

WORKERS' PAGE—Freedom in Industries—Notable Achievements.

SAN FRANCISCO.

CONTRACTORS OPENING FIRE.

*Warfare Upon Unionism in
McCarthytown.*

*First Real Move Against the
Unionite Exactions.*

*Influence of Los Angeles Is
Beginning to Tell.*

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE TIMES.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 31.—The Affiliated Building Contractors' Association of San Francisco is planning a general reduction in wages of all building mechanics in this city to meet the exigencies of the times. This was decided upon immediately after the victory won by the building contractors in the recent strike of the hod carriers.

The building contractors aver that the wage of building mechanics is higher here than in any other city in the country and is largely responsible for the depression in the building industry at the present time when everything should be booming.

At the time of the disaster in 1906, the wages of all building mechanics were raised to an exaggerated notch, and through the efforts of the Building Trades Council these wages that prevailed at that time have never been lowered.

The building contractors also learned that the Building Trades Council is planning to get the upper hand when construction of the world's fair buildings begins, and is planning even a further increase in wages. It was learned that this is the reason why the Building Trades Council and its affiliated unions have been so generous in their subscriptions to the world's fair fund. In fact, at one of the meetings of the Building Trades Council, it is alleged the delegates were urged to report back to their unions that unless organized labor contributed generously to the project it would be in no position to regulate prices of labor at the world's fair and to demand that closed-shop conditions prevail.

The Affiliated Building Contractors' Association, however, is master of the situation and does not intend to allow the unions to dictate the conditions under which the world's fair buildings shall be constructed.

There will be no trouble over the determination of the contractors to reduce wages \$1 per day all around, not the slightest, as organized labor in San Francisco is on the wane and the workers know it and will be glad to secure peace at any price.

Persistent rumors are afloat to the effect that the California Metal Trades Association has positively refused to grant the eight-hour day to the iron workers in San Francisco. While these rumors cannot be confirmed, there is every reason to believe that they are true, as it is known positively that the California Metal Trades Association of San Francisco is considering the proposition of affiliating with the National Association of Metal Trades, whose policy is antagonistic to the eight-hour day or the granting of any further concessions to the unions.

The Iron Trades Council is cognizant of this fact and its officers acknowledge that the situation is most critical. However, they deny that the California Metal Trades Association has refused to grant the eight-hour day and say that the matter is still being discussed in conferences from time to time.

San Franciscans are just beginning to understand what McCarthy meant when he announced upon taking office as Mayor that "the people have come into their own." They got an inkling of it when he started to reduce the hours of labor and increase the wages of city employes, but it struck them with full force when it was learned that Mac is trying to give the work of laying the pipes of the new salt water auxiliary fire system to the Plumbers' Union, instead of to the Water Workers' Union, to whom the work rightfully belongs, because the plumbers will receive \$8 a day for their work while the water workers will only demand \$4 a day for the same work.

The secret is that the Plumbers' Union is affiliated with the Building Trades Council, while the Water Workers' Union is a Labor Council organization, and as the Building Trades Council contributed the enormous sum to McCarthy's campaign fund, it is but natural that he should feel under obligations to give the work to the plumbers. Meanwhile, "the people" who "have come into their own," must pay the price, a difference of \$2 a day for every man engaged in the work of laying pipes for the salt water system.

It is just barely possible that "the people" may be saved this expense, as the Labor Council, representing the better element of organized labor in this city, is trying to get the American Federation of Labor to award a decision in favor of the water workers, but it is doubtful if they will succeed, as the Plumbers' Union is represented on the executive board of the American Federation of Labor. The result may be that the completion of the system may be delayed indefinitely owing to the jurisdictional dispute, while the taxpayers will be forced to pay a high rate of insurance because of the lack of this additional protection against fire.

It is a glorious system, this government by, of and for the people, inaugurated by the union labor party.

While the unions are continuously making war against employers of Asiatics and support two expensive institutions known as the Asiatic Exclusion League and the Anti-Japanese Laundry League, institutions that furnish good fat jobs for lazy leaders that stand in with the gang, it is a fact that on Labor Day many unions will turn out in gorgeous uniforms, badges and expensive banners all made by Japanese and not a single trapping bearing the union label. Thus far not a protest against these unions patronizing Asiatics manufacturing Labor Day regalia has been raised by either the Labor Council or the Building Trades Council, although an effort is being made to put out of business every proprietor of a small restaurant or cafe who is employing Asiatics because he can not get reliable white help; and every political candidate who will not pledge himself to work for the exclusion of Asiatics is being marked for slaughter by the labor politicians.

Glowing reports of the "encouraging" situation in Los Angeles were conspicuously minus in the speeches made by the labor rickies upon their return here from Los Angeles. In fact, no report has been made on the strike

in Los Angeles for more than a week, although a bunch of the higher-ups in the labor movement left here for Los Angeles last week with colors flying, and shouting from the rear end of a Pullman what they intended to do to the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association of Los Angeles.

Not even a line have we had as to what the brilliant array of legal talent deported from this city to aid the strikers in Los Angeles is accomplishing.

If the labor leaders here are laboring under the impression that "silence is golden," they are doomed to disappointment, as the donations to the strike funds from the unions in San Francisco are decreasing and the Strike Committee is spending hundreds of dollars in sending circulars throughout the country appealing to

the unions for aid. They are getting it, too, some of the central labor councils in eastern cities sending the whole of one dollar.

A daily paper, edited by labor fakirs and published in the interests of organized labor, has long been a dream of certain grafting higher-ups in the labor movement of San Francisco. Perhaps this accounts for the efforts being made by certain labor leaders here to poison the minds of the rank and file of organized labor against the local press. It might also explain why certain labor sharks have taken a peculiar interest in the Newspaper Solicitors' Union and its fight against the Newspaper Publishers' Association that threatens to boycott every paper that does not recognize the solicitors' union.