

General Labor News

Items of Interest for Free Press Readers

The eight hour day and a wage advance from \$5.50 to \$7 a day has been secured by the Plumbers' Union at Dunkirk, N.Y.

A wage increase of 32 per cent has been secured by the Typographical and Printing Pressmen's Unions at Pittsfield, Mass.

Organized barbers at Cincinnati, Ohio, have raised wages \$3 a week.

Carpenters have raised wages from 80 cents an hour to \$1, and established the eight hour day at Hornell, New York.

Wages have been raised to 80 cents an hour by Carpenters' Union No. 535, Cadillac, Mich. The old rate was 60 cents.

Machinists along the Hudson river are arranging for a driving organization campaign. At a meeting in Peekskill, N.Y., a district was formed and plans were perfected.

Differences between organized electrical workers and contractors at Detroit have been adjusted, despite the attempt of anti-trade union influences to block an agreement based on union recognition. Wages for journeymen are raised to \$1.25 an hour. Helpers' rates range from 60 to 80 cents. Previously the electrical workers had negotiated wage scales with their employers, but this year an attempt was made to force an abandonment of this policy.

Officers of the U.S. National Federation of Post Office Clerks report that 320 locals have been chartered since January 1 of last year. This sensational record was made at a time of unusual antagonism to government employees joining trade unions. The National Federation of Federal Employees reports membership gains along the same lines. The clerks have been somewhat annoyed by a so-called "union" of postal clerks that has received many blessings from post office officials, but this movement has been thoroughly discredited by the bona fide post office clerks' union.

CO-OP. MOVEMENT IN SCHENECTADY, N.Y. IS GAINING GROUND

Schenectady, N.Y.—The movement to establish a co-operative store by organized labor—is gaining ground rapidly. Just now, the 25,000 employees of the General Electric Co., are most interested, and about 1,500 persons have so far pledged the purchase of one \$10.00 certificate of membership in the company. There will be no price cutting, rebates taken off of joint profits being the source of reimbursement on which share-holders will count. Sales are to be strictly for cash, and delivery will be allowed only on purchases of \$5.00 or over. A classified delivery system has been determined upon. The details will be made in proportion to the amount of purchases.

\$750,000 BACK PAY FOR LABORERS ON WAR CONTRACT WORK

Minneapolis, Minn.—Employees of the Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Company, the American Hoist and Derrick Company and the St. Paul Foundry company are to be awarded \$750,000 back pay in compliance with the recent decision of the contract adjustment board of the war department which ordered the payment of back wages to these workers at the scale set by the National War Labor Board, effective October 1, 1918, on all war contract work.

ATTEMPTS TO CHECK 44 HOUR WEEK MOVEMENT FAILS

Australian Government Preparing To Call a Conference To Go Into the Matter

By W. Francis Abern, Australian Correspondent, The Federated Press, Sydney, N.S.W.—All attempts to check the 44-hour week movement in Australia having failed, there is a movement on foot to have the matter gone thoroughly into by the government as a national question. The movement has spread rapidly through most of the Australian States, and the majority of unions have taken it up and are making preparations for the substitution of a 44-hour week for the old 48-hour week. In many unions the 44-hour week is already an established fact.

An attempt was made to prevent its coming into force in the building trade. How hopeless the task will be seen. The industrial court of New South Wales prosecuted the Bricklayers union for taking part in a strike, alleging that as they had awarded providing for a 48-hour week, the fact that they only worked 44 hours weekly constituted a strike. The union was fined \$500, and the award was annulled whereby the men working the 44-hour week were to receive 12 cents per hour less than the men working 48 hours weekly.

How futile this ruling was is shown by the fact that the union has not paid the fine, nor has any attempt been made to enforce it. Further than that, the very next day after the new award rates were announced the building employers were down at the union offices pleading for bricklayers, offering them a 44-hour week and offering to pay them an advance of 24 cents per hour above what the court ruled.

With the added realization that the bricklayers themselves are taking on contract work, and thus limiting the scope of profits usually preserved to the employers, the attempt of the bosses to prevent the 44-hour week has proved a fiasco.

It seems certain, then, that the employers will have to give way to the workers on the 44-hour week question, and in order that it may be uniform, the Australian Government is preparing to call a conference of all parties to go into the matter, making it a national question. The men demand it, and the fact that there is a shortage of skilled labor in Australia, means that they are going to get it.

A SURVEY OF PROFITEERING AND LABOR COSTS

(Continued from Page One)

wholesaler or retailer, an increased profit was exacted until in 1918 the shoe bought by the consumer was actually worth little more than two-fifths of the price which he was forced to pay for it.

The question as to who is responsible for the increased cost of shoes can be quickly answered when we realize that of the \$3.50 increase in the price of a standard pair of shoes labor received 15 cents, while the margins of the various manufacturers and merchants absorbed \$2.75.

The proportion of the proceeds of the industry received by the coal operator has increased from 75 to 400 per cent. Out of 292 bituminous coal companies 234 showed net profits, after every possible deduction of over 25 per cent.; 218 or over one half showed earnings of over 50 per cent on capital stock, while 118, or nearly one-third showed net profits of over 100 per cent.

Profiteering in the production of other fuel—petroleum products, is coming to bear as heavily upon the consumer as profiteering in coal. Profits of approximately \$800,000,000 were earned between 1912 and 1918 by the oil corporations, listed in the financial manuals, and this list is by no means complete. The war enabled these corporations to take profits more than double those enjoyed during the four preceding years. Certain companies earned on real investment as high as 1,000 per cent, which had been increased to 30 times the original investment by stock dividends.

Profiteering in Metals

The net profits of the U.S. Steel Corporation per ton of finished product were 220 per cent greater in 1917 and 111 per cent greater in 1918 than they had averaged for the three years prior to the war.

As a result of the war the number of millionaires in the U.S. has tripled. The number of incomes over \$100,000 stood at 2,348 in 1914, and at 6,664 in 1917.

Incomes between \$400,000 and \$500,000 were 69 in 1914, and 275 in 1918. Incomes over \$1,000,000 were 60 in 1914, and 140 in 1917.

In 1916 the figure of these incomes of over 1,000,000 stood at 206, nearly three and a half times as many as in 1914.

The close relationship between this enormous increase in the number of large incomes, and property, becomes even more apparent when we see that it reflects the growth of corporate income. The corporate net income of the country increased between 1914 and 1917 from approximately \$4,000,000,000 to over \$10,500,000,000. Accounting all deductions made by the corporations, and further deducting 10 per cent, on all new capital, together with excess profit taxes, it will be found that the remaining net profits of 1917 were three and a half billion dollars above those of pre war years.

This first hand evidence of profiteering is accentuated by the huge individual profits which are about to flow out to the wealthy in stock dividends following the recent supreme court decision. It should be pointed out that these facts as to the enormous increase in the wealth of the wealthy, are an unanswerable refutation to all attempts to charge labor with profiteering, to all attempts to hold labor responsible for the high cost of living.

44-HOUR WEEK IS OBJECTIVE OF TEXTILE WORKERS

Providence, R.I.—At a meeting of the Rhode Island Textile Council, held here, it was voted to instruct delegates to the United Textile Workers' Convention at Manchester, N.H., on September 13, to advocate a 44-hour week of not more than eight hours' work in any day for all textile operatives.

Governor Beekman and state authorities were condemned for action in ordering troops to Bristol during the strike of the 5,000 rubber workers at the plant of the National India Rubber Co., it being alleged that troops were sent there "in an effort to break the strike, and not to protect property or prevent violence."

Practically every local in the state was represented at the session.

BRITISH CO-OPS WOULD ESTABLISH COMMONWEALTH

Declared To Be Ultimate Objective of Labor Party and of Trade Unions

LONDON.—The establishment of a co-operative commonwealth was for the first time officially declared as the purpose of the British co-operative movement at the congress which took place in Bristol this year after an interval of five years.

Declaring that a co-operative commonwealth was also the ultimate political objective of the Labor Party and the ultimate industrial objective of the trade unions, the question of the relations between the co-operatives and the Labor Party came up for lengthy discussion. Definite action on this subject was postponed until next year, while in the meantime the proposed alliance will be discussed at district conferences.

The total membership of the movement as estimated at the conference was 4,039,755 and its capital is \$331,925,000 with a distributive trade of \$987,295,000.

Special undertakings for the co-operative movement were the establishment of co-operative banks as an instrument for controlling commercial and industrial progress and the recommendation that all co-operative societies appoint special education committees and make definite grants for educational purposes.

An exhibition of co-operatively manufactured goods was held in connection with the congress which showed that everything from "marmalade to motor cars" can be produced along co-operative lines as well and cheaper than by private employers.

LIEUT. LOCKLEAR HEADS FEATURES AT EXHIBITION

Changes Airplanes a Few Hundred Feet Above Center of Infield at Race Track

Lieut. Ormer Locklear, premier sky thriller of the whole world, will change airplanes a few hundred feet above the center of the infield of the race track at the Edmonton Exhibition grounds on July 5th to 10th. Lieut. Locklear is the only man in the world who has accomplished this feat, considered the ultimate in trick flying.

When the news of Locklear's plane-changing stunt was flashed from the Government aviation field at Fort Worth, Texas, where Locklear was in charge of all the instructors, last January, the aviation world smiled and said "fakir." But fortunately, Locklear succeeded in having a brother officer in another plane take some remarkable photographs of his stunts. He could easily prove his claims to accomplishing the most difficult of all aviation feats, but the stern government officials stood in his way. He dared not show the photographs publicly for fear of being court-martialed. But a set of the pictures found the way to a press association in New York and within a few days were being printed all over the country.

Locklear spent an uncomfortable fortnight. Only by a narrow margin did he escape the wrath of his superior officers. His stunts were foolish, insane and without a shred of value to the service. This was last winter. A month ago, after Locklear left the service, the aviation officers were asking him to come to Dayton that the star fliers of America and Europe might have an opportunity to witness his feats and learn their value from the technical end.

Locklear has with him as pilots the same two men, Lieuts. Shirley Shors and Milton Elliott, who helped him evolve the feat. No small credit is due these two men for their work in flying the plane within five feet of each other for a hundred yards in "rain, shine, or cyclone," which is Locklear's slogan. He has made the change more than 100 times and has never yet disappointed an audience. Immediately his big fair contracts are finished he will sail for London where he is scheduled to appear at the Hendon Aerodrome in a demonstration, under auspices of the Royal Flying Corps.

In addition to his plane-changing feat, Locklear will perform here in his acrobatic act during which he scampers from one part of the plane to all others.

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SEATTLE UNIONISTS LAUGH AT COLLAPSE ONE BIG UNION IDEA

Trade unionists in Seattle are laughing at the collapse of the one big union idea upon which anti-union employers attempted to erect their Island Empire Employers' association.

The scheme was the regulation mob other for a hundred yards in "rain, shine, or cyclone," which is Locklear's slogan. He has made the change more than 100 times and has never yet disappointed an audience. Immediately his big fair contracts are finished he will sail for London where he is scheduled to appear at the Hendon Aerodrome in a demonstration, under auspices of the Royal Flying Corps.

LOCKOUT OF BUILDING TRADESMEN AT DETROIT PRACTICALLY AT END

Detroit, Mich.—The lockout of building tradesmen attempted by local contractors came practically to an end when the electrical contractors settled with the union of that craft on the basis of the latter's demand and signed an agreement for one year.

The scale agreed upon provides for \$1.25 an hour for journeymen and 60, 70 and 80 cents an hour for helpers. Foremen are to receive one hour's pay in addition to their regular daily scale of wages, which is that of a journeyman.

The strike of plumbers and steamfitters is progressing satisfactorily and the conditions are improving day by day. Sixty per cent of the strikers are already at work under a new scale.

EDMONTON EXHIBITION

JULY 5-10

A Big Agricultural Exhibition

Excellent Amusement Features, Including

- JOHNNY J. JONES' MIDWAY SHOWS
- 48th HIGHLANDERS' BAND OF TORONTO
- LIEUT. ORMER LOCKLEAR—AVIATOR-GYMNAST
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Admission: Gates—Adults, 50c. Children, under 12, free. Grand Stand, 50c; reserved seats, 25c extra.

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Clothing Prices Get Another Bump at the ACME Clothiers Stock Reduction SALE

Positively the lowest prices in the city when quality is considered. Men never did have a chance to buy good clothes for so little money.

<p>These Go At \$15.00</p> <p>A splendid lot of Mixed Tweeds and Worsteds in a range of sizes. Regular up to \$35.00 values. Clearing at \$15.00</p>	<p>These Go At \$32.50</p> <p>Form-fitting models that sold formerly at \$50.00 and \$55.00. Full range of sizes clearing at the one \$32.50</p>
<p>These Go At \$22.50</p> <p>Suits that have been selling at \$35.00 and \$40.00 are included here. They are mostly fancy Tweeds and Worsteds. Clearing at \$22.50</p>	<p>These Go At \$37.50</p> <p>Such nationally known clothes as Bengard, Art Knit and College Brand Suits. Regular \$55.00. Clearing at \$37.50</p>
<p>These Go At \$27.50</p> <p>The man who wants a good Suit at the low price will be interested here. Tweeds and Worsteds; fancy and conservative models. Formerly \$35.00 and \$40.00 Suits. Clearing at \$27.50</p>	<p>These Go At \$42.50</p> <p>Canada's famous "Bengard Clothes," recognized for style, fit and wear and service. Blues, greys and fancy worsteds. Reg. \$65.00 and \$75.00 Suits that we are clearing at \$42.50</p>

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