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## Pathetic Scenes at the Textile Strike Hearing

Following is a local report from the columns of the Washington (D. C.) Herald:

An extremely disorderly all-day hearing before the house rules committee on the resolutions proposing an investigation of the Lawrence strike wound up at 6 o'clock the other evening with a personal clash between Representative Victor Berger, the Wisconsin socialist, and several members of the Lawrence citizens' committee. It looked for a moment as if there would be a general melee, with the members of the rules committee, the delegation of strikers from Lawrence, local socialists, and the citizens' committee from the mill city as participants. But the affair passed off with nothing worse than a lot of pulling, hauling, and calling of names.

The near fight occurred just as the committee was about to adjourn until tomorrow, when Representative Wilson, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the house labor committee, jumped to his feet, and explaining that there was no money to pay for the board and lodging of the women and children strikers from Lawrence who came to Washington to appear before congress, suggested that a general subscription be taken up. Immediately Josephine Liss, who professes to have been roughly handled by a soldier in Lawrence the other day, jumped to her feet and began to pass the hat. Lewis S. Cox, postmaster of Lawrence and a member of the citizens' committee, dropped a dollar in it. Representative Berger happened to be watching.

"Give him back that dollar; it is blood money," he cried, rushing across the room and grabbing the girl by the arm. Cox flushed and the young woman apparently didn't know what to do. Berger reached in the hat, picked up the dollar bill and pushed it at Cox. Robert McCartney, a Lawrence business man, and chairman of the committee from that city, clutched Berger by the arm.

"Go away from me; I don't want to talk to you," yelled the socialist, struggling to get out of McCartney's grasp. "I am a representative of the people of Wisconsin."

"I don't give a d—n who you are," rejoined McCartney, still holding on. "I want you to understand that I've got as much money as you have and that it isn't tainted."

"I know you," cried Berger, "you are some underling of the woolen trust."

"You lie," said McCartney.

"Don't talk to me," shouted Berger, shoving his face within two inches of McCartney's.

"I'll say what I d—n please," the latter rejoined.

All this had taken but a moment, and just as the two belligerents were about to start a row in real earnest, members of the rules committee and spectators rushed up and separated them. There was a lively flurry, in which about twenty men participated, and then Berger and McCartney were led away in opposite directions. The collection of subscriptions was continued with gratifying results. The delegation of strikers were able to stay in Washington another day, when the rules committee met again on the resolutions of investigation.

Presented by Representative Berger as an exhibit of what "one of the most highly protected industries in America does to human life by which it is served," thirteen sallow-cheeked, thin-lipped, hollow-eyed, poorly-clad children and six adults marched up Pennsylvania avenue and filed solemnly into the capitol. In the committee room these "exhibits" stood along the wall until Representative Henry, accompanied

by his own little son of eight years, took pity on their plight.

"Get chairs for these children," commanded Judge Henry. "Arrange any way you want and take your time," he added, to Mr. Berger.

Before the witnesses began, Chairman Wilson, of the committee on labor, pleaded for federal investigation on the ground that in refusing to permit children to leave Lawrence several days ago, the state authorities had violated the federal law.

"There should be no power on the part of the state," argued Mr. Wilson, "to prevent these children being sent out of Massachusetts unless it were known that they were to become a public charge. There was no such allegation in this case."

"Wasn't that the pretext in this case?" inquired Representative Hardwick, of Georgia.

"The pretext was," Mr. Wilson replied, "that these children were being sent out of the state without the consent of their parents. In other words, that they were being kidnapped. If that were true this action would be indefensible, and the state law would cover the case. But it was not true in any particular."

"But aren't they in destitute circumstances?" asked Judge Hendy.

"Oh, Mr. Chairman," replied Mr. Wilson, dramatically, "they all are in destitute circumstances. No children could be more destitute than those that were left at home and these others had the consent of their parents to go."

Many labor leaders were among the spectators. The executive committee of the American Federation of Labor, headed by Samuel Gompers; President Golden, of the textile workers, and President Tim Healy, of the firemen, were among them.

The morning session of the hearing went off fairly peacefully, but in the afternoon there was one disorder after another, Chairman Henry finally threatening to clear the room of all spectators unless the women strikers quit shrieking "Liar!" at the witnesses and insulting them in other ways. Representative Stanley, of Kentucky, the steel committee chairman, finally declared he would see that the next striker insulting a witness was sent to jail "if it took all the power of congress" to do it. Representative Wilson, of Pennsylvania, the labor committee chairman, and Mr. Berger made statements in the morning, and Samuel Lipson, of Lawrence, a weaver and one of the strikers' committee, described the conditions in Lawrence and spoke of the "starvation wages" paid to a majority of the employees. Six dollars a week was the average, he declared, and oftentimes the head of a family of five, six, or seven members was able to carry not more than \$3 or \$4 home in his weekly pay envelope.

But it was the afternoon session that was lively, with Lipson again on the stand.

Representative Pou, of North Carolina, tried to get him to describe the scene at the railway station when the police and the militia prevented the strikers' children from being sent away. Lipson said the police grabbed the children and threw them into patrol wagons and clubbed the mothers.

"And did you really see the mothers clubbed?" Representative Pou asked.

"No," the witness replied. "But I saw them shoved around and pushed in the breasts."

"Why did the strikers want to send their children away from Lawrence?" Representative Stanley, of Kentucky, inquired.

"To keep them from being hurt," Lipson replied. "I sent mine away because one of my children opened

his eyes to me and said, 'Why do the soldiers treat people that way? Why do they stick their bayonets in them.'"

At this point Representative Robert O. Harris, of the Fourteenth Massachusetts district, who lives at East Bridge water, protested against the broad character of Lipson's examination. He asserted that Lipson was discussing matters with which the federal government could have no concern, and requested that he be limited to the incident of the prevention of the children from leaving Lawrence. Chairman Henry declared that the investigation involved the facts leading up to the incident at the station, but asked that all concerned limit their testimony as closely as possible.

Mr. Harrison said there was present a committee of four, representing the city of Lawrence, and he introduced C. T. Lynch, chairman of the committee of safety; T. T. Sullivan, city marshal; D. K. Murphy, city solicitor, and Robert J. McCartney, a Lawrence merchant. Lewis S. Cox, postmaster of Lawrence, was on hand to act as attorney for the committee.

Representative Foster, of Illinois, asking Lipson if it were true that the striking textile workers had thousands of dollars deposited in the savings banks of Lawrence.

"Oh, no," cried Lipson in reply. "How could men getting \$5 or \$6 a week put money in the savings banks?"

Representative Wilson, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee on labor, and author of one of the resolutions of investigation, asked permission at this point to interrupt Lipson's testimony and put John Golden, of Fall River, president of the textile workers' union, on the stand. He explained that Mr. Golden had to leave town last evening.

Mr. Golden started in by contradicting the statements of Representative Berger, made at the morning session.

"Mr. Berger," he said, "who has never been in Lawrence, made the statement that the industrial workers of the world represent 20,000 of the Lawrence mill hands, and that I, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, represent just 120. The truth of the matter is that when this 'revolution' in Lawrence occurred the official books of the industrial workers of the world show that the organization had just 247 members."

Continuing to controvert Mr. Berger's statement, Golden said that 70 per cent of the 22,000 textile workers in Lawrence either had left the city or had returned to their jobs. "I am not good at figures," he added, "but I would like to see anybody figure out where the 20,000 workers that this organization claims come from."

Mr. Golden referred to the offer that had been made by the American Woolen company to induce its employees to return to work. This offer was described by Mr. Berger at the morning session as "adding insult to injury." He declared that it would add less than 30 cents a week to the wage of a \$6-a-week man. But according to Mr. Golden, the company offered a minimum increase of 5 per cent, this to go to the highest paid employees, with a 12 per cent increase to those now receiving the lowest compensation.

"I want to go even further than an investigation of Lawrence," said Golden. "Conditions there are bad enough, but in the textile industry in general and in the south in particular, conditions are worse and wages lower than in New England. The cotton industry is worse than the woolen. I find there is universal sentiment for an investigation, but it should be an investigation not alone of the American Woolen com-