

EMPLOYING PRINTERS CANNOT DEFEAT 44-HOUR AGREEMENT; BECOMES EFFECTIVE MAY 1ST

Executive Council of Typothetae Issues Statement in Denial That Contract is Binding, But the Facts and Records Show Otherwise; True Presentation of Subject; Some North Carolina Rat Shops May Resist, But No Union Men Will Work in Them.

According to press dispatches (which are not always to be relied on, especially those of the Associated Press when dealing with matters concerning organized labor) from Chicago, a meeting of the "executive council" of the United Typothetae was held there a few days ago and issued a statement alleging that the Typothetae would not be bound by the 44-hour week agreement and contracts made with the labor unions by the "closed shop division of the United Typothetae of America," and declared as false "the statement that the United Typothetae is a party to any agreement made between representatives of the printing trades unions and any employing printers acting in their individual capacity or as members of a division."

The True Situation.

In March, 1919, there was formed in the city of Cincinnati an organization to be known as the International Joint Conference Council of the commercial and periodical branches of the printing industry. Its purpose was to consider ways and means for the improvement of the printing industry in the United States. Its membership is composed of both representatives of employers and employes composing the following organizations:

Employers—International Typographical Union, International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union.

Employers—Closed Shop Branch United Typothetae of America, Printers' League of America, International Association of Employing Electrotypers.

One of the important questions to be taken up by the Joint Conference Council was the introduction of the 44-hour work week in the printing industry, and in April, 1919, the following resolution was adopted upon that question:

Resolution on Forty-Four Hours.

Resolved, That both parties are to submit to their respective bodies: that, beginning May 1, 1921, the 44-hour week will prevail nationally in the printing industry and that each side recommend the adoption of this resolution to their constituent bodies and report to the next meeting of the International Joint Conference Council.

The question was acted upon by the various bodies represented in the council, as the following from the minutes of the meeting of September 18, 1919, shows:

Mr. Kalkhoff—This resolution was passed at the meeting of the Closed Shop Branch of the United Typothetae of America on September 15:

"Whereas, The National Joint Conference Council, composed on the one hand of duly accredited representatives of the United Typothetae of America, Closed Shop Branch, the Printers' League of America, the International Association of Employing Electrotypers, and on the other hand of the presidents of the International Typographical Union, the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, the International Stereotypers' and Electrotypers' Union and the International Bookbinders' Union, at a meeting held in Chicago, April 23, 1919, mutually agreed to recommend to their various bodies the adoption of the 44-hour week on May 1, 1921:

"Resolved by the Closed Shop Branch of the United Typothetae of America, in annual convention assembled in New York, on September 15, 1919, in accordance with the intent expressed by the National Joint Conference Council, That we hereby agree to the introduction of the 44-hour week in the Closed Shop Branch on May 1, 1921.

"This Mr. Chairman, was unanimously adopted by that body."

By the fall of 1920 the "open shop" element had launched a campaign against the national agreement, and an effort was made to get the United Typothetae, Closed Shop Branch, to abrogate its agreement. This effort failed, and that body at its convention in St. Louis, September 15, 1920, reaffirmed its agreement to the 44-hour week. An attempt was made to get the International Joint Conference Council to reconsider the agreement, and employers of the Southeastern states succeeded in getting a meeting of the council at Atlanta, Ga., December 14, 1920. The council, after thorough discussion reaffirmed its stand, and adopted the following resolution:

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SOME STATISTICS ON 44-HOUR WEEK

Up to and Including March 16, 1921

162 unions have signed up for the forty-four hour week to become effective either on or before May 1, 1921, representing a membership of approximately 20,000.

82 unions have contracts extending beyond May 1, 1921, which do not provide for the forty-four hour week.

201 unions have expired contracts (expiration dates to February 1, 1921), the renewal of which has not been reported to headquarters.

32 unions have contracts of indefinite expiration.

39 unions have no contracts whatever.

Important Farm-Labor Meeting Held Today

Session At Washington Attended By Prominent North Carolina Delegates

It is announced that farm and labor officials of North Carolina will take an active part at the farm-labor conference to be held in Washington, D. C., April 14th and 15th, by the People's Reconstruction League. Benjamin C. Marsh, secretary of the league, said that R. W. H. Stone, of Greensboro, president of the North Carolina Farmers' Union; Dr. J. M. Templeton, of Cary, vice-president, and W. L. Bagwell, of Raleigh, secretary-treasurer, will represent their organization at the conference.

The State Federation of Labor is expected to send several representatives. According to Secretary Marsh other farm and labor organizations to be represented at the conference include the Farmers' National Council, the American Federation of Labor, the International Association of Machinists, the United Farmers of America, the Railway Brotherhoods, and a number of State farmers bodies and federations of labor.

Plan Legislative Campaign

The conference is to plan a campaign for the enactment of campaign of legislation favorable to the farmer, labor and the general public. Issues to be discussed at the conference include the railway crisis, the need for short time credit for farmers, packer control legislation and annual taxation policy.

Senator Borah, Senator Ladd and Representative Frear are among the members of Congress who will address the conference.

No Cause For Timidity; Workers Weather Storm

"It looks stormy in the west!" Thousands of workers throughout the country have been saying that and meaning it, too.

They have been looking with fear and apprehension at the future. Conditions have seemed to them unfavorable and full of menace of storm to come.

They have feared the curtailment of employment, the shutting down of industrial plants, a period of financial depression, possible illness and a score of other possible misfortunes.

The outlook has seemed dark and been standing in their own light.

Gloomy. Why? Because they have failed to save at least a part of what they earned when there was not a cloud in the industrial sky has shut out the light of security and preparedness.

Even in America, the land of prosperity and opportunity, every cycle of years brings its periods of hard times and depression as regularly as each 24-hour cycle of the earth brings alternate day and night.

No one need look with apprehension on the clouds who has put aside a reserve fund to tide over the period of stress.

Saving and safe investment are sure protection against the storm.

Development Around State Capitol Square

Corporation Commission Hears Southern Water Power Co. Case Again

BEWARE BLUE-SKY STOCK

Insurance Com'r. Uses Company Beasley Is With To Again Warn Against Get-Rich Quick Salesmen

There is considerable comment and some feeling concerning the statement sent out by State Insurance Commissioner Wade concerning the alleged "blue sky" stock operations of the International Petroleum Company, of San Antonio, Texas, and involving the business character of Roland F. Beasley until recently State Commissioner of Public Welfare and whose reputation among the people here who have known has been unquestioned. Commissioner Wade stated that the concern has no State license and that its efforts to sell blue sky oil stock to citizens of North Carolina is illegal; that the company's advertisements presume too much on the argument that one of its officers, Mr. Beasley, till recently was a State officer and now represents the oil corporation, after having thoroughly examined into the affairs of the company and becoming satisfied that it is doing a perfectly legitimate business, etc.

Mr. Beasley has sent word from Texas that his company has not a single solicitor for business acting personally as such in North Carolina, that all its advertising in this State has been done through the United States mails, and that if the company was not straight the United States authorities would have barred it from the use of the mail long ago. He adds that the reason the company has not yet taken out license in North Carolina is because the tax is prohibitive. As it has no agents working personally in the State it is not necessary for the oil company to pay the high license and that what he and his company are doing is both legal and legitimate.

Be that as it may, the warning of the insurance commissioner against all blue sky stocks, the purchase of some of which the last few years has played the dickens with many North Carolina investors, especially among the farmers, is timely and should serve as a caution in future transactions of the sort, no matter whose names are connected with the oil and other "get-rich-quick" concerns offering stock for sale.

They Hope To Get The Money

Governor Morrison and Treasurer Lacy have been to New York in quest of investors who would buy State bonds, and the confidence displayed by the Governor on the eve of his departure seems to be borne out by developments. The understanding is that the money will be available as needed for both road building, construction work provided for at the State institutions, and other purposes. The special session of the Legislature, which some of the critics of the administration have been predicting will probably not become necessary in the opinion of Governor Morrison, Chairman Doughton, of the House Finance Committee, and others, during the last few days on State business, and who are much better qualified to pass judgment on the subject than the critics.

Power Company Rates To Mills Up Again

The State Corporation Commission this week is again considering and hearing argument in the cases brought by a number of cotton mills of the State against the Southern Power Company, the big corporation which supplies electrically transmitted power to a large number of industrial plants of the State—the object being to hold the big octopus to old contracts which would compel it to furnish power for some years yet to the little octopuses for less than the power company can transmit, the latter claims.

Publication of a story indicating failure of the Southern Power Company to furnish the Corporation Commission with evidence of its tax valuation on property in South Carolina, drew from members of the commission the statement that no such information had been demanded of the petitionary power company or its attorneys.

Members of the commission mad plain the distinction between tax values and reproduction values of the company's property, pointing out that the tax values are fixed by the State's taxation authorities and not by the company's. The values of the Southern Power Company in South Carolina are contrasted, in the publication this morning, with the figures submitted by the commission.

Attorneys for the cotton mills resisting the rate increase have received the tax figures from the South Carolina authorities. On the question of demand for them, the commission pointed out today that Vice-President Lee told attorneys for the mills that his company had no objection to these figures going into record.

Businessmen Dislike Openshoppers Tactics

Large Employers, Report Says, Might Better Devote Efforts to Unemployment Problem

HYPOCRISY IS MANIFEST

New York Merchants Association Condemns Movement In Report of Its Committee

The "open shop" campaign being conducted by large employing interests is petering out. Its manifest hypocrisy is causing some of the organizations upon which it depended for support to revolt in protest against both its methods and the end sought to be gained.

The board of directors of the New York Merchants' Association, one of the largest organizations of its kind in the country, recently approved a report of its committee on industrial relations that condemns the movement and calls upon employers to show a more "conciliatory attitude towards workers in the interest of peace in industry."

This report was prepared by Gerhard M. Dahl, vice president of the Chase National Bank; E. K. Hall, vice president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Louis B. Schram, president of the India Wharf Brewing Company; Walter C. Treague, president of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and Owen D. Young, vice president and general counsel of the General Electric Company.

Prussian Tactics Condemned

The report declares that the time is opportune for employers to take a forward step in the matter of industrial relations, but believes that "it would be most unfortunate if they used their present advantage only to abuse it—merely to penalize labor or to fortify themselves for another test of strength. Employers should utilize their present position to lay the foundations of permanent industrial stability."

The matter of the "open shop," the report continues, should be carefully considered. "It has tended in some quarters to arouse suspicion and distrust, especially as to the status of labor unions, and has thereby delayed the establishment of peaceful industrial conditions. Your committee believes that the establishment of an open shop should not in any way affect the employees' right to join or not to join a labor union or any other organization seeking by lawful means to promote the interest of industrial workers."

The committee deprecates the disposition "on the part of some employers who are using the term 'open shop' to work toward a condition of the closed shop against union men."

To Wipe Out Unemployment

Attention is called to the growing evil of unemployment and the burden it imposes upon workers. Some remedy for it must be found, and it can only be found by full cooperation with labor, the report sets out. "It is one of the most perplexing, difficult and at the same time far reaching and important problems confronting the nation today," the committee says. "It cannot be disposed of out of hand, nor can its solution be reached through a discussion of ambiguities, trite and impractical economic theories, or through the general application of welfare innovation or other devices. Now is the time for employers to make it clear that the interests of management and labor can best be realized through peaceful cooperation."

The committee recommends that unemployment be studied with a view to finding means for its prevention and an investigation made looking to the adoption of desired changes in the plan for the adjustment of industrial disputes which was recommended by President Wilson's second industrial conference.

Tells Tales Out of School.

Washington, April 13.—I. A. Fleming, financial writer in the Evening Star, "tells tales out of school" when he calls on directors of corporations to "discredit" the affairs of these institutions. The theory that these directors are supermen is shattered by the writer, who makes this significant statement:

"Directors should direct. They should be compelled to retain a certain amount of stock to hold their positions.

"Any one who thinks that the 'insiders' in a great corporation whose business has slumped, whose inventory has been swollen in an attempt to maintain work in anticipation of an immediate resumption of business, necessitating big bank loans, are so conscientious that they will not take advantage of their first knowledge of these affairs to reduce their holdings, is giving weak human nature too much credit.

"Stockholders in a corporation are unquestionably entitled to something more in the way of protection for their investments than that furnished by the annual meeting, always sparsely attended, and the annual reports of the directors and officials who have been advanced to their positions as 'insiders' largely by the proxy vote."

VICIOUS WAGE CUTTING NOT THE ROAD TO IMPROVE BUSINESS; LABOR FINDS OUT FOR ITSELF

Same Fallacy Now Involved in Lowering Wages That Attended Period of Rising Prices and Higher Wages; Industries That Prospered Vastly Last Few Years Too Ready To Place Burden of Wage Cut On Employes Before Living Cost is Materially Lowered

State Sunday School Association Meeting

Important Gathering of S. S. Workers in Session in Raleigh Last Three Days

Raleigh, April 13.—The annual meeting of the North Carolina State Sunday School Association has been in session in Raleigh the last three days, and there is a large attendance, including some forty expert Sunday School workers representing all the evangelical churches. Gilbert T. Stephenson, of Winston-Salem, is president, and D. W. Sims, of Raleigh secretary of the association.

Among the prominent men engaged in the work is Lieutenant-Governor W. B. Cooper, member of the executive committee of the North Carolina Sunday School Association and teacher in Grace M. E. Church Sunday School, Wilmington. Governor Cooper presided at the session of the adult division of the meeting today.

Other distinguished workers from a distance include Dr. Gilbert Glass, Richmond; Prof. H. H. Harris, Emory University, Ga.; Mrs. Maud Junkin Baldwin, Chicago, Ill., superintendent, children's division, International Sunday School Association; Dr. Joseph Broughton, Atlanta, Ga., superintendent, Tabernacle Baptist Sunday School; Mr. J. A. Brown, Chadbourne, of the Presbyterian Sunday School, and member of executive committee; Dr. William A. Brown, Chicago, Ill., a member of the staff of the International Sunday School Association.

The organization stands for those interested common to all Sunday School workers. It is a systematic effort of workers from the various denominations to create public sentiment in favor of more and better denominational Sunday Schools. It strives to help by way of suggestion not by authority; therefore, it helps many, it hinders none.

It seeks helpful co-operation, not union. Its conventions and institutes discuss methods of work, not church doctrine. These conventions and institutes are really free schools of methods on Sunday School work, open to all who will attend. Leaders in thought in the various denominations help in this work.

In its work the North Carolina Sunday School Association is interdenominational, for in its various conventions and institutes leaders from various denominations take part. But in results it is denominational, for if a worker puts into use the methods he hears discussed in these meetings, he increases the efficiency of his own denominational Sunday School.

Air Brake Prospers.

New York, April 13.—These are prosperous days for stockholders of the Westinghouse Air Brake company, according to the annual report. Net profits last year totaled \$5,330,403, which is equal to \$9.15 a share on the \$29,127,350 of capital stock. In 1919 the company earned \$10.80 a share.

Lieut.-Colonel Roosevelt on "Open-Shop" Movement

Characterizing the movement of bolshevism now abroad in the land as an "appalling manifestation of misrule," in addressing the Pittsburgh Press Club upon a recent occasion, Lieutenant-Colonel Roosevelt likened its menace with another anarchistic parallel when he further stated:

"There is another which is finding many supporters and which is about as bad. It has for its aim the smashing of labor unions. Those who advocate the destruction of labor unions advocate a condition which engenders anarchy more rapidly than anything but anarchy itself.

"The unions are essentially a right and necessary part of our scheme of relationship. The working people need unions to protect and express themselves. They have done a great good in the country. Those who advocate their destruction are doing an un-American, short-sighted and mischievous work. Opponents of the unions urge that wrong actions have been permitted by them, and they have at times been represented by crooked men. I admit it. Have not, however, business interests at times done wrong? And have they not also been at times represented by crooked men? They most certainly have."

There is no road to business salvation through the vicious circle of wage cutting. What ground is there, in fact, for regarding the present downward trend of prices and wages as inevitable and irresistible? Let us not beguile ourselves with "specious generalities such as 'the aftermath of war.'" In definite points, indeed, the war and the peace that followed exerted a baleful influence upon our economic life. We have been deprived of markets for part of our agricultural production, with the natural consequence of a slump in prices of all our agricultural productions. There was nothing absolutely irremediable about this condition.

We knew in advance, or should have known, that unless we found a way of opening the Central European markets to our wheat, meat and cotton, we should encounter just this condition. Our leaders of finance and industry knew, or should have known, that a great decline in the purchasing power of the agricultural community would entail serious consequences for trade and industry. But is there the slightest evidence of any organized effort on their part to ward off the evil? Not much more than a year ago our industrial leaders were presenting vigorous exposures of the fallacy of wage increases. As wages rose, prices rose also. The laborer might force his employer to give him more dollars, but what did that avail him when each dollar bought for him less of the necessities and comforts of life? Those who won their demands first, and got ahead of the inevitable rise in prices, might indeed, profit for a little while, just as those who were slow in moving for higher wages suffered a loss not fully to be made up by subsequent increases. But setting such minor losses of the one group against the minor gains of the other, are we not justified in asserting that the working class as a whole, for all the collective pressure brought by organized labor and for all the individual shopping around of the unorganized, remained about where it was?

The Downward Movement Fallacy.

Rising wages and rising prices; that is nothing but a vicious circle. So said the captains of industry. But now the times have changed. From every quarter comes reports of wage cutting; 20 per cent, 40 per cent, or even more, affecting hundreds of thousands of workmen. If the general movement upward involved a fallacy, must not a similar fallacy lurk in the movement downward? But that side of the question is not given any consideration by the captains of industry. Their idea of meeting the situation and which they are pursuing is the attempt to adjust matters by reducing wages.

"The Nation" publishes quite an interesting article under the above caption. It deals with the report of the committee of twenty-five of the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia, which was appointed to undertake the defeat of the open shop drive. In one way this was a great thing for organized labor, as it forced it to find out for itself some very useful facts and what labor found in Philadelphia it will find out elsewhere. The committee, charged with the duty of maintaining the ranks (Continued on page 3.)

Colonel Roosevelt said that while great progress had been made for the betterment of working men and women in this country, further steps must be taken. Colonel Roosevelt has characterized the recent development of opposition to labor in its true light, and in the vision shown reveals the one great opportunity to suppress the disruption that has appeared as a natural consequence and in answer to the selfish and fiendish attack not being waged upon the very life of labor unions.