

The public should remember this

The Joint Conference of the Allied Printing Trades Union published this circular during the Topeka, Kansas, printers strike. This publication refutes claims made in a Kansas Employing Printers Associations circular. At the center of the issue between employed printers and union printers was the forty-four hour week.

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Topeka, June 16, 1921

The Public Should Remember This—

the printing unions do not insist that they only work 44-hours when there is work that must be done; they only ask that 44-hours be established as the basic work week. Read that again!

Employing Printers Given Misinformation!

Circular Letter Sent Out by "Kansas Employing Printers Association" Reaches Local Committee

A bulletin issued by the employing printers' "closed-against-unions" organization has found its way into the hands of the publicity committee of the Joint Conference of the Allied Printing Trades Crafts in Topeka.

This bulletin is calculated to fill the employers up with resisting stimulant in that part of the anatomy usually manipulated by the chiropractor, but in reality contains so many misstatements of fact that if the employers are relying upon it for sustaining influence they are being sadly misled, as they have been from the very start in regard to the open shop movement.

We believe the public should know what the nature of the "information" contained in this bulletin conveys, and for this reason are reprinting it with comment.

Paragraphs from the bulletin are in bold face type.

With the strike five weeks old the men who walked out have little cause for joy, since they have discovered that the bone that once lodged in the employer's head has moved down into his back and is holding stiff. In other words the employer has refused to be frightened into doing what the union said he'd have to do in order to run his shop.

The above paragraph fails to convey what it was the unions said, but the fact remains that not a single shop which has not signed up is operating at normal and producing work as it did before its regular force left its service.

As the days and weeks have passed and disaster has not befallen him the employer has found increased courage and self-respect. He has discovered

that the shop run under his own management has produced more per man than the shop run by and for the union, and the longer he runs it his way the less chance have the unions to ever get control again.

No employer with the self-respect accredited to him will admit the truth of the preceding paragraph. With the help available, which with few exceptions is inexperienced, no such production could be attained as with a well-organized force of union employes such as their shops had prior to May 1st.

Most Topeka plants are running since last week on an open shop basis. Some are working toward normal production while others are resuming more slowly. One plant got back 8 of its old men all that it wanted and filled the places of the others from the outside. The Capper Printing Co., whose affairs are closely entwined with the Capper Publications which already had contracts with the unions, has been released from the employers' organization to sign a 44-hour contract. It is practically a private plant and involves only 4 or 5 Compositors.

This paragraph is very amusing when the facts are known, particularly the statement that the shops are working toward normal production, which point is far in the distance. One plant 'got back 8 of its men,' which means in all departments, and this, according to the bulletin, is getting back to normal. The facts are that before May 1st this shop had 75 people in its employ. The Capper Printing Co., you will note, "is practically a private plant and involves only 4 or 5 compositors," when the truth is that there were 27 people affected before the settlement.

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The public should remember this

No changes have occurred in any other Kansas cities and all are standing solidly for the 48-hour week. Reports from all over the country, including the big printing centers, show that the employing printers are winning. In St. Louis new open shop organizations are being developed and a few months will see the city back to normal under better conditions than ever before.

Read the first clause in the above statement again; fine bunch of information for employers to rely on when it is a matter of record that all shops in Abilene have signed on the 44-hour basis; at Girard all offices were signed on May 1st; Iola, all offices; Lawrence, all offices but the Journal-World; Hutchinson, all offices but Hutchinson Printing Co.; and all offices in Parsons, Leavenworth, Ottawa and Pittsburg. On reports from over the country quite the reverse is true and no less than six important cities have signed up the past week. The open shop campaign nationally is on the decline and will fail completely when the employers learn the truth.

The promise "1921 will reward fighters" is proving true with the employing printers in their battle against the uneconomic 44-hour week. They

are fighting not only for their own industry, but for every industry and the public. Their cause is just and will prevail.

This paragraph would indicate that the employing printers are not alone concerned about their own industry but have enlisted in the fight of big business to break the labor movement in America—which is quite the largest contract they have ever made or entered into.

Organized labor here is standing solidly together and will insist that the employers, having themselves set the battletime for May 1st, must make good, and up to the present writing they have been unable to replace their former working forces that were for the most part long-time residents of Topeka, home-owners and town-supporters. And while a few radical employers are responsible for the trouble, their business is suffering, as is also the business of every other merchant. These points will get home to the public mind before long and there will be a general demand for the removal of the chips from the shoulders and a settlement arrived at speedily. There can be no other result without the permanent loss of many substantial workmen who will be compelled to take up their residence elsewhere.

VICTORY FOR 44-HOUR WEEK

500 printers in Albany, N. Y., have returned to work on the 44-hour week basis since June 7th.

304 Typographical unions over the country have been granted the shorter work week, representing nearly one-half of the total number affiliated with the international body.

Remember the employers set the date on May 1st, 1921, when the 44-hour week should go into effect without a conflict. The printing crafts expect them to make good.

See that the union label is placed on all your printing—it's the evidence that employers are fair to their employees.

When the Public gets the correct information it will learn that the unions have offered several propositions that should have been accepted by the Employing Printers.

WATCH FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN