

Labor 100 Years Ago - March 4, 1916

A look back at the front page stories of the Oregon Labor Press, March 4, 1916. A digital version of the front page can be seen on our web site at www.nwlaborpess.org

*What Cigar Industry Means to Portland

Editor Labor Press: In your issue of the 26th inst. I read with satisfaction that the Portland grocers have decided to boost "Home Industry," and as an

evidence of good faith have through their organization taken practical steps to that end.

The cigar industry can be

made a valuable asset to Portland if the grocers and other dealers in cigars will carry out the program, which the Retail Grocers' Association declares

is the proper method of aiding Portland manufacturers.

In order to bring forcibly to the attention of retail merchants, and also to the users of cigars, I want to show just what it means to Portland when a "home made" article is

given the preference (the same logic applies to all commodities made here, whether they be candies, brooms, shoes, furniture, clothing, food products, or cigars), but I will illustrate by giving a few figures dealing with that branch of our industry.

In Portland there are some 250,000 people. Of that number about 50,000 are male adults, and of the latter number about 30,000 use cigars. A conservative estimate of the number of cigars used every day in Portland is 100,000 — 3,000,000 a month — 36,000,000 a year. The average cigarmaker turns out about 50,000 cigars a year, working 48 weeks, which means that it would require 720 cigarmakers to supply the Portland trade. At the rate figured the average weekly wage would be about \$18 per man, or \$622,080 a year—a payroll not to be sneezed at.

Of course there is no likelihood of the complete success of a home industry, but if one-half of the cigars used here are made here, it means in round numbers a yearly payroll of \$300,000 distributed among more than 300 workmen.

We see in the great dailies of the city, occasionally, that the Chamber of Commerce is boosting "Home Industry"; that the Ad Club is doing good work for the city; but Portland, despite its mild climate, its wonderful highway, its attractive scenery, its splendid location, will never be a successful city in the broad sense, until it becomes a city of "industries"; and it will never become a city of industries until its citizens conclude that home-made goods are worthy of preference, all things being equal.

The grocers are to be commended upon their initial, practical step. The manufacturers and the consumers should co-operate.

E.J. STACK



Formerly The Portland Labor Press. Owned and Controlled by Organized Labor. Volume XV. Number 47. Portland, Oregon, Saturday, March 4, 1916. Whole Number 839

Kay Opposes State Guaranty Of Bonds

Editor, Oregon Labor Press: In answer to many requests for an expression as to the proposed initiative bill to amend the Constitution, which will provide for the bonding of the State for irrigation, drainage and rural credits, not to exceed two per cent (which would mean \$18,000,000), have to say that I am opposed to the proposed measure for several reasons.

The proposition to initiate this amendment first came from the irrigation Congress, which met in Portland in December and, therefore, came from people particularly interested in reclaiming desert lands. A similar measure, which came from the same source, was put on the ballot two years ago.

There is a popular demand for some system of rural credits and the people interested in irrigation have taken advantage of this and propose to amend the Constitution, which will link together the bonding of the State for irrigation, drainage and rural credits, thinking the latter issues will carry the former one through.

Now, in my opinion, there is absolutely no demand at this time for the State bonding itself for irrigation purposes, inasmuch as there are now on the market

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

Editor Labor Press, Portland, Ore.: Sir, I have waited, no doubt vainly, for Mr. Irving's excellent defense of the Civil Service Workers, to make its appearance in the Oregonian, Journal and Telegram, as it did in the Labor Press, but to date I have not found it. This, of course, is due to their space being so valuable that it can not be used to advance so unimportant a cause as that of the working people; and not at all to their being unfair to the working class; for we all know how these papers are devoted to our interests, and Civil Service Workers are workers just the same.

The big dailies of the city seem desirous of creating the belief that Civil Service is a sort of polite charity, maintained for the purpose of caring for the city's incompetent citizens, who are unable to care for themselves; and that these same incompetent drones have been so particularly efficient and energetic that they have fastened a leechlike institution upon the city, that is rapidly sucking its blood, and from which the city has no hope of escape.

Even the Mayor said, in his address before an audience of ministers, that he could increase the efficiency of his department 25 per cent if he could discharge a few men he regards as incompetent. It would have been better said had he had told the plain truth and said he could make some increase in the efficiency of his department if he would discharge a few men who are incompetent, for there are men in his, and other departments, who are decidedly incompetent, but who are not discharged.

This, however, is the fault of the men in charge, for neither the Civil Service Commission, nor the Civil Service Workers' Association stand in the way of the discharge of in-

What Cigar Industry Means To Portland

Editor Labor Press: In your issue of the 26th inst. I read with satisfaction that the Portland grocers have decided to boost "Home Industry," and as an evidence of good faith have through their organization taken practical steps to that end.

The cigar industry can be made a valuable asset to Portland if the grocers and other dealers in cigars will carry out the program, which the Retail Grocers' Association declares is the proper method of aiding Portland manufacturers.

In order to bring forcibly to the attention of retail merchants, and also to the users of cigars, I want to show just what it means to Portland when a "home made" article is given the preference (the same logic applies to all commodities made here, whether they be candies, brooms, shoes, furniture, clothing, food products, or cigars), but I will illustrate by giving a few figures dealing with that branch of our industry.

In Portland there are some 250,000 people. Of that number about 50,000 are male adults, and of the latter number about 30,000 use cigars. A conservative estimate of the number of cigars used every day in Portland is 100,000—3,000,000 a month—36,000,000 a year.

The average cigarmaker turns out about 50,000 cigars a year, working 48 weeks, which means that it would require 720 cigarmakers to supply the Portland trade. At the rate figured the average weekly wage would be about \$18 per man, or \$622,080 a year—a payroll not to be sneezed at.

Of course there is no likelihood of the complete success of a home industry, but if one-half of the cigars used here are made here, it means in round numbers a yearly payroll of \$300,000 distributed among more than 300 workmen.

We see in the great dailies of the city, occasionally, that the Chamber of Commerce is boosting "Home Industry"; that the Ad Club is doing good work for the city; but Portland, despite its mild climate, its wonderful highway, its attractive scenery, its splendid location, will never be a successful city in the broad sense, until it becomes a city of "industries"; and it will never become a city of industries until its citizens conclude that home-made goods are worthy of preference, all things being equal.

The grocers are to be commended upon their initial, practical step. The manufacturers and the consumers should co-operate.

E.J. STACK

PRINTERS WILL DISCUSS BASEBALL ORGANIZATION

New Developments Cause Change of Procedure—Strictly Printer Organization Thought Possible.

Immediately following the regular meeting of M. T. U. No. 58, Sunday, March 5, there will be a gathering of baseballists, who will proceed to find out what sentiment exists as to the forming of a baseball league for the coming season.

It is hoped that all interested will give a few minutes of their time to this first meeting, that we may be able to get on a working basis as soon as possible if it is decided to go ahead.

A few suggestions here would not be amiss. Treasurer Lindquist should be on hand to tell what he knows of financing such a league.

Following is a partial list of the shops that are unfair to the Meateuters' Union:

- Bay City Market, Fourth and Yamhill streets.
Boston Packing Co., Third and Ankeny streets.
Jones Market, Fourth and Alder streets.
Multnomah Market, 512 Washington street.
Pacific Market, 186 Fourth street.
Bennett's Market, Fourth and Yamhill streets.
Sawyer's Market, 413 Everett street.
Parker's Market, 149 First street.
State Market, First and Salmon streets.
People's Market and Grocery Co., First and Taylor streets.

Editor Oregon Labor Press, 302 Oregonian Bldg., Portland, Ore. I am interested in the proposed Woman's Label League and will assist in any way I can. Name, Address, Phone.

MRS. SHARP TO SPEAK. Mrs. Josephine Sharp will speak at the regular meeting of the Oregon Single Tax Association, Saturday evening in Room H, Central Library. Subject, "The public market necessary to the success of the vacant lot development movement."

Uncle Sam: "I Guess You Better Change It"



SENATOR HOKE SMITH OBJECTS TO REPORT.

Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, blocked an attempt to have the Senate consider printing the report of the United States Commission on Industrial Relations, which has been partially approved by the House.

The joint resolution which Senator Fletcher attempted to have considered is as follows: "Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the final report of the United States Commission on Industrial Relations, including the report of Basil M. Manly, director of research and investigation, and the individual reports and statements of the several commissioners, together with all the testimony taken at its hearings, except exhibits submitted in printed form, which shall be appropriately referred to in said testimony, be printed as a Senate document under the direction of the joint committee on printing; and that 10,000 additional copies be printed and bound in cloth, of which 2500 copies shall be for the use of the Senate and 7500 copies for the use of the House of Representatives; and that of the final report of said commission 100,000 additional copies be printed, of which 30,000 copies shall be for the use of the Senate and 70,000 copies for the use of the House of Representatives. Provided, that the superintendent of documents is hereby authorized to reprint copies of the same for sale or distribution as provided by law."

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY UNFAIR TO PRINTERS

The following resolution was adopted by the A. F. of L. Convention in San Francisco: "Whereas, The G. and C. Merriam Company, of Springfield, Mass., are having Webster's New International Dictionary and other dictionaries published in non-union or unfair offices; and

SOCIALIST LECTURE.

"Syndicalism" is the subject for the Sunday night lecture at Arion Hall, headquarters of the Socialist party. The lecture is under the direction of the city central committee. Jack Gearty is the speaker and the lecture will commence at 8:15. Free to the public.

AGE LIMIT IS LOWERED.

The age limit for the issuance of marine licenses has been lowered from 21 to 19 years by the steamboat inspection service of the Fed-

STEREOTYPERS RAISE WAGES.

President Freel, of the International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union, reports wage increases in the following cities: Indianapolis, Detroit, Seranton, Utica, Lincoln, Neb., San Antonio, Texas, and St. Joseph, Mo. Contracts have been signed in all cases.

BARBERS ORGANIZE.

Barbers at Christopher, Ill. have organized and received a charter from the international affiliated to the A. F. of L. Retail clerks are discussing organization, as are several other crafts in this vicinity.

LINEMEN WIN STRIKE.

Electrical Workers' Union has won its strike at St. Louis, Mo., against the Kinloch Telephone Company, which attempted to abolish a wage scale. About 175 men are affected.