

'SERIOUS ISSUES' SEEN BY GOMPERS

Labor Leader Forecasts Attacks by 'Plutocratic Reaction' or 'European Insanity'

FREEDOM CHIEF CONCERN

By the Associated Press

Washington, Feb. 23.—Issues of the "most serious character affecting our people and our republic" are faced by organized labor, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared here today in a statement at the opening of the extraordinary conference of representatives of national and international unions.

"It is not possible to forecast the manner in which the conference will deal with these issues," he said, "but it is certain that the thought expressed will be for the benefit of our country and for the advancement of the interests, standards and freedom of our people."

The issues "in the main are known to all, though not understood by all," said Mr. Gompers, adding that his concern is for the democratic institutions of our country and for the safeguarding of our freedom whether the things may be attacked by the plutocrats or by the insidious propaganda of European insanity."

In opening the conference Mr. Gompers outlined the issues before it and submitted the recommendations of the executive council, details of which it was stated will not be made public until they have been acted upon.

Attending the conference were more than 200 representatives of organized labor from over the country.

Counter Offensive Proposed One of the proposals before the conference calls for a publicity campaign by the federation to offset the propaganda of the enemies of union labor.

Federal and state legislation to further the cause of organized labor also will be considered by the conference, which proposes to lift out the whole question of the "open shop."

The conference, union leaders said, is expected to determine the attitude the federation shall take in its relation with the incoming Republican administration. Survey of industrial conditions throughout the country was being taken by labor leaders here today's meeting and all agreed that the present depression was the worst the federation has faced in years.

"The coal mining industry has been especially hard hit," said John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America.

"Production is less than 50 per cent of normal. We have 100,000 men who have not done any work since the first of the year. The miners who are working are only getting from two to three days a week."

Michael Tighe, president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, said he had never seen conditions so bad, but added he believed the worst will soon be over, as some of the mills already are starting up.

Conditions in the metal trades were described as bad by A. W. Hervey, head of the metal trades department of the federation. There is, however, some improvement in the automobile industry, he said, but reported work in the shipbuilding industry is slow with little improvement in sight.

"Thousands of our men are out of work," said William Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists. The railroad situation is especially bad, hundreds of workers being laid off because of reduced working forces.

The present industrial depression and widespread unemployment, leaders said, would not deter the federation in its plan to combat attempts to further reduce wages and inaugurate the "open shop."

President Gompers is presiding at the conference, the sessions of which are being held in the federation headquarters. There are more than 200 delegates present, the majority of them being executive officers of various unions.

LEONA DALRYMPLE WED

Author's Marriage to Passaic Business Man Took Place February 7, Passaic, N. J., Feb. 23. Miss Leona Dalrymple, a writer and the winner of a prize of \$10,000 offered by a Chicago publishing firm for her novel, "Hate of the Green Van," published in 1914, surprised her friends in Mountain when they learned that she became the bride of Clarence Wilson of Passaic, N. J., at a quiet ceremony in a radio apartment in Greenwich Village on February 7.

The couple have been lifelong friends and at the time of the "Hate of the Green Van" won such high praise Miss Dalrymple said her fiance, Mr. Wilson, was largely instrumental in her success.

No Criticism Is Seen in Wickersham Speech

In commenting today on Mr. Wickersham's address, David Milne, a trustee of the University, said he believed no criticism of the faculty was intended by the former attorney general.

"He spoke somewhat as an advocate," Mr. Milne said, "and outlined two possible courses of action. What he criticized was the attitude of the faculties of the twenty-two German universities which are dominated by the state. But I did not consider his address as a criticism in any way of the University faculty."

U. OF P. STATE RULE HIT BY WICKERSHAM

Former Attorney General at Dinner of Alumni Says Faculty Plan Is Deplorable

FEARS POLITICAL DICKERING

The plan of the faculty committee of the University of Pennsylvania, which favors alliance between the college and the state, was vigorously assailed tonight by George W. Wickersham, speaking at the alumni dinner at the Bellevue-Stratford.

Mr. Wickersham, who is a graduate of the class of 1880, and was attorney general during the Taft administration, termed the plan of the faculty committee as "alarming and deplorable," and as tending to foster "political dickering."

"It seems to me that for the faculty of a great university like this to look to complete absorption by the state as the best solution for the present crisis in University affairs and to profess no alarm at the possibility of political control indicates a degree of deterioration in the moral quality of our University teachers that is at once alarming and deplorable," he said.

Fears Political Dominance Mr. Wickersham summed up the present situation of the University in regard to policy with a plea for freedom from state control. He said: "Our University stands at the parting of the ways. The issue cannot be complicated. It means independence of thought and action, under the leadership of some man of whom it can be said, 'he combines the breadth of educational experience, business ability, high public service and spiritual ideals.'"

"The other way means increasing dependence upon the Legislature, under the leadership of a man whose principal quality as usefulness would be a subtle facility for dickering with the political powers."

"The great body of the alumni, as far as they have been able to find expression, urge the trustees to choose the alternative of independence, that this University may take the place of leadership in the life of the nation to which it is entitled."

Terrific applause followed the address. Every alumnus seemed to be shouting approval of the sentiments expressed, and it was several minutes before any sort of order was restored.

Penninan Praises Faculty The other speakers included Paul Shoney, who was University Day orator; Josiah H. Penniman, acting provost, and Fletcher W. Stites, class of 1904.

Some of them discussed the chief question, urge the trustees to choose the alternative of independence, that this University may take the place of leadership in the life of the nation to which it is entitled."

A year ago a committee of seven trustees was named to consider the policy question. The committee's plan, which was presented to the board in pamphlet form by George Wharton Pepper, chairman, was in substance a suggestion for University and state alliance. It is known as the Pepper plan.

John Cadwalader, a member of the committee, refused to sign the report. Instead, he proposed the adoption of a policy distinctly opposed to state control and sponsored by Ex-Provost Charles Curtis Harrison.

TABLEAUX TO SHOW FUTURE OF PHILA.

Spectacle to Be Feature of Chamber of Commerce Dinner Tonight

DOCTOR BUTLER TO SPEAK

Philadelphia's future will be presented in tableaux tonight at the annual dinner of the Chamber of Commerce at the Bellevue-Stratford.

The affair will be a "get-together" meeting of members of the Chamber of Commerce of city, state and national figures, and is designed to stimulate the interests and energies of Philadelphia into a sustained effort to insure the completion in five years of the great undertakings under way and planned.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, will discuss "World Economics." Mayor Moore will talk on "How Can the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Benefit the City Administration?" while Alva B. Johnson, president of the Chamber of Commerce, will tell of "Accomplishments in 1920 and Program for 1921." The Chamber of Commerce as the "Ideal Forum for All Philadelphia" will be the theme of Ernest T. Trigg. Mr. Johnson will preside.

Undertakings which it is believed should be completed by 1925, to make successful the sequentennial exposition in Philadelphia will be shown in tableaux. A group of men and women versed in the production of dramatic spectacles have prepared the scenic settings and drilled the participants. Tableaux to be shown will be the Delaware river bridge, the new art gallery, aerodrome, sequentennial exposition and an epilogue, "Triumph in Art."

Karl Bloomingdale has prepared the prologue, the entire affair being under direction of Charles S. Morgan, Jr., art directors are Dr. Paul Phillips Cret, John Harrison and Miss Violet Oakley. Technical aerodrome, sequentennial exposition and an epilogue, "Triumph in Art."

GOLDEN WEDDING KEPT

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Johnston Celebrate at Son's Home

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Johnston celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the home of their son, Charles H. Johnston, 206 North Thirtieth street, yesterday. They were married February 22, 1871, and have lived in Philadelphia ever since.

The event was a double celebration, as it was also the birthday of the little granddaughter, Mary Elizabeth Johnston, who is twelve years old. She is the only grandchild.

Mr. Johnston, who is eighty-one years old, and was pioneer clerk and freight agent at Milford, taking his position at the time the Pennsylvania Railroad was completed, which he held up to the time of his retirement, ten years ago.

Mrs. Johnston comes of New England Puritan stock. Both are in excellent health.

P. & R. Closes Abrams Station The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad has closed the station at Abrams. Both the freight and ticket agency have been discontinued. The freight business will be under the supervision of the Bridgeport agent, Abrams being the sub-branch office. Milk tickets for the farmers also will be sold at Bridgeport.

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Harding Expects Hoover to Accept

Continued from Page One... A selection understood to have been decided on is that of George B. Christian, Jr., to be secretary to the President. Mr. Christian has been Mr. Harding's private secretary since he entered the Senate, six years ago, and although there has been no formal announcement every indication has pointed to his retention.

To Discuss Hoover Harry M. Daugherty, who has been selected for attorney general, is spending during his six years in the national capital and in the course of his relations with Mr. Harding during the 1920 campaign.

Mr. Daugherty has other political commissions to execute at Washington, but "to Hooverize or not to Hooverize," that is the question. President-elect Harding has been made up. He would change it with reluctance. It by no means is certain he will alter it during his six years in the national capital.

Strife in Background Republican party issues of immediate and far-reaching importance to the Daugherty conferences in Washington. If the anti-Hoover leaders stubbornly decline to yield, the President-elect may decide to defy them. If he does, and Mr. Hoover emerges a member of the Harding official household, a declaration of war between the incoming administration and an anti-Harding senatorial clique would seem to be inevitable.

Mr. Harding concededly would incur a severe clash at the outset of his presidency with profound hesitation and regret. But as has already been hinted, in connection with the appointment of Mr. Hughes to the secretaryship of state, the President-elect has "cast his lot." He has had his first bout with the old guard. When it was over those two men, now viewed as the arch foes of Mr. Hoover—Boies Penrose and Hiram W. Johnson—were conquered.

Harding Holds Trump Card Mr. Harding holds one trump card of no mean persuasive power over the Pennsylvania senatorial opposition to Mr. Mellon, of Pittsburgh, for the secretaryship of the treasury. Mr. Mellon is a Penrose-Knox creation as far

as his eligibility for the cabinet is concerned. Shrewd observers of the Titanic game of political shuttlecock now being played in St. Augustine envisage Mr. Daugherty, when he confers on Capitol Hill today, coolly suggesting the slogan of "no Hoover or Mellon" to the recalcitrants.

Mr. Harding would break with the Pennsylvania leaders with far more reluctance than with Senator Johnson. From that fire-eating and revengeful quarter, the President-elect is understood to expect the Brutus act sooner or later. He is represented as feeling the conflict might as well come now as in the future. If it is to be precipitated over Mr. Hoover's inclusion in the cabinet, Mr. Harding knows from a mountain of evidence borne in upon him since his election—and before—that whatever Hiram Johnson thinks about Mr. Hoover's eligibility for the cabinet, the country's "O. K." is on him.

CRAGO IS BOOSTED FOR POST IN NAVY

Washington, Feb. 23.—(By A. P.)—Colleagues of Representative Crago, of Pennsylvania, are urging President-elect Harding to select him as assistant secretary of war. The Pennsylvania con-

gressional delegation, it was said today, is championing his cause, and virtually every member of the House military affairs committee has signed a petition urging his selection.

Mr. Crago has been a member of the military affairs committee for six years. He retired March 4 as a representative-at-large from Pennsylvania.

Begus Check Suspect Caught

A man giving his name as George W. P. O'Neil, of Marine street near Diamond, is under arrest, charged with having victimized several drug store and cigar store proprietors by means of worthless checks. O'Neil was arrested last night in a cafe on Columbus avenue near Broad. He was recognized by Charles J. Hirst, a clerk in a Broad street cigar store from whom it is charged, O'Neil obtained \$40 by means of a worthless check last Saturday.

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