

GOMPERS ATTACKS OPEN-SHOP 'GREED'

A. F. of L. in Counter-Offensive to Halt U. S. Commerce Chamber Propaganda

SEES 'DIRECT CHALLENGE'

Washington, Sept. 2.—The American Federation of Labor, in a statement issued yesterday by Samuel Gompers, president, declared war upon the "open-shop" movement which has been spreading recently among many cities in the United States, and pledged itself to make every sacrifice to defeat the "direct challenge from the heart of America's financial power."

Specifically, the attack of the labor leader is directed against the plans announced in a referendum of the United States Chamber of Commerce and which had the whole-hearted support of the Philadelphia branch of the organization.

In those principles the demand was made for the open shop, equal rights in the eye of the law for employers and employees and discussion and settlement of disputes without outside interference.

Mr. Gompers charges that the aim sought by the United States Chamber of Commerce is not equal rights, but rights for the employers that shall be denied the employees.

"This is a direct challenge to the trade-union movement coming from the heart of America's financial power," says Mr. Gompers. "The proposition set forth by the United States Chamber of Commerce in its declaration involves no principle. On the contrary, it is a direct statement of what the industrial States Chamber of Commerce hopes the employers of the United States will do if they have the power to do."

Compared to Jungle Man "The spirit of it coincides exactly with the spirit of the jungle man who started out to kill. The effort to make it appear that so-called open shop involves the individual right of contract is so far out-worn and aged as to be pitiable. The right of an individual to undermine and destroy the organized society today in the name of safety of his fellow workers has been so long since exploded as to be unworthy of further discussion. The individual has no such right and no organized society today anywhere recognizes such a right.

"The entire declaration is a cunning device calculated to create the impression of fairness by withholding the facts and reasons of trenchery, which are calculated to banish trade-union organizations while creating the impression of acquiescence in the actual desires of the workers.

"It is to be regretted that there are those in America who care so little for human progress, who have so little of the real idealism of the republic, who have so small a sense of the responsibilities of anything but the terms of greed and exploitation, who have so slight regard for the welfare of humanity as to make declarations of this character possible in this period of our history.

Probers Adjourn Till Next Tuesday

Continued from Page One campaign contributions, and only disingenuous when he tries to slip in his poison about the sinister difference between the two pledges Mr. Barnes' subscribers signed. When the Republicans asked him an embarrassing question he pulled out of his portfolio a subscription by Jacob Ruppert to Mr. Barnes' book. Also, one by Conrad Feigenbaum. Mr. Ruppert and Mr. Feigenbaum are not known in the East as brewers. It was a great moment. Two well-known wets had given money to Mr. Barnes' sinister publication.

The committee is spending its time upon matters like these. There isn't anything else apparently for it to do. Publicity and the difficulty of collecting large campaign funds when you must be careful from whom you get your money and how much you take from each individual, is sufficient to assure that nothing sensational will be found in the treasurer's report of either party. Governor Cox might have guessed this.

POINDEXTER TELLS OF SENATORIAL FUND

Chicago, Sept. 2.—(By A. P.)—Miles J. Poindexter, of Washington, recent candidate for the Republican presidential nomination and chairman of the Republican senatorial committee, today told the Senate committee investigating campaign funds that the amount of the fund was \$200,000. He said that there is no fixed rule or system by which candidates are helped.

Senator Pomeroy had the witness state that the \$200,000 provided for senatorial contest if divided equally among the thirty-two seats in the Senate, would average \$6250 a seat, and he then called attention to the federal state limiting campaign expenses of a senatorial candidate to \$10,000 except in states where a lower limit had been set by statute. The witness said \$200,000 was a fairly reasonable sum for the amount of the thirty-two seats in the Senate. Senator Pomeroy brought out that the senatorial committee had an arrangement by which the maximum campaign expense of \$20,000 was guaranteed by the national committee. In return all moneys collected by the senatorial committee are turned back to the national committee treasury of the party.

Senator Poindexter agreed that there had been some moral improvement in politics in the last eight years, the former assigning as the reason that "the courts have been in action in some of our fashion as to change the result of a presidential or senatorial election."

"That opens a wide field of speculation," said Senator Poindexter. "But such national campaigns are concerned, the vigilance exercised by both parties would make it very likely that defeat would come to any party which attempted corruption."

B. & L. Societies Change Names Philadelphia building and loan associations have filed notices of changes of names with the secretary of the commonwealth as follows: George W. Harty, to Seventh and Morris, Zehin, to Franklin, I. & S. Faggen to The Better and Memlin to Reuben Mamlin.

False Fire Alarms in Gloucester Gloucester police today are trying to find two men suspected of sending two false alarms of fire at 11 o'clock last night from a box at Broadway and Burlington streets. When the alarm was rung, arousing nearly every one in town. Two men were seen near the alarm box shortly before 11 o'clock.

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Operators Balk at Signing Award

and turn Bolshevik in principle if not in action.

STRIKE PARALYZES MINING INDUSTRY

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger—Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 1.—The anthracite industry today is paralyzed by the outbreak of a strike in the ranks of the United Mine Workers of America, who are leading an unauthorized strike in defiance of President Wilson and officials of the miners' union.

The movement is general, extending from Carbondale to the Schuylkill region, but so far no disorders have been reported. The "vacation" period, as the strike is called by the insurgent leaders, has set in without any display, the men simply refusing to report for work at the accustomed time and place.

The big companies are hardest hit. In three anthracite districts, the big producers are not able to operate more than one-fourth of their collieries and those in which steam was got up are crippled by the absence of from 25 to 50 per cent of their forces.

Independents Still Operating The independents in all sections are operating. Their reports are that their working forces have been greatly reduced, but that enough men are on the job to keep coal running through the breakers.

The Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Co., one of the big producers, has only two collieries and one washer in operation, and seven collieries employing 7000 men are idle.

Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Co. has six collieries idle in the Wyoming division and only one working. Three collieries in the Wyoming division are not working.

The Pennsylvania Coal Co. has nine collieries idle and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western has eight working and eight in idleness.

In the lower fields there was almost a general tie-up. The Susquehanna Collieries Co. had seven collieries completely closed down, the Philadelphia and Reading was hard hit and the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. had several collieries idle and a greatly reduced working force at other places.

100 PER CENT STRIKE, INSURGENTS ASSERT

Pottsville, Pa., Sept. 2.—Insurgent miners in the Schuylkill region were wild with enthusiasm this morning when the word was flashed along the line that some colliery was working in the lower anthracite field. Miners say their ranks were joined today by 11,000 men in the Schuylkill region, who worked yesterday. As the result, all the collieries at Shenandoah and elsewhere in the district are idle.

"It is a 100 per cent strike," declared insurgent leaders, who also say the men will not return to work until President Wilson ceases his proclamation of acceptance of the wage commission's report.

"We will show Wilson there is no substitute for anthracite," declared some of the strikers. They say such a statement of the President tant that if the miners struck, some substitute would be found for hard coal until they return to work.

United Mine Workers' leaders viewed with grave concern today the statement that the back pay due miners might be withheld from strikers. They say such treatment will result in solidifying the miners and may result in official recognition of the strike.

The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad was still shipping coal to Philadelphia and New York today, but the breakers are now emptied and coal shipments will entirely cease after today. The coal train crews on the Pennsylvania Railroad have either been laid off or are engaged in other work.

At St. Clair, Minersville, Frackville, Gilberton, Ashland, Tremont, Tower City, Donaldson, New Philadelphia, Tereana, Columbia, Tannum and all points up the Schuylkill valley above Pottsville this morning only one report was made, "not a wheel turning." Offers for increased prices of coal are coming to operators from New York and Philadelphia. Officials of coal companies say a mistake was made in sending the big product of this region during the summer largely to customers on the Great Lakes, who will be cut off when navigation closes. "By this action," they say, New York and Philadelphia have an unnatural shortage of coal.

Hazleton, Pa., Sept. 2.—Approximately 12,000 anthracite miners at twenty-five of the collieries served with cars by the Hazleton and Mahanoy division of the Lehigh Valley Railroad were on vacations today.

It was estimated production would be cut 80 per cent. Yesterday twelve operations were idle in protest against the majority award of the wage commission and tonight was reduced to half the daily average.

The Beaver Meadow and Spring Mountain miners want to work this morning, but decided to return home after the whistles had blown.

Pottsville, Pa., Sept. 2.—Virtually every colliery in District 9, embracing Shamokin and Schuylkill counties, was idle this morning. The vacation started by the miners yesterday spread to the operators for their arduous duty. Tremont and Schuylkill valley territories this morning and added 10,000 men to the ranks of the vacationists.

HISTORIC SHIPS ON VIEW

Destroyers at Navy Yard Were America's First Forces in War

America's first contribution to the world war in the way of fighting forces, a detachment of six destroyers that arrived in Queenstown, Ireland, May 6, 1917, are now at the navy yard. They were used immediately in harassing German U-boats and protecting transports and merchant vessels from their most dangerous enemy.

The destroyer Wadsworth was the flagship of the detachment, and she headed the line as these lean little ships first steamed into an allied harbor to report for their arduous duty. The scene was such an impressive one that England's greatest marine painter perpetuated it in a masterpiece called "The Beauty of the Mayflower." Reproductions of the picture were given wide circulation in this country.

The Wadsworth and her sister ships of that day, the Davis, Conyngham, MacDougal and Obrien, will be open to visitors at the yard on navy day, September 11. Navy day is given for the benefit of the Betula of the picture, the organization that cares for the destitute families of men who have died in the service.

COULDN'T STOP HIS AUTO

Mounted Policeman Finally Relieves Motorist of Embarrassment and \$5

Chester, Pa., Sept. 2.—John Wolmanski, of Wilmington, yesterday joined the automobilists' "Don't Know How Club." The charter member is Fred Welsh, a Darby policeman. Any one who is ignorant as to how to stop an automobile is eligible for membership.

Welsh joined after chasing a motorist, who deserted the policeman in the machine, but left the engine running. Welsh could not stop the motor and the car continued to run for many hours before the gasoline supply was exhausted.

Wolmanski climbed into an automobile and started on his way toward Philadelphia. After a few miles he reeled off on the pile, with Wolmanski frantically endeavoring to stop the machine. But stop it would not.

Finally, the machine entered this city. Near Seventh street and Edgemoor avenue, Traffic Policeman Peterson saw an automobile approaching. Wolmanski heard his command to halt, but that was the very thing he had been trying to do ever since leaving Wilmington.

Says Operators Filch Millions From People

Continued from Page One rate, only \$18,000,000 will be required for the back pay of the miners.

In other words, the anthracite operators say, since April 1, not only provided for the miners' back pay, but they have pocketed a clean profit on this jobbery of \$22,000,000.

But this is only a was bit of a circumstance to another one they pulled off five years ago.

Multipled It by Four In 1913 what was known as the Roney coal tax law was enacted. It imposed a tax on every ton of anthracite coal taken from the ground. The operators immediately raised the price to cover, as they alleged, the tax. The rate of increase to the consumer was twenty-five cents a ton, though the tax imposed amounted to only six cents a ton.

In 1915 the Roney act was declared unconstitutional, but did the operators, who in the intervening years had been collecting this tax four times over, ever make restitution to the public? Not on your life, fellow sufferers. They soaked this unlawful usurious down in their jeans and went on their proffering way rejoicing.

The amazing fact is that right here in the anthracite region the public is exploited in the most amazing fashion. To their credit it is not the great big concerns that are guilty, but the so-called independent operators. They are the fellows who sell their coal to any buyer willing to pay their price. The big concerns, who control about 70 per cent of the output, sell to two or three great distributing agents only.

In Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, I am informed that consumers have been forced to pay for these independent operators as high as \$11 and \$12 a ton for their coal. Shades of profiteering! Such antics have food speculators skinned a mile.

A local expert who has followed the trail of the anthracite coal profiteer is authority for another instance where, under the cloak of protecting their interests, the Black Diamond Buccaneers got away with \$5,000,000.

It was in connection with the mining award of 1912. The increase in the price tacked on by the operators amounted to approximately \$12,000,000. Of this sum only \$4,000,000 was needed to meet the advance to the miners. This left a little matter of \$8,000,000 which the coal operators quietly pocketed as their profit on transaction at the public's expense.

The retailer, outside the mine field cities, is evidently a law unto himself. He always has the convenient excuse of "lack of shipments," "scarcity," "diminished production," to fall back upon. The high cost of labor is also an available asset about the time an increase in the price of coal is being considered and the advisability of handing the consumer a fresh wallop is being discussed.

federal Department of Justice. The attorney general of the United States tried aloud for teeth in the Lever act. He set a thorn in Governor Wilson's strengthening provisions. But where is the direct action promised? Just as today the operators are looking to President Wilson to take some action in case of a strike, they have passed the buck to Washington. What is to be done? What has been done by A. Mitchell Palmer since April 1 coal has advanced \$1.30 per ton. Who's been prosecuted? Why must it eternally be that the public has to foot the bills for advanced wages? Why does not the operator shoulder a trifle of the burden? If he has ever done so the glorious fact has gone unnoticed by an unusually watchful press.

The above are queries that are being asked here in the coal region. It is had an unusually interesting and intimate talk this morning with a big producer. He is an engineer—an executive official whose line of duty keeps him at a distance from the strictly commercial or sales department. He proposed some of the above inquiries to him. His answer was "I don't know." There must be some answer to it, but I can't give it.

With a chamber of commerce and half a dozen other civic bodies either functioning or moribund, and with uplift and other life organizations in all parts of Philadelphia it would seem that there ought to be some agency to grapple with this question and the system behind it. Of course, a too intimate inquiry might have a tendency to miss up our old friend, "The Legitimate Avenues of Trade," but how about some hundreds of thousands of Johns Dees and Richard Roes who haven't got coal in 'em? Get it except at the fanciest of fancy prices!

Budenny's Army Gone, Say Poles

Continued from Page One Polish and South Russian forces are going on between the government here of thousands of Johns Dees and Richard Roes who haven't got coal in 'em? Get it except at the fanciest of fancy prices!

Prince Sapieha, the Polish foreign minister, said today that George Tchitcherin, the Soviet foreign minister, favored some Estonian town, probably Reval. The Poles prefer Riga, Latvia. Prince Sapieha declared, but will not place obstacles in the way of the selection of a place satisfactory to the Soviets and will not endanger the conference by insisting upon Riga.

The remaining Polish delegates in Minsk will meet the Soviet representatives there Thursday for the last time to assure them that the departure of the delegations from Minsk does not mean the breaking off of negotiations and to agree to meet again at the place decided on by Tchitcherin and Prince Sapieha.

It is announced that the Poles are not considering any change in the personnel of the peace delegation for the renewed conference, although Prince Sapieha may find it necessary to accompany the delegates.

Washington, Sept. 2.—(By A. P.)—The Armenian Government has refused to meet the Bolshevik representatives for the peace negotiations from Moscow to Armenia. It was learned today from official sources.

In refusing this request the Armenian

premier declared the Bolshevik authorities had so interfered with the communications of the Armenian delegation and that some government that the latter did not know to what extent the negotiations had gone or what suggestions had been made looking toward peace.

The premier also said the anti-Armenian propaganda of the Bolsheviks in Azerbaijan belied the professions of friendship made by Moscow, and that the Armenian Government was fully aware of the activities of Bolshevik agents in Armenia itself.

London, Sept. 2.—(By A. P.)—Russian Soviet forces endeavoring to encircle Lemberg have retired to the eastward under Polish pressure, says a Soviet official statement received today by wireless. Some successes for the Soviet troops are reported on the center of the fighting front.

POLISH DELEGATES TO LEAVE MINSK

Warsaw, Sept. 2.—(By A. P.)—Members of the Polish peace delegation remaining in Minsk have been recalled to Warsaw. They will leave Minsk Friday and are expected here Saturday, joining the delegates already in Warsaw. The Polish representatives will then proceed to Riga, or any other neutral place selected for the continuation of the Russo-Polish peace conference.

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The Price of Oil Is Not Always Its Complete Cost

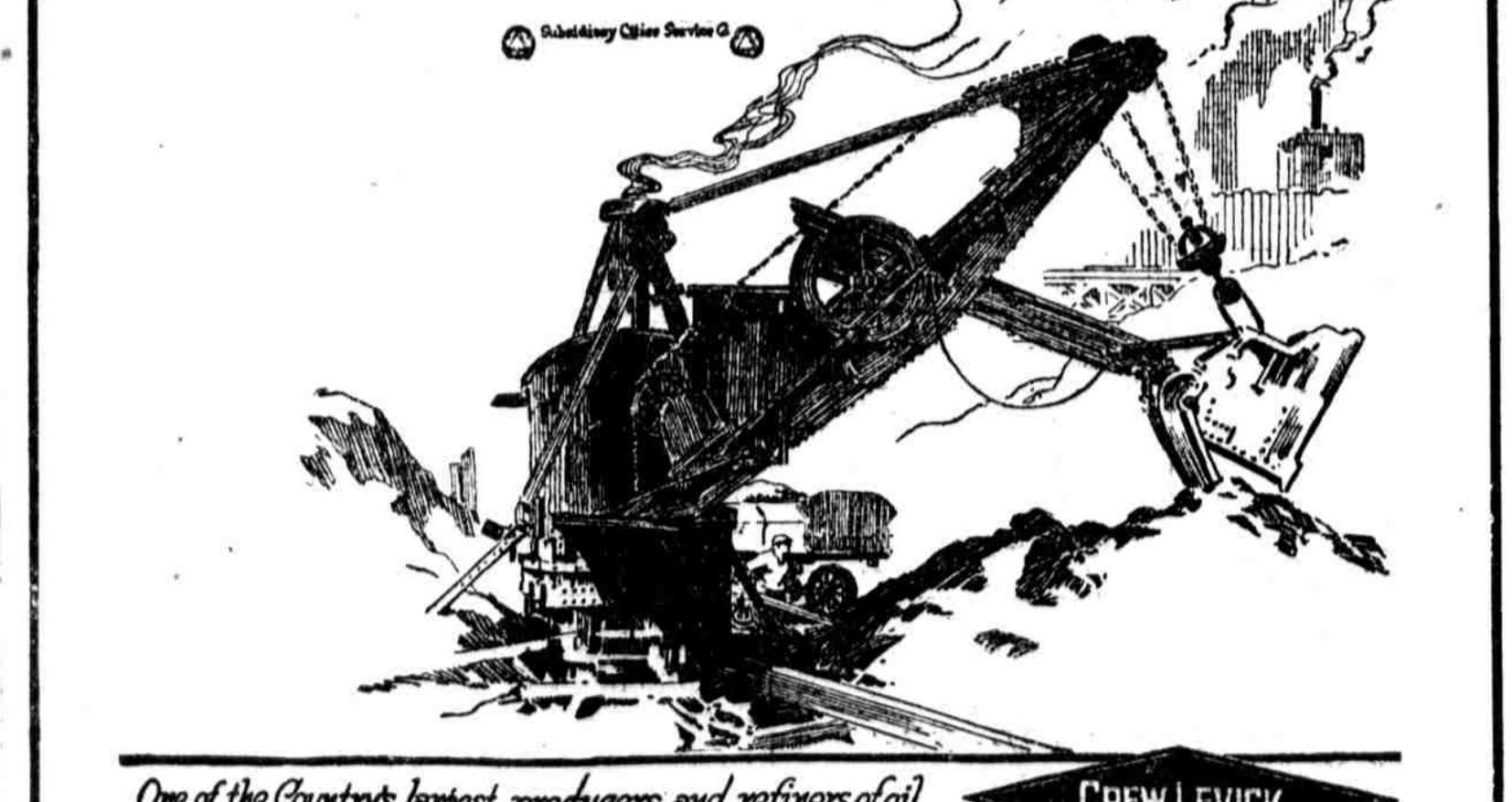
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