

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.
Fred W. Morris.....Typographical Union
Vice-President.
J. A. Bushman.....Lumbermill Wkrs' Union
Secretary-Treasurer.
E. Edwards.....Cigarmakers' Union
John Beigl.....Brewers' Union
Geo. M. Orton.....Pressmen's Union
C. H. Weber.....Retail Clerks' Union
W. H. Robertson.....Letter-Carriers' Ass'n
Geo. Lechmeier.....Beer Drivers' Union
J. F. Johnson.....Leatherworkers' Union
Arthur Booth.....Team Drivers' Union
J. A. Goldrainer.....Barbers' Union

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

A FOOLISH CUSTOM.

We don't believe in the legal farces that are sometimes played in the courts of this country, when Chinese are partners to a law suit. We read the report of a trial between two Chinese in a Vancouver, B. C., court recently, and the performance there was a disgrace to civilization. The foolish custom of allowing Chinamen to take an oath by cutting off the head of a chicken is sneer nonsense. If the heathen does not and cannot be made to understand the nature of an oath in a civilized country, then he should not be allowed to testify. It is simply encouraging them in their heathenish practices to allow any such nonsense as cutting off the head of a chicken to solemnize an oath. A better way would be to cut the Chinaman's head off if he lies in court. The saying that, when you are in Rome you must do as Romans do, does not seem to apply to Chinese; but when you are in America you must do as the Chinese do. Teach the shaven-headed heathen that if he swears to a lie in court he will be sent to state's prison, and it will do more toward making him tell the truth than decapitating a whole poultry yard.

IT BEGINS TO HURT.

Superintendent McGuire, of the Astoria & Columbia Railroad, attempts to defend his Japanese favoritism by saying that he can not get white men to do the work, and is compelled to employ Japanese. A communication in last Saturday's Oregonian, showing that he had left no order with any employment agency in this city, explodes that argument. The real excuse of the railroad, for Mr. McGuire is only a hired man, is that the Japs can be had for less pay and will work all sorts of hours, Sundays and nights, if the boss wants them to, and this white men will not do. Just as long as these Asiatics are allowed to come here, just so long will they be a menace to white labor. Stop them from coming, and discourage those that are here, till they will be glad to go back, or any where else, and the problem will be solved. We called attention a few weeks ago to the fact that cheap Jap restaurants are flourishing in our very midst, and, what is worse, they are patronized almost exclusively by working men. Don't patronize any place that is run by a Jap or a Chinaman, and in this way at least exert your influence in the right direction. A great many work-

ing people, some of them members of labor unions, hire Chinese laundrymen to the exclusion of white laundries, simply because they can get the Asiatics to work for a little less money.

We can talk about Jap and Chinese cheap labor all we please, but until we act, the talk will do no good. What is everybody's business is nobody's business.

LABOR LEGISLATION.

There will be more or less "labor legislation" at the capitals of the various states this year, as usual, and even Congress may be expected to "jolly" the workingman by enacting a few measures in behalf of the toilers. Most of these laws will have their loopholes. And, in the meantime, the courts will go on discovering flaws in such acts and writing the word "unconstitutional," just as the Illinois Supreme Court recently did in the case of the law entitled "An act to protect employes and guarantee their right to belong to labor organizations." But every year's repetition of this farce will serve to remove a few scales from the wage-earner's eyes, and finally he will elect a few men from his own ranks to make, interpret and enforce just measures of the kind desired, says an exchange. Although Illinois has a law prohibiting the employment of child labor in factories the annual report of the state factory inspector shows that nearly 11,000 children under the age of 16 years are working in the factories of Chicago alone. The inspector says, further, that girls and boys of tender years are crowding out grown men and women as factory employes. Clauses of the law which aim to protect the health and limbs of the children have totally collapsed. It is to the shame of any state to allow such a situation to develop; yet the conditions in Illinois are just exactly as stated above. If the members would devote more time to making good laws, people in general would have a much higher opinion of them.

THE WAITRESSES' UNION.

When the waitresses' Union was organized in this city there were small-minded people who looked upon it as something of a joke. It was an unique innovation in unionism, and many prophecies were made that it would not last long, because of the popular superstition that women would sooner pull hair than pull together. Happily these prophecies have failed of fulfillment. There is not in Seattle today a more harmonious or systematically conducted union than that of the waitresses. They have by good judgment and fidelity to each other succeeded in materially bettering the conditions under which they earn a living. They have shown that women can maintain a union as successfully as men, and their sisters in other fields of work should profit by their example.—Union Record.

The above ought to be an example for the waitresses of Portland. If they could be induced to profit by the lesson their Seattle sisters have taught them, they would be the gainers.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

The labor movement has been much misunderstood. It has been the struggling of the masses of men for better conditions. Many are at present inclined to think that the strike, the lock-out, the boycott and the blacklist are all there is to the labor union. They have never known anything about it except through these. The boycott is to the labor union what the blacklist is to the capitalist. They are but pimples on the skin. The vitals of the labor movement are beneath. The labor movement is a movement of men towards better conditions, more books, larger education and broader opportunities. Sometimes they don't know why they are making the struggle, but they know that God has created opportunities that they ought to enjoy.

Watch out for the union label.

UNION VS. NON-UNION MEN.

The employers of labor in Georgia are beginning to appreciate the value of organized as against unorganized labor. The Georgia Tanning & Manufacturing Company, of Atlanta, has recently discovered that better and more efficient service can be obtained from union men than from those outside the organization. The manager of the above concern has recently given evidence of his convictions in this respect by making a union man, a member of the Leather Workers' Union, foreman, and advising all the men in the establishment to join the union. Here is a man who has tried both kinds of help, and he openly endorses those who belong to the organization. But then that is the result whenever the experiment is made. The union men get the preference, and very naturally, for they are almost invariably better workmen, more reliable, and can be depended on to keep up not only their own reputation, but the reputation of their union.

LAUNDRY WORKERS.

There are some hard stories being told about the manner in which a certain laundry not a thousand miles from Fifth street treats its employes. One woman, who is in a position to know, says that the proprietor or proprietors of this laundry hold out two weeks' salary on their employes to prevent them from leaving without giving notice, and when the employe does finally leave, the kept-back pay is never given them. It is also said that the help is worked nearly to death, that there is no limitation to hours. Since hearing this report we have not had time to investigate it as to particulars, but if it is as has been stated, there is a good field here for organized labor to do a little work. But hold! We forgot that the laundry people are not organized, and that according to report they don't need a union.

HE SAT ON THE FENCE.

We never had a very high opinion of a man who did not have the courage of his convictions. This is especially true with regard to men holding responsible public positions, such as presidents, governors, etc. This thought is suggested by the failure of Governor Geer to sign the barbers' Sunday closing bill; but let it become a law without his signature. He simply straddled the fence and sat there. He was afraid to veto the law for he knows that such an act would forever brand him as the enemy of organized labor, and he did not dare to sign it, for fear he would incur the displeasure of the employing classes. So he splits the difference and brings down upon his head the contempt of both employer and employe. As Hosea Bigelow said of Grant, "I do like a man that aint afraid."

"What fools these mortals be!"

When Shakespeare put these words into the mouth of Puck, he had never heard of "Schlatter, the divine healer." If he had, he would have said, "what idiots these mortals be." It is really a discouraging sign when so many people who are ordinarily supposed to have common sense, will jostle and jam and crowd each other in order to see and hear a fellow such as this say that he died and was buried in the mountains of Colorado forty days, that he ascended to heaven, but he can't tell what he saw there. If the fellow has sense enough to blaspheme, this is sheer blasphemy, and he should be treated as a blasphemer. It is passing strange that any man or woman with a grain of self-respect will lend himself or herself to assist in such a performance as was witnessed in the Marquam theatre Sunday night. Banum was right when he said the American people liked to be humbugged.

The building trades of this city badly need consolidation or federation under one head. It would give them ten times the prestige they now have,

make them a body that contractors would be bound to respect, and place them in a position where they could demand that no scab labor should be employed on jobs where any of the trades work.

The Chinese are exceedingly anxious that the foreign troops shall leave Peking. It might be a fair offer, so far as the Americans are concerned, to recall the United States soldiers on condition that they recall all Chinese in this country. China would be the gainer, and so would the United States.

THE LABOR ORGANIZER.

It takes a peculiar mental make-up to be a labor organizer. A man must be intelligent or he can not lead his fellow-men—even into bettering their condition; but if he would avoid jealousies he must appear to be nothing above the average in that respect. He must be even-tempered or he cannot unite, for their own benefit, the many kinds of hot-heads that make up humanity, says the Union Record. He must be "one of the boys" in order to get acquainted with them, but he must be temperate to hold their respect. He must be at the beck and call of every Tom, Dick and Harry at any hour of the day or night, but must not kick if anybody fails to keep appointments. He must be the recipient of everybody's tale of woe, but must never have "troubles of his own." He must have a thousand-dollar appearance on a five-dollar-a-day job to live on promises to pay from "headquarters." But his reward is sure. Glory will be handed out to him in great big hunks. Daily papers will call him "labor leader," and politicians refer to him as "a man of influence"; envious unionists will label him "fakir," and corporation lawyers will refer to him as an "agitator." After years of faithful service he finds himself "full of honors," the men he has organized enjoying prosperity, and his family willing to have him go to work at his trade. Yea, verily, the life of an organizer is a happy one.

BRICKLAYERS' PRESIDENT.

George P. Gubbins, the new president of the Bricklayers' National Union, is a well known figure in Chicago labor circles. He has been an active worker for his union for many years and at the last election, in December, was chosen treasurer. For two years previously he served as president. The Bricklayers' International Union has 82,000 members in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and is the second largest labor organization in membership in America. The Chicago delegation secured everything they wanted in the convention. They were given a rebate of \$2,500 in dues paid the International during the building trades lock-out, and prevented the issuance of a charter to a number of their members who desired to form a South Side union. They also secured the abolishment of the office of organizer, which was held by ex-Secretary O'Dea.—Western Laborer.

GREELEY'S LIBERALITY.

It appears that Colonel McClure has not yet exhausted his large fund of anecdotes of Horace Greeley. Concerning Mr. Greeley's prodigality, Colonel McClure tells how he once ventured to suggest to the sage of Chappaqua that he was giving away more money than his means justified. "Well," said Mr. Greeley, "I guess that's so, but I can't stop it. I am like the Southern planter who, after spending the proceeds of his crop in winter reveling closed up the account by selling a nigger. I do it by selling a share of The Tribune." He originally owned nearly or quite one-half the paper. When he died he had but one share remaining of the 100.—Exchange.

Smoke the blue label cigars. They are healthy and clean.