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### CAN'T STRIKE PLAN OPPOSED BY PRES. GOMPERS

"Suffer little children to come unto me," solemnly declared President Gompers before the senate interstate commerce committee in opposing that portion of the Cummins railroad bill which would prohibit strikes of railroad employees.

The bill would "compel employees to accept any decision of five men appointed by the president, and in the selection of which the workers would have no choice. If they rejected the decision and suspended work to enforce equitable conditions they would be subject to fine and imprisonment."

President Gompers used every weapon in his oratorical arsenal against this proposal and recounted the numerous failures of law makers to shackle workers to their jobs. While the trade unionist pleaded with the committee to

reject this unconstitutional and un-American bill, he did not confine his efforts to this method, but warned the senators that instead of stopping strikes they would develop lawbreakers and that "I would have no more hesitancy about participating in a strike after its passage than I do now."

"The labor movement," continued President Gompers, "deplores strikes and only uses them as a last resort, for they know the suffering that follows strikes. But I tell you in all candor that the American worker will not surrender his right to quit his employment as a last resort to adjust grievances and I would hate to live one minute after that right was taken from him."

President Stone of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers told the committee the bill was the most reactionary of all the railroad legislation so far proposed.

"It is dangerous," he said, "because it is colored in progressive phrases. It is solely in the interest of capital. It not only denies workers the right to strike, but it denies them a voice in the selection of the final arbiters who will pass upon their demands."

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### SPANISH MINE WORKERS SECURE SEVEN-HOUR DAY

An Associated Press dispatch from Madrid states that the Spanish miners in Asturias have won their fight for the seven-hour day. A delegation of miners were informed by the government that the mine owners had granted the seven-hour day for work underground and an eight-hour day outside. It is stated that Premier Toca will confer with other mine owners and if all agree an official decree will be issued establishing these hours by royal order. The miners promised that if this order was issued the strike would end. The government has suggested that a conference of operators and mine workers be called to adjust all differences.

### BOSTON CENTRAL LABOR UNION HAS OPENED COLLEGE

Trade Union College Open To All  
Trade Unionists Members  
of A. F. of L.

Last spring a new and very interesting educational experiment was launched by the Boston Central Labor Union, acting through a committee of trade unionists and college men from nearby institutions. It was called the Trade Union College and was open to all trade unionists, members of the American Federation of Labor, and to the members of their immediate families. The committee had full charge of the conduct of the college and had as its chairman one of the staunchest friends of the Boston League, Michael A. Murphy, while the secretary of the committee is Mabel Gillespie, secretary of the League. The list of instructors is really a brilliant one, headed by Roscoe Pound, Dean of the Harvard Law School, Prof. William Z. Ripley of the Harvard Department of Economics and Professor Irving Fisher of Yale.

There were fourteen courses offered, each meeting weekly from April 7th to June 14th, and the college, which was housed this first term in the High School of Practical Arts by the courtesy of the Boston School Committee, was open six nights in the week.

A fee of \$2.50 was charged for each course of ten lectures. The first hour each week was devoted to the lecture and the second to discussion. The registration for the spring term was naturally not so large as it will be in the autumn, but 170 people enrolled and it is interesting to note that a third of them were women. They were of varying ages, mostly, of course, young people, but there were men in the sixties who sat with this younger generation. I believe the discussion class had the largest enrollment, but it was hard pressed by Dean Pound's law course and the class in English composition.

This first venture in the realm of education by an American central labor body has aroused interest from one coast to the other. Requests for information have come in from labor organizations in all parts of the Union, and it looks, today as if the Trade Union College of Boston was to be followed by the establishment of like institutions all over the land.

### BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS HAVE A LABOR REPORT

Report Shows Wages and Hours  
of Labor of Employees in Different Occupations.

Early in 1919, at the request of the War Industries Board, the Bureau of Labor Statistics at Washington, began an industrial survey to obtain a definite and reliable body of information concerning the actual wages and hours of labor and other conditions of employment in the more important industries of the country, the selection being based largely upon the number of wage earners. The information was gathered by agents of the bureau, who visited establishments and copied the data directly from the pay rolls.

The industries covered include the following: automobile, brick and tile, cars, chemicals, cigar, clothing, coal, confectionery, electrical apparatus, foundry, furniture, glass, hosiery and knit goods, hotels, iron and steel, leather, lumber, machine shop, millwork, overall, paper and wood pulp, paper box, rubber, silk and typewriter.

The preliminary report of the results of this survey has been sent to the printer. It represents the basic facts concerning the hours worked and the earnings received by the employees in different occupations. In later reports, each covering a single industry, the additional information collected in the schedules will be more systematically and extensively worked over, and such conclusions as may be drawn from them concerning piece work and time work, male and female employees, day and night work, the amount of overtime and the pay for it, and other similar questions will be pointed out.

No such extensive, and at the same time reliable, body of information bearing upon the economic well-being of the wage earners of the United States has before been presented in a single report.

Pennsylvania produces one-third of all the silk in America.

### MINERS MAKE PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

Representatives of the miners met it with the argument that the war is over and that it is now eleven months since hostilities ceased. They said the country was making every possible effort to return to a peace basis and that it is now practically on that basis. The army has been demobilized, only 10 per cent of the soldiers still remaining in the service. They said too that the coal miners are not responsible for the fact that the United States Senate has failed to ratify the peace treaty long ago. Industrial and economic conditions, the miners say, existing at this time require a new contract with new working conditions and wages.

Also the miners claimed they had full authority to negotiate with the operators and that they were merely a question of whether the operators were willing to deal with them. The Cleveland convention decided that in case a new agreement was reached at the Buffalo joint conference, the miners' representatives should report it back to a reconvened international convention at Indianapolis for ratification. It was this fact that caused the operators to say that the miners' scale committee was without authority to enter into an agreement. There is no difference between the situation this time and in previous years, however, because heretofore the miners' representatives have been required to report back to a policy committee and in some cases the question of ratification of a new agreement has been submitted to a referendum vote of the membership.

By voting to proceed with the negotiations the operators abandoned their contention that the representatives of the miners had no authority to negotiate.

There appears to be a desire on the part of everyone at the conference to avoid a strike on November 1, if it can be done. Although the operators assumed a defiant attitude, there is good reason for the belief that this will not be maintained indefinitely. It is reported that when it comes to a showdown the operators are prepared to offer a 25 per cent increase over the present existing wage scale, together with certain other concessions which have not been definitely determined. These concessions would not fully meet the demands of the miners but they would afford a starting point from which to negotiate a possible new agreement.

### WHY THE STEEL STRIKE COULD NOT BE POSTPONED

Organized Labor's Reply To the  
President's Request for Postponement of Steel Strike

In reply to President Wilson's letter to the executive of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, asking that the date for the steel strike be postponed, a letter signed by John Fitzpatrick, chairman; W. Z. Foster, secretary, and David J. Davies, William Hannon and J. E. McCadden, was addressed to President Wilson setting forth the reasons why the strike could not be postponed.

The following conditions were cited as making it impossible to comply with the President's request:

1. Mr. Gary has asserted that his men need no trained representation in their behalf in presenting grievances.
2. That ever since the men started to organize a systematic persecution was instituted, beginning with discharge and ending with violence.
3. That through the efforts of representatives of the steel industry free speech has been denied the men.
4. That a meeting held by the men in McKeesport had been broken up, the men arrested and held for excessive bail.
5. That guns and cannon have been planted in mills and highly charged electric wires have been strung around the premises.
6. That armed men are going about intimidating the men, as well as others who show sympathy for them.
7. That men have been discharged in increasingly large numbers and that threats and intimidations have been resorted to, that coercion is being practiced and that the men are threatened with blacklist, eviction and denied credit.
8. That forced decline of the market would be imposed so as to wipe holdings of stock the men have been induced to purchase.
9. That an organized propaganda for vilification of the American Federation of Labor has been instituted.
10. That no opposition has been shown to dual organizations, and because of this propaganda the I.W.W. is making headway in some districts.
11. That the real reason for opposition to organized labor representation on behalf of men who have grievances is that they are preparing to cut wages and to lower the standard of pre-war times.

The letter closes with regret that organized labor cannot comply with President Wilson's request, but that further delay would have been construed as an abject surrender.

### EDUCATION COMES FIRST DURING NEXT DECADE

In his annual report, just issued in pamphlet form, United States Commissioner of Education Claxton says that during the next decade the most important task in this and other countries will be the building of systems of education which will give to all children full and equal opportunity for that kind and degree of education which will fit them for life and citizenship in the new world of freedom and democracy which will emerge out of the destruction of the old world of subjection and privilege.

"In this task the bureau of education of the United States should play a large part. To enable it to do this worthily and well it will need much larger support than it has ever yet had."

### PRESIDENT WILSON PRESCRIBES CURE FOR RADICALISM

The Best Way To Silence Protestors  
Against Wrong Is To Right  
That Wrong

The best way to silence protestors against wrong is to right that wrong, was the sentiment expressed by President Wilson in a speech in Helena, Mont.

The president offered little encouragement to the man who prides himself on a conservatism that is blind to orderly progress and he said he did not intend to ask men to cease agitating against wrong while wrong existed, but he did ask that these agitators and radicals apply methods provided by the laws of the country to adjust grievances against which they protest.

"There is only one way to meet radicalism," he said, "and that is to deprive it of food, and whenever there is anything wrong there is abundant food for radicalism."

"The only way to keep men from agitating against grievances is to remove the grievances, and as long as things are wrong I do not intend to beg that they stop agitating. I intend to beg that they will agitate in an orderly fashion; I intend to beg that they will use the orderly methods of counsel."

"Otherwise we will have chaos; but as long as there is something to correct, I say, God speed to the men who are trying to correct it. That is the only way to meet radicalism. Radicalism means cutting up by the roots. Well, remove the noxious growth and there will be no cutting up by the roots. Then there will be the wholesome fruitage of an honest life from one end of this country to the other."

Many persons, he went on, were convinced that the control of business of the country was in too few hands.

"We have not finished dealing with monopolies," he said. "With monopolies there can be no industrial democracy. With the control of the few, of whatever kind of class, there can be no democracy of any sort. The world is finding that out in some portions of it in blood and terror."

### EMPLOYERS AND UNION LABORERS SHOULD CO-OPERATE

There Should Be a Real Partnership  
Between Organized  
Labor and Capital

"There should be a real partnership between labor and capital," declares the Union Labor Advocate of Chicago, which speaks plainly in urging the adoption of means to stay the advance of destructive bolshevism. Among the agencies with which the disintegrating forces of the time may be successfully combatted it lists the spirit of co-operation that should exist between employers and employees. "We must apply the spirit of co-operation whenever practicable," it says. "We must have faith in ourselves, in each other and in our country."

One of the cardinal assumptions of some employers of labor and union labor organizations and their leaders in the past has been that Labor and Capital are natural enemies; that they must always remain at war; that organized Labor can gain nothing except through compulsion systematically applied. The present tendency in the relationships of employers and employees is first to realize that "the other fellow" has problems and then to try to understand and help him to solve those problems. Thus is developed a unity of purpose, which suggests the probable final disappearance of industrial strife in an era of open dealing and co-operative fair play.

The absurdity and futility of strikes—which involve economic waste that is exceedingly costly, alike to worker, employer and the public—when the parties to any industrial dispute may meet and negotiate a reasonable settlement is coming to be generally recognized. Such rational bargaining is more profitable in its results to all concerned than can be any adjustment made after a ruinous period of industrial strife.

If the present laws against crime are inadequate they should be strengthened. But the time has not come when the Canadian people will willingly assent to the retrenchment of the rights of free speech and lawful discussion.

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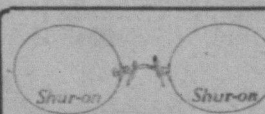
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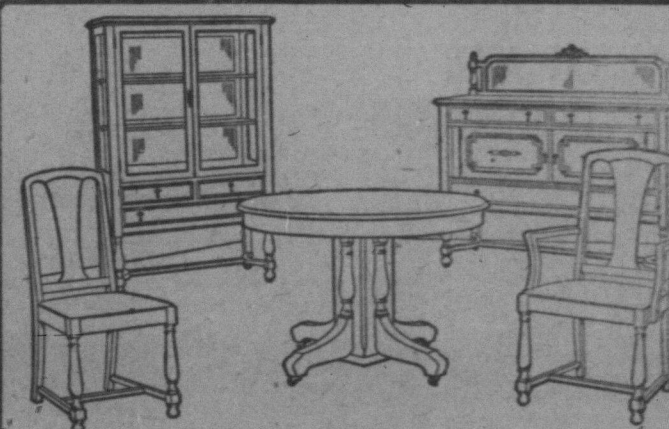
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