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THE GREAT APPALACHIAN GRAY TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ON OUR KNEES - LET US AWAKE

HALLETSVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1915.

NO. 216

THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS PROBLEM.

As promised in last issue the Rebel will publish Sept 18, the preliminary report of the Industrial Relation's Committee in full. The Rebel has the full Press abstracts of the findings of the commission, which has been accepted by the labor end of the commission, namely Mr. Lennon, formerly representing the tailors, and Mr. O'Connell, ex-president of the International Machine Union, and Austin B. Garretson, President of the Order of Railway Conductors, and Mr. Walsh.

It will be noted that Mrs. J. Borden Harrison, a millionaire lady of New York who was supposed to represent "the public," and Mr. Weinstein of California who is a wealthy banker, Prof. John B. Thompson of the Wisconsin University and two others failed to sign this epoch making report, but the report they did sign will be also published by the Rebel.

The report as presented by Mr. Walsh and the labor end of the committee will be published in full by congress provided that there is sufficient pressure brought to bear on congress by the people. The "interests" are determined to keep the reports from being published, and congress, as a matter of course, will lend ear to the "interests" unless they hear from the people. Consequently it is your duty to write to the congressman of your district, and let him in plain language, that in as much as the government has paid \$500,000 to accumulate this testimony, it should be published so the people can learn the condition of things industrially, in the United States.

We publish below an extract from the report which has been sent out by Mr. Basil M. Manley, "Director of Research and Investigation" of the commission. Every word of it should be read with exceeding care. Every contention that the Socialists have made for the last twenty years has been proven true by the Industrial Commission. Two points stand out particularly. One, in which the Socialists are condemned for their apathy, and the other—the conclusion—in which the commission proposes that the remedy for the industrial evils of today is to "use every means of agitation, all avenues of education and every department and function of government to eliminate the injustices exposed by this commission, to end the RACE LABORER MAKES SECURE THIS FULL PRODUCT OF HIS LABOR."

The text of the report follows:

TEXT OF REPORT.

"Charged by your honorable body with an investigation to discover the underlying causes of dissatisfaction in the industrial situation, we herewith present the following findings, and conclusions, and we urge for them the most earnest consideration, not only by Congress, but by the people of the Nation, to the end that evils which threaten to defeat American ideals and to destroy the well-being of the Nation may be generally recognized and effectively attacked.

"We find the basic cause of industrial dissatisfaction to be low wages, or, stated in another way, the fact that the workers of the Nation, through complicity and approved methods, legal and illegal, are denied the full product of their toil.

"We further find that unrest among the workers in industries has grown to proportions that already menace the social good and peace of the Nation. The workers of the Nation are weary of a sense of injustice and oppression born of the conviction that the opportunity is denied them to acquire for themselves and their families that degree of economic well-being necessary for the enjoyment of those material and spiritual satisfactions which alone make life worth living.

"Bitterness bred of unfulfilled need for sufficient food, clothing and shelter for themselves and their wives and children has been nourished in the hearts of those millions by resentment against the arbitrary power that enables the employer, under our present industrial system, to control not only the workman's opportunity to earn more, but also the conditions of his home, his social, political and moral environment. By thwarting the human passion for liberty and the solicitude of the husband and father for his own modern industry has kindled a spirit in these dissatisfied millions that like deeper and springs from nobler impulses than physical need and hunger.

"Among these millions and their leaders we have encountered a spirit religious in its fervor and in its willingness to sacrifice for a cause held sacred. And we earnestly submit that only in the light

of this spirit can the aggressive propaganda of the discontented be understood and judged.

UNREST OF WIDE EXTENT.

"The extent and depth of industrial unrest can hardly be exaggerated. State and national conventions of labor organizations, numbering many thousands of members, have observed the names of workers imprisoned for participation in a campaign of violence conducted as one phase of a conflict with employers. Thirty thousand workers in a single strike have followed the leadership of men who denounced the Government and called for relentless warfare on organized society. Employers from coast to coast have created and maintained small private armies of armed men, and have used these forces to intimidate and suppress their striking employees by deporting, imprisoning, assaulting and killing their leaders. Elaborate spy systems are maintained to discover and forestall all movements of the enemy. The use of State troops in policing strikes has bred a bitter hostility to the militia system among the members of labor organizations and States have been unable to enlist wages for this second line of the Nation's defense. Courts, Legislatures and Governments have been rightfully accused of serving employers to the defeat of justice, and while counter charges come from employers and their agents, with almost negligible exceptions, it is the wage-earners who believe, assert and prove that the very institutions of their country have been perverted to the service of the employer. Prison records for labor leaders have become badges of honor in the eyes of many of their people, and great mass meetings throughout the Nation cheer denunciations of courts and court decisions.

"To the support of the militant and aggressive propaganda of organized labor has come within recent years a small but rapidly increasing band of ministers of the gospel, college professors, writers, journalists and others of the professional classes, distinguished in many instances by exceptional talent, which they devote to agitation, with no hope of material reward, and a devotion that can be explained only in the light of the fervid religious spirit which animates this created industrial unrest.

"We find the unrest here described to be but the least manifestation of the age-long struggle of the race for freedom of opportunity for the individual to live his life to its highest end. As the middle of England wrong their independence from King John, and as the tradesmen of France broke through the ring of privileges in closing the three estates, so today the millions who serve society in arduous labor on the highways, aloft on scaffolds and by the sides of whirling machines are demanding that they, too, and their children shall enjoy all the blessings that justify and make beautiful this life.

Changes Augment Unrest.

"The unrest of the wage-earners has been augmented by recent changes in social conditions in industry. Chief of these are the rapid and universal introduction and extension of machinery of production, by which unskilled workers may be substituted for the skilled, and an equally rapid development of means of rapid transportation and communication, by which private capital has been enabled to organize in great corporations possessing enormous economic power. This tendency toward huge corporations and larger factories has been furthered by the necessity of employing larger sums of capital in order to purchase and install expensive machinery, the use of which is practically only when production is conducted on a large scale. Work formerly done at home, or in small neighborhood shops, has been transferred to great factories, where the individual worker becomes an impersonal element under the control of personal corporations, without voice in determining the conditions under which he works, and largely without interest in the success of the enterprise or the disposal of the product. Women in increasing numbers have followed their work from the home to the factory, and even children have been enlisted.

"Now, more than ever, the profits of great industries under centralized control pour into the coffers of stockholders and directors who never have so much as visited the plants, and who perform no service in return. And while vast inherited fortunes, representing the credit of the Nation, are being accumulated, automatically treble and multiply in volume, two-thirds of those who toil from eight to twelve hours a day receive less than enough to support themselves and their families in decency and comfort. From childhood to

he could see no relief against want as well as work and he hands her the "dignity" of a man with one wife. "I fear there is no more to be said with the next. You mothers with your sons are poor fools for to die in foreign lands, and you sons with mothers you will leave behind to be fed on the "dignity" of a man. So as the President says the secretary of the navy will want to die: "consider the matter very fully." ANTI-THESIS—protect the mother, and the son, with some thing besides the "dignity" it will die in the service of his country. There was no question as to what could be done when the financial crisis of the Nation last year, but privateers wanted the Emergency currency and the Federal Reserve Board gave the paper money to a poor poor downer whose son had been murdered because his patriotic professor ignores the law, calls, one half cent, additional

the grave they dwell in the shadow of a fear that their only resource—their opportunity to sell—shall be taken away from them through accident, illness, the caprice of a boss or the fortune of the industry. The lives of their families are snuffed out by bad air in cheap lodgings and the lack of nourishment and care with which they can not buy. Fathers and husbands of men are raised in accidents, and their families receive pittance, or succumb in midlife, and they receive nothing.

Under Corporation Control.

"And those unfortunate souls, by the only means within reach, to better their lot by organizing to lift themselves from helplessness to some measure of collective power, with which to bring living wages from their employers, they find too often strayed against them not only the mawed power of capital, but every arm of the Government that was created to enforce guarantees of equality and justice.

"We find that many entire communities exist under the arbitrary economic control of corporations officially charged with the management of an industry, or group of industries, and we find that in such communities political liberty does not exist and its forms are hollow mockery. Given to the employer power to discharge without cause, is granted or withheld from thousands the opportunity to earn bread, and the liberties of speech, free assembly and a free press may be denied, as they have been denied time and again, and free press may be agents may be placed in public office to lead his bidding.

"In larger communities, where espionage becomes impoisonable, the wage-earner who is unsupported by a collective organization may enjoy freedom of expression, but he is not free, but there his freedom ends. And it is a freedom more apparent than real. For the home he lives in the food he eats, the clothing he wears, the environment of his wife and children, and his own health and safety, are in the hands of the employer, through the arbitrary power which he exercises in fixing his wages and working conditions.

Workers Are Responsible.

"The social responsibility for these unfortunate conditions may be fixed with reasonable certainty. The responsibility and such blame as attaching thereto can not be held to rest upon employers, sink in the maintenance of the evils of low wages, long hours and bad factory conditions, and in their efforts to gain control of economic and political advantages which promote their interests they have merely followed the natural bent of men involved in the struggle of competitive industry. The responsibility for the conditions which have been described above, we declare, rests primarily upon the workers, who, blind to their collective strength and often blinded by the cry of their followers, have suffered exploitation and the invasion of their most sacred rights without resistance. A large measure of responsibility must, however, attach to the great mass of citizens who, though not directly involved in the struggle with capital and labor, have failed to realize that their own prosperity was dependent upon the welfare of all classes of the community, and that their rights were bound up with the rights of every other individual. But until the workers themselves realize their responsibility and utilize to the full their collective power, no action, whether governmental or altruistic, can work any genuine and lasting improvement.

"Fourteen years before Abraham Lincoln was called to the high office where he immortalized his name he uttered these great truths:

"Inasmuch as most good things are produced by labor, it follows that all such things of right belong to those whose labor has produced them. But it has so happened in all ages of the world that some have labored and others have, without labor, enjoyed a large share of the fruits. This is wrong and should not continue. To secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy subject of any good.

"With this lofty idea for a goal, under the sublime leadership of the 'lawless Lincoln,' we call upon our citizenship, regardless of politics or economic conditions, to use every means of agitation, all avenues of education and every department and function of government, to eliminate the injustices exposed by this commission, to the end that each laborer may secure the whole product of his labor."

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM.

The call today sounds to the nation's workers to get together in the struggle to secure better wages and factories, in the mines and on the railways must unite, and the workers on the farms and in the forests and in the agricultural districts must make common cause with them.

Industrial unity of the workers is of the first importance in the struggle to secure better wages and factories, in the mines and on the railways must unite, and the workers on the farms and in the forests and in the agricultural districts must make common cause with them.

The class struggle is a struggle of daily clashes. Every worker must be in the daily struggle for better conditions and finally in the hour of victory, to take control of the destinies of the nation.

—EUGENE W. DEBS.

The Price of War.

Under the heading "Why Kaiser did not ride into Warsaw" some of the daily papers tell us that the Kaiser is reported to have missed several public buildings and plotted to kill the Emperor. Word of the ride for him to change his plans. "Remember this all you workers and take care of your hides as the Kaiser takes them. When there was danger the Kaiser charged his plans. Now you all know there is danger in war for the soldiers; danger your plans and say away: due he is a soldier even if you have ever thought of it. Play SAFE.

Your wife needs you as badly as the Kaiser needs the scoundrel mania that stayed away from Warsaw when he "heard" it was possibly dangerous. In this connection, some of the daily papers tell of letters that passed between the President and a mother that had written him, "I am proud my son died in service of his country." The son had been killed during the "American occupation of Port au Prince", although the Congress has never authorized such a "occupation" and she wrote, "that as he had been her sole support, she hopes the government could help her in some way. The President, after handing her the mail, said about sympathy during the war, he died in the service of his country."

try", hands her this: "I am sure that it would be the desire of everyone connected with the public service to see that you did not suffer from the loss of your son. I am sending you a letter to the Secretary of the Navy to enquire whether there is any possibility under the law, as it stands, of assisting you. I fear that there is not, but I am sure the Secretary of the Navy will do everything in his power to consider the matter very fully."

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