

## IN THE WORLD OF LABOR

Rent profiteers in Boston, Mass., may have their property seized by a commission just appointed. Under war legislation the Governor has power to seize a wide variety of property, and it is intended to investigate charges of rent profiteering.

The United States Treasury Department announces that its war finance corporation will make loans direct to live stock owners in certain cases without the intervention of banks. Financial assistance has been extended to the owners of New York state.

The Portland, Ore., city firemen's union has asked municipal authorities to install the two-platoon system. Portland is the only city on the Pacific coast that still clings to the old 24-hour idea of working its firefighters.

A strike of stogie makers employed at the Pullack factories, Wheeling, W. Va., has been settled by the workers accepting the employer's compromise offer with the understanding that the entire matter be referred to the National War Labor Board. This firm, together with the Alana plant, refused ten weeks ago to raise wages \$2 per 1,000 for stogie makers and 1 cent a pound to the strippers.

Federal Senator Sherman, of Illinois, has not been featured in the public press for some time, so this week he declared that "on all questions directly or indirectly related to labor, Gompers is practically President of the United States." Two years ago Senator Sherman referred to President Gompers as "a public nuisance." On Feb. 25, of this year, Senator Sherman said: "After all, most of us are talking to the galleries, anyhow."

The Pennsylvania Workman's Compensation Board has ruled that an employee while at work for a third person is entitled to compensation. The claimant was a girl employed by a New York firm to demonstrate certain goods in a Philadelphia store. The girl tripped over a torn rug in the store, and for several months has been unable to work. A referee denied compensation, but the board ruled otherwise.

The convention of shop men employed by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, to organize a system federation and district lodges, marks a changed policy on this railroad, stating with Director-General of Railroads McAdoo's general order No. 3 last February, that "No discrimination will be made in the employment of employees because of membership or non-membership in labor organizations."

Eleven thousand women, workers in the munition factories at Bridgeport, Conn., where the law denies them a voice in the government of their community, state or nation, will nevertheless be among the 60,000 voters who are about to cast their ballots in a local election. It is not an ordinary election, to be sure. It is an industrial election, and almost community-wide, a thing unprecedented in this country. Its purpose is to choose representatives of the working people upon a board which will control the conditions under which those people work. And this is a case where working women, as well as working men, are considered people, therefore they vote.

The steel workers in the big plant of the Scotia Steel Works at Sydney Mines, N.S., are asking the management for a general increase in wages of 10 per cent. for all employees who are earning over \$3.50 per day, and an increase of 20 per cent. for those earning \$3.50 per day or less. It is not anticipated that there will be a strike, and it is expected that the advance asked for will be granted. The scale paid in these mills is not

as high as in competing plants south of the international border line, and the company is in a prosperous condition with all the orders it can handle for months to come. The employees of the company in both the steel works and the coal mines are thoroughly organized and in case of serious trouble it would mean a complete tie-up of the plants.

The retail price of living continues skyward, according to the United States Bureau of Labor statistics. Between April 15 and May 15 of this year prices jumped 3 per cent. Between May 15, this year, and May 15, last year, prices increased 5 per cent. Between April 15 and May 15 of this year the price of round steak and plate boiling beef increased 10 per cent.; sirloin steak, rib and chuck beef, 9 per cent.; pork chops, 8 per cent., and bacon, ham and rice 3 per cent. The 63 per cent. increase between 1913 and 1918 shows that every article advanced 38 per cent. or over. Cornmeal advanced 133 per cent.; lard, 108; flour, 100; milk, 50; butter, 42; and potatoes, 38. Ten other articles increased over 50 per cent.

Division No. 653 of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electrical Railway Employees of St. John N.E., after a somewhat strenuous time of it, again sees things moving along on an even keel. When the representatives of the union, assisted by executive board member Magnus Sinclair asked for the signing up of a new agreement with a request for a seven cents an hour wage increase included therein, the street railway management offered an advance of 3 cents per hour. Finally the division gave the company an ultimatum, offering to accept an increase of five cents an hour. The result was that the question was referred to a board of arbitration, which finally handed down an award providing for an increase of 20 per cent. on the old wage scale in force.

The vacant land tax in Saskatchewan is expected to yield a revenue of \$800,000 this year. It has averaged \$700,000 for the past four years. The tax was changed at last session of the legislature from \$10 per quarter section to one per cent on the value of the land, which is a great improvement in principle. The vacant land tax is not only a good revenue producer, but we have the testimony of government officials of Alberta and Saskatchewan that it is operating to force speculators to sell their lands to users. It is thus an aid to the extension of production. Recent reports of high prices obtained for agricultural lands in the western provinces would indicate that it is time to impose a higher tax on vacant land, or settlement and production will be checked by high land values.—Grain Growers' Guide.

Nearly a million employees of the lower paid classes, not covered by the first big wage increase, were granted raises by the U. S. railroad administration in substance, the increases are \$25 a month over the January 1 rate for those on monthly time; and 12 cents an hour for those on the hourly basis. The increases become effective Sep. 1st., and they will effect station employees, stationary engineers, boiler washers, power transferers and turnable operators, common laborers, painters, masons, concrete workers, water supply men, plumbers and other maintenance or way employees.

An eight hour day is established with pro rata overtime of time and a half on the actual minute basis. Already we have shifted so far from normal that a return to peace would upset the equilibrium of the country. The shift may have begun. If we have not only to defeat Germany but to resuscitate Russia to make the defeat of Germany worth

anything then we may only have been gun to change from a peace to a war footing, and consequently shall have a much larger task to shift back to peace.

We know that if the nation does not provide against it the shock of peace will be fully as great as the shock of war. We shall have no valid excuses for not being able to meet it.

## COURTS MARTIAL AT NIAGARA CAMP

### Two Conscientious Objectors and One Deserter On Trial

By Courier Leased Wire  
Niagara Camp, Sept. 20.—Two conscientious objectors, David Sherman Weller and Peter Allan Robertson, both of the First Battalion, Central Ontario Regiment, appeared before the general courtmartial here to-day in somewhat unusual roles, and both were in uniform. Their cases were adjourned a week ago as they indicated then that they would carry on in a non-combatant branch of the service, and both were placed in the Army Medical Corps. Weller, a day professor of readiness to continue in the service and the charge which had been made against him, having refused to obey orders, was withdrawn and he returned to the A.M.C.

Robertson, however, wished to qualify his service in A.M.C. by stipulating that he should obey orders only when they did not conflict with his conscience. He told the court that he regretted having agreed to perform military service in any capacity. He is 22 years of age and a member of the International Bible Association.

Lieut.-Col. Francis, O.C., of the Railway Troops Depot, who presided at the general courtmartial told Robertson that it was not for him to choose what order he would obey or not obey, as it was his duty to obey all lawful commands in the army. Therefore the accused stated that he was ready to take whatever punishment was meted out to him.

A district courtmartial was held here to-day, presided over by Major C. S. Pote, M.C., for the trial of Private John Joseph Noonan, of the Second Battalion, second C.O.R., who pleaded guilty of having deserted from draft No. 98 July 27 last while the train was in Toronto. He was apprehended in Toronto on August 31st. Noonan excused his desertion by saying he was intoxicated. He expressed willingness to go in the next draft.

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Mr. Savage has given to the public such productions as "Parsifal", "Madame Butterfly" and "The Girl of the Golden West." And "EVERYWOMAN" is of the same supreme excellence.

I know of my own knowledge that "EVERYWOMAN" has been a sensation elsewhere. I am sure it will arouse enormous interest here. "EVERYWOMAN" is one of those creations which has made theatrical history, and surely will prove the event of the season. It combines all the attractive elements of Grand Opera, Drama, Spectacle and Musical Comedy. It is the only company of this production on tour, and I am proud and happy to be able to bring the entire Company and production of "EVERYWOMAN" to the theatre-goers of this city.

## Your Attention

is called to the opening of the seat sale, Monday, Sept. 23rd, at Boles Drug Store. You can reserve your seats now by mail. Your order will receive immediate attention. State which location you wish, and enclose Cheque or Money Order for exact amount, with self by return mail. Make all drafts and orders payable to above Theatre.

Signed, J. T. WHITTAKER,  
Manager Grand Opera House.

## "Are My Children Getting Safe Milk?"

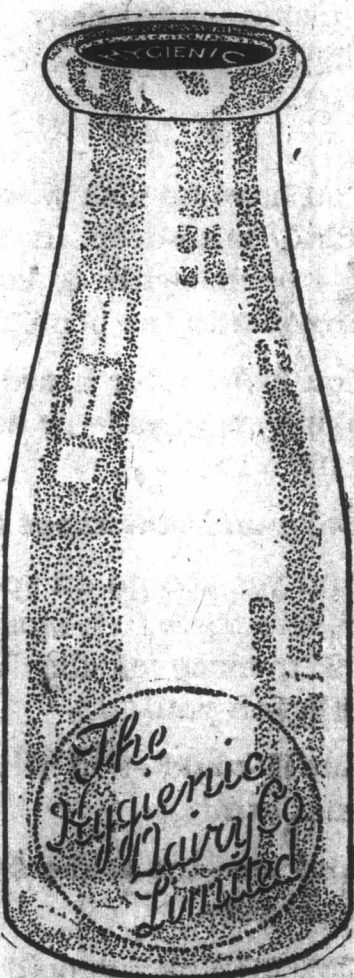
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