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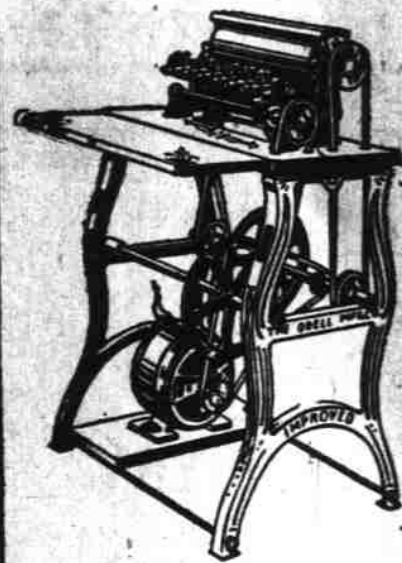
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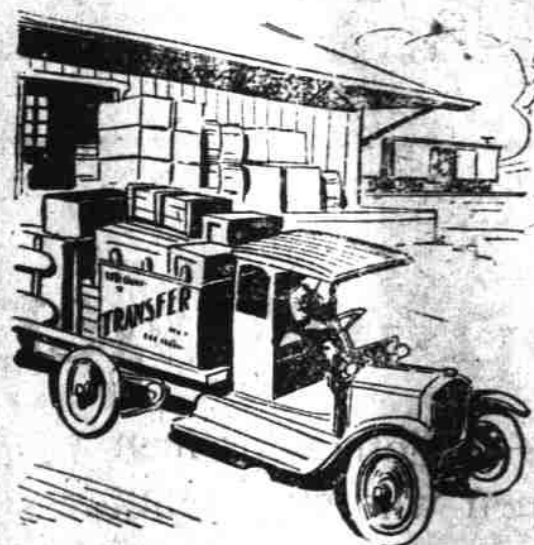
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THE UNION IS THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

Against Long Hours and Low Wages, Declares Russell Sage Foundation Commission.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 30.—That trade-unionism is a first line of defense against long hours and low wages is the testimony of the survey report on industrial conditions in this city, made by the Department of Surveys and Exhibits of the Russell Sage Foundation. The evidence is offered in the calm language of a non-partisan statement of fact. Investigators from the New York headquarters of the Foundation collected the original data and half a score of experts collaborated in checking the results and preparing the recommendations.

The full report will say, among other things, that the investigation revealed "shorter hours as the rule in union shops." Among employees in these shops, for example, 54 per cent had an eight-hour day, while in the unorganized establishments only 7 per cent worked eight hours or less. Only 13 per cent of the men in the union shops, moreover, worked ten hours as compared with 37 per cent in the non-union work places. These figures tend strongly to support the trade unionists' point that organized workers are able to gain, and do gain, for themselves advantages which workers acting individually do not enjoy, and they refute the claim of many employers who oppose organization of their workers that they voluntarily grant all of the benefits which employees might secure through the union.

Hours of Work.

"The long list of trades in the eight-hour column indicates something of what labor organizations have been able to accomplish in reducing hours; for in the not distant past all of these groups were working nine hours per day, or more. Moreover, even in the case of some trades shown in the ten-hour column the union had reduced hours. The brewery drivers, for instance, whose ten-hour day still seems long, can look back to the time when they were required to complete their rounds, regardless of time. Likewise, ice drivers at the time of the survey were required to work from six to twelve hours per day, depending on the weather, whereas formerly their hours extended from daylight even into the night.

"The strongest labor union group in Springfield undoubtedly is the miners, who have ten local unions, with a total membership of about 2,500. The mines of the vicinity are run on a strictly closed-shop basis, and since 1898, when the unions won a great victory in this industry, the eight-hour day has prevailed.

"Most of the other trades represented in the table, however, were not thoroughly organized; and while the hours given are those of members of the union, other workers in the trade were working longer hours. This was true, for example, of many boiler-makers, machinists, iron molders, and carpenters.

Unionism and Wages.

"Among skilled and semi-skilled workers in factories, the building trades, and on railroads, as we have seen, labor unions have had an effective influence in increasing wages. In fact, wage conditions among all union workers were generally better than among non-union workers in Springfield, though probably this fact is not due entirely to union influence.

Union Achievements.

"Judging from the data supplied by over half of the various local unions, these organizations had been effective in increasing wages for their members. Most of the unions reported increases in the five years prior to the survey. . . . There were no important decreases.

"Similarly, as to hours, many of the locals reported reductions in hours per day or per week in the last five years. Sheet metal workers, for example, with an eight-hour day five years before, had recently reduced their hours per week from forty-eight to forty-four. Hours of journeymen stonecutters had been reduced in the same way; hours of union die and tool makers, from fifty-four to fifty; of ice men, from sixty-six to sixty; of electrical workers, from forty-eight to forty-four. In a number of cases where there had been no reduction in hours, the eight-hour day had been gained five years before. In the majority of cases the improvements both as to hours and wages had been brought about without strikes.

Hours of Women Workers.

"It was clear from our investigations that a much larger proportion of male than female workers in Springfield were enjoying an eight-hour day. The carpenters, painters, bricklayers and other building trade workers, the miners, the printers, the cigarmakers and many other male workers, through the strength of their unions, had been able to make this gain. But their wives and sisters and daughters, whose physical resistance to the strain of industrial occupations is less than theirs, and who besides generally have home tasks after their exhausting day outside, for the most part, were working in Springfield factories, stores and laundries from nine to ten hours per day. One reason for this undoubtedly was the fact that women workers were almost entirely unorganized.

"To some extent, doubtless, reductions in hours of work may be looked

for from employers who see in their industries an avenue for social service; but the best hope, judging from past accomplishments, appears to be offered in labor organizations under intelligent and conscientious leadership."

The report includes chapters on Springfield and Industry, Physical Safety and Workmen's Compensation, Child Labor, Wages and Regularity of Employment, Hours of Work, One Hundred Wage-Earners' Families, and Industrial Betterment in Springfield.

PRESIDENT BERRY VINDICATED.

U. S. District Court of Tennessee Upholds Pressmen and Assistants' Officials.

The District Court of the United States for the Northeastern Division of the Eastern District of Tennessee rendered a decision in favor of the board of directors of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union in the case of Chicago Pressmen's Union No. 3 vs. the International Board of Directors.

The court, in its ruling, denied application for recayer of the International Union, denies the removal of officers, grants board authority to establish charters in any city where unions have not paid per capita tax for three months, denies and dismisses all allegations and attacks against the board of directors, and all proposals by the International Board of Directors are accepted by the court.

The court, in these rulings, has given the International Board of Directors a complete victory.

It was contended by officers of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistant's Union that the above court procedure was brought about by the Bolshevik element of the International Union, and the above conflict was originated when by a referendum vote a one day's pay assessment and 25 cents extra per capita was levied by an overwhelming majority with the understanding that the special assessment was to create a fund known as the war emergency fund, this fund to be drawn upon for the purpose of taking care of the disabled members returning from the war, and trade schools have been established at the home of the International Pressmen to teach disabled members trades that will make them self-sustaining through the balance of their lives. The blind members are to be especially cared for and educated in the making of brooms, weaving of carpets, etc.

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