

that has haunted America for more than a year, millions of willing workers have been forced into involuntary idleness, thereby being denied access to the means of life; and whereas, many of those who are victims of this industrial depression have, in self-preservation, become infractors of law; and whereas, a class of predatory rich, who scarcely know the limits of their wealth, are co-existent with the countless thousands whose poverty is directly attributable to their failure to find some owner of the means of production to employ them; and whereas, the denial of the opportunity to willing workers to engage in useful labor springs from the fact that the means with which the necessities of life are produced are owned and controlled by private individuals, who are not necessary factors in the field of wealth production, but whose only function is to profit by the activity of the working class so long as a market can be found where the product of the workers can be disposed of; and whereas, the workers receive in the form of wages only a small share of what their labor power with the aid of machinery creates, thus preventing them from buying back out of the markets the equivalent of what they have produced, necessarily causing a glutted market; therefore, be it resolved, that we, the United Mine Workers of America, in annual convention assembled, recognize and declare for the necessity of the public ownership and operation and the democratic management of all those means of production and exchange that are collectively used, that every man or woman willing and able to work can have free access to the means of life and get the full social value of what they produce.

The adoption of the resolution is especially significant because the miners' conventions heretofore have defeated overwhelmingly resolutions of like tenor proposed by Socialist delegates, but on this occasion this resolution was adopted without dissent.

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Public Schools and Financial Interests.

The perennial conflict, nation wide, between the public interests of the common schools of cities, and the private interests of what is called "Big Business," which comes to the surface now in one way and now in another, and now here and now there, has been especially fierce in Milwaukee politics during the past week. Crippled by insufficient funds for their schools, the people of Milwaukee voted last Spring for bonds for school purposes to the amount of \$360,000. Mayor Rose (Democrat) has tried to have this amount reduced to \$120,000, and the finance committee of the City Council recommended in the budget a compromise on \$245,000. But nine members of the City Council are Socialists, elected as such by the Social Democratic party, and they have unanimously led the opposition to this arbitrary overriding of the popular vote. When the contest came before the Council on the 25th in connection with the budget, Alderman Melms, one of the nine Socialists, moved to give to the schools the full amount of \$360,000 for which they asked,

taking \$115,000 off the proposed appropriation of \$425,000 for street improvements in order to do so. He argued that the issue lay between necessary expenses for promotion of education in the interests of citizenship, and comparatively unnecessary improvements of streets in the interest of investors. In his speech he specified school buildings in labor districts as "barracks," that could not be kept warm, some of them with basement class rooms and some of the latter almost dark; and on the subject of teachers' salaries he declared, in answer to charges of extravagance, that in no city of the size of Milwaukee do the teachers receive salaries so low—from \$450 to \$700. After an acrimonious debate his motion was laid over until the 1st, when Alderman Melms and his Socialist colleagues, were supported by five Republicans and two Democrats. But they were defeated by a vote of 16 to 18. The committee compromise was then adopted by 26 to 8.

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The same general conflict between educational necessities and "Big Business" interests has risen to the surface in Chicago (vol. xi, p. 819; vol. xii, p. 15) during the past two or three weeks. It reached the public ear in connection with formal charges by the Superintendent that the Chicago Art Institute has rushed teachers through art courses in order to enable them to evade the "promotional" requirements of the Board of Education. These requirements, though nominally educational in their purpose, are actually for the purpose of serving financial ends. They consist in allowing teachers to advance automatically in salary up to and including their seventh year of service, after which they can advance no farther in salary unless they pass a "promotional" test. If they pass this, their salaries again rise automatically for three years more. But in order to be eligible for that test they must have a record of merit marks, made by their respective principals, which is secretly kept at headquarters where it is subject to secret revision by a board of district superintendents. And when "promotion" comes, it is in no sense promotion as to teaching functions. The promoted teacher goes on with the same work as before, in the same class room and grade, and side by side with unpromoted teachers of equal or longer experience, and not inferior in educational culture. Evidently the system is not for educational purposes, but for financial purposes. It even originated in and was adopted upon the advice of the finance committee without any action by the educational committee. Its effect, if undisturbed in operation, is to sustain an appearance of high salaries (those of a few "promoted" teachers), while the actual condition is one of low salaries (those of the unpromoted); but any considerable increase in the former group, however meritorious, frustrates this design. Some

such frustration was the occasion for the attack upon the Art Institute, one of the accredited institutions for "promotional" tests. Last year something like 1,500 teachers obtained the necessary credits from this institution, and were accordingly promoted in salary. But, as the president of the Board has been frequently quoted as saying, this added \$160,000 to the expense of school administration in a shorter time than the finances of the system contemplate, and there was danger that the amount would be increased. Hence the attack upon the Art Institute as "a credit factory," and inferentially upon teachers whose salaries had been increased upon the basis of credits it had given. An investigation was ordered by the Board of Education three weeks ago. The investigating committee consisted, however, of four members of the business committee, one of them being chairman of the finance committee, and of only one member of the educational committee and he a recent appointee. The chairman is the attorney for Mr. Armour of the beef trust, and every member was an appointee of Mayor Busse, although one-third of the Board are appointees of ex-Mayor Dunne. The first meeting of the committee conformed to the rule of the Board which requires that "all members of the Board shall be invited to all meetings of all committees." But this rule was violated at every subsequent meeting. These were held secretly, without notice to any of the members appointed by ex-Mayor Dunne, and not at the Board rooms but at the Union League Club. At those secret meetings of the investigating committee, rich patrons of the Art Institute, who are also beneficiaries of the false valuations of taxable property in aid of which the "promotional" system is maintained, are reported to have been in attendance, and between them and the investigating committee a secret modus vivendi was agreed upon. The investigating committee reported to the Board at a secret meeting on the 27th (made secret at the request of the committee) to the effect that the exclusion of the Art Institute from the list of accredited institutions for "promotional" tests should continue for the present. This is one of the phases of the conflict in Chicago, which is at bottom between a large majority of the teachers on one side, and the Board of Review on the other. The latter restricts the school income by low assessments upon large financial interests. It is also publicly asserted that the methods of the Institute, which discourage the use of books, had aroused the school book trust, which controls the Prang books now in use in the Chicago schools.

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The Cleveland Traction Situation.

By order of Judge Tayler of the Federal Court, part of the Cleveland street car lines (p. 103) resumed their old fare of 5 cents on the 1st. The

original low fare lines are still run at 3 cents. The former have the right to charge 5 under their franchises, but the latter under theirs can charge only 3. For transfers, however, the uniform charge is now 6 cents on all lines, 1 cent being refunded when the transfer is used.

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In an interview in the Cleveland Press on the 28th regarding the change of fares, Mayor Johnson is reported to have said:

Judge Tayler ordered the fare raised because more funds are needed at once, and a settlement cannot be reached in short of 60 or 90 days. I said to Judge Tayler at the conference Wednesday: "If you wish, I will advise the council to authorize a penny charge for transfers. That will give you an added revenue of from \$30,000 to \$35,000 per month." Judge Tayler said he didn't believe such an increase would be large enough to avoid deficits and provide for interest payments, especially in view of the fact that so many franchises are expiring. "I feel it my duty to advise the receivers to charge the full rate of fare allowed by the old franchises," Judge Tayler told me. For my own part, I don't believe it necessary to incur large deficits. However, I have no wish to stand in Judge Tayler's way.

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Temporarily the peace conferences of the committee suggested by Judge Tayler, of which both he and Mayor Johnson are members, have been postponed. In his Cleveland Press interview on the 28th Mayor Johnson is reported to have explained this by saying:

Peace negotiations are not off. Judge Tayler will call another conference as soon as I return from the East. There has been no break. I have delivered no ultimatum on terms in the proposed new franchise. Our conferences have been harmonious. Judge Tayler will bear me out in saying that there is nothing in the way of our going ahead. Any comments I wish to make upon the increase in fare and the changes in service, beginning Monday, will be reserved for public meetings of the Council.

Mayor Johnson returned from the East on the 1st, and immediately called a public meeting of the City Council for the 2nd,

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The annual stockholders' meeting for the whole system was held on the 27th. The old monopoly company's interests were led by Horace Andrews with proxies for 133,000 shares. Sylvester Everett led a "bolt" from the old interests with proxies for 4,579 shares. The proxies of the low-fare interests, representing about 15,000 shares, were managed by D. C. Westenhaver. As soon as it was seen that the low-fare interests would be able to elect one director, and through combination with Everett possibly two, the majority interests voted to increase the number of directors from