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Advertising For Labor Cause of Trouble.

Steady Stream of Negroes from South, Entering East St. Louis, Crowding the Negro Section. Unable to Secure Employment Promised Them, Is Real Cause of Trouble in Illinois.

Asheville, N. C., July 26.—Secretary M. E. Meadows of the State Federation of Labor, has received a copy of the proceedings of the Illinois State Council of Defense on the race riots in East St. Louis. Inasmuch as this council is a war council, the findings, while refuting the charge that Organized Labor was the cause of the riots, these findings have an added weight because of not coming from the Organized Labor movement. A portion of the council's report follows:

At a meeting of the State Council of Defense of Illinois, held at Chicago June 2, 1917, the chairman read before the Council, telegrams from the Mayor of East St. Louis and from the president and secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Union of that city. Both messages requested an investigation of the race riots then taking place there. The Council referred these communications to its committee on labor with instructions to investigate.

Pursuant thereto the committee met in the city court room in East St. Louis on Thursday, June 7, 1917, at 9 o'clock a. m. There were present Chairman John H. Walker and John H. Harrison, Dr. Frank Billings, the other member of the committee, was in Washington on other business for the Council. William J. MacDonald, of Springfield, Ill., appeared as counsel for the committee.

This committee was organized to receive and was tendered the services of all who could in any way assist. Nevertheless, there was manifested an under-current desire to minimize the disturbance, its cause and its consequences. The few days between the time of the riots and the time of investigation had brought about reaction in feeling due, doubtless, to the injury the city in its entirety had experienced because of the lawless demonstrations. Indiscriminate assaults upon negroes had resulted in the departure of the good citizens of that race as well as of the undesirable ones. Business was suffering in proportion. The publicity of the news dispatches of the trouble had, according to citizens, worked serious damage to the good name of the city as an industrial center. However, no objections were placed in your committee's way; on the contrary, the Mayor furnished an officer to serve summonses and the Chamber of Commerce officially sent notice to all of its members requesting them to come forward with any information that might be of value. The Trades Union Movement, through the president and secretary of the Trades Council, tendered their services to the committee. Stenographic notes were taken of the evidence, all of which was taken under oath, and which is hereby given in full.

The information obtained establishes that the riots were due to the excessive and abnormal number of negroes there, and for some months past, in East St. Louis. The feeling against them originated from two sources, social and labor. There was resentment that the colored people, having over-crowded their quarters, were encroaching into sections of the city regarded as exclusively the precincts of the white people. The colored men, large numbers of whom had been induced there and who could find no jobs, in their desperate need were preventing desired improvements being made by labor and threatening the existing standards of labor, and the white men were resenting it. These facts were set forth in the Mayor's first message to the chairman of this Council.

The crisis came at a meeting arranged by the city council, to give a public hearing to protest against this situation, which had become intolerable. At that meeting inflammable speeches, which should have been stopped in their midst by the authorities, were made—imme-

diately after that the rioting started. East St. Louis, with a population of approximately 90,000, has had for a long time, a permanent negro population of 10,000 to 15,000. This city is, accordingly, accustomed to the presence of colored people in numbers. It is therefore manifest that the trouble was due to the recent rapid influx of the colored people. The evidence shows that these came mostly from the Southern States. Estimates vary from 6,000 to 15,000 as the number that had come within the past year or so. Our investigation accordingly took the line of why they came since discovery of that would doubtless suggest the remedy.

For more than two years there has been a considerable migration North of the Southern negro. There has been increased demand for labor in the North on account of the great numbers employed in plants devoted to war materials. This was accentuated by the return of some of the foreigners from the North to their native lands to take their places in the war, and the complete stoppage of the former supply of labor from those countries.

The negroes from the South furnish the most likely supply to meet this demand, because the South pays them lower wages, works them longer hours, gives them less consideration, and surrounds them with poorer working conditions. This movement, so far as it is a result of this condition, is a readjustment of the equilibrium of population in accordance with present economic law, and so far as this is true, no issue can be taken with it.

But this committee finds that the situation in East St. Louis differs so much in degree, from the situation in most other cities, that it could not be explained as a result of ordinary operations. That East St. Louis, accustomed as it is, to the presence of colored people, could stage a racial outbreak, argues that a cause different than ordinary migration of colored labor was operative.

Such a cause was definitely established by evidence. It was shown that extensive advertising had been done in Southern newspapers, setting forth the allurements in East St. Louis, in the way of abundant work, short hours, and higher wages, good conditions and treatment. Labor agents were also shown to have been very active in the South. They had gone about soliciting the movement of colored men to East St. Louis. They had invited colored men to assemble in groups of ten in order to get cheaper railroad rates. Excursions by train and by steamboat were offered cheaper for the round trip than the regular one way fare would amount to. That such things were being done was recited in the local press of East St. Louis continually for many weeks, and seemed never to be denied.

A peculiarity of this campaign for the importation of unskilled labor to East St. Louis was its anonymous character, a fact in itself suspicious. There appear in all newspapers all over the country almost daily, advertisements for labor in some other place, which are signed by those who want the employees. Such advertisements of course are legitimate. But it seems strange that the extensive territory of the South should be covered by such propaganda urging migration to East St. Louis, and at the same time that these advertisements should not only be signed by no one, but that they should not designate any particular plant, of which there are many large ones in East St. Louis, that required additional labor. Likewise, labor agents were equally mysterious. It was related that these labor agents would assemble car loads of negroes and start North accompanying them. At convenient points, these agents would leave the car with the remark that they had telegrams to send or would get a lunch. They never came back, and the train pulled out without them. The negroes were thus left to shift for themselves upon their arrival at East St. Louis, to find work if they could and quarters as they might.

The report continues in a lengthy statement as to the remedy for such methods of advertising for labor when labor is not needed. It was also pointed out that employers had brought about an influx of negroes in order to have a surplus of labor, and defeat the contentions of their labor when any question or difference arose.

One striking paragraph of the report of the Council is "to import labor, a surplus of labor, will promote strife rather

ALL BUT ONE Co-operation Is the First Principle of Success

We carry today on our fourth page the ads. of many of Wilmington's progressive business men who evince their friendship to organized labor by supporting its medium and guardian with their advertising patronage, and for all of those whose ads. we carry on this page we bespeak a share of the patronage of unionists and their friends, except that of the Howard and Wells Amusement Company, who entered into a contract with the National Labor Press Association, through its agent, Mr. R. E. Wright, for advertising space in the co-operative page of this paper to be printed once a month, knowing when they did so that this paper is the medium of organized labor and the guardian of the workingman's interest, and which firm has since that time been declared unfair to organized labor on account of its failure to keep an oral agreement made with the field committee of the Central body that they would unionize their shows within a period of sixty days; and when the business agent of the Stage Employees union presented them with the union contract to sign to employ members of the union for one year they refused positively to do so. On account of being under contract with the National Labor Press Association to print this ad. nine more times we will do so, as we desire to show good faith with that association. And, in conclusion, we wish to say that the appearance of this firm's ad. in the co-operative page does not indicate that they are fair to organized labor. They are contemptibly unfair to organized labor, having broken every oral obligation made with Wilmington Trades Council during the past year, and every man—union or otherwise—who favors honesty and fair dealing should lend his support to the Central body in its efforts to secure justice for the union stage employees.

The negroes from the South furnish the most likely supply to meet this demand, because the South pays them lower wages, works them longer hours, gives them less consideration, and surrounds them with poorer working conditions. This movement, so far as it is a result of this condition, is a readjustment of the equilibrium of population in accordance with present economic law, and so far as this is true, no issue can be taken with it.

UNION BREVITIES.

The Pressmen's Union meets Monday evening.

The Brotherhood of Bookbinders will meet at 6 o'clock Wednesday evening.

The Bricklayers' and Masons' Union meets Wednesday night in Bonitz Hall. Remember the date of the State Federation of Labor Convention—August 13th.

The Carpenters' and Joiners' union meets on Thursday night in Bonitz Hall.

Brother Joe Curtis is now loosening up preparatory to donning his Labor Day harness. Old Joe is some demonstrator, too.

The Label Products Committee will meet on Monday, August 7th. Be on hand, brothers, we have much work ahead of us.

The Typographical union will meet Thursday evening at 8:45 o'clock. Be on hand, brothers, and make arrangements to send your delegates to the State Federation of Labor Convention August 13th.

I wonder if the secretary of Wilmington Trades Council forget to notify the delegates of the new meeting night? Somebody is laying down on the job. Get busy, brothers. Labor Day is just approaching.

The many friends of Mrs. Herring, of Delgado, who has been suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism, has almost completely recovered, after a course of treatment by Dr. A. C. Nielsen.

Superintendent of Health Nesbit has addressed a letter to Councilman Bunting, in charge of streets and wharves, asking that the garbage force be increased.

than repress it. To so act is not to meet labor half way. Labor has declared a truce, to whatever extent such may be possible, and the employer will be the opposite of the patriot if he does not do the same. Labor has set a patriotic pace which should challenge a patriotic rivalry from the employer.

The report is signed by the labor committee of the State Council of Defense, John H. Walker, chairman, and John H. Harrison, and was sent out from Chicago.

POWER TO WAGE WAR IS SUPREME

It's Folly to Question Constitutionality of Measures.

WILSON'S WILL DOMINANT

When Administration Is Criticized in Senate There Are Many Men Quick to Come to the Defense of the Executive—Democrats Have Made Most Objections.

By ARTHUR W. DUNN.

Washington, July 26.—[Special.]—Why question the constitutionality of acts of congress dealing with the war? If both houses of congress pass bills and the president signs them and they are put into operation what good will it do to raise the point about their constitutionality?

In all probability the supreme court would not get around to making a decision until after it has been shown whether or not the laws were feasible and necessary for the conduct of the war. If they were necessary it is doubtful whether any court would declare them void on a constitutional point.

War Power Supreme.

It is the opinion of many good lawyers that the war power is supreme. Senator Knox of Pennsylvania and Senator Kellogg of Minnesota, both regarded as eminently qualified to speak on the subject of law and the constitution, have said that the war power is supreme and that technicalities cannot stand in the way of prosecuting a war to a successful conclusion.

In this connection Senator Smoot of Utah, who is not a lawyer, but knows a lot about legislation, asserts that the war power makes his amendment to the food bill constitutional.

The President Is Dominant.

"Germany must be crushed before we see the day of peace," declared Senator Stone of Missouri in the senate. "I am stating the exact attitude as it is now. It may be that something may later occur to change the president's attitude, and if the president changes his attitude the congressmen will change their attitude, not otherwise."

Senator Stone was stating what is generally conceded in Washington. In all matters pertaining to the war the president is dominant. War would not have been declared if he had not urged it. The many war measures could not have passed without his insistence. Whenever he declares for peace congress will be with him.

No Lack of Defenders.

President Wilson and his administration do not lack defenders in either the house or the senate. This is particularly true in the senate, where the administration has been subjected to the most severe criticism. It has so happened that in the senate the administration measures have been more severely criticised on the Democratic side than by Republicans. It is notably a fact that Senators Reed of Missouri, Gore of Oklahoma, McKellar of Tennessee, Vardaman of Mississippi, Hardwick of Georgia and some others have been rather vigorous in their criticisms, some of them pointing directly to the president.

But no sooner is a speech delivered which criticises the president or some of his cabinet officers or appointees than there is at once a number of men ready for the defense. Senators Chamberlain of Oregon, Pomeroy of Ohio, Shafroth of Colorado, Myers of Montana and Williams of Mississippi are always on hand ready to defend the legislation or administration even if they do not endorse all that the president has been doing.

Of course special mention should be made of James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois, for he is one of the staunch supporters of the administration and everything that it has done. In fact, the Illinois senator has sometimes been referred to as the "defender of the administration."

"Made in Conference."

It is probable that the most important legislation of this session will bear the brand "made in conference." I refer particularly to the food control bill which in many ways is far more important than any act of congress in the last thirty or forty years, and also the revenue bill, which is expected to raise from \$1,500,000,000 to \$2,000,000,000 by taxation.

CELEBRATE SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Hanover Lodge No. 145, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

The Silver Anniversary of Hanover Lodge No. 145, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was celebrated in an appropriate way yesterday evening when ceremonies were held in Odd Fellows Hall, Third and Princess streets.

Grand Master Calvin Woodard was here and participated in the ceremonies incident to the celebration.

An elaborate and most entertaining and instructive programme was carried out, to the enjoyment of those participating.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

Please mention this paper when patronizing advertisers.

See the ad. of the Motte Business College on page five. This institution will remove to the third floor of the Home Bank Building, corner Front and Chestnut streets, which will be the handsomest business college in the South.

Read the Saturday Specials of the "Bon Marche" on the sixth page to-day in the "Special Today and Monday" feature. They offer attractive bargains in bleaching, black hose, canopies and neckties, "The Store with Good Merchandise at Little Prices."

Mr. Edward Sandlin, manufacturer of the great exterminator, "Dead Shot," has incorporated under the style of the Sandlin Dead Shot Co., Inc., and has his business office and shipping headquarters at Kopp & Woody Place Co., 209 Princess street. The authorized capital stock is \$20,000. Many business men have taken stock in the enterprise. See ad. in "Special Today and Monday," 6th page.

A. D. Cahwell, gunsmith and locksmith, No. 25 S. Front street, has an announcement in the "Special Today and Monday" feature on the Sixth page. Cahwell is an expert in fitting all kinds of keys. Read his ad.

Read the Saturday specials of the Royal Bakery on the sixth page. Order one of their Pullman pound, Snow Ball or Chocolate Layer cakes for Sunday dinner.

"Come and see" for specials on Saturday, says E. E. Russ in his ad. on the sixth page of to-day's paper.

Take advantage of the special bargains offered by J. W. H. Fuchs' department store on the sixth page of to-day's paper. He gives a total of 7 per cent discount on all purchases!

Cromwell has bell peppers and Elberta peaches on as specials today and Monday. See his ad. on the sixth page.

The new series of Brooklyn Building and Loan Association opens Aug. 4, 1917. See their ad. on the sixth page.

"We Want You" as a stockholder advertises The People's Building and Loan Association. They open a new series on Saturday, August 4th. Office 112 Princess street. See their attractive ad. on the sixth page.

Belk-Williams Company is now having their Second Annual July Clear and Sale. They want everyone to come to this sale and "spend a little and save a lot." Belk-Williams' back up their ads. with the goods. This sale is too big to specialize on any particular item. It covers every department in the store, so call and see for yourself.

The amendments made to both of these measures in the senate are such as to send the entire legislation into conference, and the conferees will whip it into shape and present it to their respective houses for ratification. Entire sections and chapters of these bills will be redrafted before the conference committee can agree upon their report.

Not "Somewhere in France."

A man whose son graduated from West Point last month was asked about his whereabouts.

"He has landed in France," was the reply. "I have had two letters from him. He says the men from his ship were the first to land; also that they had some interesting experiences in crossing which he will tell us about when he comes home."

"I suppose his letters are dated 'somewhere in France.'"

"They weren't dated," was the reply. "but they were postmarked 'Boston, N. J.'"