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**STRONG DELEGATION TO REPRESENT LABOR**  
Gompers Selects Fifteen Big Men to Serve in President's Industrial Conference on October 6th.

Washington, Sept. 30.—Great hopes are entertained by employers and employees who believe in fairness that much will come out of the labor conference called for October 6 by President Wilson. The men who will be present will represent all sorts of beliefs and no doubt will not mince words in presenting them. It is hoped this is true, for if there ever was a time for plain speaking it is now. President Wilson is expected to give some extraordinary advice to the conference and will urge its approval.

Of course President Samuel Gompers will lead the labor delegates to the conference. No man in our time or any other period of history, has such a command of the knowledge necessary to put labor's side before the world. His courage in every crisis that has arisen in labor in the past half century is a matter of history. He knows what to say and when to say it.

The world also is anxious to know what Judge E. H. Gary has to say about the relations between employers and employees. After flaunting the President of the United States, who had urged him to meet representatives of his employees to avert a dangerous industrial dispute, the people of the country would like to know his viewpoint.

It will be a most interesting feature of the conference to hear Gary and the President debate the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively with employers. The President's position is known, for he has said; and it applies to Mr. Gary: "It is always dangerous for a man to have the floor entirely to himself. Therefore we must insist in every instance that the parties come into each other's presence and there discuss the issues between them and not separately in places where they have no communication with each other."

Much curiosity is expressed as to whether John D. Rockefeller, Jr., will extol his plan of labor organization introduced in Colorado. As it has failed and the employees have rebelled against the "company union" it will be interesting to hear Mr. Rockefeller tell what he thinks now.

Labor will present its plan of bringing industrial peace. It is probable that the Reconstruction Platform adopted at the Atlantic City convention, said to be the greatest program ever prepared to give practical relief in the present disturbed conditions of the country, will be submitted for consideration.

The great motive behind the conference is to get leaders of both sides in industry together where they can thrash out their grievances and find a way to harmonize them as much as possible. For no one ever looks for a solution of the labor problem except those who know nothing about it. It never will be solved, but there can be a way found to link employers and employees closer together on certain fundamental principles.

The great obstacle to this harmony of thought along practical lines is the determination to maintain at all hazards autocracy in industry. It is therefore to be a verbal battle between those who favor democracy in industry and those who favor autocracy. How can these two widely separated beliefs be brought nearer each other? Those who are fighting for democracy in industry have a simple program. They want the acceptance by all industry of the right to organize and to have a voice in fixing wages and working conditions. The industrial autocrat maintains he must be the sole arbiter of the destinies of those who work. He fixes the wages to be paid and conditions of employment for the workers. They must accept them or quit.

Many "intellectuals" are regretting that the President did not arrange for the appointment of representatives to the conference of unorganized workers. They fear the non-union men of the country will not be represented. Labor officials point out that the unorganized will be well represented by Mr. Gary and Mr. Rockefeller. In no other way could they be represented, as the unorganized worker is voiceless. He is an individualist who cannot speak so the world will hear. He is employed by the autocrat in industry, who not only fixes his wages and working conditions but also speaks for him in the world of men. And what the autocrat thinks the non-union man should say or do always is that which the autocrat would say or do.

Much is therefore expected to come out of the conference. The people will have an opportunity to learn where certain men stand and the reason for their struggle to maintain autocratic control of industry. Whether they change their opinions or not the public will know who is responsible for industrial disputes. And the public also will know who is responsible for the steel strike.

Gompers' Appoints Labor's Representatives.  
Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, has

submitted to Secretary of Labor Wilson the names of fifteen labor leaders who will serve in the President's Industrial Conference to meet here October 6. Before leaving on his western tour President Wilson asked Mr. Gompers to suggest fifteen delegates to represent labor at the conference. Mr. Gompers names himself and the other members of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor as nine members of the committee. The other six are labor leaders of national reputation.

Those named besides Mr. Gompers are Joseph F. Valentine, Frank Duffy, W. D. Mahon, T. A. Rickert, Jacob Fischer, Matthew Woll, Frank Morrison and Daniel J. Tobin constituting the Federation's Executive Council. The others are John L. Lewis, vice-president United Mine Workers; Sara A. Conboy, secretary-treasurer United Textile Workers; William H. Johnston, president Machinists' Union; Paul Scharrenburg, California State Federation of Labor; John Donlin, president Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, and M. F. Tighe, Metal Workers' Union.

**ELIMINATE THE PROFITEER**  
Several Causes Combine to Keep the Cost of Living at Present High Level.  
(American Pressman.)

While employers and employes chase each other in a merry-go-round, the industrial structure of the country becomes constantly more uncertain. The cost of living goes up, due to many things too numerous and complicated to name here—even if we knew them, and with this rise in costs comes the necessity of an increase in wages. This increase in wages is not generally in proportion to the cost of living certainly, but is sufficient to warrant, in their own minds, some manufacturers and retailers tacking on a further increase in the cost of their products.

There are all kinds of schemes proposed to cut down the cost of living; some tell us that government ownership of railroads and other public carriers—which would, of course, ultimately result in government ownership of everything or nothing depending upon the success of the venture—is the ideal solution. By others we are told that the production of our industries must be increased and the government especially agitates thrift as a means of lowering the cost of living. We maintain that our industrial equilibrium can only be regained by a combination of increased production, elimination of profiteering and the exercising of thrift. To promote these now before a depression comes along is the logical solution. To do so means that we must co-operate, and to co-operate does not mean that one side shall have all the advantage.

If we are to lower the cost of living, either by a reduction in the cost of necessities or by holding the cost within reason after wages are raised, and at the same time gradually decrease our hours of work, then by all rules of common sense, we must, after getting rid of the profiteer, increase production and eliminate waste. The problem of increased production rests equally upon the employer and employe. No employe will break his neck to turn out more when he knows that his employer has not done his share. It is then the employer's duty to see that his plant is in shape to get production. Those who fail to provide the necessary equipment—those who have no system in their offices or plants—those printers who give away their products simply to see the workers work and the machines run—have no kick coming when the employes fail to put on full steam.

A detriment to increased output is the inefficient, incompetent workers and those who wish to earn money without effort, mental or physical. If it is necessary to increase production, then it is imperative that the number of those who are unable or refuse to produce should be reduced. It has been demonstrated that the incompetent can be eliminated through education. Perhaps the slacker can also be eliminated, but if he cannot, then economic pressure will get rid of him when the industry becomes more efficient. It is as much the duty of organized labor to see that each member produces his share according to his physical and mental capacity as it is that he receives just compensation and good working conditions. And yet it is not necessary or advisable that the workers be speeded up in order to get greater output. At least thirty per cent more production than we are now getting is possible through the installation of proper equipment, industrial education and co-operation.

Atlanta, Ga.—As the result of an agreement between Journeymen Tailors' Union No. 51 and employers, the piece work system was abolished and an eight-hour day established. It was also agreed that journeymen tailors will receive a weekly wage of \$36; first-class help, \$24; helpers, \$18; and apprentices, \$9.00.

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