

Library Cass Starts

# Portland Labor Press

Devoted to the Cause of Organized Labor



Indorsed by the Federated Trades Assembly

Vol. I

PORTLAND, OREGON, DECEMBER 13, 1900

No. 16

## OLDS & KING

It's More Satisfactory

AND FAR CHEAPER TO FORTIFY YOURSELVES FOR WINTER WITH COMFORTABLE CLOTHING THAN TO BUY MEDICINES OR PAY DOCTOR BILLS. OUR IMMENSE ASSORTMENT OF

### Men's Furnishings

ENABLES US TO SUIT EVERY PURSE AND EVERY PERSON. THERE'S PROFITABLE READING IN THIS LIST.

#### MENS' SHIRTS AND DRAWERS

In heavy natural grey wool or ecru and drab, Egyptian ribbed cotton, \$1.00 Each  
In heavy cashmere, the Shirts with silk-finished fronts.....\$1.50 Each

#### MENS' WHITE SHIRTS

Perfectly shaped, well reinforced and correctly made of most worthy materials, unlaundried, 50c to \$1.00 ea  
Laundried.....\$1.00 and \$1.25 each

#### NEGLIGEE SHIRTS.

Your pick of a splendid lot from 50c to \$2.25 each.  
Our black sateen and colored twill flannel shirts are sturdy wearers, at \$1.00 each.

#### MENS' WARM HOSE

Are not expensive if bought here. All wool, grey or black sox, full finished, heels and toes double, are 25c pair. Same in grey Camel's hair, 3 pairs for \$1.00.

#### MENS' WINTER GLOVES.

Ringwood's gloves, smooth ribbed, of fine yarns, plain colors...60c pair. Dogskin gloves for walking or driving, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50 per pair.

#### MENS' NECKWEAR

In every late, tasty style and color. Tecks and four-in-hands, black and colors, prime values at...25c each.  
AN UNEQUALLED LINE AT 50c each.

We Close Every Day at 6 P. M.

AS WE CONSIDER OUR EMPLOYES AND ALL WORKING PEOPLE ARE ENTITLED TO THEIR EVENINGS

#### PRESIDENT GOMPERS' REPORT.

President Gompers' report lies before us. It is an exhaustive and comprehensive document. Our space is too limited to give more than the principal points of the report. In referring to the growth of unions, he says:

"The past year has witnessed a most remarkable growth in organization among the workers, who have realized that there is no protection for their interests, or hope for justice and freedom in the future, unless it results from the unity of the wage-working masses. While the growth is very gratifying, there is another feature connected with it which is even a greater source for congratulation. The workers have organized in the unions of their trades and callings; new unions have been formed, and several national unions created from the heretofore scattered and isolated locals, and thus the stability of the labor movement has been more nearly insured."

In addition to the above, the following figures will be of interest:

"There were issued during the year from national and international unions and the American Federation of Labor (direct) charters to the following: Number of newly-formed unions, 3,375; charters surrendered, or unions disbanded, 348; leaving a net increase of local unions for the year of 3,027,

and a gain in membership in the past year of 294,329."

After briefly reviewing some of the unaffiliated trades, he has this to say about strikes:

"The statistics prepared and presented in the secretary's report indicate very substantial improvements and achievements for the past year. Six hundred and eighty-eight strikes were reported, 213,190 persons being involved. Of this number 455 strikes were successful, 106 lost, 74 compromised and 53 still pending; 217,493 persons were directly benefited; while 11,257 were involved in lost or compromised strikes, thus showing that even of the small number of strikes lost the persons involved in them were comparatively infinitesimal to those who gained."

Mr. Gompers' treatment of compulsory arbitration is of more than ordinary interest. He says in part:

"In common with the general trend of organized labor to prevent strikes and lockouts wherever and whenever possible, a sentiment for arbitration has been awakened among the people of our country. There are some, however, who, playing upon the credulity of the uninformed, seek to divert the principle of arbitration into a coercive policy of so-called compulsory arbitration; in other words, the creation by the states, or by the nation, of boards or courts, with power to hear and determine each case in dispute between the workers and their employers, to make awards, and, if necessary, to invoke the power of the government to enforce the awards. Observers have for years noted that those inclined to this policy have devised many schemes to deny the workers the right to quit their employments; and the scheme of so-called compulsory arbitration is the latest design of the well-intentioned, but uninformed, as well as the faddists and schemers."

"Through more compact and better equipped trade unions has come joint agreements and conciliation between the workmen and associated employers; and only when conciliation has failed has it been necessary to resort to arbitration, and then the only successful arbitration was arbitration voluntarily entered into."

"It is submitted that the very terms, 'arbitration' and 'compulsory' stand in direct opposition to each other. Arbitration implies the voluntary action of two parties of diverse interests submitting to disinterested parties the question in dispute, or likely to come into dispute. Compulsion by any process, and particularly by the power of government, is repugnant to the principle as well as the policy of arbitration. If organized labor should fail to appreciate the danger involved in the proposed schemes of so-called compulsory arbitration, and consent to the

## Another Big Cloak Sale

Regular up-to-date garments and standard values from the leading designers, cutters and finishers of America.

### Suits, Capes, Jackets and Furs

We are exclusive ladies' dry goods furnishers, and give exceptional values in Fur Collarettes, Fur Coats and Capes.

### Rainy-Day Skirts in Oxford Grays

In all lengths and sizes—elegant material.

47 Dozen of Real French Kid Gloves—every shade, color, tint and size imaginable. Several Cases of Thompson's Glove-Fitting Corsets, Warner's Celebrated Rust-Proof, and, last but not least, the Famous Redfern, at reduced rates.

### McALLEN & McDONNELL

161-163 THIRD STREET

Exclusive Dry Goods House of Portland

Store Open Until 9:30 P. M.

enactment of a law providing for its enforcement, there would be reintroduced the denial of the right of the workmen to strike in defense of their interests, and the enforcement by government of specific or personal service and labor. In other words, under a law based upon compulsory arbitration, if an award were made against labor, no matter how unfair or unjust, and brought about by any means, no matter how questionable, we would be compelled to work or to suffer the state penalty, which might be either mulcting in damages, or going to jail; not one scintilla of distinction, not one jot removed from slavery."

The eight-hour bill was practically unanimously passed by the house May 21, 1900. The report adds:

"The bill, as reported by the house committee, was introduced by Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania, in the senate, referred to the senate committee on education and labor, before which committee several hearings on the identical bill were had during the last congress, which were printed. We were authoritatively informed that there would be no necessity for any hearings, after the passage of the bill by the house. Subsequently we were informed that hearings would be insisted upon, and that there was then no time to have them prior to the adjournment of congress. We sought to have the committee discharged from the further consideration of the bill, it to be considered by the senate, but were balked by objections. Upon the following day, coming up in its regular order, the proposition to discharge the committee from further consideration of the bill was laid upon the table. Our eight-hour bill has not lost its status; that is, having passed the house, it is still before the senate. Inasmuch as the members of our legislative committee are delegates to this convention and desirous of avoiding the loss of valuable time, with the consent of the executive council I appointed temporarily a competent unionist to insist upon a definite time for hearings upon the bill, if any are to be had. The recommendation is submitted to you that every effort be made to secure its passage or enactment before the close of the present congress."

Passing on to the subject of anti-trust legislation, the report says:

"A bill, and an amendment to the federal constitution, were introduced, ostensibly to curb the power of the trusts, but beyond question designed and framed to strike a blow at the organizations of labor. The trusts, against which this species of legislation was conceived, have successfully defended themselves, or averted its application. From the time of the first organization of labor, the courts have stigmatized the trade unions as combinations in restraint of trade, and the dockets are filled with indictments, and the jails were filled with men charged with conspiracy because they were members of trade unions; this, too, notwithstanding the fact that the trade unions are the most beneficent organizations the world has ever witnessed to promote the welfare of all the people. We protested against the passage of the constitutional amendment, for we discerned that there was the gravest possible danger to the workers, and to the people of our country. We insisted that if the anti-trust bill should pass, it should contain an amendment that would eliminate the possibility of any court's making victims of the toilers because they have sufficient intelligence and manhood to

unite for their own and the common protection.

"At our instance an amendment to the so-called anti-trust bill was submitted as follows:

"Provided that nothing in this act shall be construed as to apply to trade unions or other labor organizations instituted for the purpose of regulating wages, hours, or labor and other conditions under which labor is to be performed."

"This amendment, though rejected by the author of the bill and the committee, was offered upon the floor of the house of representatives. The bill as amended passed in the senate, the bill, robbed of its sting against organized labor, was practically killed, at least for the session, by its reference to the judiciary committee, from which source no report was possible.

"That to which we should direct our attention is that its passage ought to be prevented, unless the amendment excluding the trade unions and labor organizations from the provisions and operations of the bill is retained."

(To be continued.)

#### SOMETHING ABOUT THE SHY-LOCKS.

In a number of cities in this and other states there is much discussion over the effects of the practice of usury. The Minneapolis Star is attacking the evil in that city. In Chicago several big wholesale and retail establishments to meet the demand of employes for a little money in emergencies and to enable them to escape the loan sharks have provided a fund for the accommodation of such employes, says the Galesburg Labor News. It is not enough that the employers do this. It is stated that hundreds of policemen and scores of school teachers are so deep in the clutches of usurers that they can never hope to pay the unjust demand. Interest at 100 to 1,500 per cent is a fast-growing thing. A year ago the Labor News exposed some sharks here and explained what ravages they were committing. The exposure did much good and gave the usurers the first severe set-back they had ever met with here. If the entire membership of the churches would unite in an effort to stamp out usury it would be done, and that quickly. The success of such an effort would result in a gain to church membership. Let us hope some action will be taken to bring relief that may save not only life itself, but keep victims of usurers from committing crime.

Subscribe for the Portland Labor Press.

#### Emil Thielhorn

Phone Room 2 McKay Building  
Clay 311 Third and Stark Streets

Teacher of Violin, Viola and Cornet. Pupils prepared for Practical Orchestra as well as Solo Work

Genuine Italian Strings for sale. Old Violins bought and sold. Violins tested. Concert and other music furnished

#### MEN'S ALL-WOOL

### Oregon Cheviot Suits

BLUE, BLACK OR BROWN

Honest Value at \$10.00, Now on Sale at

# \$7.50

CHICAGO CLOTHING CO.

"OUR CLOTHIERS"

69-71 Third St., Bet. Oak and Pine