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LABOR UNIONS ARE BULWARK AGAINST "REDS"

Samuel Gompers Warns Employers of Atlantic City of Underlying Dangers from Sovietism.

Denouncing what he termed the "open shop drive," now being waged by many of the big employers of labor throughout the country, Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, also warmly defended the Labor movement in America during an address before members of the Kiwanis Club. Insisting that Labor is fully justified in organizing for the purpose of protecting the workers against "an industrial autocracy," Mr. Gompers, in warning tones, declared:

"Anyone who thinks that the great mass of workers of this country will be denied the opportunity afforded them through organized Labor, and the facilities thereby given, to better their condition, reckons without his host. Labor will not submit tamely to dictation. It is unfair to try to crush the workers between the upper millstone of greed and the nether millstone of Sovietism. The employers of the country will either deal with us or they will be forced to deal with others whose ideals and standards are not on so high a plane."

His words were construed to mean that Sovietism, in his opinion, would follow in the wake of a successful effort by employers to break up and destroy Labor unity, and his prediction was heard in deep silence by the Kiwanians, the great majority of whom are themselves employers.

Lauding Labor unionism as he opened his address, Mr. Gompers said:

"There is no honest aspiration, of any human being, this much-misunderstood Labor movement will not aid. There is no wrong against which our Labor organization will not emphatically protest. To bring relief into the lives of the toiling masses is its sole aim."

"To take the child from the factory and shop and place him in the school, the home, the playground, is the aim of the Labor movement, so that the perpetuity of the Republic may be assured. In peace and war the Labor movement has stood true to the Republic and to our allies. My hat is off to President Harding for launching the Disarmament Conference, but organized Labor took that stand years ago, and remain solidly in favor of such a course among the nations of the world. No organization is more patriotic, more willing to serve the American Republic."

Mr. Gompers referred to an editorial printed in The New York Times and denied the charges that he and the members of the American Federation of Labor were deserters.

"A newspaper, The New York Times, makes an attack upon the American Labor movement and upon me in particular, and says that we are deserters." He asked "Desert of what? Desert of whom? Whom we say that we insist upon the right of freedom and association, the right to be heard by representatives of our own choosing, the right to have a voice in deciding the terms and conditions of employment, is that desertion? If that is not an American right I do not know what, the rights of an American are."

"The defiance is on the part of those who attempt to withhold or deny these inherent and immutable rights."

"Continuing, he said: 'The Labor movement in this country has been conservative, constructive and progressive, and it comes with its grace from employers to follow, in the treatment of labor, the same methods prevailing among the rulers of Soviet Russia. One man holds the Soviet rule in greater contempt than I, and the rank and file of those in the Labor movement. We are opposed to the dictatorship of any other group. The time has passed when the workers will regard themselves as less than any other sovereign citizen of our great land. All we want is an opportunity to confer on mooted points and to decide them in a manly fashion, which is the same thing as saying an American fashion.'

Strike and Federal Governments were urged to inaugurate extensive plans for public improvements as means of preventing the present employment situation from becoming more acute, in a formal proclamation issued by the Executive Council of the Federation.

The council declared that the employment situation was becoming alarming to the extreme and voiced the prediction that unless public credit was raised at this time, the feeding of the hungry and starving would soon become a pressing problem here. At the same time the council protested against further wage reductions, urged workers not to accept them, and declared that the reducing of the purchasing power of the wage earners was a false economic policy which is rapidly demoralizing industry.

HOW TIMES CHANGE

Newark, N. J.—Organized street car men in this city are operating stores in 12 car barns in this vicinity and doing business valued at \$100,000 a year. It is stated that savings to these workers range from 12 to 18 per cent over prices in privately owned stores. The street car men also operate a sick benefit fund which pays \$10 weekly for 12 weeks and \$5 a week for 15 additional weeks. A voluntary savings fund has been established in each barn and it is now proposed to start a building and loan association.

These unionists say that "whatever is saved in wages is added to wages," that "whatever men do for themselves gives them self reliance," and that "the advantages which the men obtain through their several instrumentalities of self-help tend to place increasing value upon their jobs."

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TIMELY QUESTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

tion," said the memorandum, "which will legalize or sanction under the guise or description of 'peaceful picketing,' a practice which has come to mean seeking to compel a man by terrorism to abstain from doing that which he has a legal right to do, could not be advised."

"Peaceful picketing is legal in England, directly and solely as the result of the political influence of organized labor," commented Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, Edmonton, in moving the protest, "and until the same condition is brought about in this country Labor will have to put up with the worst of things."

Clean Up Work

In a brief evening session the convention, disposed of considerable business without much argument.

Several delegates denied the suggestion of President Mosher of the Brotherhood of Railroad Employees that the address given by his organization had been influenced by the United States headquarters of international organizations.

The Congress approved its continued affiliation with the International Federation of Trades Unions, gave its "unqualified endorsement" to the effort being made by the book and job branches of the printing trade to establish a 44-hour working week. Instructed its Executive to grant all assistance in its power to bring about that result, decided to continue to press for representation on the Canadian Railway Commission, and recognized again the desirability of the two-platoon system for fire-fighters with a day of 12 hours and a week of not more than 72 hours.

Railwaymen Meet

At a meeting of members and delegates of the C. B. of R. E., plans were considered for holding a convention of the organization next week in this city. After the meeting adjourned at noon to meet in the afternoon, it was announced that no decision had taken place over the action of the Trades and

CANNOT TAX CO-OP. PROFITS

London, Eng.—British workers have won a victory over the government's proposal to treat co-operative societies as corporations and make their surplus subject to the corporate tax. The government held that profits are profits, whether found in the treasury of co-operative societies or private companies or in the pockets of individuals.

The House of Commons accepted the workers' view point. The government claimed that the profits of the co-ops, amount to £30,000,000 a year and the proposed tax would take but £150,000. The workers replied that £150,000 was £150,000 too much.

BACK TO THE LAND IS URGED

Washington—Representatives of the A. F. of L. are urging congress to pass national reclamation legislation that will open the way to the development of arid and waste lands in every section of the country and at the same time relieve the unemployed through establishment on the land of those now unable to secure land or secure work.

At least half a dozen bills, each containing admirable provisions are before congress. The A. F. of L. representatives believe there is sufficient favorable sentiment to secure passage of a single comprehensive measure, providing sufficient interest is shown by the constituents of members of congress. The trade unionists are conferring daily with members of congress in representatives believe there is sufficient favorable sentiment to secure passage of a single comprehensive measure, providing sufficient interest is shown by the constituents of members of congress.

One of the principal immediate benefits of such a program, as seen by the labor representatives, is that it would open the way to former service men to secure homes and to gain a permanent status in American life, and that it would do the same for unemployed industrial workers.

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