

# LABOR PLANS BIG DEMONSTRATION ON DISARMAMENT

By David Lawrence  
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Washington, Sept. 21.—American labor has asked the American Legion and other national organizations to cooperate in demonstrations throughout the United States on Armistice day, not only to celebrate the victory of 1918 but to impress the delegates to the conference on the limitation of armaments with the fact that the American people confidently expect a program to be adopted which will reduce military and naval expenditures and minimize the chances of war.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, today disclosed his plans for parades and mass meetings on November 11, which may exceed in point of numbers the processions of Labor day in past years. Gompers feels that Armistice day passed last November without that glorification of

the event which is necessary to instill in the minds of people a true appreciation of the sacrifices that were made to win the victory. The day should be, he believes, an occasion for expression of the anti-war sentiment needed to insure a program of enduring peace.

**LABOR ASKED TO HELP**  
Gompers makes it plain that he is not championing a class movement. He simply is notifying every trade union headquarters in every city and town in the United States that labor should do its part in what he hopes will be taken up by other civic bodies as a national celebration. When Armistice day has passed, it is the hope of the American Federation of Labor that a permanent committee of 75 members, representing all the various national organizations interested in disarmament and the cause of peace, will unite and bring respectful pressure to bear on the conference for the limitation of armaments so that there may be no doubt about the insistence of the American people on practical results. Gompers is in communication with the labor organizations of other countries.

The building up of a world-wide sentiment behind the Washington conference on armaments is intended to assure the delegates of all countries that they may ignore the jingoes and munition makers and go as far as they like toward lifting the burdens of taxation which have crippled Europe's purchasing power and indirectly helped to bring on an industrial depression in the United States.

Gompers was asked what would be the

course of the American Federation of Labor in the event that the conference failed to reach an agreement on the limitation of armaments. Would he favor the reduction by the United States of its army and navy irrespective of what the other powers did?

"I have always opposed and shall continue emphatically to oppose any suggestion that the United States disarm alone," replied Gompers.

No, the movement of the American Federation of Labor does not ask the impossible but aims to bring out public opinion in such a way as to show the delegates how unmistakable is public sentiment for an agreement on armaments. Propaganda against reduction of armaments is already in full swing. Inside our own government are many men who doubt the practicability of any agreement on military or naval expenditure. Also there are those who believe the United States ought to continue her policy of aloofness and refuse to engage in any entangling agreements with the rest of the world.

**FAVORS MASS MEETINGS**  
On the other hand, organizations like the League of Women Voters and the American Federation of Labor and several church bodies are keenly interested in making the Washington conference on armaments limitation a huge success. One way, they believe that success will come, will be by manifestations of public opinion—mass meetings at which resolutions will be adopted.

In other words, the organization of all

those in the United States who favor armament limitation sought so that the delegates from Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan will be fully impressed by the proposals of the American delegation and will see behind them a popular demand for practical results and not an evasive set of academic principles.

**Aliens Are Being Weeded Out of the State Institutions**

Aliens, subject to deportation, are pretty well weeded out of the state institutions, according to R. P. Bonham of the United States immigration service, who has just been coming from the penitentiary, insane asylum and other institutions at Salem for subjects who might properly be shown out through the country's back door.

For several years Bonham has been deporting foreign criminals at the expiration of their sentences, and others who are public charges, so as to save the state the expense of supporting them. The decrease in number of such persons Bonham attributes to the falling off of immigration during the war which resulted in fewer cases needing attention at this time.

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