

DEMOCRACY'S RECORD ON LABOR QUESTIONS

Wilson's Labor Record

AS GOVERNOR of New Jersey Woodrow Wilson secured the enactment of these laws. He did this in spite of the fact that the Senate of New Jersey was Republican and in spite of the combined opposition of the Democratic and Republican machine bosses.

A fire escape law, amending factory laws and placing New Jersey in the vanguard of states in the protection of workers in factories and workshops.

A law making it a misdemeanor to improperly influence labor representatives or firemen.

An employers' liability and compensation act.

A law prohibiting the employment of children to mercantile establishments during school hours; providing for a 58-hour week and prohibiting children under 16 years to work between the hours of 7 p. m. and 7 a. m.

A law providing for the appointment of commissioners of old age pensions and old age insurance.

A law providing for the safety and health of foundry workers, by minimizing drafts and doing away with noxious gases, etc., by exhaust fans in foundries in this state.

A law increasing factory inspectors by the number of six (making in all a total of 17), for the better enforcement of factory and workshop laws.

A law providing for an eight-hour day on state, county and municipal work.

A law providing for at least one-half hour meal time after six continuous hours of labor.

A plumbers' license act.

A law providing for sanitation in bakeshops, etc., and also compelling the licensing of same.

A law prohibiting the employment of persons under 21 years in first-class cities, and 12 years in second-class cities as telephone or telegraph messengers between the hours of 10 p. m. and 5 a. m.

A semi-monthly pay act for railroad employes.

A law eliminating contract labor from penal institutions and providing for a state-use system.

Record of Congress

DESPITE the fact that Taft was in the Presidential chair and the further fact that the Senate was not wholly in sympathy the Democratic House of Representatives placed these laws upon the statute books.

1—The eight-hour bill, extending the operations of the eight-hour law to work done for the government, as well as work done by the government.

2—The children's bureau bill, to promote the welfare of children.

3—The anti-injunction bill, to protect the workingmen during periods of trade disputes and to give them the same protection in the courts that other men enjoy.

4—The contempt bill, to provide for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempts, which frequently arise through injunctions issued during strikes.

5—The department of labor bill, creating a department with the secretary, who shall be a member of the

president's cabinet and who shall have the power of mediation in trade disputes.

6—The industrial commission bill, to create a commission to investigate the entire subject of industrial relations.

7—The investigation of the Taylor and other

systems of so-called shop management that the workingman may be protected against speeding up beyond his normal powers.

8—The seamen's bill, to give freedom to the seaman, to provide a standard of skill for seamanship, and to build up the American merchant marine without resorting to subsidies.

9—The convict labor bill. In addition, there have been less important bills and items in appropriation bills in which labor was favorably interested passed by the house, making the total number of bills and items twenty-two in all.

THIS IS THE BEST RECORD ON LABOR LEGISLATION THAT CONGRESS HAS MADE FOR SIXTEEN YEARS PAST.

**"Let organized labor's slogan live in its deeds—
Stand faithfully by our friends
Oppose and defeat our enemies, whether they be
Candidates for President,
For Congress or other offices, whether
Executive, Legislative, or Judicial.
Get Busy! Stand true!"**

—Samuel Gompers in American Federationist for August 1912

REMEMBER that these results were achieved in spite of adverse conditions. What may not labor expect when these two forces work together?