

THE TIMES

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PORTLAND LABOR COUNCIL ISSUES WARNING TO KEEP IMMIGRANTS OUT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

The Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity herewith submits for your consideration the evils caused in the State of Oregon through false advertisements which have brought to the State of Oregon many thousands of men, women and children from the Eastern and Middle Western States.

Large numbers of these people are now destitute, after having spent their savings in railroad fares and in vainly seeking work. Their suffering at present is so intense that the City Council of Portland was forced to appropriate a large sum of money to put some of these actually starving people to work on park and street work at wages below the prevailing rate for laborers. Private charity has and is still being taxed to its utmost.

The fault for this lamentable condition of affairs lies with unscrupulous employers of labor and a certain type of real estate men. For years false advertisements about land and labor conditions in Oregon have been placed in the Eastern papers.

These advertisements lured to Oregon homeseekers, mechanics and laborers, who, on arrival here, quickly found that they had been duped.

Oregon, comprising a territory of 96,000 square miles, with a population of about 700,000 people, is, in the main, a great wilderness of forests and mountains. The forests are largely held for speculation by the railroad interests and other great corporations. To clear an acre of this forest land, after it has been logged off, costs from \$50 to \$100 an acre. Hence, there is little chance for paying farms on such lands, except for men with considerable capital.

Open country, suitable for farming, has long ago been taken up and prices for such farm land are very high.

Railroad transportation throughout the State is very poor.

The orchard lands are held for almost fabulous prices, in the hope that Easterners can be fooled to buy them. The same trick that was played 20 years ago in Southern California, when orange orchards sold for \$1000 an acre.

The bottom of these wildcat schemes dropped out in California and the Coxy army followed. The bottom of Oregon's wildcat schemes is now dropping out; hence idleness, destitution and a general reign of crime committed by misled and desperate men.

Of course, the great majority of the employers of Oregon declare the practices which have brought about the present chaotic industrial conditions in this State. The general majority of real estate men are opposed to the bunco tactics of the minority. But up to date with no tangible results of betterment.

Therefore, the Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity appeals to you to give this matter publicity in your State and prevent great injustice and suffering to men, women and children of your State who otherwise might fall victims to false advertisements sent from Oregon.

Specially dealing with labor conditions in Oregon, we wish to state that out of the population of 700,000 there are 207,000 in Portland—our principal city. This readily shows that the remaining 500,000 are scattered over 96,000 square miles. In the East when work becomes scarce one city or State, mechanics and laborers can easily move to another city and State and seek for work. The great distances in our State make such moving a great hardship and very expensive.

The almost criminal practice of some employers of labor in advertising in Eastern papers that wages of carpenters in Portland, Ore., are \$7.00 a day for eight hours, with steady employment guaranteed, cannot be too strongly condemned. The facts are that carpenters' wages in Portland are \$2.50 to \$4.00 a day, hours range from eight to ten, and as a rule there are three men looking for each job. The same conditions prevail in many other trades.

In conclusion, we wish to state that we love our city and State. It pains us to advertise to the entire country the distress and disease among our people caused by some money-mad employers and real estate sharks. But we feel it is our duty as citizens of Oregon and of the United States, to expose swindling that already has caused untold suffering.

We welcome to our State men and women who have a true understanding of conditions in Oregon. There is room for such immigrants to aid us in the development of our resources. What we protest against is the unscrupulous exploitation of deluded people.

The foregoing is a shameless exaggeration and is a senseless if not malicious statement. This infamous lie has been mailed to the Governor of every State, with the object of influencing homeseekers not to look to Oregon. It is a piece of treachery as despicable as the act of any other traitor. The circular is a dastardly effort to offset the exploitation work of the Portland commercial bodies and the railroad companies which have always been careful to keep within the truth.

The fact that the letter was sent out under the auspices of organized labor will tend to detract from its statements. The public is looking with extreme disfavor these days at everything emanating from union labor sources, as everything unionists say is true is always a falsehood. This is the "fall" The Oregonian takes out of this damnable and treacherous letter:

The essential part of every one of the foregoing sentences is untrue. Destitution among those willing to work was but temporary and is now past. Private charity has not been and is not strained.

Oregon is not a wilderness. Not more than 57 per cent of Oregon is in forests and mountains.

Orchard lands, fully improved and in bearing, located in demonstrated districts, sell for high prices, and unimproved lands near fancy bearing orchards are also priced beyond the means of the ordinary individual. But foothill orchard land, as good as in the advertised districts, now half cleared, can be purchased in the Willamette Valley as low as \$50 per acre.

Some wildcat schemes have been promoted in Oregon, just as there have in every State in the Union. The bottom has dropped out of most of them, but wildcatting was not in the slightest degree responsible for the unsatisfactory labor conditions that recently called for action by the Portland city authorities.

Last, and very important, there is not now and has not been in recent years a "general reign of crime" in Oregon.

There are numerous other statements in the labor circular that might be discussed. One of the important remaining ones is the implied attack upon the illustrated literature sent out by commercial organizations and railroad companies. We know nothing of false advertisements for

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Famous Gainsborough Which Mr. Morgan Will Bring to America



THE announcement that the collections of J. Pierpont Morgan now housed in London—or, at any rate, a large part of them—are to be brought to this country and placed on exhibition in the Metropolitan museum in New York is of the greatest moment to art lovers in the United States. The value of the paintings, jewels, bronzes, porcelains, etc., in question is variously estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$15,000,000. Among the paintings of which mention is made is the famous Gainsborough portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire, now in the National gallery, London, which was stolen nearly forty years ago and was eventually restored to its owner through the mediation of an American, Pat Sheedy, "the honest gambler," after its whereabouts had been unknown for twenty-five years. Mr. Morgan bought the picture for \$150,000.

Mrs. Samuel Walters, Veteran Mail Carrier, at Her Post



WOMAN'S sphere has been enlarged by a sturdy member of the "weaker sex," who has for more than forty years been carrying the mail between the Florin (Pa.) postoffice and the railway station. She is Mrs. Samuel Walters, wife of an employee of the Pennsylvania railroad. In all weathers she has attended to her duty and has a record of never having missed a mail. She has had but one vacation, which she spent in a trip of a few days to New York city. She is held in high esteem by the employees of the railway postal service, and the government now pays her four times as much as when she first took up her duties. The photograph shows Mrs. Walters at her post waiting for the passing train to get the mail bag.

FIVE PER CENT LOAN SHARKS BECOMING ALARMED; LOOSEN THEIR VILE GRIP ON VICTIMS

Attorney Hurst, and all other attorneys who are in any way assisting him, are deserving of the thanks of a great, though silent element in this community, which is endeavoring to find a lasting remedy for the loan-shark evil. Ben Selling, and all those who are willing to join with him in establishing a fund to form the capital of a collateral bank, where the worthy and honest poor may have financial accommodation, minus cutthroat methods and interest charges, deserve likewise the public thanks.

It is no crime to be poor. It is no uncommon thing for any man, be he rich or poor, but finds that there are times when he needs ready money. The man of wealth and property has little trouble in going to a bank and getting a loan on acceptable security, general real estate. The poor man, with no real estate, feeling the need, looks about him. He sees an innocent-looking "ad." in some newspaper, assuring him that with no publicity, he can secure a loan on his salary at 5 per cent a month. Or, perhaps, he pledges his household furniture or a watch, or ring to some pawnshop, at the same ruinous rates. He knows, when he signs a note calling for more money than he has received, that he is paying the price in his own fe's blood, but the emergency seems great, and he comes to the wily shark's terms. Thus do these parasites of society fatten upon the misfortunes of others. They produce nothing, yet they drain the earnings of the poor.

Now Attorney Hurst believes in throwing the fiercest light of publicity upon these unconscionable villains and exposing them. He believes in giving the poor man his opportunity to escape their usurious clutches by showing up their methods in court. This is precisely the thing these vampires do not want. The cozier of worthy Portland lawyers are going about the solution of this problem in the right way. They recently received a quantity of literature issued by the Russell Sage Foundation in New York, which shows the approved and practical methods by which this class of undesirable citizens can best be eliminated.

One of the most encouraging matters to be observed in this connection is that the usurers have seen the handwriting upon the wall, and are scudding for cover. The public-spirited inves-

tigators have received information that these human wolves are frantically seeking to effect settlements with their debtors upon almost any terms. They have ceased carrying their evidences of indebtedness into the courts to force them to become accomplices in their dirty and nefarious business. One instance is given of a man who defied one of these beasts of prey and refused longer to be victimized. To his honor, he it said, that while he declined to pay any more interest, having already paid twice as much as he had borrowed, did offer to pay the original face of the note in installments most convenient to himself. He should have declined to have paid another dollar, should have demanded back his note and all such money as is in excess of the legal rate of interest.

By the Russell Sage Foundation, a Division of Remedial Loans is provided with an aggregate capital of \$10,000,000. These are outstanding loans of \$20,000,000 and the annual losses are not more than \$10,000. It is surprising to learn that in the industrial centers of the United States there is one usurer to every 5000, and one victim in every 20 of the population. One loan institution, with a number of offices, showed 45,000 loans with an average interest of 228 per cent.

While Portland is not so badly the grip of these merciless vampires as are some cities, she has altogether too many of them. It is a cheerful sign to note that these will, from now on, grow less instead of more. The loan sharks always hold over their victim's head, if he is a salaried man, the threat that they will lay the matter before their employers in case of a default. The unfortunate victim fears that this will cause him to lose his job, and he "comes through."

The Western Union provides limited loans to its own employes who are worthy and deserving, and this example is a good one for employers to follow. THE TIMES would advise any man, who works for another and who is in financial distress, before taking recourse to the loan shark, to go frankly to his employer and tell him of his dilemma. In many instances he will get relief. If already a debtor to these hounding bloodsuckers, he might take his employer into his confidence, and most of them, being fair-minded men, will assist him to escape their clutches.

A. F. OF L. AND I. W. W. HELP TEXTILE WORKERS

LAWRENCE, Mass.—The Central Labor Union of this city, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, will enter into the fight for the success of the strike of more than 15,000 textile operatives, which has been on for nearly a month under the direction of a rival organization the Industrial Workers of the World.

An investigation by Samuel A. Stodwell, connected with the public forum of the Church of the Ascension in New York, he says, has developed that there is a pauper burial in Lawrence every other day and that practically every one is that of a mill operative's family.

The observance of Rev. Herbert S. Johnson of Boston in two visits to Lawrence have prompted the minister to say:

"If the figures shown to me by the mill owners covering the wages paid the operatives are correct, the average weekly wage (Continued on Page 3.)

UNION MEN HELD GUILTY IN USING THE WORD "SCAB"

Last week, after many days of deep consideration, Judge Tazwell, of the Municipal Court, launched another dictum on the matter applying the word "scab" by union men to non-union or to union men who have had the good sense to stay at work unmindful of the mandates of organized labor.

Now, Judge Tazwell has had this legal problem to crack so many times within the last few months, that by this time he ought to be a complete encyclopedia of learning upon this subject. In a recent issue THE TIMES printed the story of a man who had been followed all the way home and followed by the reiterated and insulting application of the word "scab," from a bunch of idle unionists, who rejoice in the euphonious names of Juhns, Jones, Poehler, Blank, Mauer and Wolford, and who at one time were industrious men at the Albina carshops. (Continued on Page 3.)