

#### Allen and Gompers debate letters

In these letters submitted to the Colliers Magazine, Kansas Governor Henry Allen and Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, continue the debate over the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations and workers' right to strike. The letters were written two months after the Allen-Gompers debate on the strike issue held in Carnegie Hall New York.

Creator: Colliers Magazine

Date: November 27, 1920

Callnumber: SP 331.061 K13 Clipp v.1 p-57-62

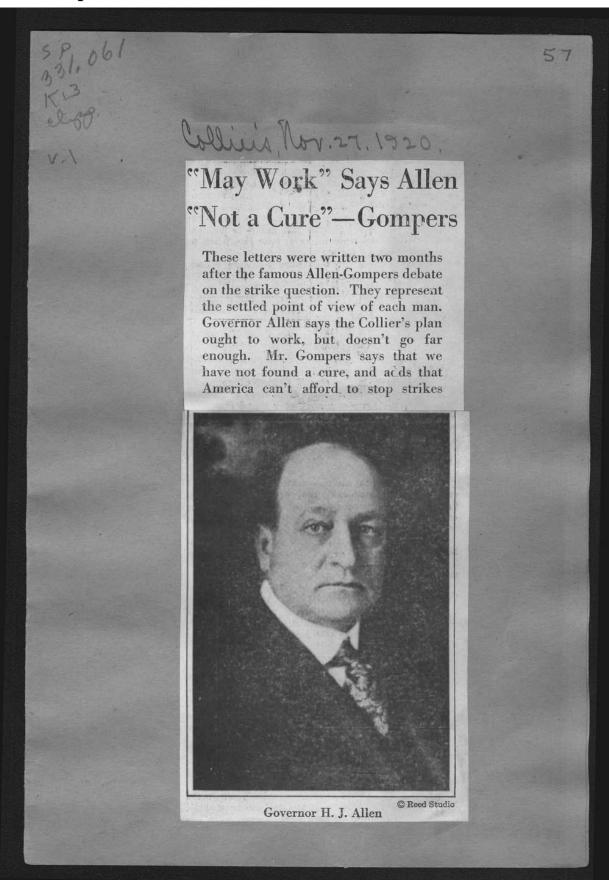
KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 214201

Item Identifier: 214201

www.kansasmemory.org/item/214201

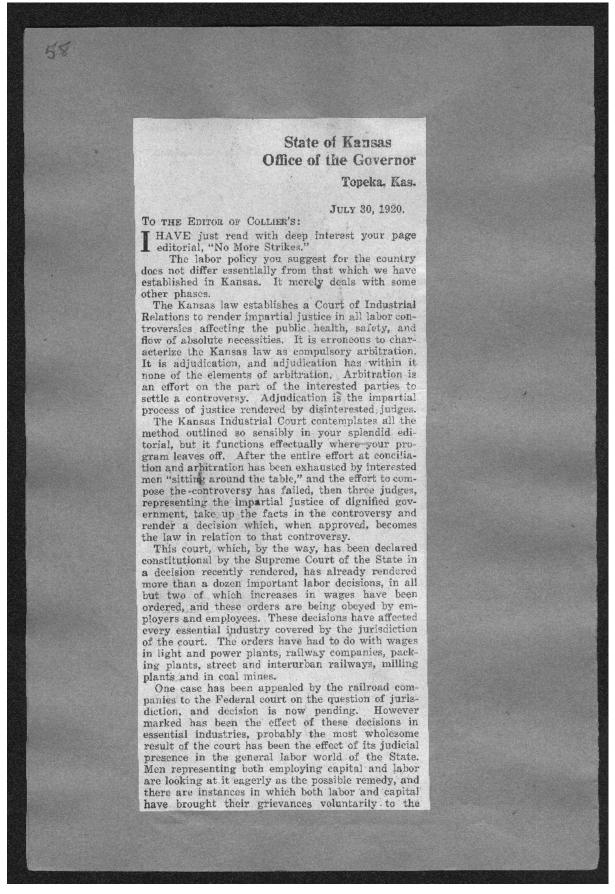
















court, under the provisions of the law that the good offices of the court may be used, upon the agreement of both parties, for the settlement of controversies in nonessential industries. The effect of the court upon industrial strife has been exactly what the effect of the other courts has been upon litigation. It has decreased the spirit of contention. When men know there is a just court to which they may appeal for proper attention to their grievances, they settle their differences out of court in an orderly fashion. When there were no courts, men settled their grievances in the process of combat. I agree with all you have said touching the good sense which is contained in the report of the Second Industrial Conference, I approve wholly the statement which forms the keynote of your editorial. Your program ought to work. Men ought to be just with each other, because it is the right course of conduct. Your plan may work, but the Kansas plan must work. One is based upon idealism supported by sound sense and public sentiment. The other is based upon idealism supported by sound sense, publie sentiment, and guaranteed by government. The thing which makes me believe in the Kansas system is the essence of the guaranty. The Kansas plan contains everything you offer, plus a court of justice as the last resort, and I believe it will come some day to be the model of a national law, whose purpose will be extended to include, not only the protection of the rights of the general public, but all the rights of that public which includes only capital and labor. Yours sincerely, H. J. ALLEN. American Federation of Labor Washington, D. C. JULY 21, 1920. To THE EDITOR OF COLLIER'S: OLLIER'S has not found a cure for strikes. The deditorial which "tells how we can finally cut out forever the waste of strikes in America" begins like Shakespeare and ends like Will Rogers. You have added one more to the almost interminable run of plans and programs for the elimination of industrial disputes. Beyond question you have meant well-but, like the small boy who ate green apples, you didn't understand the nature of what you undertook. Scriously, the industrial problem of to-day is not a dispute about facts. In a dispute about facts it is possible to erect council-table machinery for the settlement of the issue



