

backed by a dozen or fifteen union men of equal ability and hustling power, but the record he made is a fine one and the workers of Missouri owe him a debt of gratitude

LABOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

House of Representatives Contains Fifteen Members who are Members of Trade Unions.

In 1906 the Labor Representation Committee of the American Federation of Labor decided to aggressively take the field against the re-election of certain congressmen who had been conspicuous in their antagonism toward all labor bills introduced in congress. Congressman Littlefield of the Second district of Maine, than whom there had been no more sav-

age enemy of labor, courted a battle in the political campaign of four years ago.

President Gompers, together with two or three organizers and a similar number of international officials, entered the Littlefield district and made a memorable struggle to impress upon the citizens of that district the desirability of permitting the beligerent congressman to remain at home. Mr. Littlefield, however, was re-elected by a greatly reduced majority. This entrance of labor into the political arena had its spectacular and heroic fight against such gigantic odds in the state of Maine subsequently crystallized into action, in various parts of the country, a determination on the part of trade unionists to follow the lead of the American Federation of Labor.

The first campaign of the trade unionists, that of 1906, secured the election of six congressmen with active membership in the trades unions:

Wilson of Pennsylvania, Nichols of Pennsylvania, Sherwood of Ohio, Hughes of New Jersey, McDermott of Illinois, Carey of Wisconsin.

In the elections of 1908 the above were all re-elected, and in addition the following card men were added to the labor group:

Anderson of Ohio, Murphy of Missouri, Martin of Colorado, Jameison of Iowa.

A steady growth in numerical strength of labor members in congress is shown. In 1906 six trades unionists were elected. The fall of 1907 saw our lead increased by the election of four more trades unionists, making ten in all. The congressional elections of 1910 still further increased our numerical strength by 50 per cent, there being fifteen members of congress actively affiliated with the trades unions, as follows:

Wilson, W. B., coal miner, Blossburg, Pa., democrat; Lee, Richard E., blacksmith, Pottsville, Pa., democrat; Martin, John A., locomotive fireman, Pueblo, Colo., democrat; Cary, Wm. J., commercial telegrapher, Milwaukee, Wis., republican; Berger, Victor L., typographical union, Milwaukee, Wis., socialist; Hughes, Wm., textile workers, Paterson, N. J., democrat; Buchanan, Frank Sr., iron worker Chicago, Ill., democrat; McDermott, Jas. T., commercial telegrapher, Chicago, Ill., democrat; Lewis, David J., coal miner, Cumberland, Md., democrat; Smith, Chas. B., R. R. telegrapher, Buffalo, N. Y., democrat; Anderson, Carl C., musician, Fostoria, Ohio, democrat; Sherwood, Isaac R., typographical union, Toledo, Ohio, democrat; Roberts, E. E. metal miner, Carson City, Nev., republican; Farr John R., typographical union, Scranton, Pa., republican; Maher, James P., hatter Brooklyn, N. Y., democrat.

TRENCHANT CRITICISM.

Boston's Foremost Publication Takes Issue with Postoffice Official.

The Boston Globe has the following editorial on the order of Second Assistant Postmaster General, Joseph Stewart:

"To say that Mr. Joseph Stewart, second assistant postmaster general, was disingenuous in trying to make it appear that the union of the rail-

way postal clerks is a secret organization, is to put it mildly.

"Mr. Stewart certainly knows that the railway mail clerks' union is not a secret body and that it is affiliated with the A. F. of L., one of whose fundamental rules regarding government employes is that they must obey the rules of their department, despite what they may think of the justice of such rules. In joining a union the postal employes take no 'secret oath' or obligation, and Mr. Stewart is guilty of lack of candor at least in saying that it is incompatible with the postal clerks' obligation to the department that they should assume another oath with a secret organization in the service which may at any time interfere with the obligations which they have assumed upon entering the service.

"It is a short-sighted policy. It will not result in getting the best men for the service or in prevailing men for the service or in improving the service. Postal employes, being American citizens, will hardly submit to it."

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.

Labor Committee of National House Has Four Union Men on its Roster.

The assignment of members of the labor group to the various committees by the democratic caucus has been agreed to. Up to this time the republican minority has not selected its members on the various committees, therefore only democratic labor member assignments are available at this time. Labor has the chairmanship of the Labor Committee, it going to W. B. Wilson. Assignment as follows:

W. B. Wilson, chairmanship labor committee; also member mines committee; also merchant marine committee.

Richard E. Lee, Chairman mileage committee; also member naval affairs and liquor traffic committees.

John A. Martin, member interstate and foreign commerce, territories;

also committee on expenditures in war department.

William Hughes, member ways and means committee—this committee also is a committee on committees.

Frank Buchanan, member naval affairs and labor committees.

James T. McDermott, member agriculture and expenditures department of commerce and labor committees.

David J. Lewis, member military affairs and labor committees.

Charles B. Smith, member Indian affairs, liquor traffic and irrigation committees.

Carl C. Anderson, member invalid pensions and District of Columbia committees.

Isaac R. Sherwood, chairman invalid pensions and member expenditures in navy department.

James P. Maher, member public lands and labor committees.

BUTTON WORKERS' LOCKOUT

Employes Locked Out in February Stand Loyal to Union.

Information reaches A. F. of L. headquarters that Button Workers' Protective Union No. 12854 of Muscatine, Ia, is still pluckily maintaining itself against the lockout precipitated by their employers over a month ago.

Correspondence from the secretary of this union, Miss Pearl McGill, conveys the information that many misleading reports are emanating from sources, suspected to be inspired by the employers, which does injustice to the Button workers. It is stated that the locked out men and women have conducted themselves in an exceedingly quiet manner during the entire course of the contest. It is quite possible that interests inimical to the employes are using every effort to discredit and discourage the members of the Button Workers' union. Conditions in this industry have been very bad for years, and finally reached a climax a few weeks ago in the organization of the great bulk of button workers in the city mentioned.

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