

riation, an armed peace, and nominated a party ticket which gives great dissatisfaction. Nearly every candidate on this ticket is regarded as a mere henchman of one or the other of the two principal politicians through whose influences the ticket was nominated—Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Harrison. A similar compromise took place in the Republican conventions, the adjustments there being between Governor Deneen and Congressman Lorimer, and the ticket offered being, like the Democratic ticket, composed for the most part of persons regarded as mere henchmen of one or the other of those two politicians. In consequence of this outcome of the first experience with the Deneen primary law, the Independence League has issued a call for signatures demanding the nomination of an independent county ticket. The platform which signers are asked to endorse is as follows:

First, public ownership of those utilities which in their nature are monopolies; second, ballot reform which will prevent corruption, insure a fair count, and punish bribe givers and bribe takers; third, the enactment of laws which will give the people absolute control of their public servants in office; fourth, direct nominations by the people instead of nominations by cliques and party bosses; fifth, the abolition of discrimination in railroad rates; good roads to facilitate the transportation of farm products to profitable markets, and pure food laws; sixth, the recognition of labor unions in all legitimate efforts to properly regulate the pay and working hours of working people; seventh, the protection of legitimate capital, and denying the right of existence to criminal and oppressive trusts; eighth, the election of U. S. Senators by the people; ninth, the exposure and prosecution of frauds against the people on the part of insurance companies and other financial organizations, and their proper regulation by law.

The League promises to use its efforts to secure the nomination, regardless of past political affiliations, of a county ticket that will give all voters an opportunity to condemn at the polls the "corrupt, non-partisan alliance" which "exists in the State of Illinois between political bossism and private monopolies resulting in the present reign of graft and threatening the perpetuity of popular government as established and maintained by Jefferson and Lincoln."

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Labor in Politics.

President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has thrown into the approaching Congressional campaign a disturbing labor question with reference especially to the work on the Panama Canal, regarding which he was reported on the 11th as saying:

It seems that those in charge of Panama Canal construction have regard for neither law nor principle. First, in the most extraordinary manner the eight-hour law is annulled in the greatest public work ever undertaken by the government under the pretense that conditions there are different from those prevailing in the United States. It must appeal to the veriest tyro that if eight hours' work is regarded as sufficient in the comparatively temperate zone of the United States, certainly ten, eleven and even more hours of labor a day in the pestilential and miasmatic atmosphere of the Panama zone is not only improper, but outrageous and brutal. The existing laws exclude Chinese laborers and coolies from the United States or any of its possessions. The Panama Canal zone is an American possession, and it is as much a violation of the law to bring Chinese coolies there as it is

in other portions of our country. Some time ago, in an interview I had with Chairman Shonts, I protested against the employment of the Chinese coolies on the Panama Canal construction, as it had been published in the newspapers it was the intention of Mr. Shonts to do so. He there and then emphatically stated that it was not the intention to employ Chinese coolies and they would not be employed under his administration.

Hardly had this announcement been made in the afternoon papers of the 11th when on the same day the chairman of the Panama Canal Commission, T. P. Shonts, returned from the Isthmus and replied to Mr. Gompers that—

the eight hour law does not apply to unskilled labor on the Isthmus of Panama. We cannot secure unskilled labor from the United States. It therefore is not seen why a law passed in the interest of American labor at home should be made applicable to alien labor, which probably never heard of its existence. Its application would have increased the labor cost of the canal several million dollars. The American laborer in this country would have to pay his share of the consequent increased taxation without any compensating benefit to himself. At the time of my interview with President Gompers, in discussing the eight hour law, I stated that with the lowest class of labor, as at Panama, it was more helpful and improving, more in their interests, and more an act of kindness than otherwise to permit them to work ten hours a day and pay them for it—because they are paid by the hour. As to the statement of President Gompers concerning Chinese coolie labor I can only say that the Commission has secured the opinion of the highest legal authorities of the government. It has been held that such law does not apply to the canal zone.

Mr. Shonts was in conference with President Roosevelt on the 13th, and soon after the conference it was authoritatively announced that the President had approved the policy of bringing coolies from China to work on the Canal, if within the law, and that this policy would be pursued. Mr. Gompers is to go into Maine on the 16th to speak against the re-election of Congressman Littlefield.

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Secession from the International Teamsters.

At the convention of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (p. 443) on the 8th, a split took place which had been expected for several days. It was caused by a revolt of unions representing nearly one-half the membership of the international body, against the presidency of Cornelius B. Shea, and was led by the New York delegation. The leaders of the revolt explained their action in an address on the 9th, in which they charged the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, through its international officers and particularly through its president, C. P. Shea, with violating the moral and ethical principles of trades unionism by means of "government and administration by injunction, by replevin, repudiation of joint agreements, intimidation, coercion and all unfair means whereby they seek to perpetuate a condition of affairs that are a stench and abomination in the nostrils of organized labor." This address was signed by one hundred delegates, under the leadership of Albert Young, formerly president of the international organization. Besides the New York delegation, the seceders comprised 21 Chicago unions, the entire St. Louis delegation, the Detroit teamsters, and the drivers from San Francisco. Two conventions were consequently in sim-