

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL
CONVENTION OF THE STATE
SOCIETY OF LABOR AND
INDUSTRY. HELD AT TOPEKA,
KAN., FEBRUARY 6, 7 AND 8, 1911**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649279845

Proceedings of the Annual Convention of the State Society of Labor and Industry. Held at Topeka, Kan., February 6, 7 and 8, 1911 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL
CONVENTION OF THE STATE
SOCIETY OF LABOR AND
INDUSTRY. HELD AT TOPEKA,
KAN., FEBRUARY 6, 7 AND 8, 1911**

HII
8055
K2
A2

STATE OF KANSAS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTEENTH
ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

Kansas STATE SOCIETY OF LABOR
AND INDUSTRY,

HELD AT

Topeka, Kan., February 6, 7 and 8, 1911.



STATE PRINTING OFFICE,
TOPEKA, 1911.



5992

By transfer from
U. S. Tariff Board
1912

ROSTER.

OFFICERS OF THE STATE SOCIETY OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| A. S. McALLISTER, <i>President</i> | HERKINGTON. |
| CHAS. ROCHELLE, <i>Vice President</i> | WICHITA. |
| W. L. A. JOHNSON, <i>Secretary</i> | TOPEKA. |
| OWEN DOYLE, <i>Assistant Secretary</i> | MINERAL. |

PERSONNEL OF THE BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY AND FACTORY INSPECTION.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| W. L. A. JOHNSON..... | Commissioner and Factory Inspector. |
| OWEN DOYLE..... | Assistant Commissioner. |
| C. E. BRAMLETTE..... | Deputy Factory Inspector. |
| THOS. P. MENTON..... | Deputy Factory Inspector. |
| A. A. KNAPP..... | Chief Clerk. |
| M. GUY SNYDER..... | Statistical Clerk. |
| FIELDON CUNNINGHAM..... | Stenographer. |

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARIES
266892
MARCH 1930

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE STATE
SOCIETY OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY, HELD AT
TOPEKA, KAN., FEBRUARY 6, 7, 8, 1911.

In pursuance of chapter 99, General Statutes of 1901, the following official call was issued:

TOPEKA, KAN., December 24, 1910.

To all Labor Associations and Labor Societies (Trade-unions, Labor Organizations, and Railroad Brotherhoods) in the State of Kansas, greeting:

Pursuant to chapter 99, General Statutes of 1901, entitled "An act to create a State Society of Labor and Industry," etc., it is made the duty of the secretary of the State Society of Labor and Industry to issue a call to all labor associations and labor societies to assemble in a delegate convention to be held at the state capitol on the first Monday in February, 1911.

Therefore, the thirteenth annual convention of the State Society of Labor and Industry is hereby called, to convene at the state capitol, in the city of Topeka, at nine o'clock A. M. on Monday, February 6, 1911, and to continue in session until the business is disposed of. The basis of representation for the local organizations is as follows: One delegate for the first fifty members or fraction thereof; and one additional delegate for each additional 100 members or a majority fraction thereof; provided, that such organization shall have complied with the requirements of the law as to its eligibility as found in section 6645, chapter 99, General Statutes of 1901, a copy of which may be found on the credential blank.

Printed credentials will be forwarded to secretaries not receiving them, upon application to the secretary of the State Society of Labor and Industry. *Such credentials must be certified under oath by the presiding officer and secretary, and the original returned to this office as soon as possible after the election of delegates.*

The purpose of this convention shall be the discussion of economic and industrial questions and other matters pertaining to the interests of labor, and the election of a president, vice president, secretary and assistant secretary of the State Society of Labor and Industry, which officers shall constitute the State Bureau of Labor and Industry; the secretary and assistant secretary of which shall be *ex officio* commissioner and assistant commissioner of labor. No reduction of railroad rates under the present two-cent fare is obtainable, but the present rate is the same as the one and one-third rate formerly obtained.

All organizations eligible under this act are earnestly requested to be represented.

W. L. A. JOHNSON,

Secretary State Society of Labor and Industry.

N. B.—In the event no new delegate is elected to this convention, the present delegates will, under the law, hold their membership as delegates until their successors shall have been chosen and admitted. But in this event the secretary must notify this office at his earliest convenience. See section 6645, chapter 99, General Statutes of 1901.

MORNING SESSION, FEBRUARY 6, 1911.

The convention was called to order, in the office of the commissioner of labor, at nine o'clock, by President A. S. McAllister. On motion, the convention immediately adjourned to Security Hall, at Seventh and Kansas avenue, where all subsequent sessions of the convention were held.

Convention was called to order at 9:30 in Security Hall by President McAllister. W. L. A. Johnson, in introducing his excellency Hon. W. R. Stubbs for the address of welcome, spoke, in part, as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen and Fellow Delegates of the Thirteenth Annual Convention of the State Society of Labor: Our officers have decided upon a slight change in the usual program of address of welcome, changing the usual evening reception to the morning session. It is a matter of pleasure to note the progress of our State Society during the past twelve years of its existence. Each annual convention grows larger and more enthusiastic in the splendid work of our Society. The 276 or 300 delegates here, representing, as they do, the vast army of organized and unorganized workers of the rank and file, show the appreciation and the interest that is being taken throughout the state in the effort that is being put forth for the upbuilding and for the betterment of the industrial conditions of our workers. At each annual gathering in the past we have had the pleasure and good offices of the governor of the state in giving us a word of advice and good counsel in shaping the destinies of our work along safe and conservative lines. We are to be favored this morning with an address of welcome by our honored governor, and I am sure it will be a pleasure for us to hear him. I now have the pleasure of introducing to you Governor Stubbs, who will say a word of welcome.

Governor Stubbs addressed the convention, as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Organization: I deem it an honor as well as a privilege to be permitted to address you here to-day. I recognize the fact that labor is the greatest wealth-producing power on the face of the earth. I believe all thoughtful, earnest men in public life recognize the fact that while labor is producing the wealth of this nation, and every other nation in the world, that the laborer and the workingman and the employee in the various avocations of life has never received his full share of the benefit that arose from the labor which he performs. I believe that your gathering here for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the interests you represent is in line with the progressive spirit which extends all over the country and all over the world. The rights of property have been pretty well safeguarded in this country by law; in fact, I think the rights of property have been so well guarded that they go away beyond their rights and have them well protected in the courts; but the rights of labor have been forgotten to some extent, and the greatest problem before the American people to-day is the question of whether this country—this great, free republic—shall be controlled in the interests of property or in the interests of men. This is a question you gentlemen will have more to do with solving than almost any other class of people, because there are more of you. You have got more votes, and this thing will be settled by votes in the final analysis, in the crucial test that will come here—probably in your generation, and if not, in the succeeding generation of men. The great fight that is on in this century, that has got to be settled before you can make substantial progress, is a question of whether this nation and its policies and its destiny are going to be shaped and

moulded and controlled by corporations in the interests of property, or whether it will be shaped and moulded and controlled in the interests of the great masses of human beings who toil and labor and work and who really have made the nation great. I do not want you to think that I do not believe in the protection of property, for I have got a little bit of property myself, and I want to keep it. I believe that the interests of property would be conserved by giving men their full rights and justice under the law. I do not believe the American people are going to stand for any policy or plan that will permit one man to make his millions and hundreds of thousands of men to live in hovels with their children improperly fed and clothed in order to permit that man to make his millions of dollars. I believe that the men who work in mines, on railroads and in shops for big corporations have got to look this thing right square in the face and deal with it in an intelligent and fearless way. I know that corporations appeal to their fellows to vote with them when it comes to election time. They say I am trying to destroy the railroads in Kansas. *That is not so.* If the railroads had a right cause I would defend that cause just as quickly as I would the cause of labor. But when they are wrong I will fight them to the end of the battle. I want you to know that. I have not changed my mind one bit about railroads. I have worked for railroads for twenty or twenty-five years and I know that the officers of the railroads in the operating department and in the construction department are gentlemen and mighty fine fellows. But down at New York, where they keep the bank accounts and control the road and control the stock and control the bonds, they are mighty greedy. They are just as greedy with the road and with the men to-day as before the November election, and are trying to defeat every measure you ask for in the legislature that will give labor protection. They will make your liability law as weak as they can make it. They have men employed in this legislature now to weaken that law. Your workmen's compensation act, when it comes down to getting legislation in the interest of labor that I have recommended and am trying to put through here, you will find their railroad attorneys here that were trying to get you to vote for them at election time are against you, if not openly, in the dark. They are their attorneys.

I say to you that I believe it is for the interests of labor to put the corporations out of business in so far as politics are concerned. I do not believe a corporation has a right to vote in the legislature. I believe the railroad business is secondary to the well-being of the people and has already been well paid for in a liberal sort of way. I say to you that every step that has been made to better the laboringmen's condition on railroads and further their interests has been done without the consent of the railroads. (Applause.)

If you think the railroad would squeeze the railroad, and charge just as high a rate as they can to the public, and be generous to the employees, you are mistaken. Every fight you have ever won in a strike, by any manner of means or methods, has been won because of public sentiment being back of you, and so fighting for you. Whenever you align yourselves with the corporation and take on your shoulders the sins of that corporation—and they have got plenty of them—then you alienate public sympathy, and you need it. I am just talking good, hard facts. I am not asking for your support for me, and I don't ask any man's support unless he thinks it would be an advantage to the great mass of people to vote for me. (Applause.)

I say to you that your duty as men is not to your labor organizations, it is not to yourselves exactly; it is to our great republic, that stands for liberty and justice and fair dealing for every man, woman and child, no matter how low or poor they are. (Applause.)

I did not come here to make you a speech and I do not expect to make one; I came to welcome you to Topeka, and you are welcome so far as I am concerned. There is no man that ever comes on a private car that is

more welcome than the men I am talking to here to-day. It is your capital city, it is your capitol building, it is your office, and I am your hired man when it comes right down to brass tacks, and I am doing business for you; and when the big corporation wanted me to call out the militia to intimidate the miners when there was no just cause for it, I told them I would not act, and so I did not act. (Continued applause.)

And that is what they wanted to do—to intimidate the miners, and send the soldiers there, so that they could block everything in the line of union labor. Mind you, I told Alex. Howat, the president of the mine workers' union, as long as the miners were law-abiding and did not destroy property and threaten human life there would not be any militia called out. They could put it in their pipes and smoke it, and go to sleep over it. But when lawlessness prevails in a strike, or the breaking of any kind of laws, that is what the militia is for. When men become lawless and unmanageable and threaten human life and property, then I say, call them out. I do not want any one to misunderstand me about it, for I am not here to toady to anybody; I am here to stand up for the good name of Kansas and every citizen in Kansas, and I don't care how black or how white he is, every man has the same right under the law, and as long as I am governor of Kansas he will have the same right, so far as ancestry is concerned. There will be no favorites, and no favors shown. I say to you that is the only way a government of the people, by the people and for the people can give every man justice and fair dealing, and that is all you need.

I say to you it is unjust and unfair and it is greedy to undertake to make the man who works on the railroad there, with all the hazard that goes with it, works in the mine where the explosions come unexpectedly and without warning to blow human beings in all directions—it is unfair for that man's family to take all the risk and hazard of his life that results. It falls on the public in their duty toward these fellows, and it should be educated to produce laws to say how much should be paid to those fellows. There should be a fixed law so as not to give one-half or two-thirds to lawyers for collection. It should be stipulated, the price of human life, or of arm or of leg; it ought to be stipulated to you. You ought to be able to get your money, and the cost ascertained by experience and added to the price of transportation and the price of coal and the price of freight traffic, where the laborer works and the hazard falls. The great mass of people can afford to bear that burden, but the poor widow and the helpless children cannot afford it. That is the kind of laws that I am in favor of in this legislature and that I have recommended in my message to the legislature, and I will use all the power I have as governor of the state of Kansas to get just and equitable laws passed, protecting your rights and mine and the rights of your wives and children.

We have heard much about the recall and referendum law here. What does that mean? It means when we passed the referendum law in Kansas, that when an obnoxious law is placed on the statute books and the legislature refuses to act on it, that by a petition of five or eight or ten per cent of the voters of Kansas you can have that law submitted to the votes of the people of Kansas, and if it is wrong you can vote it right. Look at the fellows hired to butcher the law, look at the men who do the butchering, and you will see railroad attorneys on the committees. I have recommended a law that will give the people the right of recalling the governor of Kansas when he is unfaithful, and every other officer in Kansas who is unfaithful and don't perform his duty; and if he is incompetent, gives you the chance to do what every employer of labor ought to have a right to do, and that is fire a man when he is incompetent and does not work. I don't know whether you like that or not, but it is so. A man who does not do his duty ought to be fired, and you ought to stand back of that thing. Why? If you protect the lazy, indifferent, indolent fellow and make the employer pay

as much for his labor as for the honest, earnest, industrious man, it puts a heavier burden on industry.

It is up to you as the representatives of a great organization in Kansas to work out these problems so that the man who wants to work and get ahead will have the opportunity to do so. Don't load your boys and girls down with rules in your labor organizations that will not give them a chance to rise, those who will work and save and come to the front. The greatest thing in America is the right of men of ability and industry to rise above their fellows. In the name of God, I beseech you, don't chain these men down; if you do, you chain down the forces that will give you liberty. You chain down the men to a dead body that would rise and direct you and protect you and fight for you, and have strength and ability to do it. Give them opportunity to rise in your ranks, and the man who has great ability some chance to get ahead. It is the greatest thing in the life of America to-day, and the labor organizations ought to consider that thing. I believe in it from the bottom of my heart. It is the one star of hope that has risen for the laboring world. There has been good in every labor organization. I am for you so far as your rules are intelligent and are made for the benefit and the interest of the laboring people in this county. But think it all over. Don't go forward along lines that are without care for the progress and the development of the men who are in your ranks, and of the boys and girls. The schools of Kansas ought to be developed. You are interested more than anybody else in Kansas. I believe it would be a great, a good, a splendid thing to have a school of mining. I believe the legislature will establish that school, and I believe it will be the quickest way to teach men to do practical things.

I say to you to-day that you have got mighty problems before you, and you want to have justice and rightness as the ideals before your minds. Give the public what belongs to it, and then demand of the public the reward that is due to labor. And I say to you that you will bring respect to yourselves and your children, and you will be helping to build up a great nation where liberty and justice will be enthroned forever, and will become a beacon light, beckoning to all the nations of all the world and showing the downtrodden people the pathway to liberty, the pathway to justice and to the protection of their rights and their hopes. Millions of men all over the world have their eyes fixed on America to-day, and they want to know whether this government of ours is a success or not. And I say to you it is up to you to help make it what it ought to be—an ideal country managed in the interests of all the people and not the few people, where the distribution of wealth will be as uniform as the flowers that deck the hillsides in the spring or the sunlight that floods all the landscape with gold. It is a great problem, and it is worth while to give your thought and your conscience to the solution of that problem.

Now I want to say a word about the enforcement of law. I know that some people do not believe in the enforcement of the law against the saloon. I have had it called to my attention. If you trespass and trample under foot one law, there is no reason why you should not do the same with any other law. When I took the oath of office on the 11th of January and swore I would enforce the law, I want you to know that all the power of this state is back of that oath and will be for the next two years. It is a good thing for laboring men. I have seen the results of drinking all over this country; I know it makes wives and children hungry and ragged for the man to spend his wages on Saturday, for I have seen it where thousands of men were working, for I have employed large numbers of men. Sometimes the largest part of their wages went into the saloon. There is no good in it. I don't care how much you are prejudiced for the saloon, there is no good excuse for it as long as you haven't got good clothes for your children, and food for the little ones. In the name of God, think about your obligations to your women and children. I am not going to make a temperance lecture here, but I know what a curse