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SAFETY FOR TOILERS.

John Mitchell Favors Compensation Over Liability Laws.

In an address at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science John Mitchell, the labor leader, said:

"It is a strange commentary on our boasted American civilization that in the United States three times as many persons in proportion to the number employed are killed or injured in the course of their employment as in any other country in the world."

This startling state of affairs does indeed constitute a strange commentary on our industrial practices, and our civilization in general. The pride of the nation, if nothing else, should lead the American people to insist upon radical improvement of conditions.

Mr. Mitchell points out the need of more intelligent factory and mining inspection laws and their rigid enforcement. The number of factory and mine inspectors must be increased and the inspectors removed from the sphere of political influence. Mr. Mitchell also urges the establishment of schools for the special training of inspectors in connection with publicly maintained museums in which safety devices would be displayed. He offers the further suggestion that the use of the most approved safety appliances be made compulsory upon employers.

With reference to compensation for such injuries as are inevitable Mr. Mitchell says:

"From time immemorial the workmen of the United States have endeavored to have enacted comprehensive employers' liability laws, and, while I am in full sympathy with their efforts in this direction, yet it is to be remembered that even the best system of employers' liability means expense, delay and litigation, whereas compensation laws, such as prevail in foreign countries, work automatically, benefits are paid immediately, friction is eliminated and a large measure of justice is done."

It is unfortunate that all leaders of organized labor do not see the truth of this matter of compensation for industrial accidents with as clear vision as does John Mitchell.—Chicago News.

LABOR IN PARLIAMENT.

Bill to Legalize Broader Trade Union Activity.

The guiding spirits of the labor party in Great Britain have presented to parliament its new bill to legalize the expenditure of funds by trade unions in whatsoever manner directed by these organizations.

The text has been issued of the trade union law amendment, No. 2 bill, presented by Mr. Johnson and supported by Ramsay MacDonald, Enoch Edwards, James Haslam, Mr. Barnes, Arthur Henderson, Keir Hardie, William Harvey, Mr. Hudson, George Roberts, Mr. Clynes and Mr. Parker. The measure seeks to enact that a trade union shall have power and shall be deemed always to have had power, whether acting by itself or in conjunction with any other trade union, association, body or person, to apply its funds or any portion thereof for or toward or in connection with (a) the purpose of procuring or assisting to procure the return of members of parliament or of any public or local authority or of any other public body, or (b) the purpose of providing or partly providing for the maintenance and other expenses of such members, or (c) both such purposes, and to do such other acts as may in the opinion of the trade union be desirable in order to promote, whether by political action or otherwise, the interests of workmen.

HUMAN LIFE CHEAP.

Brutal Disregard of Toilers Shown by Fire Disaster.

New York city has suffered a factory fire attended with a loss of about 150 lives. As has been the case so many times, man's inhumanity to man, official neglect and incompetency and perhaps graft are accountable for this criminal disaster.

Hundreds of men, women and children were penned and herded at their work on the top floors of a tall building, a structure apparently highly susceptible to a quick and violent conflagration. Municipal officials admit that fire protection in that particular building was surprisingly defective. The ways of escape open to the hundreds of workers were worse than inadequate. They were practically useless. Nothing was left to the victims save a choice of the manner in which they would die. They might stay and be burned to cinders or they might jump to certain death.

It is related in the dispatches that the employers of these helpless victims had insured their property at a high value. Manifestly the danger of destruction or damage to this property was well apprehended. But as to provision for saving the lives of human beings, that was thought of so little consequence that it escaped attention or at least it was ignored.

Such brutal disregard for the lives and welfare of those who toil is amazing. It falls to accord with the spirit of the civilization of which we sometimes boast. Only the rankest and most sordid commercialism could be so morally blind to responsibility. Only selfishness or self seeking of the most extreme kind could thus gamble with the possibilities of sacrificing human lives.—Chicago News.

Southern Pacific Cuts Wages.

Notice has been given by the Southern Pacific railroad of the transfer of its firemen, conductors and brakemen from Oakland, Cal., to Tracy. This means that soon between 3,000 and 4,000 residents of Oakland will be compelled to remove to Tracy. According to bulletins posted by the Southern Pacific, the working week of all yard employees is reduced to five days. This means that men who have been earning from \$90 to \$100 a month will in the future have difficulty in making more than \$50 to \$60 a month. All overtime for the workmen is also abolished.

Recall in California.

The California legislature has passed a law providing for the initiative, referendum and recall in cities. The measure will take effect May 13. According to the bill, any elective municipal officer in the state may be recalled four months after taking office if 25 per cent of the voters sign a recall petition and a majority of the voters vote against him at the recall election. Municipal legislation may be referred or initiated by a petition of 10 per cent of the registered voters.

Favors Eight Hour Day.

Governor Johnson of California signed the eight hour bill for women. "The argument against the eight hour day for women is purely economic," is the decision expressed by the governor in a comprehensive statement accompanying the signature of the bill, and he instances that the same arguments have been raised against child labor, pure food and mining and smelting legislation. "The smelters still run," observes the statement, "and additional ones are being built." The statement takes the further position that "productivity will not be materially decreased under an eight hour law."

SPECIAL BARGAINS FOR SATURDAY

Men's \$30 Suits.....\$20
Men's 25 Suits..... 18
Men's 20 Suits 15
Men's 15 Suits..... 10
Men's \$1.50 Union Suits \$1
Men's .75 Union Suits....35
Boston Garters, 25c kind .10
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