

# 200

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CITY HALL

## MANY MEN IN LABOR STRUGGLE

### MACHINISTS OF NORTHWEST NOT ALONE IN STRIKE.

No Strike Has Yet Been Called, Merely Negotiating.

An outline of what the points of contention between western boiler makers, machinists, pipe fitters, mechanics, car repairers and blacksmiths employed by western railroads, and the railroad officials are, and an approximate guess at the number of men involved in Portland, alone, is given in the Oregonian of yesterday:

More than 700 Portland men are involved in the negotiations now pending between union machinists and other mechanics employed in the O. W. R. & N. and Southern Pacific shops and officials of the railroads, who have refused to consider their demand for a better wage scale.

While the men have not asked for a direct increase in wages on the basis of a nine-hour day, they will receive 21 cents more than at present if their proposal is accepted by their employers.

At present the men are paid 42 cents an hour, time and a half after working nine hours, and double time after midnight.

Their proposed new scale asks for time and a half after eight hours' work, but no increase of the per-hour rate.

As eight hours constitutes a day's work in the local shops, the men declare that their demands would not result in great addition expense to the company.

#### Five Classes Involved.

However, on account of the heavy demands made on the service of the local railroads, employees frequently are called upon to work over the allotted eight hours. According to the new scale they would receive 63 cents for the ninth hour of work instead of 42 cents as at present. The wages for the first eight hours and for the overtime after the ninth hour would remain the same.

Involved in the present proceedings are five classes of mechanics—machinists, boiler makers, pipe fitters, car repairers and blacksmiths. All these have made demands upon the companies employing them asking for similar increases in their wage scales.

The employees have drawn up an entire set of rules and regulations, most of the provisions, excepting those relating to the wages for the ninth hour of work, being similar to those already in existence.

While the new scale provides for time and a half after eight hours' work, it also calls for the payment of four full hours' pay for any work done after the eighth hour. At the proposed rate of overtime payment a man would be required to work two hours and 40 minutes at the rate of 63 cents an hour to earn the equivalent of four hours' work at 42 cents an hour which is \$1.68. However, if a man would be called upon to work but one hour after his regular eight hour shift, he would be entitled to \$1.68, according to this rule.

#### Employers Arrange Time.

The men declare that the employ-

ers, naturally, will not arrange their overtime work so that any of them will work less than two hours and 40 minutes after the eight hours, in the event that they are called upon to work overtime.

If after midnight they shall be paid four hours for two hours' work, or fraction thereof, the new scale provides. The same principle of apportioning the time is expected.

Sundays and all holidays designated by the state or nation are to be paid for at the rate of time and a half, and if a holiday falls on Sunday and another day is designated as the holiday, both days shall be paid for at the rate of time and a half. No employee shall be required to work overtime more than two nights a week or two consecutive Sundays. When overtime is required it shall be distributed. Men working on a day shift and transferred to a night shift, shall be paid time and a half for the first night, and vice versa. If these details and most others no changes are proposed over present conditions.

J. G. Graham, assistant general manager of the Harriman lines in this city, in charge of the motive power department, has been negotiating with the men. The company is unwilling to grant the demands, and the men are firm in their position. No strike has been threatened, however.

## TRENCH DIGGER BREAKS RECORD

TRAVELS TOTAL DISTANCE OF 590 FEET YESTERDAY.

Two Stops Made During Day That Reduced Total Distance, Too.

Yesterday broke all records for distance traveled by the sewer trench digger, that machine going a distance of 590 feet and that, too, with loss of considerable time. This record for distance covered in one day was established on Pennsylvania avenue where the trench is being dug up the center of the street. The huge machine stopped once during the day to raise the big boom that a street could be crossed, and another time stopped to raise the boom for a water main, despite these stops the distance mentioned was covered with the nine-foot trench digger.

This morning 15 blocks of trench had been dug since the work was commenced here by Contractor Sutherland.

#### FATHER MOORE PASSES THROUGH

Former La Grande Priest, Now Prison Chaplain, Meets Friends Here.

Father Moore, for many years parish priest in this city and one of the most popular clergymen located in this city in many years, passed through the city this morning on his way east with the remains of a brother who died at Salem this week. Father Moore is now living at Salem where he is state penitentiary chaplain. About ten years ago Father Moore moved from La Grande to Salem and he has been stationed there continually since.

Next month Father Moore goes east again to attend an A. P. A. meeting. A. P. A. in this instance not meaning

the commonly accepted sentence so obnoxious to followers of the Catholic faith, but the American Prison association. While stationed at Salem he has studied prison questions and will be an important factor in the coming meeting of prison officials.

Several friends of the reverend father, of this city, met him at the train.

#### South Carolina Postmasters.

Glenn Springs, S. C., Aug. 10.—The South Carolina Postmasters' association began its annual meeting here today with President S. J. Leaphart of Lexington, presiding. The postmasters will spend two days in the discussion of various matters relating to their official duties and the improvement of the postal service.

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## Think This Over, Mr. Married Man

How many hours a day does your wife spend in the kitchen?

Do you know that every minute spells drudgery these hot days?

Can you expect her to be happy and cheerful when the oven-like heat is robbing her of health and good looks? Of course, you must eat even if it is hot, and meals must be ready on time, but honestly now, don't you feel sorry for her, slaving over a hot stove?

#### Then, why not buy her an Electric Range?

She can get the meals in half the time and in a cool kitchen. And there is no fuel to handle or ashes to fuss with. Think what that means.

And we'll make you a special rate on electricity so that your fuel bill will be about the same as you pay now for wood.

Can you think of anything that will please your wife more? Drop in and talk it over, or call Main 34.

**Eastern Oregon Light & Power Co.**