

ple bonds paid off and a “monster” celebration is staged. Oregonians approve the creation of public utility districts. **1931:** Davis-Bacon Act provides for prevailing wages on publicly funded construction projects. Oregon is second state in the country to establish an on-the-job apprenticeship training system. Talk about Fremont Bridge construction under way. IBEW and union electrical contractors launch “Cooperative Work Plan” campaign to create work for the unemployed by correcting defects that exist in many of the wiring jobs in residences and businesses. A Circuit Court judge rules that sales of Oregon Labor Press in front of the non-union Rivoli Theatre violate anti-picketing injunction that he granted weeks earlier. Moving Picture Operators are held in contempt of court after they picket the theatre, then arrange to have copies of the Labor Press sold on the same block. **1932:** Unemployment soars to 14 million; union membership plummets. Norris-LaGuardia Act prohibits federal injunctions in

most labor disputes. Franklin D. Roosevelt elected president. Oregon labor beats back attempt by Gov. Julius Meier to slash wages of state highway workers. AFL President Green appeals to every member of organized labor to aid in the search for the kidnapped Lindberg baby. **1933:** FDR announces the New Deal. Section 7(a) of the National Industrial Recovery Act gives unions right to bargain with employers. Labor Press editorially greets the promise of a New Deal with restraint: “The election will not settle our economic problems.” Oregon labor and the State Grange combine to defeat a sales tax proposal. The Doernbecher Furniture Co., the largest employer in Portland with about 2,800 men, uses “every subterfuge known to the human mind to keep their employees from organizing a union.” A rising tide of organization sentiment adds more than 1 million new members and 350 local unions to the ranks of the AFL. AFL agrees to minimum wage rates in Oregon of \$1.20 an hour for skilled

labor and 50 cents an hour for unskilled labor on construction work financed by the Public Works Administration. The National Industrial Recovery Act kills company unions; no longer can an employer discharge a worker for declining to belong to a company union. Oregon Legislature outlaws “yellow dog” contracts and recognizes labor’s right to organize, strike, picket, assemble peaceably and otherwise use the lawful union methods. The Tillamook Burn wipes out 240,000 acres of Oregon’s finest timber. Civilian Conservation Corps created to provide jobs for several million young Americans. **1934:** Upsurge in strikes, including national textile strike, which fails. 1,500 Longshoremen enter into bloody strike at Portland waterfront for 80 days. Women’s Trade Union League is formed in Portland. On-the-job accidents cost 89,500 lives and disable another 8.5 million. **1935:** National Labor Relations Act and Social Security Act passed. Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO) formed within AFL. Strike

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Happy
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--- Rev. MLK Jr.

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would like to wish everyone a happy Labor Day!

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