

LaFollette Says 8-Hour Law Saved Farmers and Business Men

A Madison, Wis., dispatch, dated Sept. 26, says: Declaring that the eight-hour law for railway trainmen has been much misrepresented and that it saved the business men and the farmers from disaster, Senator Robert M. LaFollette of Wisconsin, the only republican senator to vote for the law, is out today in a signed editorial in the September number of his magazine defending the passage of the law. He endorses the sentiments expressed by President Wilson before the business men at Shadow Lawn on Saturday. Senator LaFollette denies that the eight-hour law was a force bill as Mr. Chas. E. Hughes contends.

He says that the railroad employees made their demands of the railroads and not upon congress and it was only when a strike became probable that the President and congress stepped in and avoided the disaster. The Wisconsin senator charges that millions of dollars were expended by the railroads during the pendency of their negotiations with the trainmen in an effort to influence sentiment against the demands of the trainmen for an eight-hour day.

"These millions did not come from the profits of the railroad managers or the railroad owners," said Senator LaFollette. "They came from the funds of the treasuries of the railroads. This campaign was conducted with money that really belonged to the people. The shippers and passengers were made, in the last analysis, to finance a publicity campaign to influence their own judgment on one side of this great question."

The senator says that the trainmen had no such resources for a publicity campaign to shape public opinion in their favor nor did they have the additional advantage of placing flamboyant placards upon the walls of waiting rooms at railway stations to influence their case with the traveling public.

"This eight-hour law has been called a 'force bill,' enacted under the demand of organized trainmen," continues Senator LaFollette. "This is not true of the railroad employees. They demanded an eight-hour day from the railroads not from congress. They made no demand whatever on congress. They said if the railroads did not grant an eight-hour day they would quit work. This was their right. They set a day to quit work in case the railroad managers refused them the eight-hour day. Then the railroads inaugurated a strike against the public. They refused to accept freight for shipment, especially perishable goods in many parts of the country. This meant appalling disaster to farmers, particularly to fruit growers. It meant great damage to all business, even to the railroads themselves."

"The President sought to adjust the trouble and avoid the disaster about to be thrust on the country. He was not successful. The railway managers were particularly obstinate and refused to concede and refused to concede the principle of the eight-hour day.

"At this point the President put the matter up to congress for its consideration. Congress, disinterested, although bound to consider only the public good, was forced to act in the public interest. It was not forced to act because of any demand upon congress by the workingmen or by the railroads, but because the

public interest demanded immediate action, and congress acted.

"It passed what is known as the eight-hour law for men in the employment of railroads in interstate commerce engaged in moving trains. Every Wisconsin representative present voted for the bill which became a law and avoided the strike. I believe they did right. I believe in the eight-hour day.

"It is claimed that congress acted without due consideration. Did it? The question for the eight-hour day for skilled employees was not new. Every congressman who was alive to the issues of the day must have been fairly familiar with the arguments pro and con on the subject of the eight hour day.

"The railroads and some other large employers are slow to concede," said the senator, "but abundant experience has shown that for the trades, professions and crafts, where skill, courage, caution and close attention are required, an eight-hour day is the maximum for efficiency. However, railroads generally, use no principle of progress that is not forced upon them by legislation. The dawn of a better day would never brighten the path of workmen were it left to the railroad managers. The railroad employees have been patient and long suffering. Theirs is a hazardous business. Their labor is performed under dangerous conditions."

KERN FLAYS HUGHES FOR HIS ATTACK ON NEW 8-HOUR LAW

A Washington dispatch, dated Sept. 11, says: Charles E. Hughes' attack on the new eight-hour law was yesterday answered by Senator John W. Kern of Indiana. Senator Kern said:

"In attacking the eight-hour law Hughes also attacks a majority of the republicans of the house of representatives. The leading republican members of the house, no doubt, will be indignant at the vicious attack made on them by their candidate for the presidency. Hughes seemingly has forgotten that seventy-two republican members of the house, headed by Uncle Joe Cannon, Mondell and others of equal prominence voted for the eight-hour law, while only fifty-six republicans voted against it.

"Hughes also seemingly forgets that while under the rules of the senate the republicans of that body were able without difficulty to block the passage of the corrupt practices act and to prevent the passage at the last session of the ship purchase bill, and while with the same ease they could have blocked the passage of the eight-hour law, yet there was not the slightest effort in that direction. Of course, they saw the great calamity that was threatening the country and the emergency for immediate action, and such partisanship as is now manifested by Mr. Hughes was overcome by their patriotism and they permitted the law to pass without throwing a single obstacle in its way."

SAYS HUGHES LET 8-HOUR BILL PASS

[From the Chicago Herald, Sept. 29.]

Senator Thomas J. Walsh, western Wilson manager, in an address to the Iroquois club last night declared that Charles Evans Hughes could have killed the Adamson eight-hour

bill. A telegram to republican senators, he said, would have applied the chloroform.

Senator Walsh's speech was made at a dinner in his honor at the Hotel La Salle. The Iroquois club was host, and party leaders, great and small, tucked their feet under the banquet tables.

"Let the heathen rage," said Mr. Walsh. "The eight-hour day for railroad train operatives is here. It never will be repealed. Congress must now address itself to the task of legislating so that the conditions never again will arise that made it imperative to pass the Adamson bill with a speed inexcusable under any other circumstances.

"It is vain to disclaim about the iniquity of legislation under coercion. The man who might have arrested the passage of the act, had he but raised his voice, remained silent.

"Had Candidate Hughes sent and published a telegraphic message to the republican members of the senate to stand firm, to take advantage of the senate rules to prevent the passage of the Adamson bill, it would not be the law.

"He shrunk from that awful responsibility, as well he might. He had in mind the economic waste involving not only the railroads and the men but every industry great and small; the farmer unable to have his grain transported to market; a nation-wide paralysis, bitter strife and probable bloodshed.

"What right has he now to denounce the bill or to denounce the President for urging its passage?"

A. O. U. W. AGAINST PROHIBITION REPEAL IN ARKANSAS

The grand lodge of the A. O. U. W. of Arkansas endorses the present prohibitory laws of Arkansas and has adopted resolutions against its repeal as proposed in Act. No. 2 to be voted on at the November elections. A copy of the resolutions, which was sent to every member of the order, follows:

"Whereas, nine months trial has

proved the beneficial effect of the statewide prohibition law, and effectually demonstrated that the only business it hurts is that of the saloon, which impoverishes and degrades; it has had a tendency to vacate our jails and county farms, has increased the earnings of legitimate business, has made labor more efficient and dependable, has brought happiness and plenty to homes that had been pauperized by the saloon and its attendant evils, and is lifting our citizenship to a higher plane of self-respect; and,

"Whereas, There is now pending before the people, to be submitted at the November election, Act No. 2, which proposes to repeal not only the state-wide act, but all the salutary anti-liquor laws that have been secured by persistent effort during the last 40 years, substituting therefor a law, under the spacious guise of 'local self-government,' that would again deliver the state into the hands of the whiskey ring with all its pernicious influences; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, Ancient Order of United Workmen, hereby condemn Act No. 2 as wholly vicious and unworthy of support, as a deceitful device of Satan to defeat the will of our best citizens, and to debauch and debase the social fabric, as a step backward in the march of progress; and in the name of the 6,200 members of the order and the homes they represent, urge upon all the imperative necessity and their fraternal obligation to vote and work for the triumphant defeat of Act No. 2."

A SHELL GAME

A gentleman who dined regularly at a certain restaurant often ordered a dozen clams. One day he counted them and found but eleven. Still another day the dozen was one short. He called the waiter and asked him: "Why do you give only eleven clams when I order twelve?"

"Oh, sir," replied the waiter, "I didn't think you'd want to be sitting thirteen at table, sir."—The Christian Herald.



Only \$100

After Trial and you keep the Superb New Edison

YES, the great New Edison with the new Diamond Stylus reproducer and your choice of all the brand new Diamond Amberol Records will be sent you on free trial without a penny down. The finest, the best that money can buy at prices very, very much less than the price at which imitations of the genuine Edison are offered—a rock-bottom offer direct from us. Send coupon now.

Rock Bottom Direct Offer

Hear all the latest up-to-date song hits of the big cities right in your own home. Laugh at the funniest of minstrel shows. Entertain your family and your friends with everything from Grand Opera to Comic Vaudeville—then if you choose send the outfit back to us at our expense. If you wish to keep Mr. Edison's superb new instrument, send us only \$1.00 after the free trial. Pay the balance on the easiest kind of monthly payments. Don't miss this wonderfully liberal offer. Send the coupon now.

Our New Edison Catalog Sent Free

To F. K. Babson, Edison Phonograph Distributors, 5026 Edison Block, Chicago, Ill. Gentlemen:—Please send me your New Edison Catalog and full particulars of your free trial offer on the new model Edison Phonograph.

Your name and address on a post card or a letter (or just this coupon) is enough. No obligations in asking for the catalog. Get this offer while this offer lasts. Write today.

F. K. BABSON, Edison Phonograph Dist., 5026 Edison Block, Chicago, Illinois. Canadian Office: 255 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, Man.

Name _____ Address _____