

ST. LOUIS LABOR

VOL. VI

OFFICE: 212 SOUTH FOURTH STREET.

ST. LOUIS, MO., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1909

PHONE: KINLOCH, CENTRAL 1577. NO. 449

WILL NAGEL ACT?

Asked by the American Federation of Labor to Investigate the Slave Conditions in McKees Rocks. What Will Secretary of Commerce do in the Matter?

The following is a copy of a letter mailed to Secretary Nagel of the Department of Commerce and Labor, Sunday, August 29, 1909.

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary American Fed. of Labor.

Washington, August 29, 1909.

Sir:—I herewith make a formal request for an investigation into the conditions which caused the strike of the employes of the Pressed Steel Car Co. at McKees Rocks, Pa., and base such request upon section 8 of the act of February 14, 1903, which provides in the last clause of said action that "he (Secretary of Commerce and Labor) shall also from time to time make such special investigations and reports as he may be required to do by the President, or by either House of Congress, OR WHICH HE HIMSELF MAY DEEM NECESSARY AND URGENT."

I would respectfully call your attention to the fact that the strikers are composed of several thousand alien and unorganized men, whose wages have been reduced by the officers of the Pressed Steel Car Co. to such an extent that, in sheer desperation, they decided to cease work until the many grievances, which they could no longer bear, were remedied, and a higher wage rate was paid.

While I deplore the rioting and needless sacrifice of human life caused by the struggle of these alien workers for better conditions, yet I submit that because this rioting and loss of life occurred, it should not be permitted to direct our attention from the fact that the rioting and loss of life are the direct result of the unbearable and unbelievable conditions that have been forced upon these defenseless and helpless wage workers by the Pressed Steel Car Co.

In support of the above statement I call your attention to the full report made by Mr. Paul U. Kellogg, published in the August 7 issue of "The Survey."

In addition I would refer you to the Rev. A. F. Tonor, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church, McKees Rocks, Pa., who has been repeatedly quoted as having stated in the pulpit and in the public press "that the conditions under which the employes of the company work and live are such that they are unfit for publication;" and that "they are a disgrace to our civilization."

For additional information regarding this strike, I would refer you to the statements which have been published in the public press.

If this very brief mention of existing conditions in McKees Rocks is deemed sufficient for you to deem it necessary and urgent to inaugurate an investigation and make a report to the public, I would particularly direct your attention to the fact: That the Pressed Steel Car Co. is especially favored by the United States government; that this company is enabled by a protective tariff to place a much higher price upon their products than it could if they were on the free list; that the company, because of the tariff enjoyed by the iron and steel industry collects a vast sum of money each year from the American public; that the new tariff law has just been acted; that the representatives of the great iron and steel companies set up the plea that if the present tariff was continued on their products the benefits would accrue to their employes, and that if the tariff was not enacted they would be forced to reduce the wages of their employes; that because of such information being submitted by representatives

of the iron and steel companies who desired a still higher tariff the present law was adopted in good faith by the last Congress.

I therefore contend that the public has a right to know if the iron and steel companies, who are profiting on account of a protective tariff, are keeping faith with the government, and are paying their employes a reasonable wage rate, a wage rate in keeping with the protection enjoyed by the companies.

A careful investigation of all the facts in this case would place you in possession of sufficient information to enable you to inform the public whether the increased prices charged by the Pressed Steel Car Co., as the result of the existing tariff on their products and the materials of which they are composed, are received by their employes, or, on the other hand, if they are diverted in part, or in their entirety, to enlarge the profits of the various companies and to increase the dividends of their stockholders.

In any event, in the face of the grave and serious charges made and conditions now existing at McKees Rocks, Pa., the public should have a clear-cut report of the facts in the case from the officers of the government whose duty it is to make an investigation of that character. The public will then have an unbiased report and be in a position to judge whether the fearful and awful conditions alleged to exist in McKees Rocks are true or false.

I therefore submit this report and express the hope that it will receive your immediate and favorable consideration. Very respect-

FRANK MORRISON,

Secretary American Federation of Labor.

HON. CHAS. NAGEL,

Secretary Dept. Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

St. Louis Labor Press Fund.

Additional Contributions for the St. Louis Labor Press Fund have been received as follows:

N. C.	\$ 2.00
Otto Mehl list:	
W. E. J.	1.00
Otto Mehl50
Jos. Leopold25
L. H. Schwarze	1.00
Robt. Neimann	4.00

Total since August 17.....\$ 8.75
Previously reported 463.40 |

Total to September 8.....\$472.15

Sons of Erin Interested.

The open-air meeting addressed by James Connolly, editor of The Harp, last Tuesday evening, indicated that Socialism is interesting the Irish workingmen. Quite a number of distinctly Irish faces were in the audience and they stayed to the end. Comrade Connolly's witty thrusts were vigorously applauded and close attention was given throughout.

A number of subs. for The Harp were taken and a fair amount of literature sold. The collection was about \$4.

Chicago Socialists at Picnic.

The Chicago Socialists held a successful picnic at Riverside Park on Labor Day. Comrade James Connolly was the principal speaker of the occasion.

MOST ENCOURAGING SUCCESS

Such was the Labor Day Demonstration in St. Louis. Over fifteen thousand Men in Parade. In Spite of Inclemency of Weather Forest Park Highlands Picnic Brings Good Results. Various Features of the Parade and Picnic.

The last two years have been a trying time for Organized Labor. With an army of men out of work as a standing menace to those still holding on to their miserable jobs; with the employing class full of resentment and anxious to crush the power of Union Labor wherever possible, such were the conditions under which the question of celebrating this year's Labor Day had to be taken up.

When the matter was first approached in the St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union there was a strong sentiment prevalent among the delegates in favor of dropping the Labor Day parade proposition. It required good arguments and powerful appeals on the part of the old guard and the younger enthusiasts to have the central body declare in favor of a proper Labor Day demonstration. But even then many obstacles had to be overcome. The marshals' meetings were but slimly attended and the regular reports were none too encouraging. However, a final appeal brought the desired results, and the success of last Monday's demonstration again demonstrated the fact that the rank and file will always respond whenever you strike the life cords of heart and mind.

As to the Labor Day parade we give the following review:

The following capitalist press reports give a fair picture of the demonstration:

Organized Labor, fully 15,000 strong, marched through downtown St. Louis in one of the most imposing demonstrations of years. The procession took more than an hour in passing a given point.

Fully 15,000 spectators congested the line of march and cheered the participants, which included more than 50 trades crafts, ranging from pretty garment workers to stalwart boilermakers and blacksmiths.

The signal of bombs for the start boomed sharply at 10 a. m., and the five divisions, headed by six bands, debouched on Chestnut street from side streets, where they had been formed by Grand Marshal J. C. Shanessy and his aids, amidst resounding cheers.

The route of march was east on Chestnut to Broadway, north to Washington, west to Fourteenth, south to Locust, west to Compton and south to Lawton.

There are parade disbanded and the paraders, their families and friends were taken on street cars to Forest Park Highlands, where the annual picnic and formal exercises were held.

One of the striking features of the demonstration was a float decorated and occupied by members of the Women's Trade Union League. It represented a large Maypole, with eight streamers of varied hues, supported by pretty girl apprentices of different trades. The streamers bore these mottoes:

"Equal Pay for Equal Work," "The Eight-Hour Day," "No Child Labor," "Educate, Agitate, Organize," "The Abolition of Privilege," "A Living Wage," "Votes for Women," "Employers' Liability."

Brewery Workers Form Splendid Division.

The local unions of the United Brewery Workers, forming the

ONE MORE WEEK

Every Socialist

IN

St. Louis City

AND

St. Louis County

WILL BE

Intensely Interested

TO COME TO

Risch's Grove, Sept. 19

TOGETHER WITH HIS

Family and Friends

TO HEAR COMRADE

J. M. O'Neill of Denver

AND TO

Have a Good Time

FAMILY CARDS \$1.00.
LADIES BY THEMSELVES,
25c. REFRESHMENTS, COFFEE
AND DANCING FREE.

SURE TO COME

Every Reader

OF

St. Louis Labor

IN

City and County

IS EXPECTED TO

Join The Family Circle

WHICH WILL MEET

Sunday, September 19

FOR OUR

Annual Fall Festival

AT THE SHADY

Risch's Grove

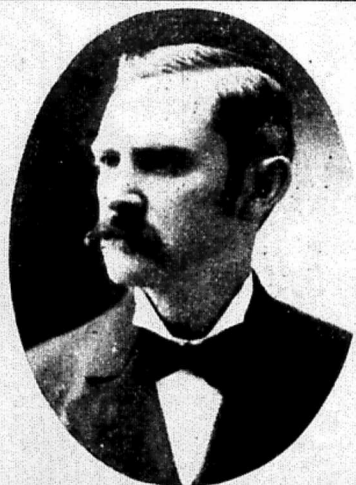
COME AND ENJOY THE

Concert and Dancing

AND THE

Games and Races

ALSO THE SINGING,
COUNTY FAIR, BOWLING
and Many
OTHER AMUSEMENTS.



JOHN M. O'NEILL, Speaker
EDITOR "MINER'S MAGAZINE"

Annual Fall Festival

of the

ST. LOUIS SOCIALISTS

in

RISCH'S GROVE
LEMAY FERRY ROAD AND HORN AV.

SUN. SEPT.
19th

Speaker: JOHN M. O'NEILL, of Denver, Col.

PROGRAM • Socialist Speeches in English and German; Races and Games for Men, Women and Children; County Fair with 2,000 Presents; Concert and Dancing; Prize Bowling.

MEMBERSHIP CARD, ONE DOLLAR. GOOD FOR FAMILY

REFRESHMENTS AND COFFEE FREE—NO CHARGE FOR DANCING

Take Bellefontaine Car to Southern End of Line, or Broadway Car to Horn Ave., Walk West.

