

OUR CENTURY

1911

AT A GLANCE

Democrat regains control of City Hall

Herman Baehr, Cleveland's first Republican mayor of the century, made little impression and chose not to run for re-election. City Solicitor Newton D. Baker, campaigning in tents in the style of his mentor, Tom L. Johnson, defeated Baehr's safety director, Frank Hogen, by nearly 18,000 votes, the largest margin ever. Democrats also regained control of City Council.

Johnson did not see "Johnsonism" revived. He had died April 11; 200,000 Clevelanders watched his funeral procession wind its way past buildings hung with crepe and pictures of the four-term mayor.

Baehr's administration did mark one milestone. On Sept. 23, Rose Constant, the widow of a city employee, was named a city sanitary inspector, making her the first woman Cleveland police officer.

One result of Johnson's vision was becoming reality in 1911. In March, the Federal Building (now the Federal Courthouse) was dedicated on the northwest corner of Public Square — right where the Group Plan of 1903 had dictated. The \$3.3 million building, designed by architect Arnold Brunner, featured granite exteriors and marble halls.

Later in the year, the Cuyahoga County Courthouse became the second building on the mall. Designed by the firm of Lehmann and Schmidt, the \$4 million building was hailed as a triumph of the Beaux Arts style.

Adrian "Addie" Joss was on his way to becoming one of baseball's all-time great pitchers. He had thrown a one-hitter in his first major league game in 1902, a perfect game in 1908 and a no-hitter in 1910. His record was 160 wins and 97 losses.



On April 12, two days after his 31st birthday and two days before the Naps' opening game, Joss died of tubercular meningitis. The management of the Naps and the Detroit Tigers refused to postpone the opener, so the Naps took matters into their own hands. All of them went to Toledo for Joss' funeral, forcing cancellation of the game.

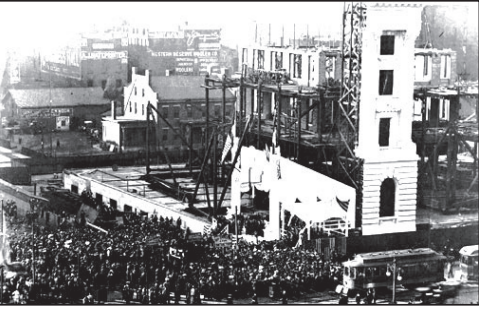
A state law legalizing Sunday baseball became effective May 7. At League Park the following Sunday, State Rep. Joseph Greaves, who had sponsored the law, was given a lifetime pass; the Naps then beat the New Yorks, 16-3.

Joss was voted into the Hall of Fame in 1968. His lifetime ERA of 1.88 is the second-lowest in major league history.

Police Chief Fred Kohler went on vacation to Germany in June and downtown bars again began opening on Sundays. Kohler was a stickler for enforcing the Sunday bar closing law, but with him away, the word went out to look the other way. Ministers blamed Mayor Baehr, who had been an officer in his family's Baehr Brewing Co.

City Council moved against a clear and present danger on May 23. It passed an ordinance providing a \$50 fine for any woman whose hatpin projected more than half an inch from the crown of her hat.

Also new this year: chlorination of the water supply, the Torbenson Gear & Axle Co. (now Eaton Corp.), the Sam W. Emerson Co., the Lake Shore Blvd. plant of the Illuminating Co., Shaker Heights village, Dover village (now Westlake), the Amasa Stone Chapel of Case Western Reserve University, the Exchange Club, the Phillis Wheatley Association and the Federated Churches of Greater Cleveland (now the Interchurch Council).



PD FILE
The Federal Building, under construction.

Growing pains for society

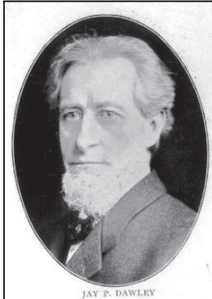
Workers demand shorter week; women rally for the vote

By Fred McGunagle

They poured into the streets, a happy throng that soon grew to 4,000 men and women stretching from E. 21st St. to W. 6th St. In what is now the Warehouse District, they marched past the shops that made up the third-largest garment industry in the world, calling, "Come out and join us."

"And in each case," The Plain Dealer reported, "a scurrying crowd of workmen surged from the doors."

The garment workers' strike of 1911 would lead to rioting, deaths, arrests and, after five months, bitter failure. But at midmorning on June 7, when the deadline passed and the workers walked out, it was a joyous celebration.



Dawley

"Hebrews were there in great numbers. And beside them marched Poles, Bohemians, Russians, Italians and Slavs," The Plain Dealer reported. "From one end of the procession to the other, one heard a peculiar mixture of languages with but little English to vary the monotony."

The next day, most of the city's 5,000 garment workers attended a mass meeting where speakers fired them up in English, Yiddish, Italian and Bohemian. They cheered when they learned that Jay P. Dawley, the lawyer who long had represented the Cloak Makers Association, had come over to their side.

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union called the strike. Its members — more men than women — cheered when leaders demanded a 50-hour week with Saturday afternoon and Sunday off, and an end to the practice of charging workers for the cloth and machines they used.

Dawley declared: "Hiring a man to do your shopwork and then asking him to furnish his own power, machinery and material is the same as if I would hire a chauffeur for \$100 a month and then tell him to bring a \$6,000 machine with him." The audience gave him a 10-minute standing ovation.

The night of the strike, there had been dancing in "the Jewish quarter and some of the foreign districts," The Plain Dealer reported. But the situation quickly turned serious. Strikers and police were injured when strikers forced their way into the Prinz-Biederman Co. on W. 25th St., where workers still were on the job. Rafael Lorenzo, a striker, was shot by a policeman.

"Work was discontinued for the afternoon, the girl employees all suffering from fright," according to The Plain Dealer. The Italian consul said his government was concerned about Lorenzo's shooting.

The following day, a striker shot and killed a Teamster who jumped from his wagon to stop him as police chased the man. Strike leaders called

off meetings planned for the next day, a Sunday, and urged members to spend the day in the parks "with the fresh air, the flowers, the sunshine."

Employers charged that the strike was fomented by New Yorkers who wanted to harm their Cleveland rivals. (Cleveland trailed only New York and Berlin in the industry.) The Sperling Co. produced records that women workers were well paid — \$18 to \$30 a week, almost half as much as men workers. The men had helpers — "a girl to whom they paid about \$6 a week."

The companies contracted out work to small shops around the state, and the strike slowly lost steam. In October, union headquarters in New York said it had paid out \$325,000 in strike benefits over five months and could afford no more. The strikers went back to their employers — those employers, that is, who were willing to



State board of Ohio League of Women Voters meets at the Hotel Statler. Leading Ohio suffragist Elizabeth J. Hauser was in the center in the white dress.

take them back.

"Votes! Votes! Votes! Votes! Votes! W.S.P.!"

That was the new official cheer of the Women's Suffrage Party, and The Plain Dealer noted that a group of younger suffragists chanted it at a "votes for women" rally in Gray's Armory on June 20.

The report went on: "The great number in the audience, however, stood by the more dignified and conservative, if less forceful, glove spating which the more emphatic suffragettes seek to have abandoned as inadequate to express a proper degree of enthusiasm."

If the Cleveland suffragists were divided about the cheer, it was not surprising; the suffragists also refused to take a stand on the International Ladies Garment Workers strike. And only the day before, the

National Federation of Women's Clubs, meeting in Cleveland, had declined to back women's suffrage.

But English suffragist Emmeline Pankhurst was encouraged by the large and enthusiastic turnout. She told the audience, "The women's suffrage movement gives the lie to statements that women will never get votes because they can never agree among themselves on what they want."

Ohio women had been able to vote in school elections since 1894, but the movement for full voting rights didn't gain steam until 1910, when the Cuyahoga County Women's Suffrage Association named Elizabeth Hauser as its director. A former newspaper reporter, she had been Mayor Tom L. Johnson's secretary and had edited his autobiography.

She organized events like a June 1 boat excursion to Cedar Point for a picnic and outing. The attendees

wore "Votes for Women" badges, which were sold on the boat, but refused to wave the flags provided for the occasion.

Gradually, though, Hauser rallied support among men as well as women. Newton D. Baker, then a candidate for mayor, was chairman of the first meeting of the Men's Equal Suffrage League. Backers collected 15,000 signatures asking the next year's state constitutional convention to include a suffrage amendment.

They succeeded, but the state's male electorate turned down the amendment. In 1914, the legislature passed a suffrage bill, but opponents defeated it in a referendum. In 1916, East Cleveland gave women the right to vote in city elections. Lakewood followed suit and, in 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution finally gave American women full voting rights.

McGunagle is a Cleveland freelance writer.

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Jan. 25: Railroad owner Henry Huntington buys the famed Gutenberg Bible for \$50,000 at an auction in New York City.

May 15: In a landmark ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court finds John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Co. guilty of restraint of trade and orders the dissolution of the oil trust.

May 30: National driving champion Ray Harroun wins the first Indianapolis 500.

June 12: The U.S. Senate votes for

the direct election of senators, setting the stage for an amendment to the Constitution that will end the practice of senators being appointed by state legislatures.

Aug. 22: The Mona Lisa is stolen from the Louvre in Paris. More than two years will pass before the world's most famous painting will be recovered, undamaged, in Florence, Italy, at the home of the thief.

Oct. 1: Winston Churchill is named First Lord of the Admiralty with the

instruction by Prime Minister Herbert Asquith to put the British navy in a state of "instant and constant readiness" in case of an attack by Germany.

Nov. 1: William Durant and Louis Chevrolet incorporate the Chevrolet Motor Co., with the purpose of manufacturing a new automobile in Detroit.

Dec. 10: Madame Marie Curie wins the Nobel Prize in chemistry, becoming the first two-time winner of the

prestigious award. She won in 1903 for physics.

Born: Ronald Reagan, Lucille Ball, Tennessee Williams, Hubert Humphrey, Konstantin Chernenko, Ginger Rogers, Robert Taylor, Marshall McLuhan, Mahalia Jackson, Josh Gibson.

Died: Arthur Sullivan, part of Gilbert and Sullivan duo; Alfred Binet, the French psychologist who developed the first tests for human intelligence; temperance activist Carry Nation; publisher Joseph Pulitzer.

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