

Labor 100 Years Ago — March 18, 1916

A look back at the front page stories of the Oregon Labor Press, March 18, 1916. A digital version of the front page can be seen at www.nwlabourpress.org/100yearsago

*Must American Workers Reap Cyclone Sown by the American Plunderers?

By Chester M. Wright

With American soldiers in Mexico for fighting purposes, this country is perilously near to war with all of Mexico, for if there is one sentiment upon which a majority of Mexicans can unite, it is dislike for the American.

This is natural. American political and financial plunderers have sown the whirlwind in Mexico for decades. Long before the war of 1847 in which this country's desperate slavocrats plotted and brought on war between the two countries and then bribed Mexican leaders into shameless be-

trayal of their armies, Americans have been working havoc in Mexico.

The capitalists and political crooks of the United States have done everything possible in Mexico to inspire hatred for the "Gringo." In the face of this it is fair to assume that an armed United States expedi-

tion in Mexico will before long meet with universal opposition, despite the assurances of Washington and taking them at their face value.

American labor must be on the alert! There must be no war with Mexico! American workers do not want to fight Mexican workers! Workers of both countries have a big enough job fighting the looters of both countries!

Congressman Meyer London says that this country ought to police Texas and not Mexico. He didn't say enough. He didn't say it all. This country ought to police its financial marauders! This country ought to police Standard Oil and Guggenheim and the big copper interests. It ought to police Wall street.

This country ought years ago to have begun to police its financial brigands. Almost every particle of friction between the two nations can be traced to the grasping of American privateers after the natural wealth and the cheap labor power of Mexico.

What American workingman wants to be drawn into a war brought on by such causes? What American workingman wants to fight brother workers under those conditions—or any other? Mr. Hearst and Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Morgan and the Guggenheims may have something to get in Mexico that they will care to fight for—but what workingman has anything to get there that he wants to fight for?

Washington says it wants [Pancho] Villa and will stop when he is caught. Wall street wants all Mexico. Will Washington or Wall street give the order when to stop?

John Lind charges— and he ought to know— that Villa was financed by Americans. No American money, no Villa and no Villa raid. Washington is after Villa, but what about his American partners?

What effort will there be to "get" the Americans whose money made Villa's aggression possible? That is the thing that American workers are interested in. But there will be no expedition sent to Wall street under the redoubtable Fred Funston. Wall street just now is being patriotic; it is waving the Stars and Stripes overtime. And Mr. Hearst is printing the Stars and Stripes in his paper lavishly.

This whole Villa affair is a rotten mess. It ought to make every thinking American sick at heart. It ought to make every American workingman resolve that his own country must clean up. And that is the workers' job. We must clean America.

Look out! No war with Mexico! No worker has any fight with Mexico! Our job is in America! And if we take care of America there will be no excuse for war with any other country! Let us wipe the mud off our own map!



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State Federation Officers Are Elected

The election board of the Oregon State Federation last Tuesday afternoon finished counting the ballots cast in the referendum vote for officers of the organization and on a proposition to raise the per capita tax. The vote shows the following officers to be chosen for the ensuing term: President, Otto Hartwig, Painters' Union No. 10, Portland; vice-presi-

Another close race developed between Eugene E. Smith and Ben Osborne for delegate to the A. F. of L. Osborne winning by 70 votes, E. H. Kelly won over T. H. Burchard for delegate to the Grange by 16 votes. O. E. Hibbs won over E. G. Burrell for delegate to the Farmers' Union by two to one. In the race for fraternal delegate to the Wash-



OTTO HARTWIG
Elected President Oregon State Federation of Labor.



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ington State Federation of Labor, Mrs. Gee won over Jack Rosen by 273 votes.

The campaign was void of personalities and even the defeated candidates are pleased with the results. The vote was the second largest ever cast in the history of the Federation and indicates an increased interest on the part of the membership in the affairs of the organization.

The newly elected president has been actively connected with the organized labor movement in this state for several years past and is a competent, energetic worker. He has been entirely free from all entanglements of petty union politics and will have the solid support of the membership in the performance of his duties. The Labor Press joins with his many friends in wishing him success.

The proposition to increase the per capita tax carried by a comfortable margin, a fact that is pleasing to those interested in the success of the Federation.

RAILROAD ORDERS CARS.

It is announced that the Southern

CARPENTERS TO MEET.

A special called meeting of the carpenters formerly members of 808 and 50 is announced for next Tuesday evening at the Labor Temple. It is important that all members be present.

P. W. Dowler, Northwest representative of the International Carpenters' Union, will be present and will install the newly elected officers of the new local. The charter for which is now known. The new local will be known as Local No. 226.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

A movement is on foot to organize a camp of the "Veterans of Foreign Wars" in Portland. The movement is fostered by members of the camp of "Spanish-American War Veterans," who are dissatisfied with the manner in which the affairs of the camp have been conducted in the past.

The qualifications for membership in the new organization are as follows:

Any honorably discharged officer or enlisted man who served in the army, navy or marine corps and saw foreign service outside of the territorial waters of the United States between April 21, 1898, and July 4, 1902, or who served in any campaign on either the islands of Mindanao or Jolo against any of the Datus thereof, or who served in any campaign in the Philippine islands, or saw service in any other campaign up to and including March,

CITY INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE FORMED

The City Committee on Industrial Relations met in room G of the Public Library last Tuesday evening and perfected organization by the election of Mrs. Alva Lee Stevens as president and E. J. Stack as secretary.

It is proposed that the committee work in conjunction with the national committee which has been organized for the purpose of carrying on the work of the United States Commission, which finished its work and reported to Congress.

In addition, the committee will probably take up a study of local labor conditions and will make recommendations with regard to legislation which affects the workers.

After a short informal discussion the committee adjourned to meet Tuesday evening, April 4, at which time the matter of indorsement of the People's Land and Loan Law will be considered. This law is in line with the recommendations of the U. S. Committee on Industrial Relations and has the personal indorsement of Frank P. Walsh.

Another matter that will be taken up at that time is the revision of the rulings of the Industrial Welfare Commission with particular reference to the 48-hour week which the conference recently proposed.

The committee is composed of 18 members, as follows: Eugene E. Smith, E. J. Stack, A. J. Madsen, Otto Hartwig, Mrs. L. Gee, Miss Lou Simmons, Ray Depperman, C. M. Ryerson and Jack Rosen, representing organized labor, and W. S. U'Ren, Judge Stevenson, Dr. C. H. Chapman, Dr. Wm. T. Foster, Oswald West, Judge Gatens, Mrs. Alva Lee Stevens, Mrs. A. C. Newell and Col. C. E. S. Wood.

ROCKEFELLER FUND ATTACKED.

After several months' investigation State Comptroller Travis, of New York, has started court proceedings against the Rockefeller Foundation, which is alleged to have on hand funds aggregating \$96,000,000 and may inherit other millions from John D. Rockefeller. The state official holds that the foundation is not a charitable institution under the meaning of the law and that it may be taxed. He charges that the foundation is so arranged that enormous funds can be given it on the death of John D. Rockefeller and that the money could revert to the Rockefeller family after it had escaped taxation, to the great loss of the state.

SECURE SUNDAY CLOSING LAW.

City Commissioners of Cheyenne,

TEAMSTERS MAKE GAINS.

Teamsters employed by the garbage and ash division of the Buffalo, N. Y., municipal street department have raised wages \$2 a week. These workers organized and have applied to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for a charter. The settlement includes provision for adjusting future disputes. Organized workers say this is the first time that municipal officials have recognized a trade union of city employees.

MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Machinists employed by the Chicago Pneumatic Tool company, the Colburn Machine Tool company and the Producers' Supply company, at Franklin, Pa., are on strike. They are demanding wage increases and an eight-hour day.

CLAY WORKERS WIN.

The Clay Workers' union at Toronto, Ohio, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, has raised wages 15 cents a day.

TRUTH WILL PREVAIL

It was only about a year ago that the Labor Press was able to secure complete and accurate data concerning the true costs of pavements and reveal the fact that Portland property owners had been compelled in the past few years to pay double prices for street pavements.

Recent developments have absolutely demonstrated that the statements made by this paper a year ago were facts.

Two weeks ago last Wednesday the City Council received a bid of \$0.95 for the patent bitulithic redress pavement, whereas two years ago the paving monopoly demanded \$1.40.

The week before a bid of \$1.15 was received for standard bitulithic pavement on crushed rock base, which during 1914 cost property owners \$1.85 per square yard.

A week ago last Wednesday a bid of \$1.15 was received for Hassam pavement five inches thick, which a short time ago was laid for \$1.50 per square yard.

The main regret we have in this matter is that the property owners of Portland were forced to spend \$2,000,000.00 more for paving than would be demanded at the

CENTRAL COUNCIL SCORES GOVERNOR

The following resolution was adopted at the meeting of the Central Council last Thursday evening:

To Central Labor Council of Portland and Vicinity—Greetings: We, the undersigned, members of the committee appointed at regular meeting of the Council held March 9, 1916, for the purpose of formulating a resolution censuring Governor James Withycombe for his attitude before the Industrial Welfare Commission, respectfully submit the following:

Whereas, On the 6th day of March, 1916, a meeting of employers was held at the Portland Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of protesting against any attempt of the Industrial Welfare Commission to further regulate the hours of labor of the women workers of the state; and

Whereas, It appears that the Hon. James Withycombe, Chief Executive of the state, attended the meeting on behalf of three women workers of the Salem Woolen Mills, and so far forgot the fairness and dignity that should be characteristic of the high office he holds as to voice his sentiments in opposition to any action having for its purpose the reducing of the hours of labor; and

Whereas, This attitude of the Hon. Mr. Withycombe is stultifying and discreditable to himself and provocative of grievous injustice to all workers, organized or unorganized; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Central Labor Council of Portland and Vicinity go on record as strongly condemning the action of Mr. Withycombe in voluntarily championing the cause of the would-be exploiters of ten labor at the aforesaid meeting and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the papers of Portland and Salem and that a copy of same be sent to the Hon. Mr. Withycombe under seal of the Council.

(Signed) MRS. L. GEE, E. H. PICKARD, WM. MACKENZIE, Commit