

"It is a right to be maintained in peace or war. It is a right that cannot be invaded without destroying constitutional liberty. Hence this right should be guarded and protected by the free men of this country with a zealous care, unless they are prepared for chains or anarchy.—Daniel Webster on Free Speech.

HOLD THE FORT

The critical hour in the strike situation has arrived. The employers have about exhausted the patience of the government and they know it. They are not necessary to the building of ships, and that is something we all know. They are only in the way. The government could take charge of the yards, construct better and cheaper ships, and apply the fat profits now going to the employers to the workers' pay roll.

And this will be done, is bound to be done, if the workers stand firm and refuse to go back except on the conditions they have named—a better scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living and recognition of their union.

These are reasonable demands. No one who has come here to investigate the strike denies this. Any increase in wages is paid by the government. The only point the employers have to yield is recognition of the union. And to be recognized as a union man is, as Mr. Dalzier, deputy state labor commissioner, said in the meeting yesterday at Logan Hall, "the God-given right of every man."

Two samples of the arguments against a closed shop were used in the meeting yesterday. Mr. Brix said he was opposed to the closed shop because it was un-American, and Wright objected to it on the ground that it would tend to destroy initiative. And the latter, while not so hypocritical sounding as the first, is no more convincing. Both are fair samples of the intelligence of those in whose hands production rests.

The closed, or union shop, is to the workers what freedom from Prussian dictation is to the nation. We are waging a war with European powers for the union shop, on a big scale. Shall the workers here at home lay down to a small kaiser of industry?

Every member of the Ship Builders Union should "stand his hand." They have so far shown magnificent solidarity. A few more days and the government will break the dead-lock. This is no time to show the white feather or the yellow streak.

Stand up for the right to be recognized as men—union men. Don't go back for your children's sake, stay out for your children's sake. Let no one figure what he is losing in dollars and cents. You are losing nothing. You are fighting to make working conditions fit for your children.

The managers cannot get competent men to fill your places. Out of two hundred men and over, which the McEachern company claim to have, there is hardly a one who can tell a ship auger from a cork screw. Strikebreaking mechanics are not to be had anywhere.

You are in the right and your cause is just. And any member of the union who bows his head and goes back now without the consent of the union, deserves to be loaded with the chains of bondage. For not only is he surrendering his manhood to the boss and betraying a solemn oath to his fellow workers, but he is perpetuating a slavery for which his children ought to execrate his very memory.

It Will Be "New Freedom" With a "Firm Hand"

proclamation, we may well believe that it will be "with a firm hand."—The New Age.

PROSTITUTION AND WAR.

In a pamphlet on "Prostitution in Relation to the Army on the Mexican Border," Dr. M. J. Exner makes the statement that "during the first 18 months of the war, one of the great powers had more men incapacitated by venereal diseases contracted in the mobilization camps than in all the fighting at the front." The same writer, reporting on moral conditions existing in the camps on the Mexican border last summer brings out the following startling facts:

- 1. Commanding and medical officers at the border assumed that prostitution is necessary. In several camps, the officers established prostitution quarters for their men.
2. In one case, a woman in the active stage of syphilis had been in position to communicate it to 120 men within the preceding two days.
3. The civil communities where camps were stationed protested against regulation of prostitution on the ground that it would hurt business.
4. In many places boys and men stood in line for hours awaiting their turn.
5. Conditions in almost all of these camps were such as to make it all but impossible for any boy, no matter how well and cleanly brought up, to resist the overwhelming temptation to indulgence.—July issue of Current Opinion.

MOONEY CASE THE RALLYING CRY OF DISCONTENT

The New York Evening Mail commends the proposed federal investigation of the Mooney "frame-up" case. Its editorial on the situation reads:

In ordering the Department of Justice and the Federal Labor Commission to make a thorough investigation into the Mooney case at San Francisco, President Wilson is giving his personal attention to a situation fraught with dangerous possibilities.

Thomas J. Mooney, with four other leaders, including his own wife, was tried on the charge of having caused the bomb explosion that killed ten persons and injured fifty others in the Preparedness parade in San Francisco on July 23, 1916. After a trial which was followed by various charges of perjury against witnesses for the prosecution and conspiracy on the part of public utilities corporations of San Francisco, Mooney was convicted and sentenced to be hanged on May 17 of this year.

In the meanwhile the charges that Mooney's conviction had been brought about by means of perjury and conspiracy, devised and promoted by District Attorney Fickert and his office, became more insistent and violent. The specific charge was made that Frank C. Oxman, an "honest cattleman" of Durkee, Ore., who had been put on the stand and had sworn that he saw the Mooney party depositing the suitcase that contained the dynamite that caused the explosion at the spot where the outrage was perpetrated, was a perjurer, coached and paid by the prosecution. To sustain this charge the labor leaders pointed to a letter written by Oxman to E. E. Rigall of Grayville, Ill., a former associate, inviting him to San Francisco to corroborate his testimony at the trial. Rigall, who had not been in San Francisco at the time of the bombing, pretended to acquiesce in Oxman's plans, went to San Francisco, was lavishly entertained by the district attorney's office, submitted to coaching as to what he should say on the stand, and then disappeared before the date set for his testimony before the jury.

The circumstances surrounding the trial and conviction of Mooney produced so strong an impression on the state authorities at Sacramento that Attorney General U. S. Webb of California on July 30 of this year filed in the state supreme court a document supporting Mooney's appeal from the sentence of death and his plea for a new trial. It is in this phase of the case that President Wilson now intervenes, with instruction for a full inquiry by the Department of Justice, and also by the Industrial Commission, of which Secretary Wilson is the head.

The Mooney case has been taken up by labor bodies all over the country. Echoes of the unrest caused by it have been heard in distant Russia, where the American minister was made the victim of a hostile demonstration several months ago, on the ground that the United States was railroad to execution an "Italian socialist named Muni."

In America and abroad the Mooney case has been made the rallying cry of discontent and hostility to America and to the existing order.

MIKE AND HIS POTATO PATCH.

An Irish soldier who was a Sen Feiner was serving with the British army "somewhere in France." He was much worried about his garden and wondered how he would get it dug up in time for the crop. Finally a bright idea struck him. He wrote to his wife and told her to get one of the neighbor boys to do the work, but to caution him not to dig too deep, because there was a lot of Sen Feiners ammunition buried there and if he struck it in digging it might be the death of the whole family.

Of course the censor got hold of the letter and read it. A whole company of men were ordered down to dig for that ammunition. They dug and dug, and dug good and deep, with the result that by the time they had tumbled to the joke Mike had his garden all spaded ready for planting, for nothing.

NEW LABOR LAWS ARE PASSED IN EVERY STATE

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by raising age limits, extending existing restrictions to new employments, or shortening hours. Texas passed a new general statute setting a 15-year minimum age for factories, and Vermont provided for issuance of regulations in conformity with those of the federal child labor act, which went into effect Sept. 1 with an appropriation of \$150,000 for its enforcement, Kansas and New Hampshire legislated on factory safeguards, Texas on fire escapes, New Jersey on scaffolding, Montana on electrical apparatus, Delaware on sanitary equipment, and West Virginia on mines; all following the modern tendency to lay down in the law merely general requirements, leaving to the labor commissioner, fire marshal, board of health, or other administrative official, the duty of issuing specific regulations. New Jersey forbade the manufacture of articles of food or children's wear in tenements.

Workmen's Compensation.

Workmen's compensation laws were enacted in Delaware, Idaho, New Mexico, South Dakota and Utah, making forty states and territories which now have such laws, in addition to the federal government's compensation law for its own half million civilian employes. Compensation in the new acts is 50 or 55 per cent of wages but is increased by half in New Mexico if the injury resulted from the employer's failure to provide safety devices required by law. In more than twenty additional states existing acts were amended, the changes being marked by a tendency to extend the scope, shorten the waiting period, and increase provisions for medical care. Insurance for seamen in American vessels was authorized under the federal Bureau of War Risk.

Administration of Labor Laws.

Wyoming for the first time established a commissioner to enforce its labor laws, and Utah and Vermont joined the states in which administration of all labor legislation, including workmen's compensation, is centered in one consolidated department. In Utah and Pennsylvania, the industrial commissions are given power to issue regulations having the force of law. Civil service rules looking to greater efficiency and stability of the factory inspection force were inaugurated in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Unemployment.

Public employment bureaus were authorized in South Dakota and New Hampshire, while Oregon appointed a commission to investigate and recommend legislation under which "all human beings within this state shall be provided opportunity to secure the necessities of life in return for labor requisite to their production." Minnesota and Arizona arranged for co-operation with the federal government in managing public employment offices, and Nebraska regulated private agencies.

Trade Disputes.

Laws legalizing labor organizations and limiting the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes were adopted in Utah and Minnesota. Idaho and Minnesota made it a felony to advocate sabotage, violence, or unlawful methods, and New Hampshire forbade influencing a person not to work in an establishment manufacturing or delivering military supplies.

Hours.

For women, Nevada and Montana established an eight-hour day in many occupations, and Ohio reduced daily hours from ten to nine. New York extended its 9-hour day and 54-hour week to restaurants. New Hampshire cut one hour off the previous 55-hour maximum, while Nevada set a 56-hour limit, and Connecticut a 58-hour maximum in certain employments. Both Delaware and Ohio restrict women's work to six days a week, and the New York statute to this effect now applies also to restaurants. The only state to permit a general lengthening of legal working time for women was Wyoming, which increased its weekly maximum from 56 to 60 hours. War conditions, however, led New Hampshire to except

from its women's hour law manufacturers of munitions for the United States during war times, and Oregon and California excluded from the 8-hour laws women engaged in the preparation of fruit, vegetables and fish. For men, Kansas and Washington set up an 8-hour day in mines. Labor Standards in War Time.

Mistaken zeal at the entrance of the United States into the war led to the introduction of bills in some legislatures designed to break down labor standards. In addition to laws of this type described under "Hours," Connecticut and New Hampshire gave their governors power to suspend labor regulations on request of the Council of National Defense. Vermont, also authorized similar action by the commissioner of industries with the consent of the governor, and Massachusetts established a board of five members to grant suspensions in individual cases after a hearing.

Minimum Wage.

Arizona established a minimum wage of \$10 a week for women in stores and factories. Illinois and North Dakota established commissions to investigate wages and other conditions of women in industry.

EMPLOYERS HUG THE NIGHTMARE OF CLOSED SHOP

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been trying very hard to get strikebreakers; that neither side was making any headway so far as he could see; and wanted to know if there was any way possible to get the matter settled up so work could start Monday in the shipyards. He is a pioneer ship builder of Astoria, he said, and nobody denied it. He seemed disposed to settle the controversy most any way, just so they got to work Monday morning. His heart is set on Monday morning.

However, the union, in secret session, did not accept the offer made by the employers in secret session, and there the matter rests.

SENATOR CAN BE EXPELLED FOR ANY OR NO REASON.

By Basil M. Manly.

Washington, Oct. 5.—Can the United States Senate expel a member? What are its precedents for so doing?

The Helfin charges and demands by Roosevelt and others for the expulsion of Senator La Follette have brought these questions to the fore.

The Senate can, by two-thirds vote, expel any member for any reason or for no reason.

So far as law goes, it can expel any member for the color of his necktie or because his speeches are boring. Here is what the constitution says, in section V, article I:

"Each house may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member."

During its history the Senate has expelled 15 members and dropped six others from the rolls.

Procedure for expulsion of a member is very simple. A mere resolution by a single member is sufficient to start the ball rolling. It is not even necessary that the matter be referred to a committee, and the Senate may act directly and immediately, as in the case of John C. Breckenridge of Kentucky, charged with disloyalty during the civil war. Usually, however, a special committee is appointed to consider the charges. There is no formal trial in any case. The committee adopts its report by vote of the majority. In some cases the accused senator is represented by counsel, but this is the exception rather than the rule. The hearings are secret or public, according to the will of the committee.

Precedents are against expulsion except where proof of direct assistance to the enemy is overwhelming.

Of 20 members expelled from the Senate or dropped from its rolls during the civil war on charges of disloyalty all except three had expressed their allegi-

THE LAW TAKES A FUNNY TWIST.

"The law is no respecter of persons." So says the book. However, there are said to be exceptions even to that.

For instance: A. S. Westerland, a striker, was arrested several days ago at the instigation of an official of the Hammond Lumber Co., on the supposition that he intended to go to the Hammond mill yard and induce the men there to join the strikers and thereby strengthen the forces behind the eight hour day movement. He didn't do it but they claimed to think he intended to do something of the sort.

Westerland was locked up in the city jail where he was kept incommunicado for about six days, then turned loose without ever having a trial or having been charged with any crime. Whether the suspension of habeas corpus proceedings in his case was a military necessity or just a plain denial of constitutional rights, is known only to the officials. Any way, it was done. Workingmen don't always know why things are done to them, they only know they are done.

But watch. Now come James Allen and manager Wright, officials of the Astoria ship contracting companies. They were arrested a few days ago on warrants charging them with violating the state laws by importing strikebreakers under a misrepresentation of labor conditions here. And did they go to jail and lie there incommunicado for a week? Not that anybody has heard of. They were permitted to give bonds, as the constitution and civil laws of the land provide, and went their own free way.

Why, just to ask a foolish question, were the last two men given their legal rights, and Westerland, who did nothing, not even what they thought he might do, treated like a prisoner of war?

It is never permissible for a person to ask and answer his own questions. Besides, it is not likely there is any one in these parts so green that he cannot divine the answer for himself.

ance to the confederacy, and all except one had given up their seats in the Senate. Even Jesse D. Bright, senator from Indiana, who was proved to have sent a man with a valuable patent on firearms to Jefferson Davis with a letter of recommendation, was expelled only by a vote of 32 to 14.—New York Call.

IT COULDN'T HAPPEN ON THIS SIDE.

After helping make the world safe for democracy, it is rather tough to be ordered to move on as a public nuisance by the business men whose salvation you have striven for. We take the following press item from a Massachusetts exchange:

TORONTO, Ont., Sept. 28.—Alleging that their business has suffered by the congregating of returned maimed soldiers, storekeepers at College and Yonge streets, popularly nicknamed "Shrapnel Corners," have threatened legal action against the city authorities if steps are not taken to relieve the situation.

There isn't any sentiment in British business, except when "the troopers" on the tide," as our friend Kipling says. Then it's right and proper and a patriotic duty besides, to decorate the stores with flags, and cheer the departing heroes, and the storekeeper in not one whit behind his fellows in patriotism then. But it's altogether different when "Tommy" returns, "trimmed to the queen's taste," and like Lazarus at the rich man's gate, will insist on exhibiting his sores. They are honorable sores, to be sure, but then business is business, and it can't afford to let loafers hang about "Shrapnel Corners" and interfere with the process of production.

That is, business in Toronto can't; but in New York and Boston and Philadelphia it is altogether different, of course.

"United We Stand, Divided We Fall"

The time has arrived when the workingmen of the country must unite! Organized capital is strongly united in its efforts to crush the rightful demands of the workers. The so-called capitalist papers are always trying to form public opinion against the workingmen. They publish news and articles in the interest of the master class only.

The workingmen of Astoria and vicinity know this to be an absolute fact. The workingmen of this community can see there is only one paper in Astoria that is publishing the facts about the strike and that paper is "The Daily Toveri" (The Daily Comrade).

This paper has been published in the Finnish language only, for about ten years, but we saw the urgent need of a paper that could be read by the English-speaking people also, so we decided to do all we could to let all the people know the real facts about the strikes and all other matters important to the workingmen, which are kept dark by other papers.

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