

TRADE UNIONS ARE THE BULWARKS OF MODERN DEMOCRACIES.—W. E. GLADSTONE.

Vol. IV

PORTLAND, OREGON, AUGUST 21, 1903

No. 2

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MEET IN CHICAGO

Civic Federation Will Convene in October.

WILL BE A BIG REPRESENTATION

An Attempt Will Be Made by the Commission to Conciliate Labor Troubles in the Middle West.

An important conference, representative of both labor and capital, and aiming to establish industrial peace, says Royce's Weekly, is to be held in Chicago next October. It will be under the auspices of the National Civic Federation, and universal arbitration and the eight-hour day will form the principal topics of discussion.

The National Civic Federation intends to bring together the employers and employees of the country, but principally those of the Middle West. The labor organizations will be represented, as will the employers and the larger commercial bodies of Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Denver, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, Detroit, Cleveland and other cities.

It is also understood that President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor will be on hand, as will also John Mitchell, president United Mine Workers of America, E. E. Clark, grand chief Order of Railway Conductors, James Duncan, first vice-president American Federation of Labor, John B. Lennon, general secretary Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, and many of the presidents of international and national unions in the Federation ranks.

Capitalists will have as their principal exponent United States Senator Mark Hanna and former President Grover Cleveland, while, it is said, President Roosevelt will also be invited to address the gathering. Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul and Bishop Potter of New York may also be included among the members of the conference.

The idea of holding the meeting in Chicago is said to be because it is felt that labor disturbances are more common in the West than the East and the publication of the addresses and debates in the press of Chicago will serve to show the workers the underlying principles of organization and the good results that can be gained through arbitration. On the other hand it will also dispose many employers who are not biased on the labor question to see the facts more clearly and recognize the justice of the workers in their claims for recognition and easier conditions of employment. In the East this is not considered so necessary, as Eastern manufacturers and the unions have adjusted most of their disputes on an amicable basis.

Similar conventions by the Federation have been held on a small scale in New York and St. Louis. They did not result as satisfactorily as they might because the representation was small each time.

The Chicago conference, however, will be of such magnitude as to claim national importance and will attract the workers and employers throughout the United States.

The program for the conference has not yet been arranged and will not be fully completed until next September. The sessions will last two and perhaps three days.

That the Federation is becoming of national importance was illustrated recently at Cleveland, where Senator Hanna delivered an address devoted to an explanation of the National Civic Federation's work. He spoke before the members of the Cleveland Builders' Exchange, saying in part:

Since the organization of the Civic Federation the working people have been prosperous as never before and so has the employer. The wage-earners, however, thought to themselves: "Are we getting our share of this prosperity?" I must admit that in many cases they were not. We aim to remedy that condition. Where there is a difference of opinion between labor and capital we try to bring them together.

The federation does not act as a board of arbitration. We only want to make it possible to get the employer and the employed together to adjust their troubles. A failure on the part of the federation to bring them

together has been very rare indeed. We have been instrumental in settling nearly 100 strikes in two years.

The only failure of any importance was in the great anthracite strike. I made a proposition to the mine owners to settle the strike on a basis of 5 per cent advance to the miners and they refused. The arbitration board appointed by President Roosevelt gave the miners more than twice as much. If our offer had been accepted it would have saved this country \$200,000,000.

NATIONAL BUILDING TRADES.

Alters Provisions Regarding Per Capita for Strike Benefits.

At the convention of the National Building Trades convention an important change was made in the constitution affecting per capita assessment for strike and lockout benefits. Heretofore such assessment was levied upon the total membership of all National and international locals affiliated with the Council. Under the change this assessment will be limited to unions which are affiliated with the local Councils that are members of the National Building Trades Council.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America were extended an invitation to join the Council. The recommendation of the constitution committee that the jurisdiction of the lathers trade be amended so as to give all the Burgett sheeting work to the carpenters' trade was concurred in by a vote of 112 to 50.

Congressman-elect William Randolph Hearst, of New York, was indorsed for the Presidency of the United States by a vote of 28 to 19.

After the vote had been taken, the opponents of the resolution withdrew their objections, and the indorsement was made unanimous.

Resolutions were adopted, committing the Council to the principles of strict trade autonomy, and recognizing the indisputable and absolute rights of any or each trade to their separate and district organizations, without hindrance or interference from any other organization. A resolution was adopted that amended the constitution so that all local unions or crafts, whose National or international organizations are affiliated with the National Building Trades Council, shall be required to affiliate with local building trades councils of their vicinity.

A resolution was also passed indorsing the Stonemasons' International Union of America, which is affiliated with the National Building Trades Council, and condemning the Bricklayers' and Masons' International Union of America, because of its alleged actions toward disrupting the stonemasons' organization with a view to absorbing it as a body. The vote on the resolution was 117 ayes and 52 noes.

The convention by a vote of 106 to 52 refused to give to the carpenters the work of putting in place channel iron, studding and brackets. This work now belongs to the lathers.

The convention refused to grant the application of the United Association of Plumbers', Gas and Steam Fitters' Helpers for membership until its jurisdiction blank is filled.

On the afternoon of August 18 the convention adjourned after electing the following officers for the ensuing term:

J. H. Maloney, president, Chicago, first vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Electricians; H. W. Steinbiss, general secretary, of St. Louis, father of the National Building Trades Council, and its general secretary since the organization. Six vice-presidents were elected. Sioux City, Ia., was selected as the next place of meeting. An amendment to the constitution was adopted removing the right of the executive board to levy on affiliated internationals and Nationals for strike benefits, but it gives the board the right to levy assessments of 5 cents per week upon all affiliated locals. It also removes the 10 weeks' limitation of strike assessment, and makes the levy unlimited as to time. It also puts the conduct and disbursement of the strike fund in the hands of the general secretary-treasurer of the National Building Trades Council.

The prosecuting attorney in the First District of Colorado has been suspended by Judge Owens for neglect of duty in the investigation of the blowing up of the Sun and Moon transformer house and the expulsion from Idaho Springs of 14 members of the Miners' Union by members of the Citizens' Protective League.

UNFAIR HATTERS

Using Bogus Labels in Western Trade.

STATE LAW WILL BE INVOKED

National Representative of United Hatters of North America in City On Important Business.

W. C. Hennelly, national representative of the United Hatters of North America, is at present in the city. His mission here is to acquaint the local retail hat dealers of the fact that Triest & Co., hat jobbers of San Francisco, who also have a branch at No. 71 First street, in this city, have been declared unfair by organized labor of the state of California for persistently handling non-union hats made by D. E. Loewe & Co., of Danbury, Conn., where the union hatters have been on strike for fair conditions since August, 1902.

Mr. Hennelly says that Triest & Co. are about the only jobbing house handling these non-union hats, the Eastern jobbers having refused to handle them, owing to the fact of a strike being in progress, and to the inferior quality of the goods, as no skilled mechanics are now employed there. Owing to this state of affairs, no doubt, Triest & Co. are getting large inducements from the Loewe & Co. concern to push their inferior non-union made hats on the local trade, and thereby keep 300 union workmen on the streets at Danbury, Conn.

Mr. Hennelly says the Hatters' Union fully respect the interests of others, and try to deal fairly with all concerns, as far as it is possible. He has visited the local hat dealers and acquainted them of the true circumstances regarding the troubles of the hatters and should they patronize this unfair jobbing house in the future, or until such time as the matter is adjusted, they will do so with a full knowledge of the situation, and should find no fault with anyone should they withdraw their patronage from stores desiring to fight the battles of jobbing houses or manufacturers who will not deal fairly with their employees. Mr. Hennelly informs us that over eight-tenths of the hat factories are union factories, consequently eight-tenths of the hats made and worn bear the union label, such a good majority of the factories being union brings the competition among the union factories and not among the non-union factories, consequently the best quality for the least money is the hat with the label.

Mr. Hennelly is visiting and addressing meetings of the local unions and acquainting them of the hatters' troubles; also to beware of bogus labels, which are being used in non-union made hats. He says Triest & Co., the unfair jobbing house, have been selling hats bearing a bogus label. Legal steps will be taken by the Hatters' Union should they continue this unlawful proceeding. Mr. Hennelly also says that the Stetson hat is non-union and has been ever since its existence, the factory being operated under the apprentice system. There are, at the present time, over 700 boys and children employed in this factory, this being continuous. The boys, when they become men are obliged to leave and try and find employment at something else to make room for other boys, so that the Stetson concern may get their hats made 50 per cent cheaper than the great majority of the hat manufacturers of this country. This may sound strange to those who have been believing the stories circulated by the agents of this notorious concern to the effect that this concern paid fair wages to its men. It is true, that they are obliged at times to pay an instructor fair wages to teach those boys, which is usually one instructor to every 24 boys, but how about the boys? They receive for their services \$3 to \$4 per week. This fact their agents do not circulate, and dare not should they wish to remain in the employ of this concern.

There will come a time, and not far distant, when the United Hatters of North America will make an effort to acquaint the general public of the systems employed by the J. B. Stetson concern, and feel satisfied that after the public becomes fully aware of the true conditions prevailing in this factory that they will not tolerate them.

Mr. Hennelly is passing out some very nice souvenir match boxes, also billing the city with advertising matter, calling attention to the hatters' label, and how it is sewed in the union hat. He will make a thorough canvass of the state in the interest of the hatters and will be with us from time to time until the hatters' troubles are adjusted on the Coast.

ANOTHER VICTORY.

Four Laundries of Los Angeles Unionized in Every Department.

Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 20.—(Special Correspondence.)—There can be no doubt that organized labor is becoming stronger and stronger even in Los Angeles, where the unions are being fought harder than in any other city in the United States. Under the leadership of the notorious Los Angeles Times, the Employers' Association is exerting every influence to disrupt the unions, but unionism goes marching on. Two years ago there was not a union laundry in Los Angeles. The girls employed in this class of work were treated in such an outrageous manner that finally patience ceased to be a virtue and they went on strike. A co-operative laundry was started and the Laundry Workers' Union began to grow. As a direct result of this brave stand, last week four of the largest laundries in this city signed a contract with the Council of Labor Unionizing their establishments in every department—laundry workers, engineers, office help, wagon drivers and all. This has proved a severe blow to the notorious Times and its would-be union-wrecking backers.

The fight that is being made against the Times is not alone the fight of the union men and women of Southern California. It has the indorsement of the American Federation of Labor and of the International Typographical Union. Once more every reader of the Portland Labor Press is requested to write a letter to each of the following advertisers in the unfair Los Angeles Times:

Munyon Remedy Co., 53d and Jefferson streets, Philadelphia, Pa.

Royal Baking Powder Co., 100 Williams street, New York, N. Y.

Philo-Hay Specialties Co., Newark, N. J.

"Castoria," the Centaur Co., 77 Murray street, New York, N. Y.

"Cuticura," Potter Drug & Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.

"Postum," Postum Cereal Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.

Scott's Emulsion, Scott & Bowne, 409 Pearl street, New York, N. Y.

Wright's Indian Vegetable Pill Co., New York, N. Y.

Ghirardelli's Ground Chocolate, D. Ghirardelli, San Francisco, Cal.

Write letters to the above firms, telling them that it is useless to expect working men and women to patronize any advertiser in the union-hating Los Angeles Times.

Wright Is Umpire.

T. D. Nichols, secretary of the miners' conciliation board, has received word from Judge Gray, of Wilmington, Del., notifying him that he had appointed Carroll D. Wright, ex-United States Commissioner of Labor, and member of the Anthracite Strike Commission, umpire of the board. The conciliation board several days ago requested Judge Gray to appoint an umpire, as provided for in the award on the strike commission.

Mr. Nichols denies that the question of the employers' right to discharge for any reason other than membership in a labor union is the primal question on which the board deadlocked, and which required the appointment of an umpire.

The demand of the Rockmen's Union that its members share in the award of the commission is the main point of dispute, Mr. Nichols says. Other points on which the board is deadlocked are the alleged maintenance of a "black list" by the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company and the alleged breaking of an agreement entered into by Cox Bros., of the Hazleton district, when their employes returned to work after the lock-out following the award of the strike commission.

President Nichols declared himself as well satisfied with the appointment of Commissioner of Labor Wright as the umpire of the conciliation board.

The several gas and light companies of San Francisco have unionized their plants.