

MITCHELL'S SACRIFICE.

Refuses to Accept an Increase of \$2000 in Salary.

The United Mineworkers, in session at Indianapolis, Ind., completed the work of the fifteenth annual convention last Tuesday. The joint wage conference with the operators began the following day. The operators will make the assertion that while the miners are not asking for an increase in the mining scale now in effect, the run of mine basis and the differential of 7 cents flat would mean a heavy increase. The present mining contracts, covering all operations in four districts, will expire April 1.

President Mitchell practically declined an increase of \$2000 a year in his salary, when a resolution was introduced to increase it from \$3000 to \$5000. When put to a vote it seemed that fully two-thirds of the house voted aye. He declared the resolution lost, and when there was call for division he ignored it. With a rap of his gavel he declared the motion lost and closed the debate.

Indianapolis was chosen for the convention next year, and President Mitchell, Vice President Lewis and Secretary Wilson were unanimously re-elected. Mitchell received 92,633 votes, Lewis 91,510 and Wilson 91,875.

The mineworkers authorized the levying of 15 cents a month in addition to the present 10 cents per capita tax for the support of strikes. This increase will go into effect at once, and on a basis of membership of 290,000 in good standing should bring into the National treasury approximately \$70,000 a month.

A memorial address to the American Federation of Labor, requesting it to require legislation in all trades-unions raising the "color line," was adopted.

A resolution was adopted releasing locals from obligations to meet the taxation imposed by local central trades-unions for support of general business agents which cannot act for the miners.

The Socialists made a determined effort to inject Socialism into the convention by a resolution for the appointment of times for the discussion of economic questions, and setting forth Socialistic doctrines, but were repulsed.

The committee on officers' reports reported a confidence in President Mitchell's recommendation that the organization endeavor to secure legislation prohibiting the employment of boys under 16 years of age in mines.

An amendment was offered extending the employment of boys to "in and around mines." President Mitchell vigorously contested this amendment, because of his belief that the resolution might be deemed too stringent by the legislators and be declared unconstitutional.

The amendment was defeated by a rising vote, and the committee report was adopted.

Trust Lawyer Rebuked.

At the annual dinner of the Holland Society, held in the Astor gallery of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on January 21, at which there was an unusually distinguished assemblage of the rich, the question of organized labor was raised between a Mr. Peck, trust lawyer, and William Jennings Bryan, the latter defending the wage-earner and their unions.

Speaking under the title of "Our Hero Ancestors," Mr. Beck so developed the address that it turned into an attack on labor. While deploring the thought that there had come a time of struggle between the "plain

people and organized wealth," the trust lawyer scored labor organizations and denounced what he termed "the tyranny of the boycott." He said:

"If we do not misread history, the prosperity of the Dutch people was founded upon a principle which is vitally essential to the progress and happiness of any people, and that is the inalienable right of every man to work for whom he pleases and at what wages he pleases.

"The Dutch people had their labor guilds, and they fittingly emphasized the dignity of their several occupations. But if any labor guild in Holland should have attempted to prescribe fealty to it as an organization, as a condition of the right of labor, the workingmen of Holland would have arisen against this offensive form of tyranny as readily as against that of the Duke of Alva.

"To the founders of the Dutch Republic, moreover, the right of every man to enjoy the fruit of his labor, whether considerable or inconsiderable, was a basic social condition."

Mr. Bryan, in his address on "Peace," made reply to Mr. Beck's speech. He said in part:

"Do you think it unjust that they ask that their hours be decreased? We look out for our families and our children. Why should not they? If they are driven from bed to work and from work to bed, what chance have they to cultivate their minds? They must either die for their country or live for it. You must appeal to them as you would appeal to your own brother.

"When you permit long hours you are endangering their minds and their lives. I appeal to you to meet this question with the heroism your ancestors showed. There is nothing greater than dying for one's own rights. I am looking for something—a greater civilization than we have now—when a man will not only die for his country, but for the people of his country."

Strikers Endorsed by Ladies.

At a meeting last Sunday night of the Central Trades and Labor Union, embracing all the labor unions in St. Louis, resolutions were adopted endorsing the strike recently declared by the drivers for liverymen and undertakers and denouncing the course of Governor Dockery and Chief of Police Kiely in taking such rigid cognizance of the strike and permitting nonunion men to be sworn in as private watchmen empowered to carry arms.

The resolutions declare that the action of these two officials has caused the public to misunderstand the strike and to believe that it is attended with danger to life and property, instead of being simply an enforcement of demands for higher wages and a limited number of working hours. All union men are urged to secure satisfaction at the polls when election comes.

The members of the Liverymen's and Undertakers' Association are also declared to be unfair, and union men are called upon to refrain from hiring carriages or patronizing the association in any way.

Otherwise, the strike situation remains unchanged. No more drivers have returned to work since 16 employees of the Hardy Livery Company resumed work Friday. Many undertakers drove their own carriages during funerals today. No interference was attempted by any of the strikers.

Young women sympathizers of the striking hackmen and carriage drivers have pledged themselves to postpone several prospective weddings until the strike is settled, or utilize the moving vans and wagons rather than ride in carriages driven by nonunion men.

The young women are all members of unions and the wedding dates for many of them had been set. When they adopted this resolution at a meeting today and it became known to the strikers tonight, they were enthusiastically felicitated.

PUT A DOLLAR IN THE BANK.

A rainy day's a-comin', boys, as sure as you're alive,

When bees can't put a single drop of honey in the hive;

The busy ants won't dare to set a foot outside the door,

They'll loaf around and make their meals on what they've gleaned before;

I ain't no weather prophet, as they call 'em, but you bet

I know the time's a-comin' when it's likely to be wet,

And them as may prepare for it will have themselves to thank

If, while the weather's fair, they put a dollar in the bank.

It's mighty nice to slish around and cut a lordly dash,

And make the people wonder at the way you squander cash;

It's fun to sow your dollars like there wasn't any stint,

And sort of make the public think you own a private mint,

But by and by the time will come you won't have such a chance,

And just as likely as not there'll be some patches on your pants;

Instead of drawin' prizes, why, you'll only get a blank,

And you'll regret that you didn't put a dollar in the bank.

There ain't no sea so calm but that at times the storms prevail,
There ain't no soil so good but that sometimes the crop will fail;
And then some men who brag the most about a "lead-pipe cinch,"
Sing different tunes when later on they find they're in a pinch.
It ain't good sense to waste your cake promiscuously, because
The day will come you'll want a crust to put betwixt your jaws;
And if you'd have your vest look plump, instead of lean and lank,
You'd better not forget to put a dollar in the bank.

—Labor Advocate.

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