

## LABOR MATTERS IN THE STATES

Annual Report of Secretary Wilson to Congress Contains Much That is of Interest

Washington, Dec. 10.—Conscription of labor, Secretary Wilson told congress in his annual report today, is not likely to be necessary for the winning of the war, but he suggests that should it become necessary for the government to conscript labor, it should at the same time conscript the industries on which they are engaged.

"Almost insuperable obstacles arise," says the secretary of labor, "when labor disputes occur under circumstances in which employers permit organization by their workmen only on pain of dis-

missal. Since in such cases the workmen have no responsible business representatives, only one party to controversies can be conveniently or satisfactorily heard. In such cases, also, the workers, being prevented by their employers from organizing on a business basis, tend to fall away from the pacifying influence of conservative, constructive, and responsible labor organizations and to come under that of irresponsible revolutionists. As most labor lawlessness is traceable to this cause, responsibility for it cannot be wholly diverted from the policy—hardly patriotic in time of war—of arbitrarily obstructing labor organization of the conservative type.

"The department is of course aware of proposals, more popular earlier in the war than now, to settle labor disputes by coercing wage earners. But these proposals are both unfair and impracticable. They are also widely regarded, and not without reason, as unpatriotic. It is enough to say of them here that in the view of this department public sentiment cannot be expected to tolerate conscription of labor for private profit. Should industrial conscription become really necessary in order effectively to prosecute the war, a policy less likely to be considered one-sided would be desir-

able. It would seem—that is, if workers were to be conscripted for industrial purposes—that the working opportunities to which they were assigned ought to be commensurate, so as to make such workers not coerced servants of employers but employees of the government itself.

"There is, however, no reason for apprehending a necessity for any kind of labor conscription in order to settle or prevent disputes between employers and their employees which may interfere with a vigorous prosecution of the war. In every case in which responsible representatives of disputing employers are willing to negotiate considerably with responsible representatives of conservative labor organizations which represent their disputing employees in the spirit in which they would negotiate with business competitors, labor disputes can be settled speedily, effectively, and without friction through the mediation service of the department of labor. By simple and fair systems of collective bargaining between the government, labor organizations, and business organizations all prosecution of the war can be promptly eliminated from war problems. Not only can this be done, but it can be done to the satisfaction of all concerned and in harmony with every patriotic purpose.

"Our greatest need is the spirit of self-sacrifice for the common good—a sacrifice of our pride, sacrifice of our prejudice, sacrifice of our suspicious against

each other, sacrifice of our material comforts, sacrifice of our lives, if need be, to carry on unimpeded the democratic institutions handed down to us by our fathers."

The report makes an announcement on the much discussed pay and privileges being allowed to the interned German civilians in the camps controlled by the department of labor.

"It was agreed by the department to remunerate those of the interned aliens who should perform labor of any kind in connection with the construction or management of the internment camp at the rate of \$20 a month; those who served in the capacity of foremen, etc., to receive \$25 a month. The interned officers, however, have been allowed to receive from any source only \$10 a month and the seamen \$8 a month, receipts in excess of these amounts being placed in the Postal Savings Bank to the credit of the interned persons, or otherwise disposed of as desired. Purchases of clothing, etc., can be made with the funds of the interned aliens, under the direction of the inspector in charge of the internment station."

The department's work in mediating in wage disputes, enormously increased by war activities, have affected practically a million men and have been eminently successful.

"The number of labor disputes calling for government mediation increased suddenly and enormously with the beginning of the war," says the report.

"In a large number of instances the conciliators have been able not only to bring about agreement in cases of existing differences—often arising from misunderstandings—but to avert the threatened strike altogether.

"The success which has attended the department's representatives in the great majority of disputes has been most gratifying. In many instances through the efforts of the department strikes which would have involved thousands of workers engaged in great operations were quickly averted and industrial peace maintained. All this was accomplished without publicity and the consequent excitement which invariably attends industrial disturbances when heralded in the press. Great plants thus secured uninterrupted production for stated periods—some of the agreements running for a year and others for the period of the war.

"Labor has discovered that it has a standing in the government machinery of its country whenever its demands are based on its industrial and constitutional rights. Employers, on the other hand, have found in the department a defender against unreasonable exaction.

"Reports now at hand indicate an impending call for not less than 120,000 skilled workers of many classes, involving over thirty mechanical trades, to serve in the various shipyards engaged in constructing vessels for the Shipping Board. To secure the workers necessary a centralized employment system is highly desirable if not absolutely essential.

Consequently it has become necessary to establish several additional war emergency offices of the United States Employment Service and to employ traveling field workers and agents to locate qualified workers for the yards.

"The extraordinary demand for 'man power' on the industrial side distinguished from the military side of war preparations was responded to by the department through its U. S. Employment Service as soon as the demand arose. Much of the demand was found to have been influenced more by eagerness for labor at low or inadequate wages relatively to the sharp rise in living expenses than by general labor shortage. But in some places, especially in the neighborhoods of munition establishments which had been serving European war demands at enormous profits, there was a genuine scarcity of labor for less profitable forms of production. On the whole the problem at first probably was less a problem of labor scarcity than of imperfect distribution."

The Man With the Hoe.  
(Christian Science Monitor.)

The average citizen of the United States this year owes at least a thought of appreciation to the farm hand who stood by his rake and plow and refused the lure of higher wages in the cities and larger towns. There was surely something besides selfishness in the motives that caused these men to work, in many cases, from twelve to fourteen hours for a wage of \$3 a day, when unskilled labor

## 100 Years of Healing

is indeed a phenomenal record of success, and the only article of its kind that has this proud record.

**JOHNSON'S  
ANODYNE LINIMENT**

Internally—Coughs, Colds, Grippe, Sore Throat, Cramps, Chills, etc. Externally—Sprains, Strains, Muscular Rheumatism, Burns, Bruises, etc. A wonderful anodyne that soothes—Heals—Destroys Pain.

was bringing \$6 for an eight-hour day within twelve hours' ride from the average eastern farm. Not only have the farm hands helped to sow and cultivate, but thousands of them are still at work on the soil, gathering in a record harvest. One seldom hears of strikes among farm hands, yet few laborers work so long and so energetically as do they.



Some Gifts  
**YOUR  
WIFE**  
Will  
Welcome

Surprise your wife this Christmas with gifts of a useful nature, the kind that lighten household work—that will save her time and effort. There are many such household requirements that women folk hesitate to buy, forgetting the cost would be many times covered in the saving of labor and time.

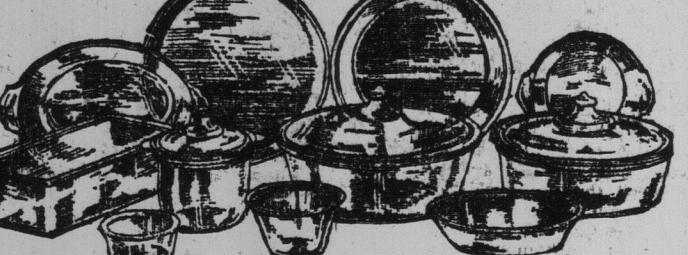
Many presents there are that please but for the moment. Practical gifts serve as constant reminders of your thoughtfulness in her behalf.

HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS:

### The "Torrington" Vacuum Cleaner

makes sweeping time a pleasure. The broom scatters the dust, the carpet sweeper gets but part of it. The "Torrington" GETS ALL THE DUST AND DIRT AND LEAVES NONE. It runs smoothly and lightly, empties easily, and prolongs the life of carpet and rug.

ASK TO SEE HOW IT WORKS



### "Pyrex" Transparent Oven Ware

With "Pyrex" the foods can be watched in process of baking. It quickly absorbs heat and retains it, thus baking foods evenly, thoroughly, rapidly.

Foods baked in "Pyrex" can be taken directly from the oven to the table in the "Pyrex" dish, so attractive is "Pyrex" ware.

"Pyrex" is made in every size and kind of practical baking dish; can be used for all baking purposes; is easily cleaned and kept clean.

Guaranteed Against Oven Breakage

### "WEAR-EVER" ALUMINUM Cooking Utensils

Ideal Gifts—Always Useful

Light and extra strong, "Wear-ever" Aluminum stands on a plane by itself. It rapidly absorbs heat, which is evenly distributed, and so ensures uniformity in the cooking, besides effecting a great saving of fuel, for, in "Wear-ever," aluminum utensils food cooks more quickly, and even milk and custards will not scorch.

We Have a Full Line of "Wear-Ever" Aluminum Cooking Utensils

A Special Value Feature in "Wear-Ever" Aluminum 4-Quart (Wine Measure) Windsor Kettle. Ask to See it.

**W. H. THORNE & CO., Ltd.**

MARKET SQUARE KING STREET

Light and extra strong, "Wear-ever" Aluminum stands on a plane by itself. It rapidly absorbs heat, which is evenly distributed, and so ensures uniformity in the cooking, besides effecting a great saving of fuel, for, in "Wear-ever," aluminum utensils food cooks more quickly, and even milk and custards will not scorch.

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## DOMINION ELECTIONS

MILITARY AND NAVAL ELECTORS

Take notice that the following named Deputy Presiding Officers, under the Military Voters' Act, 1917, will, at the following stated hours and place on the seventeenth day of December, 1917, hold polls for receiving the votes of all qualified Military or Naval Electors.

A. J. MULCAHY, Lieutenant, R.N.C.V.R.

W. MERRYWEATHER, Assist. Paymaster, R.N.C.V.R.

Poll will open at 6 a.m., and close at 5 p.m.

Place of poll: Naval Office, 94 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B.

C. J. STUART,

Lieutenant-Commander R.N.R., Military Presiding Officer,

St. John, N. B.

12-16

## A Merry Christmas—and a Grafonola

All down through the ages the term "Merry Christmas" has been inseparable from the thought of music. Without music—merry and sublime, instrumental and vocal—it would hardly be Christmas, would it? Then why not decide now to endow your own or some other home with that matchless reproducer of the world's choicest music—a Grafonola.

# Columbia!

Remember, Columbia's admitted leadership today is due to the incomparable Columbia TONE. Its rich, mellow purity resulting from the perfected detail of Columbia construction, at once wins your delighted admiration.

### A Grafonola for Every Purse

Grafonolas come in ten models priced from \$24 to \$300, and in many different styles and finishes—oak, golden or fumed, mahogany and walnut. Each one, at whatever price, is finished with an individual care that makes for enduring satisfaction in your home.

The exclusive Columbia tone-arm control, the silent, tireless Columbia motor, the one-piece tone-arm of scientific taper, the reproducer that recreates with faultless technique the message of the record, are fundamentals in Columbia excellence common to every Grafonola, whatever the price.

Naturally the demand for Grafonolas at Christmas is exceptionally big. See the Columbia Dealer to-day. Easy payment if desired.

**COLUMBIA GRAPHOPHONE CO.**  
TORONTO

GRAFONOLA \$38.22

GRAFONOLA \$24.22

GRAFONOLA \$145.22

GRAFONOLA \$112.22

GRAFONOLA \$73.22

GRAFONOLA \$58.22

GRAFONOLA \$270.22

GRAFONOLA \$215.22

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