

SEATTLE UNIONS AGAIN PROTEST FILIPINO LABOR

Spinal Meningitis Menace Is Cited in Telegram to A. F. L. President, Asking Restrictive Action.

SEATTLE unionists today called attention to a number of resolutions unanimously adopted in recent months by various state and local labor organizations, demanding exclusion of Filipino laborer immigrants from the United States. James A. Taylor, president of the Washington State Federation of Labor, declared that with the spinal meningitis menace presenting an acute problem at this time, labor forces will at once renew vigorously their agitation to have Congress enact legislation barring further Filipino immigration to the United States.

Mr. Taylor sent the following telegram this forenoon to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, at Washington, D. C.:

"The Filipino immigration problem has now become alarming, both to the health of the public as well as a social menace. Vessels plying between our coast and Manila are bringing in steerage loads of Filipinos among whom spinal meningitis is raging. Many Filipino immigrants have died and been buried at sea. Every quarantine station between Victoria, B. C., and the Mexican border is overcrowded with meningitis cases. Puget Sound seems unable to handle the situation. Throughout the Philippines placards advise Filipinos to come here and share in extraordinary prosperity. The steamship companies have failed to heed this danger to the health of the whole people as well as the peril it presents to the labor situation. Please make use of this in an urgent appeal to health and insular authorities to stop the immigration of Filipinos, or at least the departure of infected Filipinos from Manila. The situation is urgent. Please reply."

Central Council Protests.

A resolution recently adopted by the Seattle Central Labor Council said: "The omission of Filipinos from the laws of 1924, which excluded Asiatics from entering the United States, has opened our doors to a widespread migration of the most primitive of these people to the territory of Hawaii and the western States of the United States. Under existing statutes Filipinos have free entry into this country and its possessions, and undoubtedly they are being encouraged to come here by those who prefer cheap labor to the preservation of American standards and ideals. Conditions along the Pacific Seaboard are becoming acute due to an ever-increasing resentment of white Americans who see these people coming in by the thousands and displacing white men and women in many fields of labor.

"In order to safeguard those American principles and standards which Congress sought to conserve when Asiatics were excluded from entering the United States, steps should be taken immediately by Congress to close this open door through which already in excess of 80,000 people, more primitive than the excluded Asiatics, have migrated to these shores. To this end, we ask that the Welsh bill, HR 13,900 be enacted, and that all our citizens cooperate in urging Congress to take speedy and favorable action on pending Filipino exclusion legislation."

At its last convention, held at Wenatchee, the State Federation of Labor unanimously adopted a resolution which said:

"The California State Federation of Labor is calling attention to the extent of the migration of undesirable Filipino labor to the United States. While Filipinos are classed as Orientals and cannot acquire American citizenship, there is no restriction on their immigration to this country, because of the status of the Philippine Islands as a United States possession.

50,000 on Pacific Coast.

"It is estimated that there are on the Pacific Coast 50,000 Filipinos, practically all of whom have no home or family connections in the American understanding of the term, and evidence no desire or ambition to establish either. There are 11,000,000 of these people in the Philippines, and since restriction of European immigration, they are coming to these shores in increasing numbers.

"They are undesirable on a number of counts: first, because they represent cheap and irresponsible labor, and are a type that cannot be assimilated, and as such they upset the American standards of wages and living conditions. Second, they have given serious offense to communities in which they have congregated, because of their moral conduct, with the result that in one community in Washington citizens became so aroused that they organized and forcibly evicted the Filipinos. We feel sure that it is not good for labor nor for our American institutions and standards to permit the free and unrestricted influx of these people and we indorse the position of the California State Federation of Labor in asking for their exclusion, and instruct officers of the federation to assist in securing legislation necessary to accomplish this end."

Smashed Still Sells for \$302.50.

MERCED, Cal., Friday, March 29.

—(P)—A huge copper still was auctioned here yesterday and was sold for \$302.50. Before it was turned over to the purchaser deputies smashed it