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NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD

Washington.—The statement of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, that organized labor would rather endure the Sherman anti-trust law, as applied by the United States supreme court in the haters' case, than submit to registration, as proposed by the amendment bill drafted by the National Civic federation and introduced in the house by Mr. Hepburn of Iowa, was one of the features of a hearing on that bill before the subcommittee of the house judiciary committee. President Seth Low of the National Civic federation and Prof. J. W. Jenks of Cornell university also made arguments.

Indianapolis, Ind.—John Mitchell, ex-president of the miners of the country, is one of five Americans selected by President Roosevelt to be special guests of the big conference of state and territory governors to be held in Washington May 13. This conference will last three days. The sessions will be held in the White House and will be presided over by President Roosevelt. The five special guests will be: Grover Cleveland, ex-president of the United States; William Jennings Bryan, leader of the opposition political party; James J. Hill, railroad magnate; Andrew Carnegie, manufacturer; John Mitchell, miner.

Los Angeles, Cal.—The general falling off in the building industries the country over between 1906 and 1907 amounted to 13 per cent. In Los Angeles, according to carefully compiled statistics, the falling off was more marked, being 26 per cent. Only six cities of the United States show as great or greater loss. Twenty-seven cities show a gain. These are headed by Tacoma with 22 1/2 per cent.; Cambridge, 57 per cent.; Salt Lake City, 56 per cent.; San Antonio, 75 per cent.; Spokane, 56 per cent.; and St. Joseph, 55 per cent.

St. Louis.—Representatives of 24 breweries in St. Louis and vicinity and of the brewery workers' unions, signed new contracts, ending the strike of 3,500 brewery workers which has been on for three weeks. The strikers will be put to work, under the settlement, as soon as possible and without discrimination, and the men who took their places during the strike will be discharged. It is planned to reinstate the strikers within a week.

Washington.—A bill introduced in congress provides for the establishment of another department of the government, the head of which shall have a seat in the president's cabinet. The new department is to be known as the department of labor, and its head as secretary of labor. The head of the department will be appointed by the president, the same as other members of the cabinet, with \$8,000 a year as compensation.

San Francisco.—San Francisco Chapter, No. 2, Royal Arch Masons, has notified the San Francisco Labor Council that few of its members are at this time employing Asiatic help, and that in the interests of the members of the organization it has sent to each member a circular letter requesting each to discharge any Orientals he may have in his employ and substituting white men.

Milwaukee.—John Mitchell's new labor paper will have for its object the promoting of "industrial peace between the miners and operators." That sounds like John Mitchell—a true labor leader for the interest of labor and the general public. More power and long life to him.

Sheboygan, Wis.—Sheboygan's 22 wood working manufacturers started on a new working schedule, which means a slightly increased number of working hours for the week, a Saturday half holiday and a longer dinner hour. The factories will operate on a nine-hour schedule starting at seven a. m. and shutting down at five p. m. Practically all of the factories have been working on an eight hour a day schedule since January 1.

Pittsburg, Pa.—About 600 additional men were put to work when the open-hearth furnaces and the shaping and structural mills of the Homestead Steel works resumed. Notices were posted announcing that several departments in the Howard axle works would resume work.

Watertown, Wis.—The reports that the building trades of this city have just signed a two-year agreement with the Contractors' alliance, thus effectually doing away with the possibility of labor troubles for some time.

Livermore Falls, Me.—Work in the Otis paper and pulp mills of the International Paper company at Chisholm was almost entirely suspended because of a strike of the 40 firemen.

Roanoke, Va.—Eight hundred men were discharged from the Roanoke shops of the Norfolk & Western railway. The shops under normal conditions employ 2,000 men. A notice was posted that in the future shops will work full time.

Washington.—Orders were issued for the furlough of about 200 mechanics at the Washington navy yard for a period of 90 days. Lack of work is the explanation given.

Reading, Pa.—The United Traction company has announced a reduction of ten per cent. in the wages of conductors and motormen.

Winnipeg, Man.—The Canadian Pacific railway has decided to break with the unions which have a membership in the metal trades employed in the Canadian Pacific railway shops. The company has abrogated the agreement entered into last September, giving a month's notice to the unions from the great lakes to the Pacific coast. While the company asserts no reduction in wages or increase in hours will follow, the unions have called a meeting from all over the system and will appeal to the board of conciliation of the labor department at Ottawa to negotiate.

Chicago.—There will be no strike of milk wagon drivers. The differences between the milk dealers and the drivers were settled when the dealers, in a final peace conference, offered a flat one dollar a week increase in the basic rate of wages, instead of their first offer of one and two dollars on a commission basis. The drivers, who had demanded a flat five dollars a week raise, accepted the compromise concession. They felt it was better to accept the additional one dollar a week than to risk losing everything through a strike, of doubtful possibilities at best.

Chicago.—Local No. 1 of the Commercial Telegraphers' union voted to strike against the Western Union company on June 1 and against the Postal company on July 1 unless an increase of ten per cent. in wages and an eight-hour day are granted before that time. Their purpose evidently is to attempt to tie up the national conventions of the Republican and Democratic parties. The Republican convention will be held in Chicago in June and the Democratic convention at Denver, Col., in July.

Hudson, Wis.—Following the general policy of cutting down expense which has been adopted by all the railways in the country during the past few months, the Omaha road discharged 100 men who had been working in its machine shops here. This reduces the working force there to 50. Last summer there were between 300 and 400 men employed at the shops, but since the financial stringency last fall the road has been gradually reducing its force.

Washington.—Leaders of the Society of Equity have discovered that the labor people have been successful in bringing about much in the way of legislation that has proved beneficial to wage-earners, and they seem to be of the opinion that a combination of the two forces would bring about unusually good results to the people at large.

Washington.—Reciprocal recognition is being arranged for between the unions of the United States, England, Scotland, Germany, Denmark, Austria, Belgium, Norway, Netherlands and other countries whereby an interchange of union cards between unions of a kindred craft will be recognized.

Plattsburg, N. Y.—Five hundred and fifty miners and laborers were temporarily thrown out of employment at Lyon Mountain by the shutting down of the mines of the Delaware & Hudson company. The shutdown is for a period of 30 days, and is due to an over-production of ore.

Goldfield, Nev.—Local No. 220 of the Western Federation of Miners, by a vote of 90 to 25, declared off the strike inaugurated last fall. The miners will return to work with nonunion men, but will ask for the Toiyah scale of wages which is 50 cents a day less than former wages.

St. John, N. B.—The railroads operating in eastern Canada have inaugurated a policy of retrenchment because of the extensive decrease in traffic over their lines. The construction of new cars has been stopped by most of the roads and many cars in need of repairs are laid up at the shops. The Canadian Pacific has laid off 300 men at the shops in Angus, Que.

Helena, Mont.—The American Refining and Smelting plant at East Helena, which a few months ago suspended nearly all operations because of depression in metal markets reinstated 60 former employees and started another furnace.

Reading, Pa.—In the Reading Railway company's car and locomotive shops 600 employees were laid off. Less than two-thirds of the men are now at work. Similar suspensions took place at Palo Alto and Schuylkill Haven shops.

Helena, Mont.—By July 1 more than 500 men will be employed by the Helena Power Transmission company in building the second largest dam in the world, to be known as the Third dam, on the Missouri, 30 miles from Helena.

New Bedford, Mass.—As a result of a conference between the members of the New Bedford Textile council and the Manufacturers' association, the wages of 26,000 operatives were reduced ten per cent.

Adams, Mass.—Notices of a wage reduction averaging 10 per cent. were posted at the cotton mills of the Berkshire Manufacturing company here. About 3,000 hands are affected.

Pawtucket, R. I.—Notices have been posted in the thread mills of J. & P. Coates, Limited, announcing a 10 per cent. reduction of wages. About 2,500 hands are employed in the mills.

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