

Portland Labor Press

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PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH.

How easy it is to see the mote in our brother's eye, and be unconscious of the beam that is in our own eye. We hear a great deal about employing Japanese and Chinese in Seattle and other places, but we are seemingly ignorant of the fact that the same thing is being done to no small extent right here in our own city. We are told that a certain contractor is hiring Japs to work on the streets, to the exclusion of white men. We do not know whether this is true or not, as we have not had time to investigate it; but it comes from a good source, and is more than probably true. Be this as it may, there are numerous Chinese stores in the city where ladies' clothes are made, and where nothing but Chinese are employed. Every garment bought at one of these concerns by the women of Portland, is just that much done toward depriving some honest, hard-working white woman from making an honest living. This work is all done by Chinese men, so-called, who are taking the bread out of the mouths of American women and children. In addition to these instances, there is quite a number of cheap Japanese restaurants in the city that are patronized and supported almost exclusively by working men, many of them members of labor unions. These dives that dish up every conceivable thing that can be procured, are driving out white people who are trying to make a living by conducting eating-houses.

If the working men of Portland would shun these Jap disease-breeders, it would not be long till they would have to go out of business. In order to make this contest with Asiatic labor effective, we must practice what we preach. We cannot carry water on both shoulders; we cannot sit on the fence; we must fall on one side or the other. Let the working people of Portland who are affected by these Mongolian interlopers, shun them as they would a pestilence, (and in shunning the one they frequently shun the other,) and it will not be many moons till they will seek some more congenial clime in which to circulate Asiatic-made goods and Asiatic disease at the same time. In addition to these, there are Chinese tailor shops where men's clothing are made, and which we are told are patronized almost exclusively by working men, simply because they can get a suit of clothes made a few cents cheaper than they can at reputable places kept by white men. It is

true we are not yet overrun by these classes, but it is a good idea to begin in time, and not to wait till the city is flooded by Mongolians, before an effort is made to discourage them. Let them know in terms that cannot be misunderstood, that their room is preferable to their company.



WHO CAN ANSWER?

Three new unions were organized in Seattle last week, and the Seattle people don't think it was a very good week either. What is the reason—there must be some reason why the working men of Portland are not so much alive to their own interests as the Seattle people are to theirs? We certainly need organization as much as they do in Seattle. Then it is not because Portland does not need it. Our working men are just as wide awake, or they ought to be, as our brethren on the Sound. Then it is not because they are not conscious of the necessities of the case. They want to better their condition just as much as do our friends in Washington's metropolis; so it can't be because they don't want to do better for themselves, their families and their fellow-working men. It is not because they love their employers more than they do themselves. Portland's working men are good men, but they have not yet reached that state of sanctification. It is not because they have no organizer; for there is Brother Horace A. Duke, who is ready, willing and waiting to usher them into the bright sunlight of organized labor. If it is not any of the reasons given above, will some oracle please rise and tell us why it is that the street-car men, the laundry workers, the upholsterers, the cooks and waiters, the telephone operators, the butchers, the janitors and half a dozen other callings do not get together and form as many unions as there are unorganized crafts in the city? If they were organized, they could then affiliate with the Federated Trades Assembly which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and in case of trouble they would have the support of this powerful body of workingmen and women.



APPLY THE REMEDY.

Portland has made great advances during the past year in the way of organizing the working men into unions, and the good work is still going on. Those who have enlisted in the cause of organized labor, are congratulating themselves that they have made the start, and deprecating the fact that they did not start sooner. They hope by earnest, zealous work to make up as far as possible, for lost time, for time lost can never be fully recovered. A great deal has been done in the past year; but a great deal remains yet to be done. There are members of nearly every calling in the city still on the outside. These men should all be induced to unite their energies with those of their brethren who are striving to better the condition of the working people all over the country. If all the working men and women in this land were united, and all struggling to attain the same end,—the amelioration of the laborer's lot, what an irresistible force they would be. They could control legislation, just as well and just as effectually as the capitalists do. The capitalists use money to control legislation, and the workers can use votes, which are just as potent in elections as money, for it is votes that the office-seeker wants after all.

The legitimate conclusion is, if the working people suffer hardships which they undoubtedly do, it is largely their own fault, for they have the remedy in their own hands. All they have to do is to apply it, and then they will begin to see tardy justice taking the place of injustice, and their rights as free men and women respected. Join the union, perfect your organization, live up to the principles of organized labor, and it will not be long till the sun of justice will be seen shining through the clouds of oppression.

A WORTHY ASPIRANT.

Organized labor is decidedly modest in its claims for political recognition, when its numbers and influence are considered. So far the only recognition it has asked has been the naming of one member on the school book commission. The candidate put up by the workingmen is Mr. W. H. Barry, a young man who was educated in the public schools of Portland, and who is an honored member of the Multnomah Typographical Union. He has the unanimous endorsement of his union, as well as the endorsement of the Federated Trades Assembly, representing some 5,000 organized workingmen. He is eminently well fitted for the position, not only through his experience in the public schools of Portland, but through the study he has given the subject. He is a young man of broad views, has been a close student of the subject of public instruction, in which he has always taken a deep interest. Added to these qualifications, he represents a larger number of the people who patronize the public schools than any other candidate in the field. Mr. Barry's fitness for the position, together with the fact that he represents so large an element of our best people, are circumstances that ought to entitle his application to the weighty consideration of his excellency, Governor Geer, in making the appointment.



A FEMALE MONSTROSITY.

We publish in another column a most disgusting account of a woman named Amy Gilsey and her pet dogs. That any human being with brains enough to keep out of the asylum for idiots, can waste so much money on three dogs is beyond comprehension. There are thousands of starving human beings all around her, who would regard the scraps left by these dogs as a God-send, and yet this heartless female, (it is an insult to womanhood to call her a woman) squanders thousands of dollars on these brutes, when they would be just as comfortable, just as well contented, just as happy, with ordinary dog care, and all this worse than wasted money could go toward rendering the lot of some of the children in this vale of tears more tolerable. The fashionable physician who attends these dogs is superior to his patients only in the fact that he walks on two legs instead of four.

In the great day of reckoning, this Amy Gilsey will be called on to account for the manner in which she has administered her stewardship in this world. Where much is given, much will be required.



FOR MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

We copy from the Chicago Chronicle an article, which looks as if the great prairie municipality intends to free itself from the clutches of the street railway corporations, that charge five cents for riding in cars that are scarcely fit for cattle. The municipal ownership of the street-car lines is the first step in the direction of the city owning all the public utilities such as gas works, electric plants, water works, telephones, etc. If it will pay the city to own and conduct one of these public necessities, it will pay it to own them all, and if it will pay Chicago, why won't it pay every city in the land? Of course it takes time to do these things; but they will come. It is only a question of time. The great corporations that grow rich by extorting from the people, unearned profits through these monopolies, will be compelled to let go. The poor who are really the taxpayers, are beginning to see things in their true light, and as soon as they do, there will be a remonstrance that even a Yerkes will hear.



CHINESE MUST GO.

The discharge of Prof. Ross from Stanford University on account of his opposition to Oriental immigration, is a flagrant offense and an insult to every working man in the United

States. It seems that Mrs. Stanford is the moving spirit in the disgraceful act but the university will suffer for her—what shall we call it? Stupidity, bigotry, ignorance, un-Americanism or all of them combined. This case only emphasizes the fact that the influx of pauper Oriental labor must be stopped. It may be that Mrs. Stanford is only a cat's paw used by wealthy corporations who want cheap labor. If so, the cat's paw will surely get singed. This circumstance should rouse every working man to give this subject his undivided attention.



We published in last week's paper, a decision of the Court of Appeals in Kentucky, sustaining the legality of the six-o'clock closing agreement. This decision coming from a court of final jurisdiction, is another feather in the cap of labor, and should inspire the Clerks' Association to make renewed efforts to get all the members of their calling into the union. Their organization has not only the support of organized labor behind it, but it has the support of the courts as well. The two make pretty strong backing and the clerks can go to work with the assurance that their cause is not only the cause of humanity, but of justice.



The government has recently discovered that it has been robbed by the sugar trust of \$8,000,000 in duties, on imports at Philadelphia during the last few years. Thus these great absorbers not only rob the people direct by their exorbitant charges, but continue their plundering by robbing the government and indirectly the people.



In Marion, Indiana, rival street-car lines have reduced the fare to 1 cent. If this keeps on, either one company will go to the wall, or sell out to the other company, and then there will be a monopoly and the people will have to pay for the cheap rides they are getting.



We are very well pleased to see our editorials endorsed by our cotemporaries reprinting them. We thank you brethren, for the compliment; but it would add to our appreciation of your kindness, if you would give us credit for them.



At the meeting of the Musicians' union, Tuesday, the thanks of the family of the late Charles Seaman, an old-time musician, were received for the very handsome floral offering in the shape of a harp, which the union contributed on the occasion of Mr. Seaman's funeral.



The revised charter of Fort Worth, Texas, provides that all ordinances for the government of the city, shall be submitted to a vote of the people, before acquiring the final sanction of law. This is a new departure, and the Lone Star City seems to be keeping track of the signs of the times.



DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE THE UNION.

Kingman, Peoria's industrial nabob, made two cuts in wages recently. The second one was the last straw, and the employees quit and organized a union, says the Labor News. Then he said he would restore the scale to where it was before the second reduction, and would take the strikers back if they would come as individuals. He refused to treat with them as a union. The men refused. Kingman then got 15 new men, and the following day they, too, joined the union. Then the "boss" got tired and sent for the strikers "to come and see him." They did. They are working as union men. And, no doubt, Kingman secretly admires the pluck of the men in standing by their organization and against a second reduction in wages, for he, too, has a backbone and is not an admirer of jellyfish.

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