

HELP FOR TOILERS

Minnesota Likely to Pass Employers' Liability Law.

IN HANDS OF COMMISSION.

Constitutionality of Such Legislation Practically Settled by Decisions of New York and Federal Courts—View of Judge Brown.

When the subject of a workingmen's compensation act was before the last legislature it was the prevailing opinion—any antagonistic view was so small as to be negligible—that the proposed enactment should provide for the compensation of every injury sustained by an employee, the question of blame or fault on either side to be eliminated. It was simply a matter of providing suitable compensation for injury where there was no fault on the part of the employer and no serious or willful misconduct on the part of the employee in occupations where danger is inherent from the use of power and machinery. The difficulty of preparing anything like a scale and at the same time of securing a uniformity that would not discriminate against employers in Minnesota in competition with other states led to the reference of the entire subject to a commission which is expected to report to the next legislature.

The possible unconstitutionality of an act of this character was hinted at rather than proclaimed. The common law provides no available remedy for injuries occasioned by industrial accidents not attributable to the negligence of the employer, and it was questioned whether the legislature had the power, under our system of constitutional government, to write this English provision into a statute. This point has arisen in a case in New York state, where such a law is in force, and the supreme court of that state has sustained its constitutionality. It was set up by the railway defendant that not only had the legislature exceeded its powers in the act, but that its terms deprived the railway company of its liberty and property without due process of law and denied it the equal protection of the law in contravention of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution.

Upon all questions involved the court ruled against the railway and sustained the law. It holds the legislature may amend or repeal the common law and may provide remedies where relief under the common law is impossible. It says the cases relied upon by the railway merely point out the shifting character of the border line between the statutes which are upheld by the court as being a legitimate exercise of the legislative power to pass all manner of necessary and wholesome acts for the protection and well being of the public, although such acts interfere with personal liberty and the right to do as one will with his own, and the statutes which are held by the courts to be unwarrantable interference.

Emphasis is laid upon this finding of Justice Brown of the federal supreme court: "While the cardinal principles of justice are immutable, the methods by which justice is administered are subject to constant fluctuation, and the constitution of the United States, which is necessarily and to a large extent inflexible and exceedingly difficult of amendment, should not be so construed as to deprive the states of the power to so amend their laws as to make them conform to the wishes of the citizens as they may deem best for

the public welfare without bringing them into conflict with the supreme law of the land."

There will be no opportunity for the final adjudication of this case before the Minnesota legislature reaches consideration of the subject. The New York statute has been used as a model for parallel laws by other states, and the decision of the supreme court of New York will be taken as strengthening the principle upon which it is based.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Growth of the A. F. of L.

The American Federation of Labor will convene in St. Louis on Nov. 14. Two large bodies have cast their lot with the American Federation of Labor since the last convention, the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen and the Western Federation of Miners. Two hundred and thirty-three charters have been issued to new bodies against 111 for the previous year. Ninety-eight were local unions, sixty-six federal labor unions, fifty-seven central labor bodies, one international union and one state branch. The amount received was \$288,644.43; the expenditures were \$119,296.48, leaving a balance of \$168,717.95.

LABOR'S MIGHTY ARMY.

There are affiliated to the American Federation of Labor 120 international trade unions, with their 27,000 local unions; 39 state federations, 632 city central bodies and 668 local trade and federal labor unions having no internationals.

There are 1,456 volunteer and special organizers, as well as the officers of the unions and of the American Federation of Labor itself, always willing and anxious to aid their fellow workmen to organize and in every other way better their conditions.

U. S. TO AID OTIS.

Proof that Secretary Knox has put the entire secret service of the State department at the disposal of the Los Angeles Times, in the attempt to fasten a charge of dynamiting upon organized labor, has just been made public through a leak in the office of Governor Gillett of California. Knox had intended to keep his activity a matter of complete secrecy and is reported to have furiously denounced the stupidity of Gillett in allowing the contents of private telegrams to get into the hands of newspaper men.

The exposure of Knox's sleuth work came with the arrest and demand for extradition of three men in a schooner in the harbor of Acapulco, Mexico, whom the Secretary of State is trying to connect with the Times explosion. That these men have no connection whatsoever with the Los Angeles catastrophe and that the wild stories of the Pinkertons employed on the job by Otis has caused the man-hunt to turn in despair to Mexico because nothing has been discovered in the United States, is the opinion of labor leaders in Washington who are keeping in close touch with the entire case. The action of the Secretary of State being without precedent in turning his office into a private detective agency, and so plain in its bias against organized labor, that the matter will be the subject of demand for a Congressional investigation at the next session.

LINCOLN SHOE CO.

Lincoln's Popular Priced Shoe Store
Up-To-Date and Durable Shoes
for Men, Women and Children
Shoes to meet every requirement
at the lowest prices.

Large Line of Union Made Shoes.

See Our
SHOW
WINDOW

Lincoln Shoe Co.

John E. Craig, Mgr.

1144 O St.

SHOES
FOR
Everybody

CAPITAL COAL

High Grade Coal At Moderate Price
\$1.75 per ton Is Worth Saving

HUTCHINS & HYATT CO.

STEREOTYPING

FOR THE TRADE

Cuts Duplicated and Mounted.
Nothing in my line I cannot do.
Estimates Furnished. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

B. E. LARGE

Eleventh & Q Sts.

For C - O - A - L

VOSS OF COURSE

1528 O

FOR GOOD CLEANING AND DYEING CALL THE

LINCOLN CLEANING & DYE WORKS

AUTO PHONE 2495-4525 BELL PHONE 1059

320-322 S. 11TH ST.

LINCOLN - NEBR.

E. W. TRUMAN, PRES.

LEO SOUKUP, MGR.