

### LABOR IS PLANNING TO FIGHT FOR LIFE

#### Unemployment Situation Is Regarded as Serious.

#### RECENT ATTACKS NOTED

#### Harden Colfax Declares Council of War Will Be Held Soon to Consider All Problems.

BY HARDEN COLFAX. (Copyright, 1921, by The Oregonian.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 12.—Organized labor soon will marshal in its force, capable to meet a crisis which it visualizes as follows:

Nearly 4,000,000 men are out of work.

Wages are declining at a rate from two to three times the rate of decline in living costs.

Well-organized attacks, well financed, are in full swing against union labor and even against the department of labor itself.

That is the situation as organized labor sees it today. To meet that situation and to solve, if possible, its problems, international unions throughout America will send 119 of their chief officials to the labor conference here February 22.

#### Offensive Is Considered.

Even now organized labor can take the offensive against hostile forces is down for consideration. The conference will be at once a council of war and an inventory of labor's strength.

The meeting will not be open to the general public, but as it promises to be one of the most momentous called by the American Federation of Labor in recent years, statements will be issued regarding its proceedings. The view of organized labor leaders in advance of the meeting is that unemployment may yet become more serious, not in the number of men out of work, but in the condition of the employed.

They point out that thus far it has been possible for men to draw on their war-time savings or to sell liberty bonds, but when these resources are exhausted matters, they say, will be much worse than now. The comment is made by labor men that the same employers who, a few months ago, were calling for increased production, are those who now have closed their factories.

#### Administration Change Feared.

Then conditions were forestalled by a campaign put under way by the department of labor to stimulate construction and public works. Now, however, the department, for lack of funds and because of the coming change of administration, is unable to act.

Labor men are apprehensive, too, that the change of administration will not be for the better, so far as the department is concerned. The impression prevails in labor circles that many influential interests are hostile to organized labor and to the department. Positive statements from the republican side have contributed to that feeling. In any event, J. J. Davis is not looked upon by organized labor as an acceptable secretary, for, though at one time he was labor organizer, he gave up that work to organize fraternal bodies and has of late years been a banker.

Herbert Hoover is reported to have been offered the labor portfolio and to have declined it, urging that a real labor man be chosen. The present secretary, William B. Wilson, it is said has been suggested for re-employment.

#### Staff Is Held Bi-Partisan.

Hardly less important than the appointment of a secretary is the selection of the conclusion force. These men, some 30 in all, are not under the civil service, but the present staff is bi-partisan, and through eight years' experience, including the very heavy work during the war, its members have before experts, each in some trade or industry. If jobs are distributed as patronage, or given to men suspected of prejudice, much dissatisfaction on organized labor's part will result.

Statistics regarding living costs and figure prominently in the discussions at the conference. Labor will contend that through the period of advance wage increases constantly lagged behind prices, and that now living costs have fallen only 7.5 per cent, whereas wage reductions of 10 to 25 per cent have been put into effect.

### NEEDED SHIPS WERE BUILT, SAYS HURLEY

#### Shipping Board Mistakes Declared Inevitable.

#### TRIBUTE PAID TO SCHWAB

#### 4 NEW BRIDGES PLANNED

Contracts to Be Let March 1 at Portland Highway Meeting.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 12.—(Special.)—Four overhead railroad crossings and four bridges are to be contracted by the state highway commission at a meeting to be held at Portland March 1, according to announcements made by the highway department today.

Following are the structures included in the improvements and their locations:

Two bridges over Burnt river about six miles from Weatherly station, Baker county.

One crossing over Burnt river combined with a crossing of the G-W R. & N. company about four miles from Huntington, Baker county.

One bridge over the Umpqua river in Roseburg, Douglas county.

One bridge over the Umpqua river at Myrtle creek, Douglas county.

One crossing of the Altamont canal about seven miles east of Klamath Falls.

One crossing of the Oregon Eastern railway near Dairy, about 15 miles east of Klamath Falls.

One crossing of the Southern Pacific tracks about three miles south of Eugene.

### DOCTOR STRIKES WOMAN

#### Dr. E. N. Crockett Arrested on Charge of Failure to Help.

#### CONVENTION DATE IS SET

#### American Legion's State Reunion Will Be Held July 1 and 2.

#### HARNEY WINS IN DEBATE

#### Vale High School Team Beaten in District Contest.

BURNS, Or., Feb. 12.—(Special.)—The Harney county high school defeated the Vale high school Friday evening in the first district debate of the southeast section. The question was, "Resolved, That Ireland should be given the dominion plan of government."

### FRANCE'S EAR DEAF TO GERMAN BARGAIN

#### Premier Briand Said to Be Firm for Reparations.

#### TEUTON COUP IS FEARED

#### Likelihood of Amicable Outcome of London Conference Is Doubtful at Paris.

BY LINCOLN EYRE. (Copyright by The New York World, Published by Arrangement.)

PARIS, Feb. 12.—(Special cable.)—Any likelihood of the London conference resulting in an amicable understanding with the Germans based on their acceptance of the allied reparations programme, is fast evaporating. Already in French official circles there is talk of turning the meeting scheduled to begin on February 28 into a discussion of the best means of applying the penalties which the supreme council has resolved to inflict upon Germany in the event of her non-acceptance of the Paris terms.

At the ministry of foreign affairs it is stated that Germany's obvious effort to postpone a final settlement of the reparations problem is doubtless inspired by the hope that her opposition to the allies will find a favorable echo in Washington after Harding's inauguration. French officialdom believes that Berlin is in for a severe disappointment in this respect. Whatever the new administration may be, however, the present French government is resolved to insist upon the integral application of the system of payments laid down in Harding's inauguration. French officials believe that in this stand he has the British cabinet's wholehearted support.

That Germany expects to find some way of bargaining along the lines indicated by Foreign Minister Simons in the reichstag is believed here. This the French will under no circumstances permit. Indeed, among the deputies there is a strong current of opinion in favor of abandoning the London conference altogether if the faintest possibility that it will become another Spa should arise. This doctrine is approved by such important papers as the Petit Parisien and the Temps.

The former intimates that Germany's air of defiance may make the presence of her representatives at the council table with the allied statesmen impossible. The Temps asks what use it purposes to be served by the proposed conference if the Germans come to London with the idea of rejecting the Paris agreement, "utilizing against the entente the support of the new American government" and trusting in bolshevik aggression to disturb Europe to such an extent that the Versailles treaty will be torn to pieces.

This view, however, is certainly not that of the French government, as interpreted at the Quai d'Orsay. Premier Briand, according to those authorized to speak for him, will go to London, no matter what the Germans may do—unless his ministry is overthrown by the chamber, which thus far appears improbable.

The presumption is that, arriving in England on February 21, the date on which the conference is scheduled to begin, he will remain there until the reparations deliberations, with or without the German delegates, are ended. Both he and Lloyd George, it is understood, feel that a definite settlement of this question should be arrived at before Mr. Harding takes office, so that the allies can lay a clear statement of their case before the new president.

#### Rains Lower Snow Level.

#### Bend Pupils Petition Board.

BEND, Or., Feb. 12.—(Special.)—Heavy rains in the mountain have lowered the snow level two feet within the last two days, according to reports brought to Bend by employees of the Tumalo fish hatchery, who have just finished taking more than 6,000,000 brook trout eggs at Elk lake.

Seeking to obtain the services of an ex-instructor, pupils in the Central grade school today petitioned the Bend school board to appoint Mrs. Mildred Williams as their teacher.

### HAL DUBIOUS ABOUT SUN

#### Youngster From South Has All but Forgotten Old Sol.

#### SCAPPOOSE WINS DEBATE

#### St. Helens High School Defeated in State League Contest.

ST. HELENS, Or., Feb. 12.—(Special.)—Debaters of St. Helens High school were defeated by rivals from Scappoose when the teams clashed here Friday night in one of the contests of the state high school league. Members of the winning Scappoose High school team were Clara Hangerud and James Watts and of the St. Helens team, Carl Tucker and Sig Wellborn.

The question was, "Resolved, That section 28 of the Jones marine bill should be enforced." The local debaters had the negative and the victors the affirmative. Judges of the contest were Judge Robert Morrow, R. L. Sablin and George Brown, all of Portland.

#### Needed Ships Delivered.

"We delivered ships," he declared. "That's what we were supposed to do."

Shipping board officers profited by their mistakes and took pains not to repeat them, he said, adding that the country could view with pride the board's accomplishment.

Mr. Hurley paid tribute to the men associated with him, especially Charles M. Schwab, who, he said, had been drafted to take charge of construction when satisfactory progress was not being made. At the peace conference, Mr. Hurley continued, Clemenceau told him that this appointment had frightened the Germans, hastened the French and enthused the British.

"I know that his appointment," he added, "inspired the American people to get behind the shipbuilding programme."

He expressed optimism over the future of the American merchant marine, but said too many ships might prove a liability in case of insufficient cargoes.

#### Wooden Ships Condemned.

Junking of the government's wooden ships was favored by Mr. Hurley, who said the vessels were no longer of any use or practical value.

Mr. Hurley denied he had promised wooden shipyard owners sufficient contracts for three turns on their ways, regardless of an early termination of the war.

Discussing the placing of contracts in Japan for steel ships, Mr. Hurley said the increased expense was justified because the United States had to have ships in a hurry and the Japanese yards were able to rush delivery.

Asked whether any ship construction companies had "held up" the government during the war, Mr. Hurley exclaimed:

"They drove hard bargains, every one of them. You would have done the same—but they delivered ships."

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THIS WEEK

A picture of good cheer and marvelous journey—like a breath of spring.

# UNSEEN FORCES

-Featuring- Sylvia Dreamer Conrad Nagel and equally capable cast.

A photoplay that stands out as one of the most charming things that the silver sheet has mirrored these many days.

"THE PUNCH OF THE IRISH" Comedy

SPECIAL SUNDAY CONCERT 12:30 Noon Today

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# Lionel Barrymore

"The Devil's Garden" requires a player with the power of Lionel Barrymore to depict the powerful part of "William Dale"—and Barrymore achieves a triumph.

TODAY

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Then choose for her a gift that carries a subtle consideration of her own needs, her own personality.

Let it be a gift of jewelry—a Bar Pin or Lavalliere, for instance; something you will be proud to send, something she will be proud to own.

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We have an Optical Department that is unsurpassed in efficiency. If you have the least trouble with your eyes or glasses, don't delay consulting us.

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