

Labor 100 Years Ago — Feb. 5, 1916

*Labor's Letter-Writing Week

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tourist travel;" further the resolution instructs the officers of the State Federation to prepare a concise letter containing information, first, relative "Wages and conditions in Oregon industries;" second, "Labor supply;" third, "What In-

terests control the natural resources of the state."

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This is enough to serve the purpose of the resolution relative to wages and labor supply.

In Governor West's message to the Legislature the following relative to ownership and control of natural resources appears. "One holder of timber acreage, the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, controls 22.5 per cent. Thirty holders control 19.5 per cent. Not over 5 per cent of the holders of timber acreage reside on the land. Sixty-eight holders are reported to control 56 per cent of the privately owned timber acreage."

In Oregon 58 per cent of the developed water-power is controlled by the General Electric Co. In Washington 55 per cent is held by the same company."

The above is quoted from "Other People's Money" by Louis J. Brandeis, who in turn quotes from the United States Bureau of Corporations.

Relative to the ownership of the land and wealth the following will suffice: "In Multnomah County," say Roadmaster Yeon, "1.5 per cent of the taxpayers own 75 per cent of the wealth and only 20 per cent of the entire population are taxpayers." Mr. Yeon doesn't say, however, where the 1.5 per cent of the population gets its money to pay taxes with.

In keeping with the spirit of the resolution you are therefore urged to write to friends in Eastern states conveying this information in order that the workers of the East may understand true conditions in Oregon.

HERE'S CHANCE TO AID SUFFERERS AT HOME

Whereas, There is registered at the Municipal Employment Bureau nearly three thousand married unemployed workers with women and children dependent upon them

And Whereas, It is stated by the city authorities that employment cannot be obtained for a major portion of these, our unfortunate fellow-workers,

And Whereas, Thousands of other workers in the city, ranging from young girls making a heroic struggle against the forces of evil, to adult workers with wives and children dependent upon them, are in a similar condition to that of these registered and unemployed workers,

And Whereas, Though the present storm has provided a measure of work for the more robust of some of these workers it has caused untold suffering from cold and hunger to be endured by thousands of our un-

employed and ill-housed workers and their women and children.

And Whereas, The employed workers are to a large extent responsible for the conditions of the workers as a whole,

Therefore, Be It Resolved By the Central Labor Council of Portland and Vicinity, That it does hereby most earnestly urge upon all employed wage-earners, organized and unorganized, however employed, in our city, to recognize their duty towards their unfortunate fellow-workers by contributing from their individual earnings to a relief fund, the purpose of which shall be to alleviate suffering at home from cold and hunger,

And Be It Further Resolved, That the Central Labor Council hereby proclaims the week beginning Sunday, February 6 and ending Saturday, February 12, as "Workers' Relief Week" and hereby pledges the resources of the Council in distributing this fund, impartially, without any cost to said fund, thereby insuring every cent contributed shall be expended on relief work and that further, the office of the Civil Service Employees' Association, 311 Gerlinger Building, Southwest corner Second and Alder Streets, is hereby designated headquarters for the receiving of contributions to the Fund,

And Be It Further Resolved That the Council hereby calls upon all newspapers in the city to publish this resolution that the employed workers may each know of and have an opportunity to aid in creating this fund.

Adopted in the name of Labor, Thursday, February 3, 1916
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OF PORTLAND AND VICINITY,
E. J. STACK, Secretary.

Formerly The Portland Labor Press. Owned and Controlled by Organized Labor.

Volume XV. Number 43 Portland, Oregon, Saturday, February 5, 1916 Whole Number 835

Candidates For President State Federation

(At a meeting of the candidates for the office of president of the State Federation, held in the Labor Press office, Monday, January 31, T. H. Burchard, Otto Hartwig, C. M. Ryneron and E. J. Stack being present, it was agreed that each candidate should write a letter of acceptance of not more than 500 words, to be printed in this week's issue of the Labor Press. Copy to be submitted not later than Thursday.—Editor.)



OTTO HARTWIG



C. M. RYNERON



T. H. BURCHARD

The convention just closed had any matters of interest before it, some were referred to the incoming executive board, with instructions of their disposition. It will be the duty of the president to see to it that the instructions are faithfully carried out and, in doing so, he should always be willing to do more than his share of the work necessary to bring about the desired results. He should have a broad, comprehensive knowledge of the labor movement, to the end that he may intelligently represent the rank and file of the organizations affiliated with the State Federation of Labor. He should possess a fair quantity of common sense and should possess the courage to use it when occasion demands.

The unions are entrusted to the officials, it stands to reason that the executive officers of the State Federation of Labor should always be alive and alert to the interests of those they represent. Respectfully,
OTTO R. HARTWIG.

In accepting the nomination for the office of president of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, I realize fully the responsibilities that will rest upon me as the chief executive officer of the organized labor movement of this state.

I believe, first of all, the man who is president of the State Federation should be in close touch with the problems of all the workers; should possess an intimate and technical

knowledge of the organized labor movement and should be able to apply that knowledge in a manner that will build up and strengthen the cause of the toilers.

If I am elected I will use my best endeavors to build up the State Federation and make it a power for good.

I am a member of Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58 and have been actively connected with the labor movement of the state for the past 10 years. Am now and have been for the past year and a half editor and manager of the Oregon Labor Press.

My position is of such a nature that I can assume the duties of pres-

ident with a distinct advantage to both the Labor Press and the Federation. Similar combinations of the two offices have been made in other states and results have been good. Believing absolute faith in your judgment, and promising to boost for a bigger and better State Federation whether I am elected or not, I submit my candidacy to you.
C. M. RYNERON.

Up to the time of going to press Mr. Burchard had not submitted a statement of any kind.—Editor.

LOAN SHARKS OUSTED.

The City Welfare Department, of Dayton, Ohio, reports that 10 loan shark establishments have been put out of business since the establishment of the department's division of legal aid, in 1914. The division has also given legal advice to 1,494 persons and aided them in defense against oppressive litigation by settling controversies amicably.

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* CARPENTERS, ATTENTION. *
* Owing to the inclement weather *
* and the joint meeting of the Car- *
* penters' Locals No. 50 and 808 *
* was not held last Tuesday even- *
* ing. *
* It is presumed that by next *
* Tuesday evening the weather *
* will have moderated sufficiently *
* so that it will not interfere and *
* all members of these two locals *
* are urged to attend the meeting *
* on that date. *
* The details of the consolida- *
* tion of the two locals will be *
* completed and officers elected. *
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Brandeis Appointment Is Pleasing To Labor

Probably no action of President Wilson's official life has caused so much favorable comment from the labor movement of the United States as has his appointment of Louis J. Brandeis.

As was to be expected, the representatives of special privilege in the Senate are moving heaven and earth to prevent confirmation of the appointment.

Brandeis has earned an enviable reputation as a champion of the cause of the common people, and "big business" doesn't want a man of his calibre in any judicial position.

It would seem though that they should be willing to concede the appointment of one member of this court who has not spent his life in the service of special privilege corporations and whose whole purpose in life seems to be to further the interests of the aforesaid corporations.

Brandeis would act as a balance wheel for the court, and his appointment should be confirmed.

Commenting on the appointment, E. J. Stack, Secretary of the State Federation of Labor, said: "The nomination of Louis J. Brandeis, of Boston, Mass., for the Supreme Court of the United States, marks an epoch in changing conditions. No man in America, known in pub-

lic life, is better fitted for the position. Law and the courts are supposed to be based on justice. The courts are men, and unless men are just, the courts cannot be.

"Mr. Brandeis' life has been spent in a fight for justice. Such a man is the need of the hour on the Supreme bench.

"The confirmation of his appointment by the Senate will be worth more to the American people than any other act it can perform.

"The people of this country should let the Senate of the United States know that President Wilson's nomination ought to be confirmed."

Eugene E. Smith, President of the Central Council, said of the appointment:

"In nominating Louis D. Brandeis as a member of the Supreme Court of the United States, President Wilson has recognized the 'submerged Tenth'—something never before done except in the abstract, by a ruler of any government.

"To any one familiar with the functions and powers of our Supreme Court this is significant, for it marks with a distinct marking the beginning of the end of 'man's inhumanity to man.'

"The gentlemen who framed our Constitution provided a Senate, intended by them and now admitted by all to be the rack upon which the 'interests' build.

"Secondly, they provided a Supreme Court, the members of which must be confirmed by the Senate.

"A pretty scheme and a successful one until Oregon's people became imbued with the idea of popular selection of U. S. Senators, an idea that has spread to such an extent that the poor Senators are now confronted with the choice of affirming a people's nominee for Supreme Justice or suffer political Hari Kari. Let every worker boost for Brandeis."

*Labor's Letter-Writing Week

Portland, Oregon, February 1, 1916. To All Organized Labor in Oregon, Greeting:

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* Portland, Ore., Feb. 2, 1916. *
* Editor Oregon Labor Press: *
* In a recent issue of the Labor *
* Press I noticed with much sur- *
* prise a request from the secre- *
* tary of the Building Trades *
* Council asking you to deny that *
* the Northwest Labor Building *
* was unfair to Labor. *
* I do not believe that this was *
* necessary as we publish the un- *
* fair list of organized labor in *
* the Labor Press, but I believe *
* that the true status of the *
* Northwestern Bank Building *
* should be in the possession of *
* Labor. *
* This building as well as some *