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OPPOSITE PANTAGES

ENGLAND HAS LESS BOLSHEVISM THAN OTHER COUNTRIES

English Workers Thoroughly Organized Makes Safe and Sane Government

During the past few days I have been reading with interest the press reports of the Labor Congress in Chicago, and was much pleased when it became evident that the conservative element would dominate this gathering. Organized Labor, under the leadership of our worthy president, Bro. Samuel Gompers, has achieved such a splendid position in the opinion of the public, by reason of our having stood so solidly and uncompromisingly behind the army and navy and other war industries during the past nineteen months that it would be cause for regret were anything to occur at this time to injure the present high standing which the American Federation of Labor has recently attained.

A very prominent writer and an authority, has publicly stated within the past week that England has been less affected by Bolshevism than any other country, not excepting the United States, and this writer attributes it to the fact that the labor movement has been scientifically developed in England to a greater extent than in any other country. The workers in England are organized—thoroughly organized—throughout the country, in every craft, and the writer mentioned practically admits that it is "his condition which makes it a safe and sane government today, with the spirit of unrest reduced to a minimum."

The workers of the United States are better organized today than ever before in the history of the nation. We have just come through a trying ordeal and do we understand when we hear the word democracy? It seems that the prevalent opinion is that democracy means that "I am as good as you are" with perhaps a mental reservation of possibly a little bit better, but it has a finer meaning than that—real democracy means "that you are as good as I am." This recognizes the highest possible worth in all men—and the right of all men to achieve their best; it does not assert special privileges for any. It concedes a common privilege for all; the worth of man measured as a man; that is the true principle of democracy, and they who oppose this do so because they place a low estimate and distrust their fellow men. The true acceptance of democracy means confidence in people, it places a high estimate on man, and then tries to get man to live up to that estimate. True moral organization is the real growing force in the thought and life of the world. Men are fast learning that they are through organization capable of exerting a power which nothing can withstand. This is no theory or experiment, it is a fact and is now due to become a factor in men's lives on an unprecedented scale and in spite of the short-comings and dismal prophecies of failure is proving a great success and is shown to be the only means by which a wage-earner can deal with that power now in the hands of organized capital—organize yourself and then organize others.

W. S. Patterson in Machinery's Journal.

SOME RESULTS OF CO-OPERATION

At a recent meeting of the Wilmington Employers' Association, Mr. J. P. Bird, general manager of the National Manufacturers' Association of America, in urging the co-operation of employee and employer said that in the state of New Jersey every labor bill before being presented to the state legislature is passed upon by a joint conference of employers and employees, and that the bills thus presented have always passed unanimously.

SPAIN: DECREES BENEFITS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

A royal decree has recently been issued in Spain under which the State is to grant an annual subsidy for unemployment-benefits, equal in amount to the subscriptions collected by workmen's mutual unemployment benefit societies and similar institutions which have a separate organization for dealing with unemployment.

Societies claiming the state contribution must not pay benefits which exceed 60 per cent of the daily wage, nor must such benefits be paid for more than 90 days in each year. Further, the societies must guarantee that such benefits shall not be utilized to build up state funds. The total amount of the State subsidy is limited to \$400,000.

BRITISH UNIONS REJECT OFFER OF GOV'T SHIPYARDS

Trade Unions Insist That Shipyards Remain Under National Control

Some time ago the shipping controller of Great Britain invited the co-operative societies to take over the national shipping yards at Chertsey and Beachley. This offer was refused for the reason that the principle of the co-operative movement was production for use while the construction of ships was distinctly production for profit. Two proposals were then made to the trade unions interested, one being addressed to the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades which is mainly a consultative body representing 42 unions and the other to the trade unions of the shipbuilding and engineering industries. In each case the purchase price was left to be agreed upon, and was to be secured by a second mortgage debenture and to be paid by annual instalments. It was proposed to the unions that a company be formed to borrow the money for working expenses secured by first mortgage debentures, and that the government have joint control for the first three years in the matter of appointing the management. In the proposal to the Federation, the government agreed to place orders for work at the yards at the prevailing market terms and in sufficient numbers to keep the yards busy for at least three years. These proposals were declined by the Federation at their annual conference in May. The official report of the action of the conference in the matter was in part as follows: "The policy of this Federation is in favor of the development of national resources under public ownership, as submitted in the report of the Industrial Conference called together by the Government in connection with which the following sentence is quoted from the report: 'The sale of national ships, shipyards and factories is strongly resented by labor, especially as this has taken place at a moment when ships might have been made of the greatest use in national needs, both in relieving the necessities of the world and preventing the creation of monopolies.' These considerations were strongly supported by the delegates, and the conference decided that they could not accept the offer made, it being against the basic principles of trade unionism. The shipyards are now nationally controlled and the Trades Unions insist that they remain under such control in the national interests."

The House of Commons has passed the housing bill which is intended to improve housing conditions in England. Local authorities are empowered to act. It is stated that there are 2,000,000 people who live more than two in a room.

HOUSING BILL PASSED IN BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS

Minister of Labor Horne has announced that Prime Minister Lloyd George will make a tour among the local authorities of the country to urge the greatest possible expedition in carrying out the necessary building and improvement schemes.

MODEST REQUEST OF W. U. MEETS HOT REPLY FROM O. R. T.

The company-controlled "union" of the Western Union Telegraph company sent a delegation to Atlantic City to induce President Manion of the Order of Railway Telegraphers to rescind his order that no railroad telegrapher accept commercial business during the commercial telegraphers' strike.

President Manion forwarded this hot reply to the "union" officials: "I would suggest that you and the other employees of Western Union, who, by lack of knowledge of the principles of Labor union ethics, stand squarely in the path of men and women who seek to better their working conditions and better wages, immediately affiliate with organizations of your trade, namely, the Commercial Telegraphers' union, and thereby take your place with the red-blooded American men and women, rather than lend your services as pawns for the machinations of the labor-baiting officers of the Western Union Telegraph Company."

Due to low wages New York city is short of school teachers and between 30,000 and 50,000 boys and girls are being deprived of educational advantages, according to statements before the Public Educational Association recently held.

MOVEMENT FOR FORTY-EIGHT HOUR WEEK IN EUROPE

France, Italy and Spain Are All Gradually Falling In Line

The movement for a forty-eight hour week in various European countries, is very marked. On April 17 a law was unanimously passed in France by the Chamber of Deputies fixing a week of 48 working hours for employees of either sex and of all ages in industrial and commercial establishments. This, it is understood, applies also to Algeria and the French colonies. The day before the passing of this law an agreement was made between the Union of Metallurgical and Mining Industries and the Federation of the Metallurgical Workmen of France, the first clause of which states that the representatives of the employers declare that they accept the application of the eight-hour effective working day in the metallurgical industries and in those of mechanical, naval and electrical construction. The agreement became effective on June 1.

The Italian textile manufacturers, last March, agreed to concede a 48-hour week in response to the demands of their operatives, to come into effect on May 1. A committee of representatives of the employers and workers in equal numbers was appointed to ensure the enforcement of the 48-hour week throughout Italy, to make this reform international as soon as possible, and to persuade the workmen to moderate their other demands in view of the concession in the matter of hours. Agreements have also been made whereby in engineering establishments, shipyards and allied trades, hours are to be reduced from 60 or 55 to 48 per week without reduction of wages and with minimum rates of pay. In foundries where continuous work is carried on the hours are to be reduced from 72 to 48 per week by adopting the system of three shifts, and there are to be extra percentage bonuses on output in order to encourage workmen to contribute to the reduction of the number of hands employed on each shift. These agreements will affect about 500,000 work-people.

In Spain a royal decree was issued on March 14 establishing a maximum working day of eight hours in the building trades, and another decree increased wages in these trades. In the mining industry a commission composed of three industrial engineers, three mine owners and three workmen was appointed to consider whether such concessions were immediately possible under conditions at present ruling in the metallurgical industries.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES URGING LABOR BETTERMENT

Abolition of military service and socialization of industry are among the demands of labor in Norway and Sweden, according to an article in a recent number of the Monthly Labor Review, United States Department of Labor. The facts were secured from European publications.

In Norway a manifesto issued by the National Federation of Trades-Unions and the Executive Committee of the Norwegian Labor Party urges realization of the following ends: Socialization of industry, banking, and wholesaling; an effective solution of the land and housing questions from the point of view of community interests; lessening the burden of taxes on the working people, with a stiffer progressive direct tax; universal pensions; a just system of voting, with equal franchise rights for all men and women over 21; introduction of the eight-hour day; complete abolition of military service and the transfer of military establishments to the purposes of useful production.

The Allied Printing Trades of Louisville, Kentucky, have declared a strike in three large establishments of that city. A new scale of \$30 for pressmen, printers and bookbinders, \$25 for feeders, and \$15 for women workers being the controversy, in addition to a closed shop agreement. This is the first joint action taken in that vicinity and it is predicted that with the shortage of labor success will be the result.

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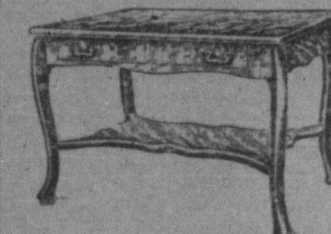
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