

FAVORABLE REPORT ON LABOR HEARD DESPITE "YEAR OF UNUSUAL STRIFE"

(By Associated Press)

CINCINNATI, Ohio, June 12.—The record of organized labor's accomplishment in "a year of unusual strife and unusual industrial depression," was laid before the forty-second annual convention of the American Federation of Labor today in the report of the Federation's executive council.

The report declared that American labor during the year not only suffered from the widespread unemployment that existed, but was beset by opponents more active and determined than ever.

"In addition to strictures on the conduct of employers in numerous cases, the report added explicit and pointed criticism of congress and of some legislative bodies, declaring such branches of the government to be 'succumbing to a wave of reaction.' Fault was found with the action of some courts, including the supreme court, and with what was described as President Harding's 'proposal to regulate trade unions.'

"It is with no little satisfaction in view of these circumstances," the report on the other hand declared, "that we are able to lay before this convention a report of achievement, a report of solidarity, a report of constructive planning, and a report that only inadequately portrays the militant spirit with which our movement has come through the years. The audacity of those who have made it their business to attack in every possible manner the voluntary organizations of the workers has no parallel in our country. What our movement has been compelled to meet has been a condition in which the predatory powers have sought to break down all resistance in every quarter and to enrich themselves at the expense of the whole people. No experience has testified as eloquently to the fundamental soundness of our organizations and to the manner in which they serve the workers. We shall fight with a greater confidence because of the record that has been made."

Claim Indifference.
The report declared that in the direct labor field "workers in a number of industries have been compelled to resort to cessation of work," because "organized employers" were "unwilling to meet workers in conference for negotiation." The most important instance of this policy was declared to be the cause of the existing coal mine strike, although trouble in the textile, garment, printing, granite, and packing house industries also were cited.

"The organized mine owners repudiated their agreement with the United Mine Workers of America," the report said, "compelling the mine workers to cease work. Packing house employers were likewise guilty of violation of agreements. The contest going on among employers and the printing trades union involves a contemptuous disregard and flagrant violation of an agreement by employers and their associations."

"We have recorded only these violations of agreement by employers which are of national importance. . . . We know of no similar period of time in which there have been so many wanton violations of contract on the part of great organizations of employers. We submit that it is a vital essential that there be a return of good faith in industry, in return to standards of morality which will restore the pledges of men to their true and proper meaning. If it is impossible to have faith in pledges given, then the entire industrial structure will be undermined."

Turning next to courts, the executive council protested "most emphatically against such unjust and inhumane decisions" as that of the supreme court valuing the act intended to abolish child labor in the United States. Congress "by this decision, must keep its hands off when the health and life and well being of the nation's children are concerned," the report asserted, adding that the "supreme court of today is far more legalistic and less humane in its attitude and temperament than was the supreme court of 1918."

Claim Hostility.
"The year is marked particularly with an increasing hostility of the judiciary toward the effort of wage earners to prevent deterioration of their standards of life and labor," the report continued, "and we recommended that an appeal be made to that higher court of public judgment, and that the public conscience be aroused to the great and grave menace which confronts the perpetuity of the constitutional rights and liberties of all our

people and as originally conceived by the founders of our republic."

Instances of "most flagrant abuses of equity power" were declared to be contained in Federal Judge Anderson's order at Indianapolis, enjoining continuance of the "check-off" system of collecting miners' union dues, and in Federal Judge McClintic's decision in West Virginia against strikers of the same union in that state. This latter decision the report characterized as "conclusive evidence that the injunction as used is devoid of all sense of fairness and decency and that our courts of equity can be turned conveniently into instruments of the greatest iniquity whenever it will best serve the interests of soulless corporations and a mad desire for wealth."

Possibility of "relief from the constitutional use of the writs of injunction" by legislative action lay in the political field, the report said.

Praise Locals
The executive council described its renewal of non-partisan political campaign organizing in advance of the fall elections and expressed "satisfaction over the wonderful enthusiasm expressed" by every local organization of labor in the effort which it said proved "Not only the wage earners, but the great mass of our citizenship are crying for relief." The campaign effort will be to vote for a program of "opposition to compulsory labor law," and "opposition to injunctions and contempt proceedings as substitute for trial by jury," the council said.

"Congress has proved that only those who are well-to-do or control great interests can induce it to listen," the council said, in detailing the reason why it asked the federation to enter the campaign for satisfactory candidates. "These facts are slowly penetrating the minds of the people. They are beginning to realize the change they thought they wanted, has been an injury instead of benefit. Unless there is a change in the personnel (of the house and senate) people can prepare for still greater and greater suffering and injustice."

"The idea seems to prevail that the outcome of the 1922 elections means that every liberty of the people can be taken away provided some individual or group of individuals representing the privileged few desire it for their benefit," the report continued. "The statement is often made that if the United States capitol could be transported to the England of the fifteenth century half the members of congress would be to the manner born."

State legislative bodies also were taken to task in some cases, chiefly in the matter of compulsory arbitration laws. The Kansas industrial court was described as "an utter failure" and similar legislation in Colorado was said to be "equally as absurd and fully as dangerous."

Harding Accused
President Harding was accused of having contemplated "a system of industrial laws similar to those which prevail in Kansas" when in his message to congress last December he declared that "in the case of labor organizations we might well apply similar and equally well-defined principles of regulation and supervision (as he had just previously recommended for corporations) in order to conserve the public's interests as affected by their operations."

"It is hardly believed possible," the reports add, "that the president implied that the present administration intends to further a policy which will deny America's workers the right to cease working collectively and to determine for themselves the conditions under which they will give service. Yet the language used leaves little room for a different conclusion."

"The decisions of the Railroad Labor Board have given satisfaction neither to the workers or the management," the report remarked in considering the compulsory arbitration subject as demonstrated in transportation fields. "They have tended toward a mere general demoralization of morale of mechanical forces. The Esch-Cummins law, through the board, has practically destroyed the concept of voluntary agreements between employers and workers and the subject of compensation for services has become a constant source of litigation and irritation."

Returning to direct labor matters, organized labor scored victory, the report said, "against organized campaigns for the establishment of the so-called open shop."

"Chambers of commerce throughout the country, with certain notable exceptions, have lent themselves to this disruptive propaganda," the report stated. "The United States Chamber

of Commerce is about to begin construction of a \$3,000,000 headquarters building in Washington on the 'open shop' basis. The experiment is to be tried in the capital of the nation on so pretentious a scale will undoubtedly be watched with great interest by the workers and employers alike."

"There is but one answer to the entire campaign of employers for the disruption and destruction of the labor movement, and that is continued organization, eternal vigilance, and the highest degree of solidarity."

Suggest Boycott
Banks have lent assistance to business organizations "to compel employers who desired to deal fairly with the trade unions to alter their course," the report further asserted. In this connection it was suggested that the boycott was available.

"Savings and deposits of wage workers in banks must be so controlled by workers as to protect fully the wage earner's interest in this contest," was the proposal advanced.

Operations of the Federation of Labor in manifold directions were discussed in brief paragraphs in the report. Out of "more than 400 bills introduced in congress" during the present session, it was said, "90 per cent are inimical to the interests of labor and the people."

A period of declining prices having set in, the theory of "cost of living" as argument for wage increases interested the federation greatly, the report said. Studies initiated for development of a new formula were described, and a tentative proposal advanced in the statement that the rule should now be: "In every industry and gainful occupation a wage based upon human needs and aspirations." Some criticism was implied of "a wage based solely upon costs of living, or subsistence, or a saving wage."

In the field of international labor organization, the report said, little alteration of past policies had been necessary during the year, and an attitude of friendliness and association rather than unification was described. Delegates of the American Federation of Labor to the British Trades Union congress, it was indicated, "found many 'isms' creeping into and gaining some ground in the British Trades union movement, though as yet a large majority of its leaders and a majority, but a small majority, of the rank and file do not subscribe to or accept any of them."

News of the Counties
HANNA'S CREEK, Ind.—Mrs. Homer LaFuze sustained a broken right arm when she fell down a stairway at the local church, Sunday.

Charles Boddy was badly bruised when hit by an automobile while riding his motorcycle near Richmond.

Suburban
MILTON, Ind.—Ruth Ann, the little daughter of Mary Shills and Luther Vardaman was brought from Muncie Monday for burial in West Side cemetery. . . . Children's Day was observed Sunday night at the Christian church with an interesting program. The house was crowded. The offering amounted to \$80. . . . Miss Ruth McCormick spent a few days the first of the week with Mr. and Mrs. Luther Vardaman at Muncie. The Methodist Sunday school will have a Children's Day program Sunday evening. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Carl Clingman entertained Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Squires of Lyonsville over Sunday. . . . Mrs. Carl Caldwell, Miss Mary Caldwell, Mrs. Albert Caldwell, Mrs. Oliver Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Linville Wallace, Mrs. Harper Lindsay and Mrs. E. P. Jones attended Earlham May Day, Monday. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lantz had as recent guest Noah Morris of Piqua, Ohio. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Benton Wagner and son George and Mrs. Carl Williams attended commencement at Indiana university. Miss Alma Wagner was one of the graduates. . . . Mrs. Charles Ferris has had as guest her niece, Mrs. Mary Chauncy. . . . Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Jones spent the week-end with their son, Ernest, at Indiana university. . . . Richard George from Phoenix, Ariz., and Bert George who has been in the navy four years, have been visiting Milton friends. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Earl Crawford, Rev. and Mrs. McCormick and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wilson and Charles Calloway attended commencement at College of Missions at Indianapolis Wednesday. . . . The Embroidery club met Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Charles Nugent. . . . The Loyal Daughters and the Hustlers will serve a penny supper at the Christian church basement Friday evening, June 18. . . . Mrs. Carrie Johnson is visiting son, Louis at Indianapolis. . . . Miss Naomi Squier of Richmond and Charles Ivy of Rochester, were week-end guests of John Posey Jones. . . . Mrs.

"COTTON QUEEN OF SOUTH" WOULD SIT IN LOWER HOUSE



Mrs. Lelia Seton Edmundson.

Mrs. Lelia Seton Edmundson, "Cotton Queen of the South," who owns and operates a 1,600-acre cotton plantation near Decatur, Ala., and who for a number of years has been working for better roads and better national laws for the farmers of the south, says she is going to congress in behalf of the cotton planters of the south. She will enter the Democratic primary in August and nomination there is said to be equivalent to election, as her district is largely Democratic.

Martha Everson of Richmond has been visiting Mrs. Flora Vorhees. . . . The Straight Way class of the Christian church held a class meeting in the basement Friday evening. . . . The Loyal Daughters met with Mrs. Arlon Doll Friday evening. . . . Ross Pitman of Hollansburg, Ohio, was a recent guest of Clarence Pitman. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Theo Crist visited Mrs. Margie Frazer at the Connersville hospital Tuesday. . . . Ross Parker was at Indianapolis Wednesday. . . . At the Bible school council of the Christian church at the home of George Wagner the following officers for the new year were elected: Superintendent, George Wagner; assistant superintendent, E. P. Jones; treasurer, Charles Calloway; secretary, Leroy Hines; assistant secretary, Bernice Hicks; adult superintendent, Alfred Sample; young people, Delbert Pitman; children's department, Mrs. McCormick; cradle roll, Mrs. George Wagner; home department, Mrs. Sample; temperance, Al. P. Jones; pianist, Mrs. Harry Doty; bert Ferris; teacher training, Mrs. E. assistant, Mrs. Arlon Doll. Rev. McCormick, Floyd Hines and Roscoe Sizelove were appointed delegates to the state convention at Evansville.

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the groom a school teacher. Before the ceremony Mrs. Ashur Wooley of Richmond, played "I Love You Truly," and Lester Benham sang, "O Promise Me." To the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, the bride party approached the altar.

The bride wore a dress of white organdy with a veil of tulle bound with orange blossoms, and carried a bouquet of white roses. The bride was attended by Miss Mabel O'Hara, sister of the groom, and the groom was attended by Robert Pence. Little Clayton O'Hara acted as ring bearer, carrying the rings on a lily.

As they halted at the altar Miss Teclia Vollmer of Dayton sang "At Dawning," at the conclusion of which the double ring ceremony was pronounced by Rev. P. V. Harris of South Whitley, Ind.

After the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served to about 30 guests. Upon the table of the bridal party was a beautiful angel-food cake, decorated and baked by W. H. Eyles of Eaton. Mr. and Mrs. O'Hara left Wednesday for a trip by auto to Michigan.

PHILOMATH, Ind.—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shadle and son, Russell, of Centerville, spent Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Dan Plankenhorn. . . . Mr. and Mrs. John Hendrix and son, Russell, and Cathryn Miller of Richmond, left Thursday morning for a trip to Niagara Falls, New York City and other eastern points. The trip will be made by automobile. . . . Mrs. Forrest Allen of Pennville, spent Thursday with Mary and Laura Rodenburg. . . . The Happy Pedestrian class met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Grant Rose Friday night. Members who attended were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lambert and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Hendrix and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Weber and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rodenburg and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rodenburg, Edith Brown, Jennie Pollett, Mary and Fern Rose, Wilbur West, Jasper, Paul, James, Donald and Esther Kelley, Charles Rodenburg, Frank and Paul Pollett, Joseph Plankenhorn, Ernest Stinson, David Pleasinger, James Rose. After playing games, refreshments of angel food cake, lemonade and strawberries were served. . . . Mrs. Charles Stinson, of Abington and Mrs. Raleigh Townsend of Centerville called on Mrs. Charles Brown and daughter, Edith, Thursday. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Fisher and Virgil Pleasinger attended a festival at Dunlapville, Thursday night.

CAMPBELLSTOWN, Ohio.—At 6 o'clock Thursday morning at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Leary, of New Hope, Ohio, occurred the marriage of two of Jackson township's most prominent young people, Miss Glenna Leary and Heber O'Hara, son of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Hara of Campbelltown, O. The bride is an accomplished musician and

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PERSHING TO ATTEND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF DISABLED VETS

SAN FRANCISCO, June 12.—That General Pershing may attend the second annual national convention of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, to take place in San Francisco, June 26 to 30, was indicated in a telegraphic message recently received by the convention committee from President Harding.

The president's wire advices were in response to an invitation extended him to be present at the convocation of the Disabled American Veterans. In his message he stated it would be impossible for himself to leave Washington until early next fall, if at all; but he had designated General Pershing to represent him, if Pershing's army operations in the southeastern department will permit him to come west for the convention.

Every great power in the world war will be represented at the convocation, by army and navy officers, and in some instances, by units of their fighting ships and military corps. Vessels of the Pacific fleet of the United States navy are beginning to arrive in San Francisco harbor for the convention. Secretary of Navy Edward Denby having directed that the entire Pacific fleet be in San Francisco bay during the week of the Disabled Vets' national convention. Admiral E. W. Eberle, U. S. N., commanding the Pacific fleet, will reach San Francisco within the next few days; and is to formally approve a program of official and social activities, in which the navy is to participate, during the last week in June.

Speakers over a high-powered radio broadcasting station, from convention headquarters in the St. Francis hotel, David F. Supple, prominent business man of this city and vice-chairman of the mayor's citizen's committee for the convention, extended an invitation to all veterans of the great war, the message carrying into the states of Texas, Nebraska and Kansas. Radio outfits are being used daily by the convention committee to announce the tentative program and other details of the Disabled Vets' convocation, which is expected to bring 20,000 of America's wounded and disabled heroes to San Francisco.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

A very important meeting of

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Monday evening, June 12, at 7:30, at Bartel's underwear factory, 8th and S. B streets.

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