

SAMUEL GOMPERS, AGED LABOR LEADER, DIED THIS MORNING

President of American Federation of Labor Passed Away Early Today at San Antonio, Texas.

DEATH OCCURRED ON AMERICAN SOIL

Body Will Be Taken East Tonight, and It Will Be Buried at Tarrytown, N. Y.—Sketch of His Life.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 13 (By the Associated Press).—The grand old leader of American labor is dead. Samuel Gompers was granted his last wish. He died on American soil at 4:10 o'clock this morning, eleven hours after his arrival from Mexico City, where he was stricken last week.

The body will be taken east, leaving at 11 o'clock tonight. Death was close at the heels of the labor leader as he sped from the Mexican capital to the border of his own country. For a time he clutched the firm, weary, doggedly fighting off the issue, but death overtook him as he lay in his bed in a San Antonio hotel. Mr. Gompers did not evade the challenge when it came to him face to face, neither did he give up the fight.

Surrounding Mr. Gompers in his last moments were the men with whom he had fought many of his battles throughout a generation of American union labor development. At his bedside and holding his hand was James Duncan, of Quincy, Mass., vice president of the Federation, who had stood shoulder to shoulder with his leader for 44 years. Their parting was pathetic. Holding his other hand was Wm. D. Mahon of Detroit, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, who the dying Federation president affectionately called Bill, and whom he had told several days ago that he wished to shake by the hand just before he went.

There were others on Gompers' death bed. John E. Giles, treasurer of the federation; Martin Ryan, of Kansas City, and Matthew Wood, of Chicago, all members of the executive committee, were there. Frank Morrison, secretary of the federation, also was at the death bed.

There also was his nurse, Miss Mathilda May, of New York City, who had been with him since his illness of August. She remained kneeling at the foot of his bed. Death found Samuel Gompers as life found him—a fighting man. He never gave up. When told by his physicians that he was passing, his jaw clenched as tightly as possible, and he would permit. He breathed heavier, but he never said I give up.

Mr. Gompers' last thought was of the American institution he had labored so long to maintain. When he was convinced he could not win, he said to his nurse: "Nurse, this is the end. God bless our American institutions. May they grow better day by day." These words were his last strength, and after that he was unable to utter a syllable. Until the moment when he slipped into unconsciousness, about an hour before his death, he was master of his own situation. He gave a few simple directions for his funeral. He talked to his followers. He called for lifelong friends. With all the energy that his 74 year old body could muster, he grappled with the enemy. In life he had made both friends and enemies. In death he had only one enemy. Against that he could not prevail, and gave his soul with the vigorous protest that was characteristic of him.

Sketch of His Life.

Samuel Gompers, son of an English cigar-maker, was the head and forefront of the American organized labor movement. In 1881 he organized the American Federation of Labor, as a national association of labor unions, and with the exception of one year, he was its president continuously from that time. He was intimately connected with every great labor dispute in this country during the past thirty years, and headed the labor forces in numerous strikes instituted by the trade unions affiliated with the American Federation.

He was father of much legislation, both state and national, designed to relieve and protect the workman. In recent years a large part of his time was spent before legislative committees suggesting, supporting, and framing labor legislation.

Prior to his founding the national labor organization in 1881, the labor movement was in the hands of comparatively small, individual unions, in the various states, working without much real co-operation. By forming the Federation, he welded the entire movement into a nationwide, compact unit which grew to be a power in the political, commercial and industrial life of the country.

Among the laws Gompers framed, supported, or originated were: the eight hour law for government employees; the various state laws fixing hours of labor; laws establishing Labor Day as the workingmen's holiday; the Federal Workmen's compensation law; the law limiting the use of injunctions in labor disputes; the law exempting labor unions from prosecution as combinations in restraint of trade; and the law regulating punishment for contempt of court. He was also directly responsible for the legislation which created the Department of Labor as a separate department of the Federal government with a cabinet member at its head.

TO OUR ADVERTISERS.

Our advertising friends will kindly remember that 10 o'clock is our "deadline" for changing their ads. The work is so heavy that it will be impossible for us to change any ads the same day when copy is brought in after 10 o'clock. This applies to the regular space. If you want extra space the copy must be in the afternoon before. We want to give every advertiser the best service possible, but we cannot do so unless the above is observed.

from the anti-trust laws, regarding punishment for contempt, and limiting the use of the injunction which was included in the Clayton Anti-trust law passed by the Sixty-third Congress grew out of litigation against trade unions and their officials, with which Gompers was directly concerned. The contempt section of the Clayton Act was framed to meet conditions which arose through the conviction of Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, officers of the American Federation of Labor of contempt of court in 1907.

Justice Daniel, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia sentenced the three labor leaders to jail for violation of an injunction prohibiting the Federation from boycotting the Bucks Stove and Range Co., of St. Louis. An appeal carried to the Supreme Court set aside the conviction on technical grounds, and new contempt proceedings were instituted. Another conviction and sentence in the lower courts were set aside by the Supreme Court on the ground that the statute of limitation had expired before the second proceedings were begun.

During the seven years this case was in litigation, Gompers exerted his influence to reform injunction and contempt procedure. Court decisions holding that trade unions could be prosecuted as combinations in restraint of trade under the Sherman anti-trust law prompted him to comply with these reforms, a demand for specific exemption from anti-trust prosecutions for labor organizations. All these were incorporated in the Clayton revision of the anti-trust laws.

Throughout the twenty years of anti-trust agitation which followed the enactment of the Sherman anti-trust law, Mr. Gompers was active in urging legislation and litigation against the big combinations of capital which had grown up in the industrial world. He conducted a campaign against the United States Steel Corporation which culminated in an exhaustive investigation of that concern by a committee of the House of Representatives.

In his long administration of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Gompers was constantly called upon to avert threatened schisms in the organization, and to bring together factional elements which developed from time to time. By his efforts compromise after compromise was effected, and the unity of the federation was maintained. Throughout, he was a staunch advocate of the "trade union" system of labor organization as opposed to the "industrial union" system, and his efforts and those of his followers developed the American labor movement along the lines of the former plan. He was constantly called upon by unions affiliated with the Federation as an arbitrator and mediator in labor disputes, and he probably settled by his individual efforts more strikes than any other man in labor history.

Samuel Gompers was born in London, England, January 21, 1850. His father was a cigar-maker and Samuel was the eldest of eight children. His mother was a woman of excellent education and through her influence he was led to study. Notwithstanding the fact that at the age of ten he began to help his father support the family. He went to school from his sixth to his tenth year and was then apprenticed to a shoemaker. This trade was not to his liking, however, and he learned the trade of his father and while working as a cigar-maker attended evening school for four years.

He came to the United States when he was 13 years old and worked as a cigar-maker in New York City. In 1864 he first became identified with the labor movement when he helped organize the Cigar-makers International Union. He served as Secretary and President of the Union for six years and under his management it became a large and successful organization. He also edited the local paper of the Cigar-makers Union, the "Picket" during that time. It was in connection with this work that he became interested in a national association of trade unions that would preserve the autonomy of the local organizations. Under his leadership the Cigar-makers Union fought the Knights of Labor on this principle. He served as president of the New York State Federation of Labor for two years, and in 1881 founded this national Federation, serving as its president for the first five years without compensation.

Several opportunities to enter public office were declined by Mr. Gompers at different times in his career. He refused to run for the state senate in New York, although offered both Republican and Democratic nominations. He declined a Republican nomination for Congress. Governor Hill, of New York, offered him a place on the state board of arbitration and President McKinley tendered him an appointment on the Industrial Commission, but he declined both. He was active in the agitation for a treaty between the United States and Great Britain which would provide for the arbitration of all disputes. In 1898 he served as a delegate to the national conference held at Saratoga, N. Y., to discuss ways and means to meet the conditions in the United States growing out of the Spanish-American war and he was a member of the committee that presented the view of the Conference to President McKinley.

Notwithstanding earnest opposition by a substantial part of the union labor element, Mr. Gompers took an active part in (Continued on Page Two)

Latest Victims of Tut's "Curse"



Tutankhamen's "curse" has fallen again—this time here in the United States. And now it has claimed three victims, instead of one. At least the superstitious ones blame it for the deaths of Mrs. Rosmark Carnarvon Sparkman, a cousin of Lord Carnarvon, discoverer of Tut's tomb, and her children, Wilford, 8, and Lorna Doone, 7. Mrs. Sparkman, wife of Prof. Colley F. Sparkman of the University of Utah, killed the children, during a fit of depression, then ended her own life.

TRINITY TRUSTEES NOT TO MEET DECEMBER 19TH

Rev. H. M. North Says the Meeting Cannot Possibly Be Held Before December 23rd. Rocky Mount, Dec. 12.—The report that the trustees of Trinity College will meet December 19th to consider the trust fund offer of James B. Duke is erroneous as the trustees cannot possibly meet before December 23rd, according to Rev. H. M. North, member of the board and pastor of the First Methodist Church, of this city, who spent yesterday in Durham in connection with college business.

Rev. Mr. North explained that there are certain legal requirements which must be met in determining the call for the trustees' meeting and taking subsequent action on Mr. Duke's offer. A meeting of the executive committee of the board will be called immediately after formal notice has been received by the college that Mr. Duke's trust fund document has been filed in New Jersey. The committee will then issue a call for a meeting of the trustees which, in accordance with legal requirements, must be sent out ten days in advance of the session.

EXPERT BANK TO PAY ABOUT 40 PER CENT

People's Bank of Salisbury Expected to Pay About This Amount—Court, Is Adjudged. Greensboro News. Judge E. Y. Webb directed a non-suit in the case of the Maryland Casualty Company against J. E. Fontz, receiver of the Peoples National Bank of Salisbury, in federal court yesterday noon. He declared that the suit was one of the most involved cases he had ever been called upon to decide.

UNDERWOOD GETS RILED

Wants Investigation of Editorial in the Washington Herald. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 13.—Senator Underwood, democrat of Alabama, today obtained unanimous consent of the Senate to have a Senate investigation of the statements made about the Underwood Muscle Shoals bill and himself in an editorial appearing in today's issue of the Washington Herald.

J. B. DUKE SIGNS PAPERS CREATING HUGE TRUST FUND

Deed For Forty Million Dollars Fund is Formally Signed in New Jersey. Somerville, N. J., Dec. 12.—James B. Duke yesterday executed the deed creating the \$40,000,000 trust fund announced by him in Charlotte, N. C., last Monday. Mr. Duke came here from Charlotte and was accompanied by Mrs. Duke, George C. Allen, William R. Perkins, Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Walter C. Parker and Alex Sands, Jr., all of them trustees. They went at once to the Duke country home on the outskirts of Somerville where the papers were signed. Mr. and Mrs. Duke and the others then went to New York.

ANNUAL NAVY BILL REPORTED TO HOUSE

Appropriations Totalling \$286,355,578 Carried for Next Fiscal Year. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 13.—Appropriations totalling \$286,355,578 for maintenance of the Navy during the 12 months period beginning next July 1 are carried in the annual navy bill as reported today to the House.

Another Effort on Postal Pay Bill Fails.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 13.—Another effort for an agreement for consideration of the postal pay increase bill failed today in the Senate.

COTTON CONSUMED DURING NOVEMBER WAS 492,233 BALES

As Compared With 532,629 Bales in October.—Cotton On Hand and in the Warehouses Is 5,960,831 Bales. 17,549 BALES WERE IMPORTED Cotton Spindles Active, 31,789,876, of Which 16,682,076 Were in Cotton Growing States.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 13.—Cotton consumed during November totalled 492,233 running bales of lint, and 59,990 of lint-free; compared with 532,629 of lint and 55,995 of lint-free in October, the Census Bureau announced today. Cotton stocks on hand November 30th were: In consuming establishments 1,046,612 bales of lint, and 95,781 of lint-free. In public storage and at compresses 4,194,210 bales of lint and 51,894 of lint-free. Imports during November totalled 17,549 bales. Exports during November totalled 1,390,550 bales, including 17,311 bales of lint.

Cotton spindles active during November numbered 31,789,876. Statistics for cotton growing states follow: Cotton consumed during November, 347,548 bales. Cotton on hand November 30th in consuming establishments 600,862 bales. In public storage and at compresses 4,646,786 bales. Cotton spindles active during November 16,628,076.

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DEATH OF GOMPERS FELT AT WASHINGTON

No Prediction Is Made as to Who May Be Chosen As His Successor. (By the Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 13.—The death of Samuel Gompers came as an almost unbearable shock to his subordinates here. No prediction as to who might be chosen as his successor were made at the American Federation of Labor offices today. Virtually every leader of the organization who can speak with authority on the subject is in the party at San Antonio. Members of the immediate family who live here, including Mrs. Gompers and Samuel Gompers, Jr., communicated with those at the deathbed regarding funeral arrangements but left the decision largely with the men with whom he had been associated for so many years.

Wishes to Die on American Soil.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 13.—When Mr. Gompers became ill in Mexico City a few days ago he expressed the wish that if he was to die he might pass away on American soil. He was taken on a stretcher and placed in a special coach, the stretcher being passed through a window. This was said to have given rise to the report that he was dead, sent out from some town in Mexico along the route which Mr. Gompers' car traveled to Laredo, Texas. His wish to reach his own country before death could overtake him was almost defeated, for he sank very low during the journey. Dr. W. C. Cockrell who accompanied him north said that had Mr. Gompers remained in the high altitude of Mexico City six hours longer he could not have reached the home land alive.

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COLD WAVE IS DUE

Tomorrow or Not Later Than Monday The Temperature Will Fall to Freezing Within Next 36 to 48 Hours as Far South as Mississippi.

NOW 64 BELOW ZERO AT EAGLE, ALASKA

The Northern Disturbance Has Moved East and South to Ontario With Decided Increased Intensity. Washington, Dec. 13.—Much colder weather will overspread all sections east of the Mississippi River within the next 36 to 48 hours, and freezing temperature is probable as far south as the Alabama and Mississippi coasts by Monday morning, the weather bureau announced today. Cold wave warnings have been issued for the Ohio Valley, lower Lake region, and northern and central New York.

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The Concord Perpetual Building & Loan Association. OPENS ITS 72ND SERIES. On Saturday, December 6th, 1924. Books Now Open at Cabarrus Savings Bank, Concord, N. C., and Kanesville, N. C. Thirty-six years successful business. A good, safe, tax-free investment for your savings. A good way to secure money to buy or build a home. NOW IS THE TIME. Take a running start for the next six and a third year—for every share taken now and kept up you will have \$100 six and one-third years from now—Only 25 Cents Per Week Per Share. C. W. SWINK, President. H. I. WOODHOUSE, Sec.-Treas. P. B. FITZGER, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

CITIZENS BANK & TRUST CO. CONCORD, N. C. Checks are now ready for the several hundred people of Concord who were members of our 1924 CHRISTMAS CLUB. Our 1925 Christmas Clubs are now forming and we invite you to join now and have money for your 1925 Christmas.