

# BUREAU OF LABOR.

Was Established Twenty-seven Years Ago.

## REPORT MOST INTERESTING.

**Carroll D. Wright First Commissioner of Labor—Industrial Depressions and Wage Variations Investigated and Remedies Suggested.**

The United States bureau of labor was established by act of congress, approved June 27, 1884. This act provided for the appointment of a commissioner of labor by the president and a chief clerk, to be appointed by the secretary of the interior, and such employees as might be necessary to conduct the work. No officers were appointed until January, 1885, when Carroll D. Wright received a commission from the president and assumed the duties of commissioner on Jan. 31, 1885, and on Feb. 3 Oren W. Weaver was appointed chief clerk. The first work attempted by the bureau was to collect information relative to the industrial depressions, the investigation comprehending a study of their character and alleged causes, whether contemporaneous in the great producing countries of the world and whether as to duration, severity, periodicity, they have been similar in such countries.

The foreign countries selected for investigations were Great Britain, Belgium, France, Germany and, to some extent, Switzerland and Italy. Five agents were employed in the foreign countries and fifteen in this.

The first annual report of the United States bureau of labor was transmitted to the secretary of interior, L. Q. C. Lamar, on March 17, 1886. The subject of industrial depression covered the years from 1837 to 1886.

Among the many remedies suggested to correct the then existing evils were many that are intensely interesting. These remedies were suggested by citizens in all walks of life as gleaned by the bureau's fifteen agents in their field work, as follows: Legislation that will prevent the consolidation of large bodies of capital; industrial co-operation; erection of central factories to compete with the sugar factories of Germany and France; extend the system of profit sharing; reduce the hours of labor; to compel manufacturers to be content with less than 10 per cent; organization of laborers; organization of employers; for congress to cease framing laws for the industrial interests of the country; restrict immigration; better education for the people; giving opportunity for the self improvement of the workingmen; allow no man to own more land than he can use himself; establish industrial schools; teach laborers and employers that the decrease of wages and profits means fewer luxuries; boards of arbitration to be created by legislation to settle differences between capital and labor by dividing profits of the business, above interest, equally between them.

Prior to the establishment of the bureau of labor three congressional committees had under discussion matters pertaining to the general welfare of the people of the country, and in the hearings which were held there were brought out, in addition to the above, other suggestions, such as the protection of children against the avarice of parents and employers and not to be employed under fourteen years of age, public ownership of coal, to give the franchise to women, to withdraw all inducements held out to immigrants, to absolutely prohibit Chinese, advoc-

ating the public ownership of iron lands, to make six hours a legal day's work, to reduce the working time of labor until all found employment and government ownership of telegraph and telephone.

In the concluding portion of the report, speaking directly of the lawmaking power, under the subhead of "Remedies," the following suggestions are made:

"It can stimulate the growth of the principle of industrial copartnership through methods of profit sharing by wise, permissive laws. Public sentiment can encourage the perfect organization of the forces involved, to the end that each shall treat with the other representative and that production shall be regulated by the demands and not by the ill advised eagerness of men who push their work individually to the detriment of others; that there may come the universal adoption of shorter hours of labor, and demand that after capital and labor shall have received a fixed and reasonable compensation, each for its investment, the net profits of production shall be divided under profit sharing plan or method or through industrial copartnership, to the end that all the forces of production shall be equally alive to mutual welfare. It can ask that the contracts of labor be as free as the contracts for commodities under fair agreement for services rendered, to the end that the workman shall not be obliged to make contracts on terms not acceptable to him, and it can hold the party which declines to resort to the conciliatory methods of arbitration morally responsible for all the ill effects growing out of contest. These remedial agencies or remedial methods, alleviatory in their design, are all possible by the reasonable acts of men. They are not chimerical schemes, but measures adapted to practical adoption. They demand simply a fair recognition of a part only of the truth bound up in the rule which insists that all men shall do unto others as they would have others do unto them."

### The A. F. of L. Convention.

The next American Federation of Labor convention will be held in Atlanta, Ga., during November, and then we shall see just how much strength the so called "progressives" have acquired in the past twelvemonth. The progressives have a distinct leaning toward the "industrial unionism" which is a part of the Socialist propaganda. The convention will also take up the various jurisdictional fights that to some persons seem so foolish and make probably satisfactory settlements. Central unions, too, will very likely be put on a plane of strict accountability in the matter of living up to the laws. On the whole, the convention promises to be one of the most enlightening in the history of the federation.—Brooklyn Eagle.

### TRADE UNION GOSSIP.

Since May 1, 1911, 500 carpenters have joined the Carpenters' union of Los Angeles, Cal.

The United Brotherhood of Operative Potters will receive an increase of one-half per cent beginning Oct. 1.

Jews in almost every large city in the country are giving financial aid to Cleveland's 6,000 striking garment workers.

Insurance against sickness is compulsory in Hungary for all persons employed in industrial undertakings and whose earnings do not exceed \$500 a year.

Timothy Healy of New York has been elected president of the International Brotherhood of Stationary Fire-

men for the fourth consecutive term of two years.

The San Francisco Housesmiths' union defeated the proposed amendment to its constitution that would have compelled all members of the union to secure work only through the business agent.

A resolution introduced at the annual convention of the longshoremen at Toledo, O., calling for the adoption of the principles of the Socialist party by organized labor was defeated by a vote of 4 to 1.

### Los Angeles Picket Ordinance.

L. W. Butler, secretary-treasurer of the Central Labor council of Los Angeles, makes the following report in regard to the working of the Los Angeles picket ordinance:

"The anti-picketing ordinance passed by the so called good government administration resulted in the arrest of 300 members of organized labor for alleged violations of the law. The legal battle has been waged during the entire term, the results of which are given in the following figures: Arrests, 300; convictions, 5; acquittals, 4; disagreements, 4; dismissals, 247; cases pending, 40. This does not include the thirty-five men arrested on a charge of conspiracy to violate the picket ordinance. The jury in this case disagreed, and the charges against the men were dismissed after the trial."

### THE OPEN SHOP.

The open shop means only an open door through which to turn the union man out and bring the nonunion man in to take his place.

The very reason that keeps men from joining the unions of their crafts makes them more servile and cringing to their employer, makes them ever subservient to his demands.

To prevent trade unionism from being conquered in detail, to save its members from being thrown out of the open door to make room for the servile and the weak, to maintain in shop and mill the best compositions that unionism has won and to look forward to others better still, to save the workman from his once long hours of toil and to provide a day shorter yet needs every effort of every union man, and without the right to protect themselves by refusing to work with those whose weakness or stupidity makes them recreant or unfaithful to their class trade unionism can neither hold that which it has won nor look forward to greater victories still.—Clarence Darrow.

### Pork Favorite Chinese Food.

The Chinese eat little or no beef. The beef consumed in the empire is chiefly the food of foreigners. But the natives are exceedingly fond of pork and consume vast quantities of it. Not only is the native article an excellent grade, but Chinese pork is retailed at a price far lower than the mere cost of production in this country. American pork could not compete with that of China, even if there were no question of transportation.

### Didn't Land as He Expected.

"I did not expect to come down this way," was the only remark made by Joseph Kinward, of Tarrytown, New York, after falling from a height of 150 feet, striking a guard wire, turning a complete somersault and landing on his feet.

### How He Voted.

At a church court a pastor had to vote on a delicate question. Either way would estrange some of his flock. So he voted "non liquit," which is equivalent to asking to be excused. The next day a country delegate was asked how this pastor had voted on the vexed question. He said: "The man did not seem pleased. In fact, he voted that he did not like it."

### Goat's Milk Highly Valued.

There are scores of foreign writers and medical experts who advocate the use of goat's milk for infants and invalids. In fact there are sanitariums in France and Switzerland that give goat's milk a prominent place in their systems of care. The milk is specially recommended for infants because of its similarity in composition to mother's milk.

### Pony vs. Horse Intelligence.

I have been asked a great many times if ponies are really more intelligent than full-sized horses. They certainly appear to be. But the intelligence of any horse will develop under petting and human companionship, and there is no doubt that other horses, if given the same privileges that ponies enjoy and if their size admitted of their being handled and managed in the same way, would prove equally intelligent.—Outing.

### British Capital for Turkey.

Gold, iron, copper, sulphur, coal, chrome, etc., are known to exist in different parts of the Turkish province of Hodeidah, which, in the opinion of the British consul there, will be thrown open to foreign exploitation in the near future, especially after the proposed railway is completed. This may, in time, provide an opening for British enterprise.

### As You Go.

"Clear up as you go" is an excellent text to work by—a parallel to "Never put off till tomorrow," &c.—and one that many a mother would do well to keep over before her and live up to. It is the putting-off habit that leads to accumulations, to hurry, and, consequently, to badly done work. If clothes need repairing, let them be repaired at once; if things are out of their proper places, put them back again, where they ought to be; before they are irretrievably lost.

### The Rent Sheepskin.

The president of a college near Boston tells me that he received today a letter, the writer of which, a graduate, asked for a second diploma. He said that he had been engaged but that he and the lady of his choice had a falling out. The lady showed her displeasure by tearing his diploma into bits. "I am afraid," said the president, "he will have to go through life minus his diploma, but with a certified copy."—Boston Record.

### New Idea in Judicial Lore.

The suggestion of a French judge, who presided at a breach of promise suit, has aroused the interest of American men and women. The suggestion is that when young people become engaged an agreement to marry should be drawn up with a clause providing damages if it is broken.

### Silly Saying Still Lives.

The saying that fish is the best brain food comes of an old long tongue windbag years ago saying: "Thought is impossible without phosphorus." So a Swiss chemist, knowing that fish contained phosphorus, put two and two together and brought forth a saying that will never die.