

Portland Labor Press

Published every Thursday by the Portland Labor Press Publishing Association. (Incorporated August 18, 1900.)

OFFICE.

Room 53, McKay Building, 248½ Stark street, Portland, Oregon.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Unions belonging to this Association and desiring to subscribe for their entire membership, the subscription price is \$1.00 a year per copy.

Unions which do not belong to this Association, but desire to subscribe for their entire membership, the subscription price is \$1.25 a year per copy. Single subscriptions \$1.50 per year. Single copies 5 cents each. Always in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Rates will be made known upon application.

Please address all communications to the Portland Labor Press Publishing Association, room 53 McKay Building, Portland, Oregon.

Chas. E. York.....Manager
H. B. Metcalf.....Editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Chas. E. York.....Musicians' Association
President and General Manager.
J. A. Goldrainer.....Barbers' Union
Vice-President.
J. A. Bushman.....Lumbermill Wkrs' Union
Secretary-Treasurer.
E. Edwards.....Cigarmakers' Union
John Beigel.....Brewers' Union
Fred W. Morris.....Typographical Union
Geo. M. Orton.....Pressmen's Union
C. H. Weber.....Retail Clerks' Union
Frank Allert.....Machinists' Union
W. H. Robertson.....Letter-Carriers' Ass'n
Geo. Lechmeier.....Beer Drivers' Union
J. F. Johnson.....Leatherworkers' Union

Entered at the Post Office as second-class matter, September 29th, 1900.

WHAT PRINTERS' INK SAYS

The best advertising authority in the United States makes the following assertion:

"A labor paper is a far better advertising medium than an ordinary newspaper in comparison to circulation. A labor paper, for example, having 5,000 subscribers is of more value to the business man who advertises in it than an ordinary paper with 10,000 subscribers."

THE GREAT OCTOPUS.

The Standard Oil Company, personified by John D. Rockefeller, is still trying to increase its enormous wealth, now estimated at \$500,000,000. Not content with this great monopoly, this incorporated devil-fish continues to reach out its tentacles for everything in sight. It is gathering into itself railroads, steamships, banks, coal and copper and iron mines, street railways, gas works—in fact, everything is fish that gets into its net—provided there is any money to be made by the investment.

Every year the profits of this great monopoly, combined with those of the Amalgamated Copper Mining Company, amount to from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000, which amount is invested, adding year after year to the untold millions thus controlled. In what way can this vast accumulation of wealth by a single corporation be stopped? It is a menace to the country, a dangerous power to be placed in the hands of one man. In times like the present, when there is so much corruption in the country, when it seems as if everything is subordinated to the power of the dollar, so vast an amount of money in the hands of any one man or any one corporation, is a danger, the seriousness of which cannot be overestimated. As an instance, this same Standard Oil Company is using its ill-gotten wealth to control the legislature of Montana in its own interest. It has transpired that it has set apart \$1,500,000 for the purpose of establishing three newspapers and subsidizing others, in order to control legislation in its favor. The three papers to be started are to be published, one at Butte, one at Helena and one at Great Falls, while others are to be subsidized wherever it will be found necessary. Of course any power that will buy up newspapers in order to get their influence, will buy up legislators wherever it can be done. The agents of the

Standard Oil Company and Amalgamated Copper Companies have stated to a man who makes oath to his assertion, that their purpose is to control the legislature of Montana, and to secure the election of the two senators from the state, who will well and faithfully represent the said companies in the United States senate.

The above is only a sample of what such an accumulation of money in the hands of one man or corporation can and will do. It entirely subverts the popular government idea, and places the interests of the people entirely in the power of these money kings. More comment on this branch of the subject is unnecessary. This man Rockefeller is a prominent member of a denomination of the Christian church and has richly endowed a number of educational institutions, for which he deserves credit, and he always sees that he gets it. But John D. Rockefeller, with all his money and all his gifts, is doing more to injure the cause of Christianity than any other living man. So he is a double menace—a menace to the rights of the people and a menace to the church for which he professes so much zeal. Our ideas of Christianity may be a little antiquated, but how a man who tries to corrupt legislatures with his money can be a Christian, is beyond our comprehension.

SYMPTOMS OF LEPROSY.

Has it ever occurred to the people of Portland that many of the Chinese who walk the streets of the city bear marks that would insure their arrest as lepers in Honolulu as soon as the leper officer came across them? The writer has seen a good many of the victims of this foul disease, and he has seen on the streets of Portland at least a dozen with the most marked symptoms of leprosy. Disgusting protuberances on the side of the neck or on the jaw, covered over with a coating of black paint to conceal them from view; swollen, discolored faces, sometimes disfigured with the leper bubo, that so frequently makes its appearance on the leper's face; a stiffness of the joints in walking that is sometimes mistaken for rheumatism, and swollen hands and fingers are some of the symptoms of leprosy; all of which have been noticed on Chinese in this city. And yet people go on employing these masses of disease as cooks and servants in various capacities. Clothing is given to them to be washed, possibly with leprosy hands, and sprinkled with water squirted from possibly leprosy mouths. Of course, these are not pleasant things to which to call attention, but they are facts, however unpleasant they may be—facts that should open the eyes of people who do not care to run the risk of being infected with this vile, incurable Oriental disease.

It is well to remember that once a leper, always a leper, until the grave closes over the revolting remnant that the dreadful malady has left of what was once a human being. These are the creatures who are displacing white men and women, and inflicting not only their loathsome presence, but their loathsome contagion on the people of the United States. The workmen and women of this country should steer clear of those who employ Chinese help in preference to our own people.

THE PRICE OF A TITLED MONKEY.

One of the saddest stories that has come to our notice for some time is the story of Anna Gould's trouble with her husband, Count Boni de Castellane, whom the infatuated girl married for the sake of the title of countess, and a position in fashionable Parisian society. The case is not sad particularly because the victim is the daughter of Jay Gould, who made his millions which attracted the little French count, dishonestly; but because the foolish young woman vainly hoped and expected that her wealth would procure her happiness among the fashionable

throng that inhabit the gay French capital, when she might have done so much good with it—might have made herself and many others so happy in her native city.

The glitter of a title and a palace on a fashionable Paris boulevard turned her silly, girlish head. She sowed the wind, and now she is reaping the whirlwind. The worthless little creature that she bought and dignified with the title of husband has squandered her fortune to the amount of nearly \$5,000,000, and she was compelled to apply to a French court to have a guardian appointed for her, in order to keep the little monkey from going through with all her money and leaving her a pauper. She wisely chose her brother, George Gould, to act as her guardian, and now the friends and parasites of her Parisian monkey are wild with rage at her action, for George Gould has inherited some of his father's shrewdness in financial matters and will doubtless put a stop to Count Castellane's prodigality with his wife's money. The count and his friends say that it is an outrage that she should have "a foreigner" for a guardian, notwithstanding the foreigner is her own brother. The appointment of a guardian for Castellane had been discussed, it seems, and the gang of fashionable barnacles that cling to him had settled it among themselves that the count's father should be appointed, which would doubtless have given them as free access to the Countess Castellane's money as they have ever had. Their chagrin and disappointment can be imagined when they learned that the plebian brother of their victim had received the appointment. The girl couldn't help being rich, and she couldn't help being a fool, and that is what lends a tinge of sadness to the story. The whole affair will doubtless end in a divorce, and Anna Gould will be glad to resume her American citizenship, a poorer, but it is to be hoped a wiser woman. Titled monkeys come high, but our millionaire girls must have them.

GATHERING THEM IN.

One hundred and thirty-seven trusts cover the whole field of business. Each of them has taken the place of a number—in some cases hundreds—of establishments which, in their day, were looked up to as great and solid pillars of industry. And the trusts are destined to be devoured as they have devoured the independent firms and corporations, says the Courier-Herald. First, there will be one trust for each industry, and then a consolidation of the various industries, until at last a single trust will emerge as the owner of the United States, with all the rest of us as its hired men.

Consider the position of the master of that trust, and consider the position of the millions that would be working for him. The word of the master will be law, for the penalty of disobedience will be death by starvation. There will be no playing of one employer against another. The man who rashly resigns or unwittingly incurs the displeasure of his master, will have no recourse but the poorhouse, for there will be nobody to give him work. Labor unions will become superfluous ornaments. The strike of a few hundred thousand workers can not bring the ruler of the trust to terms, for he will simply go to Europe to enjoy himself, while the nation will have to go to work to keep itself alive.

A strike under such conditions would have to include all the workers in the country. If they all, for one month, refused to "move a peg," they would have dealt a blow to the Trust Giant under which it would stagger. But the armed minions of the trust would attempt to drive the striking millions back to their tasks. Then the storm would break loose in all its hideous fury.

The fight is on in Seattle against the Japs and "pigtails." Let the good work go on.

IMPURE MILK.

There is no little complaint about the character of the milk that some of the vendors are selling in Portland. There is probably no one article of food that is susceptible to as many abuses as milk, and that can be made so deleterious to the health of the consumer. The cows may be fed improper food and given impure water; they may be and doubtless many of them are milked when the calves are too young; the stables where the cows are housed may not be and many of them doubtless are not properly taken care of; cleanliness may not be, and doubtless is not made as much of an object as it should be; the purity of the milk is not kept to the standard necessary to secure the best article; it may be and doubtless some of it is watered; in some cases chemicals are used to keep the milk sweet, longer than it would keep in its natural state. All these and more are ways in which this most important article of food is rendered unfit for use. Frequently diseases such as typhoid fever, tuberculosis and others are generated by using impure milk. No other article of food requires the care to make it fit for use that milk does, and hardly any article of food is as universally used, especially by children. Great care in all the particulars mentioned and in others not referred to should be taken with milk that is intended for human use.

The health authorities cannot be too strict in this matter; strenuous laws should be passed, if they are not already on the statute books, in reference to the care of milk; severe penalties should be attached to a violation of them, and the penalty should be exacted to the very letter. The opportunities and the temptation to adulterate, and to improperly care for milk, are too numerous and too great for many of the so-called "dairies" to resist them, and the punishment should be such that they will not want the lesson repeated. In Massachusetts the penalty for violating the milk law is \$50 fine for the first offense, \$100 for the second and \$100 fine and six months imprisonment for the third. The result is the people in the old Bay state get pretty good milk.

The dairies that furnish milk for the public should be closely and frequently inspected by the health department, and any infraction of the law should be dealt with in no uncertain manner.

The street-car men, the laundry workers, the butchers, the waiters and waitresses, the janitors, the bartenders and a few other crafts in Portland ought to be organized. There is good material in all of them, if organized to form half a dozen or more first-class unions. They could do an excellent work not only for themselves, but for organized labor generally.

The man who belongs to a union, and who will sneak around and get a non-union man to do a job of work, hire a non-union team to do his hauling, just because he can beat them down, is as much of a "scab" as the rankest outsider, that ever took a job from a fellow-man, by bidding below the market price.

Why not organize a Woman's Label League? It would have the effect of interesting every woman connected with it, in the union label, and of course using their influence not only when making purchases themselves, but in urging others to buy only goods bearing the trade-mark of organized labor.

A union man, no matter to what trade or calling he belongs, if he is rooted and grounded in the principles of unionism, will always, at every opportunity, "show his faith by his works." He will buy union-made goods, employ union help, and encourage in every way possible, the principles advocated by organized labor.