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THIS WINTER

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Gen. Pass. Agt. Portland, Ore.

FEDERATION EXPLAINS ACT

LOCAL MEMBERS WRITE OF THEIR ISSUES.

Over Signed Statements Tell Their Views of Recent Criticism.

Editor Observer:—We wish, as union men to offer the following article in answer to an editorial that appeared in a recent issue of the La Grande Morning Star:

To the Editor of the La Grande Morning Star:—With all due regard for your dearest sympathy for the strikers on the Harriman railroads, we wish to deny some of your statements in the Star of Feb. 9th, inst.

First—If you are as well informed as you profess to be you should know there was very little agitation of the labor question before the strike, and that little was discouraged by all thoughtful union men (Mr. Alexander among others taking this stand), and the strike was never agitated by paid officers of the unions, as such a course was unnecessary because every man working in the shops wanted conditions changed so that when forced to work only 8 hours a day and 5 days a week all men and crafts would be accorded the same consideration and work the same number of hours and days per week. They wanted a uniform agreement between all crafts and the company regulating wages and working conditions, and the shopmen here in La Grande and all over the system took a referendum vote to secure those conditions even if they had to go on strike to do so; (and, by the way, Mr. Star Editor, the shopmen in La Grande voted 92 per cent for those conditions or strike (which does not look as if they felt that they must support the decision of some vulture-like union official simply through a feeling of loyalty to the union, now honest, Mr. Editor, does it?)

Second—You say, Mr. Editor, that in "the four months previous to the strike there were nearly twice as many engine failures as in the same period of time since the strike, which is not only false but absurd. Just recall the explosion of engine 382, engine 300 broke axle and threw driver out of right of way, other dead ones: 374, 379, 387, 198, 212, 250, and other notable engine failures, besides numerous simple failures; and again you must remember that about 30 days prior to the strike the company put into service and have been using ever since on this division about 20 new engines. Another thing, before the strike the shops were working short-handed, 8 hours a day and 5 days a week, whereas, according to the repeated statements of the company officials since the strike they have a full shop force and are working 9 hours a day and 6 days a week.

You also make the statement, Mr. Star Editor, that you had printed our reports for 30 days after the strike, and this we deny and challenge you to produce even 15 copies of your paper with reports from the shopmen's federation.

We also deny the statement that at least 50 children in La Grande are going hungry and insufficiently clad on account of this strike—we have investigated and found that you are barking up the wrong tree. We wish also to say that Mr. Alexander has not and will not receive one cent of salary from this federation or any union for his services during this strike.

- W. D. DELMORE,
- JOHN KLINTWORTH,
- CHARLES W. ELLSWORTH,
- H. W. NIBLEY,
- T. E. O'LEARY,
- A. E. VANDERMUELEN,
- CHAS. KESSLER,
- C. JOHNSON,
- HENRY A. SPRAGUE,
- J. K. SHEAK.

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This is the season of the year when mothers feel very much concerned over the frequent colds contracted by their children, and have abundant reason for it, as every cold weakens the lungs, lowers the vitality and paves the way for the more serious diseases that so often follow. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is famous for its cures, and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all dealers.

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LA GRANDE, OREGON

C. M. LOCKWOOD, Secretary and Manager

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