members of farmers' organizations and labor organizations into a political federation, together with those organized or unorganized elements who support independent political action by the workers and farmers, and to carry on an intensive program of education and organization incidental to participation in the political campaigns of the Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota."

The delegates then went home to affiliate

GUN TOTERS EXPOSED

Several years ago ~~the~~ turned the limelight on an illegal organization known as the "department of constabulary." The organization is privately organized and operated for the avowed purpose of "preventing cruelty and the apprehension of automobile and horse thieves." Incidentally it was an organization which its promoters could also use to stir up trouble in time of strikes, and for procuring illegal liquor. It never had the official sanction of either local or state government.

Now it is discovered that the so-called "department of constabulary" has reached a popular and dangerous place in Chicago society, and even the capitalist press has undertaken to expose it. During the recent beer raids in Chicago, hundreds of men have been discovered wearing tin stars and carrying guns. They were members of the "constabulary" which has had an unusual growth recently. It is said that applicants have been initiated on payment of \$24.50 membership fee and \$5 for a star. After they have taken the oath of service they are "legally" permitted to wear the star and carry firearms. It is reported that the roster of the State constabulary is to be subpoenaed for investigation by the State's Attorney's office.

Washington Machinists to Ask Change in Pension Law

Washington, D. C. — Present retirement laws are being used to intimidate government workers into accepting unsatisfactory conditions of labor and lower salaries, N. P. Alifas, president, District 44, International Association of Machinists, reports to the delegates to the annual convention of the organization convening here September 24.

Employees at some of the navy yards and arsenals have taken pay cuts, fearing that refusal will deprive them of benefits under the retirement laws, he declared, speaking of the problems before the convention.

Alifas will recommend that the retirement laws be amended by congress to give workers a vested right in the retirement benefits after they become old enough to receive them. As the laws now provide, if a worker be discharged for cause before the age of 65, he is automatically deprived of the retirement pension.

An effort will be made to reach an understanding with the American Legion concerning the legion's demands that veterans have preference in government positions. The union is opposed.

Pressmen Fight N. Y. Papers

New York.—The web pressmen of this city are on strike against the newspapers. The international president of the pressmen, George Berry, has characterized the strike as "outlaw" and has entered into an agreement with the newspaper publishers to break it. The charter of the New York local of web pressmen has been revoked and a new local installed by the international.

their organizations with the new federation. The Nonpartisan League and the Working People's Nonpartisan Political League will not be dissolved, according to present plans, but they are eligible to affiliate with the federation.

An interim committee was appointed to carry on the effort until the federation has sufficient affiliations to launch its work. A weekly official organ will be published. The committee consists of William Mahoney, editor of the Minnesota Union Advocate, who was chairman of the conference; Ralph L. Harmon, who was secretary of the conference; Fred Siegel, Myrtle Cain, C. A. Hathaway, Fred Tilquist, Ole Ogg and J. C. Pratt.

LAWLESS JUDGES MENACE FREEDOM

Injunction Probers Say Courts Would "Tear Robes of Liberty" from Free Men

The committee of Chicago labor men appointed by President Samuel Gompers of the A. F. of L. to investigate and report on misuse of the power to issue injunctions by labor-fighting judges, has met and framed a preliminary report. The committee was created by resolution of the special meeting of protest against injunctions held at the Morrison Hotel August 27, 1923, and attended by more than 500 trade union officers and representatives. The following is the full text of the committee's preliminary report:

The misuse of the so-called equity power of judges in the circuit and superior courts has become a menace to free citizenship. Experience in all ages has proven that abuse of power by the judiciary or other governing authority cannot be prevented except by the enactment of definite written laws clearly limiting such powers. It is for this reason that the Revolutionary fathers drafted and adopted the basic law known as the constitution, which is a limitation, as well as a grant, of governing power. Unlimited power of any kind has never been granted to the judiciary nor to any other governmental department by the people of this or any other state.

As a first step to correct the misuse of injunctions, it is essential that the trade unionists, as well as all other citizens, should thoroughly acquaint themselves with the language, meaning and purpose of the constitutions of the United States and the state of Illinois. It is a grave error to assume that governmental or social defects in our state and nation are fostered or sanctioned by the constitution. Misgovernment, public or private wrongdoing, misery, poverty and other unjust conditions are contrary to the spirit and purpose of the basic law.

Constitution Prohibits Slavery

The constitution prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude. Freedom is declared as essential to the happiness and progress of mankind.

What is it that marks the great difference between the free man and the slave? It is this, that the man who is free has the right to refuse to remain in the service of others, to withhold his labor, to consult freely with his fellows and to join with them in bringing about improved standards of life and work.

The slave is a slave because he is by law prevented from leaving the service of those for whom he works without their consent. He may not withhold his labor. He is not permitted to consult freely with his associates. And if he joins with others of his kind for the purpose of securing a proper return for his labor, he is guilty of rebellion.

Any law, or any action having the effect of law, which restricts or denies the rights essential to freedom represents a very dangerous tendency towards slavery. When any such law, or any action having the effect of law, goes so far as to prescribe restrictions of the kind which mark the difference between the slave and the free man, then the twilight, if not the darkness, of actual slavery has been entered. Wherever slavery has reared its monstrous form, its development has been by degrees, one restriction following another until, in the course of time, the man has become the chattel.

When, therefore, an injunction judge, exercising the power which has the force of law, issues a proclamation or so-called restraining order, obedience to which has the effect of restraining men from exercising their constitutional rights in a manner calculated to improve the conditions under which they live and work, he is endeavoring, either consciously or unconsciously, to tear the robes of liberty from the shoulders of the free men and women affected by his order and compelling them to accept the shameful garb of slaves.

Judges Worse Than Kings

Whenever a governing official, whatever his capacity, attempts to regulate personal relations, such as those between the worker and employer, or to restrict personal rights, on the basis of what he is pleased to call "equity and good conscience,"

and without the authority of any definite law, he is applying the principle of personal government as distinct from government by law.

Whether he acts as originator of such process or simply follows a precedent set by others, he is, nevertheless, reviving and exercising the long lost power of arbitrary kings to command their subjects and to compel obedience under penalty of summary punishment. When the ancient king uttered his commands, whether direct or through his chancellor, who became known as "the keeper of the king's conscience," the unfortunate subject found himself compelled to yield humble submission without even the right of appeal to a jury of his fellow citizens.

Is it not a startling condition when, today, in free America, the land of constitutional government, where people may be legally governed only in accord with the written basic law to which they have consented, judges of the courts have usurped the power formerly held only by kings, and long since lost even by them, to establish personal government in the place of government by law whenever working people decide to go on strike and a reactionary employer appeals to the court? Then the injunction judge, "sitting in chancery," and acting in the name of "equity and good conscience," as the legal term runs, arbitrarily commands working people to desist from exercising the free rights affirmatively declared in the constitution, and when they disobey his proclamation, orders their fine and imprisonment without the intervention of a jury. Injunction judges have not only revived the arbitrary power of the kings, but have retained for their own use even the very titles and terms originated by his royal majesty.

Arbitrary Power Tempts

The greatest temptation that can be placed in the reach of man, with all his human weaknesses, is that of arbitrary power, which he may use without direct responsibility for the consequences of his actions. Whenever men have been so tempted they have invariably yielded. It was because of this historical fact, proven by centuries of experiences in every part of the world, that the American Revolutionists, when they established the present government of the United States and the several states, insisted upon a written constitution in each case, which at the same time granted and limited the powers of government.

The cornerstone of the constitution is another document whose words are written in the life blood of the patriots and which is known as the Declaration of Independence. It asserts that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights. That fundamental declaration, which is the cornerstone of the constitution, although not actually included within the document which we call the constitution, is subject to amendment only by the same process in which it originated—by revolution.

When the injunction judge issues a restraining order directed against people, of a character which he never directs against any other class of citizens, he denies the equality of man and repudiates the Declaration of Independence, whether he knows it or not. When he insists, as he frequently does in cases where he is called upon to support the interests of employers against working people during strikes, that there exists no right which may not be restricted by his orders, then he denies the doctrine of inherent and inalienable rights and again repudiates the Declaration of Independence.

Enemies of the Constitution

He may, without much danger, be permitted to regulate property and tangible property rights because these are not men and therefore have no "inherent and inalienable" privileges or rights.

Under the American constitution, as the practice existed at the time of its adoption one hundred and thirty-six years ago, the so-called "equity jurisdiction," under which injunctions are issued, was clearly and definitely limited to the field of property and property rights as distinct from personal rights and personal relations. That limitation is a part of the constitution because the equity jurisdiction conferred upon the courts by that document is the equity jurisdiction as it existed at the time of the adoption of the constitution. Any extension of that power beyond that which existed one hundred and thirty-six years ago is a clear and unwarranted and unlawful usurpation. The logic of this is undeniable.

It is indeed time that the American people undertook to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the insidious onslaught that has been made against their basic law by the very men sworn to uphold it. The enemies of the constitution will be discovered in high places.

The trade unionists of Illinois, represented by the Illinois State Federation of Labor, at its recent annual convention, have declared that the injunction problem is the paramount legislative issue in this state. It has announced that the Illinois Federation of Labor will inaugurate and carry on a campaign of education on this subject. The Chicago committee tenders its services to the executive board of the Illinois State Federation of Labor and to any state committee which may be appointed by that board to conduct the campaign which will be carried on steadily and persistently for whatever period of time may be necessary to achieve the proper results.

The Chicago committee on injunctions, signing the foregoing report, are the following:

John Fitzpatrick, president, Chicago Federation of Labor, chairman; George Perkins, president, International Cigar Makers' Union; Mathew Woll, president, International Photo Engravers' Union; Oscar Nelson, vice president, C. F. of L.; E. N.

FARMER LABOR PARTY NEWS

By J. G. BROWN
NATIONAL SECRETARY, FARMER-LABOR PARTY

THE West Virginia State Federation of Labor, at its recent annual convention in Fairmont, under a suspension of the rules, acting on a resolution signed by more than sixty delegates, unanimously endorsed the West Virginia State Farmer-Labor Party, and instructed the incoming officials to do everything in their power to press the work of organization in order that a strong political party of the city and farm workers might be in the field in 1924.

The story of the evolution of the workers' political activity in West Virginia has been much the same as in other states, but at the last election the betrayal of the workers was a little more flagrant than in usual and circumstances were such that it was possible to pin the responsibility on both of the old party gold-dust twins at the same time.

The great handicap of organized labor in that state has been the mine guards, private armies recruited and maintained by the local operators who, for the most part, lived in states other than West Virginia. These privately owned thugs got many thrills from carrying out the will of their masters to beat, maim and kill union organizers. Most of the so-called "guards" were supplied by the notorious Baldwin-Felts detective agency.

It will be recalled that about two years ago, when these gunmen undertook to evict a large number of families of striking miners at Matewan, the mayor and chief of police protested. The former was promptly shot dead. Sid Hatfield, the police chief, was not only able to avenge the mayor, but in the general battle that followed, a number of the Baldwin-Felts thugs were killed. Sid Hatfield was later assassinated.

All of these matters made the abolition of these mine guards a burning political issue in that state. The representatives of labor felt that something worth while had been accomplished last year when they succeeded in getting both the republican and democrat parties to incorporate in their platform pledges that the candidates, if elected, would wipe out the foulest stain on the state by outlawing the mine guards.

The outcome of the election resulted in making one house of the legislature republican, and the other democrat, but neither house did a thing toward the elimination of the vicious guard system. The senators and representatives of both parties passed all bills demanded by the coal barons and profiteers, but shut their eyes and closed their ears to their platform pledges and to the pleadings of the workers.

Passing the buck from one party to the other was no longer possible. It was demonstrated that the two old parties were exactly the same. It was impossible for the oppressed workers and exploited farmers to even hope for relief from either of the old camps. They began to consider the situation from another standpoint. They felt that the burden of the fight must be assumed by themselves.

The state federation called a conference and the Farmer-Labor Party was organized. Since then locals have been established in many parts of the state and all of the labor organizations are behind the new move, the last being the state federation, which has now given its official endorsement, and the stage is set for the biggest independent political effort of the workers ever undertaken in West Virginia.

In a number of counties in the state it is impossible for a union organizer to set foot, and public meetings are unknown. They are ruled entirely, politically and economically, by the hired hessians of the coal barons. On the right road at last, we wish the farmers and city workers in West Virginia all success.

No School, No Job

Mexico City.—The Mexico City local of the Society of Railway Maintenance of Way Workers has taken drastic action to insure compliance of its members with the rule that they must attend the free evening school provided especially for them by the government. According to a recent bulletin of the union, all workers, including foremen and section bosses, must present upon coming to work each Monday a certificate signed by the teacher demonstrating that they have attended classes the previous week. The first infraction will be punished by three days suspension from work, the second by double the penalty, and a third by dismissal. The union has a union shop contract with the railways that enables it to apply the discipline.

Nockels, secretary, C. F. of L.; Harry Jensen, president, Carpenters' District Council; W. A. Neer, president, Teamsters' Joint Council; E. A. Patske, president, Typographical Union No. 16; Will E. Boyer, secretary, Broom and Whisk Makers' International Union; James Petrie, president, Musicians' Union No. 10; William Quinlan, president, Street Car Men's Union, Division No. 241; Joseph W. Morton, president, Stationary Firemen's Union No. 7; George Bulk, business agent, Machinists' District Council; Thomas Burke, president, Plumbers' and Steamfitters' International Union; Victor A. Olander, secretary, Illinois State Federation of Labor.

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HOW LABOR WARS ARE ADJUSTED IN DENMARK

Arbitration Is Not Compulsory, but Two Government Boards Intervene

By Louis P. Lochner
Federated Press

Copenhagen, Denmark.—The process by which conflicts between capital and labor are adjusted in Denmark is an interesting one. Denmark has two official organizations for this purpose: the public mediation institution and the permanent court of arbitration.

The employers are strongly knit together in the Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, an association numbering 15,250 members, and composed of 238 affiliated bodies covering various trades and industries. This association practically acts as a unit.

The workers, on the other hand, are organized in the Samvirkende Fagforbund, or general federation of labor, with a membership of 242,565. This does not embrace all organized workers, as the building trades, for instance. But on questions of wage agreements and the like, the independent unions usually act jointly with the federation.

State Scheme of Mediation

Wage scales are agreed upon from year to year. When there is a difference between the workers and the bosses, the individual union and the boss at first face each other, and next, representatives of the general federation of labor and of the employers' association.

If then no agreement is reached, and a strike or lockout threatens or ensues, the state provides a scheme of mediation. A standing commission of three government mediators, as soon as a strike or lockout takes place or threatens to take place, summons both parties before it. The parties to the issue are not compelled to come, but as both sides are anxious to have public opinion with them, they usually accept.

The board, after hearing both sides, puts forward a solution. Its findings have no binding character. No power in Denmark can compel the workers or the bosses to accept the mediatory suggestions made. But the Danish law provides that the mediation board, in the event either or both parties decline to accept its award, shall publish its suggestion for allaying the conflict, so that the public may be informed.

The claim is made that strikes and lockouts are greatly reduced by this machinery.

Amnesty Up to Coolidge

Washington, D. C.—The first formal appeal made to President Coolidge for amnesty for the thirty-four remaining federal political prisoners is before him in the form of a petition signed by sixty leading men and women of California, where twenty-one of those prisoners were convicted. The petition, which was to have been presented to President Harding by a committee of the signers in both San Francisco and Los Angeles, includes the names of Edward L. Parsons, bishop coadjutor of the Episcopal church of San Francisco, Bishop Cantwell, Roman Catholic church, and Father McQuaide, who was chaplain of the 69th division, American expeditionary forces.

Printers' Strike Benefits Lessen

Indianapolis, Ind.—The number of printers receiving strike benefits in the struggle of the International Typographical Union for the 44-hour week decreased in the month of August from 3,000 to 2,108, according to the monthly report prepared at headquarters of the union here. In the twenty-eight months of the strike's duration the union has collected \$15,810,503.81 in strike dues, and has expended \$14,673,565.58.

McSorley Elected

Cedar Rapids, Iowa.—President McSorley was re-elected by the convention of the International Lathers' union, held in this city.

HARD COAL STRIKE IS OVER; PRICE GOES UP

Labor Men Offer to Co-operate to Prevent Profiteering by Dealers

Anthracite miners are digging coal again after a strike of eighteen days to enforce their demands for wage increases and better working conditions. The special tri-district convention meeting at Scranton September 17 ratified the compromise settlement arranged by negotiation of Gov. Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania.

Only two delegates to the convention, which represented the three anthracite districts in the United Mine Workers' organization, spoke against the settlement. Only fifteen out of the 500 delegates voted against it.

The convention, besides ratifying the settlement and sending the miners back to work, took a rap at the Progressive Miners' conference. John L. Lewis, international president, who explained the benefits of the new agreement to the convention, was received with ringing applause. The district presidents, Rinaldo Cappelini, Chris Golden and Thomas Kennedy of Districts No. 1, 7, and 9, went into every feature of the settlement.

Price Boost Is Due

Retail coal dealers may go ahead with their plans to increase the price of coal from \$1 to \$1.50 a ton without fear of intervention, so far as the federal government is concerned.

The administration's position, made known by those close to the president, is that the federal government has no power to restrict profiteering in coal. If there is to be any restriction at all, it must come from local and state governments.

It has become evident without an investigation that the price of coal will be increased from \$1 to \$1.50 a ton, despite the suggestion made by Governor Pinchot that the 60 cents per ton increase given the miners should and could be shouldered to a large extent by the operators and the anthracite carrying railroads.

Labor men, and more particularly the representatives of the United Mine Workers of America, declared that they stand ready to co-operate in any way government agencies may suggest to prevent profiteering.

Miners Pan Commission Report

The report issued by the U. S. coal commission on industrial disputes in the coal fields reads very much like a well prepared brief in behalf of the bituminous coal operators of West Virginia and northern Kentucky, the United Mine Workers of America state, in an attack on the commission's report. The statement says:

Those nonunion operators should immediately hold a meeting and give a rising vote of thanks to the commission for that report. Why did not the commission declare the nonunion coal companies have no rights under the law or the constitution to use force and coercion to prevent their men from voluntarily asserting their right to affiliate with a labor union?

The commission knows very well that the only reason that the unorganized miners of West Virginia have not been organized long ago is that private armed guards and gunmen are there for the purpose of seeing to it that the men do not get an opportunity to join the union.

The commission devoted much time to telling of crimes which, it says, were committed by union miners, but it did not even mention the scores of crimes of company thugs and gunmen that were brought directly to the attention of the commission by the United Mine Workers of America.

Eric Men Get Rail Board Award

Employees represented by the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks of the Erie railroad will be reimbursed for wages lost during 1921, when a pay reduction was put into force, according to a decision of the railroad labor board recently. Freight handlers and station employees were affected by the cut of about 40 per cent. The board holds the reduction was a violation of decision No. 2 of July, 1920, as well as of the transportation act.

EDUCATION AND WAR

Washington, D. C.—Recommendations advanced by the U. S. bureau of education for the observance of American education week, November 18 to 24, make provision for a day to be devoted to the glorification of military achievements, but not a word concerning the movement to substitute law for war, peace advocates learned when the bureau made public a pamphlet enumerating the subjects which it thought ought to be discussed during that week.

The leaflet, it was explained by the bureau of education, is designed to meet the numerous requests made by teachers, county and city school superintendents, and state departments of education for suggestions as to ways of observing American education week, which is being sponsored by the American legion, the National Education Association, and the bureau of education.

It is suggested that Sunday, November 18, which is the opening day, be For God and Country day. Ministers of all denominations are to be invited to preach at least one sermon on education on that day. The following day will be American Constitution day. This will be followed by Patriotism day. The stories to be read on that day are to deal with Nathan Hale, "The Man Without a Country," Paul Revere's Ride, The Soldier's Reprieve, Winter at Valley Forge, and similar activities.

School and Teacher day, Illiteracy day, Community day, when the "equality of opportunity for every boy and girl should be given attention," and Physical Education day will conclude the week's observance of American education week.

Political Favorites Get Millions of U. S. Dollars

Washington, D. C.—According to a report by David Blair, commissioner of internal revenue, \$123,992,820 were refunded to taxpayers this year. This amount represents \$30,000,000 more than was refunded in the preceding three years combined.

The details of these vast refunds are secret. Members of congress have frequently demanded publicity of such repayments, but this agitation has been fruitless. Rumors are in circulation that publication of the returns would show that political favorites fare well in getting money restored to them.

The legal profession has found this class of cases extremely profitable, with the result that numerous income tax experts leave the internal revenue bureau to become the lawyers of firms whose claims were pending while they were employed by the government. This is a violation of the law, but is said to be permitted to continue without interference.

They're Glad They're Licked

Whistling to keep courage, the so-called Citizens' Committee to Enforce the Landis Award in the building trades is going about telling Chicago business men that it is glad that half a dozen of the biggest contractors in the city have deserted the committee. "It's a blessing in disguise," cried James A. Patten, treasurer of the committee, to a somewhat dubious assemblage at an Association of Commerce luncheon. Patten made a lot of money as a grain gambler, where a good bluff sometimes is worth millions. "These contractors left us because they lack nerve," he said.

Rail Postal Clerks After Raise

Washington, D. C.—Wage increases for railway postal clerks and amendments to the retirement law will be the paramount issues in the legislative program to be presented to congress by the Railway Mail Association, Henry W. Strickland, secretary of the association announced, on his return from the annual convention held at Atlanta, Ga., September 4 to 9. Failure to enforce compliance with the steel mail car law has resulted in the death of 13 railway mail clerks and 279 were injured during the last 25 months, it is charged.

F. L. P. DEMANDS THAT CHARGE BE RETRACTED

Calls Mine Workers' Editor in False Statement About Party Affiliation

J. G. Brown, national secretary of the Farmer-Labor Party, has demanded a retraction from officers of the United Mine Workers of America, and from the International Labor News Service, of a statement spread broadcast all over the country that the Farmer-Labor Party in May, 1921, was one of the Communist organizations of the United States, from the leaders of which the central executive committee of the United Communist Party was chosen.

The statement appeared in a series of six lengthy articles sent to newspapers and labor papers purporting to expose a radical conspiracy to control the American labor movement. The articles were prepared by Ellis Searles, editor of the Mine Workers' Journal, and were sent out by the International Labor News Service, of which Chester M. Wright is editor. Secretary Brown's demand for a retraction was sent to John L. Lewis, president of the mine workers; to Searles and to Wright. In his letter he named the officers and national executive committee of the party and continued:

False and Inexcusable

In the face of these facts, the statement that the Farmer-Labor Party was one of the organizations out of which was made up the United Communist Party or its central executive committee is not only false, but absolutely inexcusable, and could only have been made with the deliberate intention of misrepresenting the Farmer-Labor Party.

The very least that your organization can do under the circumstances is to issue an immediate correction of this matter, and give such correction as wide publicity as was given the original statement.

The Farmer-Labor Party has never been at variance with the organized labor movement as represented by the American Federation of Labor, either in 1921 or at any other time. It has never been a party to any of the internal controversies of the labor or farm organizations. It tries to mind its own business and seeks to promote the political unification of the workers on farm and in factory.

The International Labor News Service was forced last week to retract by the Private Soldiers' and Sailors' Legion, which was also falsely included in the list of alleged communist societies.

Railroad Must Restore Pay

The Arizona Eastern Railroad Company is ordered by the U. S. rail labor board to restore wages to the 1921 basis with back pay dating from January 1, 1922, to the telegraphers, engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen. Time and a half for overtime is also ordered restored and back pay on that basis given to the train service brotherhoods, effective July 1, 1921. The road had cut wages of its own accord after the unions in conference with the road had refused to take a reduction. Overtime had been cut without any conference with the employees.

Receiver for Fake Co-op

Philadelphia.—The Consumers Association of America, which styled itself a co-operative without having co-operative features, is in a receiver's hands. According to the Co-operative League, half a million dollars were collected or subscribed for the stock of the concern, within a period of less than two years. By employing typical high finance promotion methods, money was extracted from 5,500 co-operators. In return for their cash, members received stock which did not entitle them to any co-operative benefits. By means of a voting trust agreement, members were deprived of the right to vote.

Strike for Sanitation

New York.—Sanitary material to work with is one of the demands of 600 striking upholsterers in this city. Other demands include the union shop, the 44-hour week and a living wage.

EDITORIAL PAGE

BIG PROFITS FOR INDUSTRY

If anyone tells you that American corporations are poor, that they are suffering from previous depressions, or from taxes, wage advances, or low prices, refer him to the following facts. They concern 141 representative American corporations, and were compiled by the organ of big business—the Wall Street Journal. These corporations include almost every line of production. The figures are for the eight years, 1915 to 1922, inclusive. They thus cover the war, the boom of 1919-20, the depression of 1920-21, and the recovery year of 1922.

The figures do not tell how much profit was made altogether and given out to property-owners. They do tell, however, how much profit was left after dividends and everything else had been paid out. This extra profit was added to the corporations' surplus, and furnished new capital and reserves. It amounted, for the 141 corporations, in the eight years, to the tremendous sum of \$3,069,431,945. This figure is net, all losses being deducted.

The following table shows how this surplus accumulated year by year.

Additions to Corporate Surplus, 141 Industrial Corporations

1915	.....	\$350,374,903
1916	.....	822,119,741
1917	.....	656,527,855
1918	.....	422,765,977
1919	.....	462,476,857
1920	.....	378,049,420
1921	.....	(loss) 379,460,826
1922	.....	284,418,827

Total, eight years..... \$3,069,431,945

This table shows numerous interesting facts. The largest surplus profit was made in 1916, when the war purchases of European countries were heavy, and prices had risen, but wages had not yet gone up much. The next largest was in 1917, the year we entered the war. In 1918 extra dividends, wage increases, and heavy taxes had cut down surplus again. In the following years increases in dividends and interest paid, as well as wage increases, left a smaller surplus from the annual profits.

Many people say that the depression of 1921 robbed industry of all its previous war profits. This table shows that such statements are untrue. Most firms kept on paying their regular dividends in 1921 and 1922, and charged any losses up to the surplus account. The figure for the surplus loss in 1921 therefore includes nearly the total net loss of these companies. This loss is almost exactly equal to the gain of 1920. It left the surplus profits of war years virtually untouched.

Another fact of an importance hard to exaggerate is that the surplus profits accumulated by these corporations in the last eight years are 15 per cent greater than the new capital they have obtained by borrowing and by sale of stock. The new bonds and stocks amount to \$2,468,987,317 (excluding stock dividends), as against over three billion dollars of accumulated surplus. About two-thirds of these new bonds and stocks were issued by 10 corporations, so that the proportion of surplus is even greater for the majority of the firms. This means that corporations are to a large extent procuring the capital necessary for enlarged production out of their own surplus profits, instead of turning to outside investors. The statement acquires meaning when we remember that economists usually justify the return on invested capital on the ground that without that return there would be no incentive to saving, and that without saving we could not accumulate capital and enlarge production. But if corporations, after paying high rates of interest and dividends, can still save out of profits much more than half of what they need for expansion, the necessity for saving on the part of individuals is less apparent.

The size of what is called "working capital" indicates the financial strength of these companies at the present time. Working capital means the amount that is immediately available for use in the business, as against "fixed capital" which is tied up in the plants and machinery. The working capital of the 141

THE NEW MAJORITY

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DOBOTHY WALTON, Associate Editor
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Dedicated to the hand and brain workers of the United States who have been scattered hopelessly as minorities in miscellaneous groups, but who, when they start to function unaided in politics, will form a new majority that will sweep all opposition before it and take over the government to be administered thenceforth by the workers.

companies was \$4,441,778,566, on December 31, 1922 as against \$1,935,778,984 in 1914. Of course, some allowance must be made for the decreased purchasing power of the dollar, but even so the increase is remarkable.

Still more indicative of sound condition is that this increase is largely made up of cash or its equivalent, rather than of increases in materials and goods on hand. In 1922 cash was 64 per cent of inventory value, whereas in 1920, the year when the depression began, cash was only 39 per cent of inventory value.

All this takes us only up to the beginning of 1923. When this highly profitable year is finished, there will be still more to tell.

Why should anyone be afraid increasing wages are too much for industry to bear? Why should business talk of the "crushing load of taxation"? Why should anyone be puzzled at the unrest of the farmer?

—Labor Bureau, Inc.

DIVIDING THEIR DUPES

Have you noticed the strenuous campaign that the newspapers and other spokesmen for big business are putting on to prevent political co-operation between farmers and labor?

It is an encouraging sign. Whenever something seems about to happen that big business doesn't want to happen, a crusade is started in the newspapers and elsewhere—a propaganda campaign to prevent it. For instance, whenever sentiment in favor of recognition of Russia becomes active, the floodgates of lies and slanders against Russia are raised and pressure of general denunciation is applied to prevent recognition.

Just so now with reference to farmer-labor co-operation. The fact that news stories, editorials and cartoons are filling the newspapers in an effort to make city workers and farmers distrust each other, means that the bosses who exploit both labor and the farmers fear that these two groups of workers are about to get together, and so they have started harder than ever to sow seeds of discord to keep their city dupes and the rural victims divided with prejudices and hatreds.

What are they saying? Railroad presidents and others are getting themselves liberally quoted as saying that lower freight rates, demanded by the farmers, and higher wages, demanded by the railroad workers, cannot both be granted. They are saying that if wages go up freight rates must go up, and if freight rates come down, wages must be brought down. They rely on this to make the farmers hate the rail workers on the ground that the latter are responsible for high freight rates. They also rely on this to make rail workers hate farmers on the ground that the agricultural demand for lower rates prevents rising wages.

But they say nothing, these sleek, fat, well-dressed gentlemen who gyp both the farmers and labor and pocket the sway they swipe, they say nothing about disgorging any of their stolen riches that properly belong to the workers of farm and city. They remain discreetly silent on the possibilities for both lower rates and higher wages if they, who are

doing this talking would give up a few of the millions they rake down annually from railroad operation by various devices, some technically lawful and some baldly criminal.

Let us hope that both labor and the farmers have learned from joint adversity by this time that they have a common enemy, and that the only way to overcome him is to unite and not to let his false propaganda keep them divided.

The Health School

Conducted by **DR. R. L. CLARK**
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DID HARDING NEED TO DIET?—I

A GAIN, as it has always been for the last two thousand years, the medical profession has been weighed and found wanting. The Nation was plunged into mourning, the helmsman of the ship of state stricken at his post at a most inopportune time. President Harding, a victim, and but one of the many victims, of medicine ignorance, superstition, and incompetence.

Had the wonderful galaxy of medical talent, whose "skill" (?) was supposed to have been of the highest order, only possessed the knowledge of the care of our human bodies that is instinctive with dumb animals, President Harding would have been alive today, and could have looked forward to many years of useful life.

By their own printed announcements and bulletins they are convicted of the grossest ignorance, and shown to possess not the faintest conception as to cause and cure of disease.

Here is one of the boiled-down nuggets of asinity, which is nothing but a smoke-screen to cover up the densest ignorance on the part of those who issue such patent absurdities, but which is considered of such consequence that Mr. Arthur Brisbane, Mr. Hearst's man-of-all-knowledge, printed it in that widely distributed editorial column, "Today."

The president is said to suffer from intestinal poisoning after eating crabs, supposed to have absorbed "copper salt" from the water and mud in which they lived.

As well say that he was suffering from putrefactive poisoning from eating a little cheese from the face of the Man in the Moon, which has spoiled on the trip from its source of origin.

Of the five physicians signing the issued health bulletin, Dr. Sawyer is simply the kindly, old, small-town doctor, whose medical education came from books which were obsolete when he studied them. Dr. Work was a hard-working Colorado country doctor until he got into politics, and is not noted for anything except his ability to secure political preferment.

As the president's medical bodyguard, especially appointed to see that he is kept fit in every way, how did Dr. Sawyer fulfill his mission? He was utterly incapable of keeping the president in good condition, or teaching him how to properly take care of his human machine.

With the hand of death upon the president, Dr. Sawyer is quoted as saying:

We have got to feel our way along.
And the way "we felt our way along" with five "scientific" (?) doctors" was as follows:

The President's diet, at present, consists of two eggs a day, fruit juices to relieve thirst whenever desired, a glass of milk every two hours, and for breakfast toast and sometimes an egg.

I am reminded of Elbert Hubbard's description of the explosion of a lb. of the tin bucket into which a gentleman of conventional living habits had poured his drinks and meals for the day.

The primary purpose of the Health School is to teach health and right living, the prevention of disease and the prolongation of life. The economic aspect will also be presented.

Questions will be answered in the order received. The refund of this publication may, if they desire, receive free lessons at the Health School Clinic at 3 p. m., every Sunday, 117, Kinball Hall Bldg., Jackson Blvd. and Washington Ave., Chicago.

A fee is charged for private consultation. Address all inquiries to Dr. P. L. Clark, 22 S. State St., Chicago.

Movie Reviews

MERRY GO ROUND

FIVE years after the war, the day has arrived in Chicago when a movie which portrays Austrian troops in rout during the late great European war, can precede the scene with a sympathetic caption and get away with it—no hissing, no applauding the humbling of a people. That's what happens at the Roosevelt Theater this week in "The Merry Go Round," a swift, snappy, well photographed show. This movie also has this lesson for our "100 per cent Americans" and wartime German-haters: The peculiar style of haircut of our young Main Street sheiks was copied from the young men of the German military caste.

PUBLIC COAL MINES AWAIT LABOR VOTES

Smillie Says Complete Government Control, Only, Will Bring

Nationalization

By Laurence Todd

Federated Press

Plymouth, England.—Nationalization of the coal mines is today supported by every section of British labor, but the hostility of British capitalists to the miners' plan is so deep that action will probably await the time when the Labor Party has an overwhelming majority in parliament.

So Bob Smillie told me, in an informal interview for the Federated Press. And Smillie, who attained world fame when he cross-examined the coal-land-owning dukes in the Sankey commission inquiry in 1919, ought to know. No man in Britain will question his judgment or his information on this central theme of the miners' struggle.

The miners want nationalization in order that the industry may be run for service rather than for profit, and in order that their own lives may be made more bearable through an adequate and uniform wage scale, regularity of employment and improved working conditions. Their demands led Lloyd George to create the Sankey commission, with the understanding that its report would be taken as the program of the government. A majority of that commission reported, after an exhaustive investigation, that private exploitation of coal mines in Britain should be abolished in favor of nationalization or some other plan.

Miners Can't Win Alone

Lloyd George failed to make good. The miners then drew up their own proposal, calling for the confiscation of all mineral deposits, since these were not created by human labor, and for the condemnation and purchase by the nation of all mines, since mines are the produce of human labor. These demands were made the object of a strike, but the government successfully resisted the miners. It instinctively defended the private owners of coal lands in their claim for a toll on industry.

Today the British miners are in process of recovery from the wage cutting lockout of 1921. Smillie says they will soon be back to a 90 per cent basis in many districts. But they know that their plan for nationalization must come up next time with the whole force of the British working class behind it. He said:

We must face the fact that no capitalist government will grant our demand. Nor would we be safe in bringing it forward in a Labor Party government which held power by only a moderate majority in the House of Commons. Reaction is organized nationally through the Federation of British Industries and otherwise, and I feel sure that it is internationally organized as well. We have seen reaction in armed revolt in Italy and elsewhere on the European continent, and we know that British reaction might also take desperate steps. If it had the support of the army, and had the guns, great losses might be inflicted on the unarmed workers. We might be crushed out in spite of our numerical majority.

Smillie Deplores Factionalism

I do not look for a sudden industrial revolution. I look for peaceful growth and steady building up of the power of the workers of Britain. My greatest hope is that they avoid factionalism and misunderstandings between right wing and left. Unless we all stand together for the working class emancipation we shall be beaten here as the Italians have been beaten.

Smillie inquired as to two men in the American labor movement. They were John H. Walker and Duncan McDonald of the Illinois miners. He had watched the attempt to establish a Farmer-Labor Party in America in which these men had a part.

In his own recent triumphant campaign for election to parliament, the veteran leader of the British miners had the distinction of being opposed by a candidate supported by all the capitalist parties, under instructions from the respective headquarters in London. A feature of his campaign was a demonstration planned in the city of Durham and car-

Labor Protests Naming of Sullivan for Re-election

E. N. Nockels, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, has sent the following letter to Mayor William E. Dever of Chicago and asked him to present the matter to the Democrat Party:

Dear Sir:—Inasmuch as there will be no primaries for the judicial election, and the Democrat Party will have to carry the responsibility of the placing of judges on the ballot for election, we desire to call to your attention what we believe to be a fact: that the Democrat party proposes to put on this ticket one Dennis E. Sullivan, a notorious injunction judge who issues illegal injunctions against the workers in industrial disputes, forbidding them from being free men and women, free speech, free press and free assembly, as against their constitutional rights, and in this he is the king pin and lends encouragement to other judges to do likewise.

Therefore we wish to enter our protest through you to the Democrat party that if this plan is carried out by the Democrat party, it will be considered an insult and a slap in the face to the men and women who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow.

Brewery Workers Hold Convention

Philadelphia.—Industrial unions are alone suited to resist the assaults of organized capital, according to a resolution adopted by the international convention of the United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers of America, in session here. The delegates elected to the A. F. of L. are John Sullivan, Albert Kugler and Jos. Abergfell. The convention urged all unionists to inquire into the wet or dry attitude of political candidates. Resolutions indorsing light wines and beer were received from the convention of the Metal Polishers in session in Cincinnati. Unionists are asked to buy union label soft drinks and nearbeer and no other. The Ward Baking Company's anti-union campaign was denounced. Brookwood Workers' College, Katonah, N. Y., received strong indorsement.

Close Schools for Child Labor

Boston.—In Thompsonville, Conn., the opening day of the public schools has been postponed two weeks because of the tobacco crop. The children of the district are needed to gather in the tobacco, valued at several millions of dollars. The obliging school officials delayed the opening of school that the juvenile members of the community should not be lost to industry. Work in the tobacco fields has always been counted heavy work by even adults, and posted as such on employment bureau boards.

Uncle Sam Double Crosses Workers

Washington, D. C.—Suit to prevent the Panama Canal administration from deducting from the wage of canal workers the amounts due for rent, electric current and water, and costs of repairing the government owned houses has been brought to the U. S. supreme court. The brief setting forth the contention of the workers declares that congress provided free quarters for canal workers, and that the canal authorities were without power to change the regulations. The workers lost in the lower courts.

Wants Immigrant Strikebreakers

Washington, D. C.—Withdrawal of immigration restrictions to permit the importation of strikebreakers is suggested by Julius H. Barnes, president, U. S. Chamber of Commerce, in a speech delivered before the Des Moines chamber of commerce, and widely distributed as the chamber's views on industrial problems.

Washington, D. C.—The interstate commerce commission states that in June this year there were 1,933,929 employes on the class 1 railroads of this country. This exceeds the number reported for any month since November, 1920.

ried out by 10,000 women members of the Labor Party.

All through the fight Smillie cheerfully acknowledged the charges hurled at him by the enemy press, that he has all his life been in revolt against capitalist society. His majority was the largest ever polled by labor in the constituency.

MEN TEACHERS' UNION PUTS PEP IN SCHOOL

Instructors Aim to Make Chicago

Education Chiefs Step

on the Gas

By W. T. McCoy

The Chicago Federation of Men Teachers brings together a progressive and militant group of high school men who put action behind conclusions reached after reflection and discussion. By its affiliations it brings to bear upon school matters the intelligent interest and powerful aid of large groups of citizens.

Insistence by the federation on "Democracy in Education; Education for Democracy" led into the fight against the Loeb rule; in this fight the federation bore its full share of danger, cost, and effort. Furthermore it carried the federation into a struggle for attainment of the following aims:

The Federation's Aims

1. To remove the restriction on the educational fund imposed by the Juul law.
2. To inform Chicago people, through newspapers and speeches, of the needs of the public schools.
3. To secure through legislation an adequate revenue for the support of the schools.
4. To raise the level of salaries to a point where well-qualified teachers will be retained in and attracted to the high schools.
5. To uphold the standards of scholarship.
6. To stop the insistent push towards lengthening the school day, already too long to secure the best results.
7. To secure for teachers, through their councils, a voice in the control of the educational system.

The federation has worked for these things not for any selfish advantage to its own members, but for the improvement of the whole educational situation in the Chicago high schools. It has a well defined program for further progress, which, with an increased membership, it will be able to carry forward to fulfillment.

British Firms Urge Russ Trade

London, England.—A trade mission sent to Russia by Becos Traders, Ltd., a combine representing eighty engineering firms, is greatly impressed by the possibility of trade with that country. Mr. Marshall, the managing director of Becos, Ltd., states that Russia has already achieved a favorable trade balance, that is, her exports exceed her imports, and a new gold currency is steadily replacing the rouble. Since Russia produces raw materials and Great Britain produces manufactured goods, the trade policies of the two countries can very well run together. This is Mr. Marshall's considered conclusion, recommended to Lord Curzon and others who are disposed to allow political prejudices to outweigh economic interests.

Plan National Linotype School

Indianapolis, Ind.—Plans for the establishment of a national linotype school are under consideration by officials of the International Typographical Union, it has been announced at headquarters of the union here. The program includes merging of several trade schools now receiving financial support from the international organization. A current shortage of type-setting machine operators has inspired union officials to encourage an extensive training program, according to Charles P. Howard, acting president.

Sauce for the Goose

St. Paul.—Union railway shopmen here have succeeded in turning the injunction weapon against the Great Northern railway and its strikebreaking company union. A temporary order issued by Judge John B. Sanborn, Ramsey county district court, restrains the road and its "union," the Great Northern Association of Shopcrafts Employes, from any attempts to "interfere, threaten, coerce, or compel" members of the Federated Shopcrafts union to join the company organization.

BULLETIN BOARD

MIDDLE WEST

Cleveland, O.—The joint wage conference committee, whereby the Railway Trainmen and Conductors will strive for more pay, has been in session in Cleveland. None of the union executives would comment until returns were received from the referendum on wage increases being taken among the members. The ballots were returnable September 25.

Toledo, O.—Toledo Central Trades Union will have the co-operation of the American Civil Liberties union in its investigation of the Salvatore Rose kidnaping affair of August 7. Rose, a speaker for the Proletarian party, was put under arrest by Toledo police and spirited out of town, where he escaped death by lynching because several members of the mob, which included police, lost their nerve. The Toledo city council has refused to investigate.

Bellefonte, Ill.—Business Agent Christopher, Bellefonte Trades and Labor Assembly, is making a tour of central labor bodies in this vicinity in an effort to reduce streetcar fares. Within the last two years, wages of motormen and conductors have been cut 19 cents an hour, with no reduction in fares. Christopher makes use of that fact to reinforce his argument that a reduction in fares is in order.

St. Louis, Mo.—The policy of the city health department of meeting incoming Negroes and vaccinating them by force against their will has nettled St. Louis one full-grown suit. Charging that when he went to Union station to meet incoming friends he was taken by city health officers by force into a box car and vaccinated, causing him to be ill since and resulting in losing four weeks' work. Stephen Green, a Negro, asks \$10,000 damages against the city.

Cincinnati, O.—October 1 streetcar fares will be raised to 8 cents, according to an announcement of the Cincinnati Traction Company. Employees are to receive a slight raise in wages on that day.

Champaign, Ill.—With the signing of the Mannagan-Pearson Printing Company, the 44-hour fight of the Typographical union came to an end, so far as Champaign is concerned. The ranks of the foes of the union gradually dwindled, and now, after a fight of more than two years, every printing establishment in the city is

signed up with the union on the basis of the 44-hour week. At the beginning of the 44-hour effort of the union printers, local employers with few exceptions announced a united front against the union's demands.

St. Louis.—Federal Judge Dyer lectured about 100 applicants for citizenship, and gave them some of his ideas of the duties of American citizenship. Persons who are not admissible to citizenship, his honor said, "are those who believe in mob rule and interfere with the right of other men to earn a livelihood. All men have the right to work when they see fit." Dyer continues to refuse citizenship to applicants where it is learned they claimed exemption during the war.

Detroit.—Delegates to the Michigan State Federation of Labor, at the opening of the organization's annual convention here September 18, are pitching into problems of political action, amnesty, organization in the economic field and labor legislation.

WAY DOWN EAST

New York.—Longshoremen on the Atlantic coast from Portland Me. to Virginian ports, want a 44-hour week and 10 cents an hour wage increase to 80 cents when their contract expires October 1. Time and a half is asked for overtime. Employers' associations are deliberating on the demands of the 30,000 men.

Trenton, N. J.—Streetcars in 145 New Jersey cities will be clanging

through the streets again if the order of Chancellor Walker to the Public Service Railway Company, and the Public Service Railroad Company, to resume service can be carried out. The transportation systems have been tied up most of the summer by disputes with the employes and motorbus com-

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panies have reaped a harvest. A complete reorganization of urban transit may result from the struggle. At the Atlantic City convention of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor, President Arthur Quinn approved a plan to have the state government take over the trolley system with a maximum of motorbus co-operation.

Lawrence, Mass.—Weavers in Lawrence are working short shifts, four days a week, and the mills are said to be trimming down still more. That is in line with the policy of the textile industry all over New England. The cotton mills at New Bedford, Fall River and other Massachusetts centers have been working half time for over a month. The woolen industry began curtailing output three weeks ago. William Wood, president, American Woolen Company, gave out a statement in New York recently that anyone in the United States expressing a pessimistic opinion of the nation's present and future prosperity should have his liver examined.

Morgantown, W. Va.—Chauffeurs employed by the Star Bus Company, operating motorbuses between Morgantown, Scots Run, and Madsenville, are on strike for an eight-hour day, \$5 per day, time and one-half for

overtime, and rotation of shifts to allow alternate Sundays off. The strikers have joined the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers. The company refuses to recognize the union and is using strikbreakers. The chauffeurs count on the support of the organized miners who make up the bulk of the traffic.

Rochester, N. Y.—Organized musicians in this city have raised wages \$5 a week.

Manchester, N. H.—A company "union," bearing the usual alluring title, "employees' representation plan," has been worked out by the Amoskeag textile management and twelve hand picked workers. The plan is the usual scheme of permitting workers to discuss grievances up to a certain point and then have the company settle the question.

SUNNY SOUTH.

New Orleans.—The carpenters are on strike for \$1 an hour. Their organization is weakened by the large number of Negroes engaged by the contractors. No great effort has been made to organize the blacks, and as they are now engaged in profitable work at 90 cents an hour, organization work is difficult. Over two-thirds of the union carpenters are at work at \$1 an hour as individuals on various contracts, but without union recognition.

Birmingham, Ala.—Five hundred convicts working in the coal mines near here mutinied, destroyed all machinery, pumps and hoists by dynamite, and held Asa Gigson, mine superintendent, prisoner for twenty-four hours till he was released by state troops. Overwork, unsatisfactory food, and lack of medical attendance are given as the cause. The convicts are in solitary confinement on bread and water.

New Orleans.—The port of New Orleans is tied up by a strike of 2,000 longshoremen and 1,200 screwmen. Ships are being diverted to other ports. The longshoremen, getting 65 cents, demand 80 cents an hour, a 44-hour week, and additional men on gangs. The screwmen ask 21 cents instead of 18 cents a bale on cotton, a 44-hour week, and better working conditions. Longshoremen along the Gulf coast are scheduled to go out October 1 for a better wage scale and shorter hours. Shipping interests declare they will force the "open" shop on the waterfront. The men refuse arbitration.

OUT WEST

Lincoln, Neb.—Indorsement of the Conference for Progressive Political Action featured the annual convention of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor held in Lincoln in September. Other resolutions include: eight-hour day for engineers, firemen, etc., in state institutions, uniform union label, change in mechanics' lien laws, indorsing government's rehabilitation work, but condemning placing students in Nebraska university as now managed. Nate W. Stewart, Omaha, was chosen president, and C. P. Birk, Grand Island, secretary-treasurer.

PACIFIC SLOPE

Seattle.—Issues at stake between the Seattle Central Labor Council and the executive council, A. F. of L., will receive a thorough airing at the joint meeting between the two bodies, to take place in Seattle two days before the A. F. of L. annual convention in Portland October 1.

Sacramento, Cal.—Governor Richardson's economy budget has made California's free textbook law a dead letter. There are no funds to print textbooks in hygiene, geography or civics, and the books in use fifteen years ago are still being employed as far as they will go around. Frequently two children have to use the same geography, with all its pre-war maps and boundary lines. In civics the children are learning that women do not vote, that senators are elected by the state legislature, etc. Sacramento has tried to remedy the situation by using its public library fund to buy up-to-date text-books for the school children.

CANADA

Calgary, Canada.—Alberta coal miners are expected to thresh out the unofficial strike of 1,000 members in the Drumheller region of District 18, U. M. W. A., at the district convention to be held at Calgary October 15. International President John L. Lewis and District President William Sherman will take part in the convention. The Drumheller strike, said by district officials to be in violation of contract and therefore "outlaw," hinges upon discrimination by the company against union men who have been active in union work. It is charged that the company shut down the Hy Grade mine, and later reopened it in order to get rid of Jim Conroy and other card men who have kept the company busy living up to union conditions.

The interpretation of the clauses of the agreement in dispute will probably be finally made by the district convention which will meet in the Great War Veterans' Memorial hall here.

MEXICO

Mexico City.—During the past year courts of the federal district have received 1,500 petitions from land owners for injunctions to stay the action of the national agrarian commission in the expropriation of lands under the agrarian laws. The majority of these petitions have been refused, being entered by the landlords to delay execution of the law. Peasants who have received land, numbering according to official figures 92,525, are forming co-operative societies with the assistance of the ministry of agriculture. Already 8,017 persons are enrolled in these societies which are engaged in various forms of co-operative effort from the communal purchase of tractors and tools to the selling of crops. The movement is growing in all parts of the republic.

Aguascalientes, Mexico.—Two thousand employees of the American Mine & Smelting Company of this city have returned to work after a strike to enforce the reinstatement of discharged members of the union, and to secure union recognition. The company yielded. The men agreed to return to work while a request for a raise is forwarded to the head office of the company.

FOREIGN.

London, England.—The factory in-

spector's report for Great Britain contains the record of the abolition of "half-timers," the boys or girls under fourteen who, before the recent abolition by act of parliament, were employed half day in the cotton mills and half day at school. Next year's report will be the first to contain no word of those little industrial victims, the first for 100 years.

Bombay, India.—A thousand Indian nationalists have been released at Nagpur, following the conclusion of the Indian flag carrying agitation. Their release was urged by the local legislature against official opinion.

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NEW DRIVE IS BEGUN TO KILL CHILD LABOR

Big Organizations Start After an
Amendment to the U. S.
Constitution

Seventeen national organizations, headed by the American Federation of Labor, have issued a demand for an amendment to the United States constitution to abolish child labor throughout the nation. The organizations signing the demand are the following:

American Federation of Labor, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Girls' Friendly Society in America, National Child Labor Committee, National Congress of Mothers' and Parent-Teacher Associations, National Consumers' League, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of Women, Inc., National Education Association, National Federation of Teachers, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, National League of Women Voters, National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, National Women's Trade Union League, Service Star Legion and Young Women's Christian Association.

A circular embodying the demand states the following:

Here Are the Arguments

An amendment to the constitution is needed to give the United States power to safeguard the child life of the nation.

Twice the country has demanded, through laws passed by congress, that child labor cease. Twice the supreme court has declared congress powerless to act under present constitutional limitations. Therefore only one course is open—amend the constitution so as to remove those limitations.

In the last congress the judiciary committees of both house favorably reported a child labor amendment, which failed to pass. An amendment must be passed by the next congress and submitted to the states for ratification.

To insure the protection of our children, the child labor amendment must be a grant of power to congress to establish a national minimum of protection for all children, and also preserve to every state its right to pass laws giving its children even greater protection than the nation may give.

The amendment should authorize congress to (1) Prohibit the labor of children below an age to be fixed by later congressional action; and (2) Limit and regulate the employment of boys and girls who are not prohibited entirely from working.

To safeguard children in industry from such evils as night work, dangerous and unhealthful occupations, and overwork is as important as to keep younger children out of industry. Therefore the amendment must clearly give congress power to legislate for boys and girls until they are at least 18. The amendment itself should contain no legislation; it should be an authorization, giving congress the power the people thought congress had when it passed the first and second federal child labor laws to legislate in the interests of American children.

Why Federal Action Is Sought

A federal minimum will give to American children all the advantages of our federal form of government. Every state may wish to give its children greater protection than a national minimum would provide. Is any state willing to give them less?

Why does the country need congressional action? Because in the United States one child out of every twelve—and in some states one child out of every four—is a child laborer. Over 1,000,000 children from ten to sixteen years of age are working in the United States in factories, mills, canneries, agriculture, mines and in other industries and occupations. Nearly 400,000 of them are between ten and fourteen years of age.

Because American children are now denied equal protection of the law. Only thirteen states measure up in all respects to the conservative standards of the first and second federal child labor laws. Nine states have no laws prohibiting all children under fourteen from working in both factories and stores.

CASH IN ON JAPS

By Sydney Warren
Federated Press

Vancouver, B. C.—British Columbia lumber bosses are preparing to "cash in" on the Japanese disaster. Upon receipt of the news here, the price of "Jap squares" promptly jumped \$2 a thousand. An order for 500,000,000 feet of logs and Jap squares has been placed on the Pacific coast market, three-fourths of which will be supplied by British Columbia. Boss loggers of this province are not going to be led away by any sympathy that doesn't make for healthy profits, so at present are withholding capacity operations until lumber prices go up near the war-time standard.

There was a platitudeous palaver about not profiteering at the expense of the Japanese misfortune and of the "great opportunity to cement the friendship of the Japanese and Canadian northwest," but this was merely for public consumption. One lumberman predicted that cedar "would go out of sight" and fir would rise from about \$18 per thousand feet to perhaps \$30. The Lumbermen's Association of Vancouver has announced that it will prepare emergency shipments for Japan at less than "average cost." This average cost will be determined by the future rise in the lumber market.

Twenty-three states, with a fourteen-year minimum age limit, have weakened their laws by permitting exemptions under which children not yet fourteen may work. Thirty-seven states allow children to go to work without a common-school education. Eighteen states do not make physical fitness for work a condition of employment. Fourteen states allow children under sixteen to work from nine to eleven hours a day; two do not regulate in any way daily hours of labor for children. Five states do not protect children under sixteen from nightwork.

Because state authority alone is inadequate. States desiring to protect their children from child labor can not do so against the competition of other states with low child labor standards.

How Former U. S. Laws Helped

The object of the first and second federal child labor laws was to prohibit the work of children under fourteen in factories and canneries, and of children under sixteen in mines and quarries, and to prohibit the work of children fourteen to sixteen years of age for more than eight hours a day, or six days a week, in factories and canneries.

Investigations made after the first and second federal child labor laws were declared unconstitutional showed that hundreds of children in many different states had been dependent on the federal laws for their only protection against premature or excessive employment.

After the first law ceased to operate, nearly three times as many violations of the federal child labor standards were found in ten states as had been found in twenty-five states when the law was in force. After the second law was declared unconstitutional, an investigation of thirty-nine factories in one state brought to light 569 violations of the federal standards, and 149 violations of the state child labor law.

Where does the United States rank among civilized nations in regard to child labor? Today nearly every civilized western nation has made legislative provision to give its children a minimum protection against exploitation. Twelve countries have at least the fourteen-year age minimum; Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Roumania and Switzerland.

The United States has no national standard. The states which permit the employment of children under fourteen put us in a class with India, China and Japan.

The circular omits Russia from the list of nations prohibiting employment of children under fourteen, although Russia not only sets that age minimum, but imposes restrictions that make it virtually impossible for children under eighteen to be employed.

BRITISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS ENDS MEET

Unemployment and Foreign Policies

Big Topics at Annual
Convention

By Evelyn Sharp
Federated Press

London, England.—The 55th annual Trades Union Congress, with 702 delegates representing 4,369,000 workers, met September 3 at Plymouth. While the Ruhr occupation, the Greek-Italian crisis, and the Japan disaster provided plenty of material for the enunciation of labor opinions with regard to foreign policy, the two home subjects that roused most interest were unemployment and the future of labor's newspaper, the London Daily Herald.

The menace of unemployment has never been greater. Two million people may be workless during the coming winter. The recent outlaw dock strike has shown that the worker will no longer consent to starve quietly, and that he will reject any leaders, however old and tried, who ask him to remain at work under conditions on which he cannot live and support his wife and family.

The numbers of registered workless persons, exclusive of unregistered and the short-time workers, who run into thousands, have reached 1,228,200, showing an increase of 36,385 in the last three weeks.

Save London Daily Herald

The congress, while pointing out the sources of the present industrial depression that can be traced to France's aggression in the Ruhr and Rhineland, to the destruction of Turkish and Russian markets through our post-war diplomacy, and while pushing forward its own ameliorative measures, will not lose sight of the fact that unemployment, in a greater or less degree, is bound to accompany capitalism.

The future of the Daily Herald, England's only labor daily, has been assured for another period. To turn down a newspaper with a steadily rising circulation would seem to be unbusinesslike; though the loss to the movement is not measured in money but in the influence exercised by the Herald. Unemployment has greatly reduced the resources of the British labor movement, and to continue to face a weekly loss in money while the workers are learning the value of taking their own newspaper, which is what it amounted to, was not an easy proposition.


Plymouth, England.—Foremen and members of the supervisory and technical staffs in British industry are henceforth to be welcomed into the union of their respective industries. This decision, voted by the Trade Union congress here, at the recommendation of its general council, marks the beginning of a campaign to enlist in the labor movement the "key" men in industrial management together with all their assistants. Fear that foremen will act as spies for the boss in the union lodge room has given way to the recognition that foremen must be won over to take part in the democratic management of the future, and meantime must be converted to the trade union program and ideals.

There are now eleven thousand golf clubs in this nation. In another year, cows, sheep and horses may have to learn how to play golf in order to get some place to graze.



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