

The Work of the President's Cabinet

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

LABOR REPRESENTED IN THE ADMINISTRATION

(By William B. Wilson, Secretary of Labor. From the "American Federationist," September, 1914.)

What do we mean when we speak of the "labor movement?" To some minds it conveys only the idea of the perpetual struggle for higher wages, fewer hours of labor, greater safety, and better sanitary surroundings for the workers. That is a narrow interpretation. The labor movement is as broad as humanity itself. It reaches out into all of the ramifications of human activity. It is the motive power that is moving forward to that higher civilization which will ultimately cause the "man with the hoe" to stand erect before his Maker and all the world, the peer of every other man not only in his rights which we know theoretically concede, but in his physical and mental opportunities and endowments. The individual who puts forth his efforts to advance the welfare of mankind is, maybe unconsciously, a part of the movement. The societies which are organized to prevent the exploitation of children, to protect womanhood against industrial wrongs, promote more comfort and better sanitation in the homes of the workers, to develop and to direct into proper channels necessary educational facilities, to create safe and sanitary conditions in the mines, mills, and workshops, to arouse public sentiment in favor of collective bargaining between employers and employes are all parts of the great labor movement.

The trade union embracing, as it does, the work of all these, and all the phases of human uplift which these do not embrace, is one of the great motors of modern times moving the world forward to its highest conception of human rights, human liberty, and human welfare.

If we take as our definition of labor "any mental or physical activity engaged in not solely for pleasure," we are led inevitably to the conclusion that the movement that deals with labor must give its attention toward every word, deed, or condition which injuriously affects humanity in order that a remedy may be found, and the public mind so informed that it will accept and apply it. It is from this standpoint that we have approached the organization and the administration of the department of labor. The organic act declares: "The purpose of the department of labor shall be to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage-earners of the United States, to improve their working conditions and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment." What a tremendous field this maps out for us! The department has been in existence for more than a year. It is in its formative state. The utmost care must be exercised that no false step shall be made. It is more important that it shall move right than that it shall move fast. In the period of its existence it has not startled the world by the complete solution of the labor problem. It is not likely to do so in the near future. But the help it has given in solving concrete problems as they have arisen has justified its existence. It has been heard in the inner councils of the administration. Its advice has been sought and given to congress on matters affecting the workers. It has gathered and given publicity to important facts concerning the conditions of those who toil. It has put forth effective efforts to protect the women and children of our country. It has enforced the immigration laws while protecting the immigrant. It has sought to impress upon the alien seeking naturalization the true spirit of our institutions. It has found employment for thousands who would otherwise have been unemployed. It has brought employers and employes together in scores of trade disputes, enabling them to work out their problems to their mutual advantage without industrial warfare. It has been consulted by employers and employes, by trade unionists and non-unionists, by sociologists and scientists, has freely exchanged advice in an effort to accomplish the purposes for which it was created, and in many other ways has utilized its influence for the common weal.

This may not be much for a department of the government having such a wide field to work in, but too much should not be expected from a department newly organized and not yet in complete operation. Enough has been accomplished, however, to demonstrate its usefulness. The workers have long looked forward to the estab-

lishment of this department. May they have just grounds for hope in its accomplishments, faith in its future, and charity for its mistakes, is the wish of its present chief.

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION

For several years the bureau of immigration has maintained a branch office in New York City which has been engaged in directing men to opportunities for securing employment and settling on the land. With a view to giving the entire country a similar service, at least so far as farm labor and other kindred pursuits are concerned. The department has recently established eighteen (18) distribution zones covering the entire United States (as indicated by the attached table). You will observe that one office in each zone is designated as "headquarters," and that in many of the zones there are branch offices in addition. As the division of information is a part of the immigration service, officers of that service, already stationed in the several cities which have been designated as distribution offices, will be selected to attend to the work of distribution, in addition to their other duties. Therefore, for the time being, no new positions will be created, the entire work being handled by officers connected with the immigration stations in those cities.

A plan of co-operation has been effected with the post office department, whereby all post offices in the United States will keep on hand blanks of the division of information and furnish them to applicants during office hours. Notices to the effect that blanks may be had are to be displayed on bulletin boards in all post offices. When the blanks are received by the division of information, the facts they contain are to be compiled and transmitted in the form of bulletins to the appropriate distribution office or offices for attention.

ZONES FOR DISTRIBUTION OFFICES

- 1—Headquarters, Boston, Mass.; territory, Mass., R. I., and Maine; sub-branches, Providence, Portland.
- 2—Headquarters, New York City, distribution branch (and Ellis Island, N. Y.); territory, N. Y., N. J., N. H., Vt., Conn.; sub-branches, Buffalo.
- 3—Headquarters, Philadelphia, Pa.; territory, Pa., Del., W. V.; sub-branch, Pittsburgh.
- 4—Headquarters, Baltimore, Md.; territory, Maryland.
- 5—Headquarters, Norfolk, Va.; territory, Va., N. C.
- 6—Headquarters, Jacksonville, Fla.; territory, Fla., Ga., Ala., S. C.; sub-branches, Savannah, Mobile, Birmingham, Charleston.
- 7—Headquarters, New Orleans, La.; territory, La., Miss., Ark., Tenn.; sub-branches, Gulfport, Miss., Memphis, Tenn.
- 8—Headquarters, Galveston, Tex.; territory, Texas, N. M.; sub-branch, Albuquerque.
- 9—Headquarters, Cleveland, Ohio; territory, Ohio, Ky.; sub-branch, Cincinnati.
- 10—Headquarters, Chicago, Ill.; territory, Ill., Ind., Mich., Wis.; sub-branches, Milwaukee, Detroit.
- 11—Headquarters, Minneapolis, Minn.; territory, Minn., N. D., S. D.
- 12—Headquarters, St. Louis, Mo.; territory, Mo., Kans., Okla., Ia.; sub-branches, Kansas City, Mo., Des Moines, Ia.
- 13—Headquarters, Denver, Colo.; territory, Colo., Wyo., Nebr., Utah; sub-branch, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 14—Headquarters, Helena, Mont.; territory, Mont., Idaho; sub-branch, Moscow, Idaho.
- 15—Headquarters, Seattle, Wash.; territory, Washington.
- 16—Headquarters, Portland, Ore., territory, Oregon.
- 17—Headquarters, San Francisco, Cal.; territory, Northern California, Nev.; sub-branches, Fresno, Sacramento.
- 18—Headquarters, Los Angeles, Cal., territory, Southern California, Ariz.; sub-branches, San Diego; Tucson, Ariz.

The foregoing zones for the purpose of facilitating the distribution of farm labor in the United States are hereby established.

Approved:

(Signed) W. B. WILSON, Secretary.

(Signed) A. CAMINETTI, Com. Gen.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE THE FALL APPLE CROP

The office of markets has announced that the

commercial apple crop of the United States is probably much larger this year than last, but less than that of 1912 by several million barrels. However, it is estimated in the current number of the Agricultural Outlook of the department that the problem of distribution will prove to be more complex than two years ago, owing to certain conditions resulting from the European war.

Attention is called to the small quantity of American apples—rarely as much as 2,000,000 barrels—taken by Europe in normal times. Both the growers and dealers are urged to view the situation with optimism and to prepare for the disposal of Europe's usual portion in other ways. It is suggested that with judicious handling the demand at home may be increased and the commercial crop marketed with relatively fair success to all.

UPWARD TENDENCY OF PRICES FOR CRIMSON CLOVER

Prices for imported crimson clover and hairy vetch seed have recently shown such a marked upward tendency that specialists of the department fear that the cost of these seeds, of which Europe is the chief source, will interfere with the increasing use of these leguminous cover crops. In fact, it is feared that the prices of the seed of these legumes may go so high as to make it inadvisable to plant them this year.

Before the present European conditions arose, crimson clover seed was selling at from \$4 to \$5 per bushel. Up to August 15 there was a scarcity of this seed in the United States, owing to the fact that the receipts from Europe were smaller than usual. The prices then advanced to from \$7.50 to \$9 per bushel. Since that date, importations have continued to arrive, until there is now more imported seed available for fall seeding than there was in this country a year ago at this time. This seed, according to the department's information, was all imported at approximately the same price as that sold for \$4 to \$4.50 per bushel in the early part of the season. The present high price, therefore, is regarded by the department as unwarranted from the standpoint of the supply and the import price of the seed. Some dealers are continuing to sell at the former price, but these are exceptions.

If the present high price is maintained, the specialists are doubtful whether crimson clover can be profitably used as a green manure crop for seeding in corn or on vacant ground, or under other conditions where the catch is not reasonably certain. Under such conditions they point out that it will be better practice to sow rye this fall and use the difference in price in adding nitrogen to the soil in the form of nitrate of soda or some other highly nitrogenous fertilizer. The rye will afford a winter cover preventing washing and leaching, and can be plowed under in the spring to add humus to the soil.

When crimson clover is being used regularly as a winter cover crop in orchard culture, or where experience indicates that a good catch and a good crop are practically certain, payment of a higher price for the seed will no doubt be justified.

A somewhat similar condition exists with reference to hairy vetch seed. There has been approximately six-sevenths as much seed imported since November 1, 1913, as in the year previous. This shortage, however, is partly counterbalanced by the increasing domestic production of hairy vetch seed. Wherever the price of hairy vetch seed is found to be exorbitant, the same change in farm practice is recommended as that suggested in the case of crimson clover.

QUARANTINE RAISED ON MEXICAN BEEF CATTLE

Hereafter, cattle from quarantined districts in Mexico which are intended for immediate slaughter in the United States can be shipped direct to slaughtering centers in this country without the sixty-day detention on the border to which they have hitherto been subjected.

An amendment to the regulations governing the shipment of cattle from tick-infested regions, providing for this, has been signed by the secretaries of agriculture and the treasury, and goes into effect immediately. This amendment is known as Amendment No. 1 to Bureau of Animal Industry Order No. 209.

Under the former regulations, cattle shipped from tick-infested areas in Mexico were kept within the quarantined area of Texas for sixty days as a precautionary measure against the spread of the pest in the rest of the United States.

The new amendment applies only to such cattle as are destined for immediate slaughter. Under certain restrictions these can now be