



Industrial Review From Many Sources



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STRIKES CANNOT BE PREVENTED BY FORCE

Gompers Lays Down U. S. Labor's Political Demands.

The adamant position of labor in defence of its right to strike was put up to the national Republican convention when Samuel Gompers, leader of the American Federation of Labor, appeared before the resolutions committee and presented the planks that labor urges be adopted as part of the platform of the party.
"You are not going to stop strikes; you are not going to stop men from having hopes of 'better things,'" he declared with dramatic fervor.
"If you try to do these things you are sowing the wind from which the whirlwind will come. This is not a threat but a statement of fact."
Gompers read a detailed platform which labor advocates, but it was evident from his speech, which followed, that the American Federation has but one thought uppermost—preservation of the right to strike.

Gompers urged adoption of the following labor planks: We pledge our party to maintain the federal law enacted by Congress, securing to the workers the legal right of voluntary association, for mutual protection and welfare against unwarrantable issuance of writs of injunction either prohibitory or mandatory, and guaranteeing the right of trial by jury in alleged contempt cases committed outside the presence of courts.
Legislation which proposes to make strikes unlawful or to compel the wage earners to submit their grievances or aspirations to courts or to governmental agencies is an invasion of the rights of the wage earners and when enforced make for industrial serfdom or slavery.
We hold that the Government should supply information, assistance and counsel, but that it should not attempt by the force of its own power to stifle or to destroy

PUBLIC HAS DUTIES AS WELL AS RIGHTS

Strikes Would Be Avoided if Public Alert to its Duties.

In favoring the reinstatement of Boston policemen who lost their positions when they struck last September, the recent A. F. of L. convention at Montreal gave fitting reply to the claim that "the public has rights."
The trade unionists made an addition to this claim by the statement that while the public has rights it also has duties. By inference the convention took the position that those who talk of "the public's rights" would make a stronger case and strikes would be avoided if the public were alert to its duties where wrong exists and did not wait until it was inconvenient to talk about its "rights."
It was shown at the convention that the Boston policemen struck after they had exhausted every means of improving intolerable conditions; after they were denied the right to even join a fraternal organization that had connections outside the police department, and after a social club maintained by them had been dissolved.
The convention declared that conditions before the strike made it impossible to maintain a police force in a democratic country.
"That the Boston policemen's request was fully justified," the convention's resolutions declared, "is indicated by the fact that the men employed in all their places after the strike were given the wages and other improved conditions which the Boston policemen had requested in

U. S. POPULATION ESTIMATED AT 105 MILLIONS.

The population of continental United States is estimated at 105,000,000 by J. A. Hill, chief statistician of the Census Bureau of the U. S. Government. His calculation is based on the combined populations of 1464 cities and towns for which statistics have been announced.
The increase over 1910 is placed at about 13,000,000, showing that the growth of the country has not kept pace with that of the previous decade. Almost complete cessation of immigration during the war is the chief reason assigned for the falling off in growth.
"It is astonishing what power words have over men,"—Napoleon.

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