

Portland Labor Press

Published every Thursday by the Portland Labor Press Publishing Association. (Incorporated August 15, 1906.)

OFFICE: Room 24, McKay Building.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. In Advance. One year \$1.00 Six months .50 Three months .25

ADVERTISING RATES: Rates will be made known upon application.

Please address all communications to the Portland Labor Press Publishing Association, room 24, McKay building, Portland, Or.

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Entered at the Postoffice as second-class matter, September 23, 1900.

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THE END NOT YET.

Now that the Senate has passed the Chinese bill, we are able to give our readers some idea of where we are at. They succeeded in defeating the bill introduced and advocated by the Pacific Coast representatives, and in its place re-enacted practically the old Geary law, which the expiration of the treaty in 1904 will vitiate. It is now incumbent upon us to continue the agitation of Chinese exclusion to secure practical results, which should be the retirement of those Senators from office who voted against the measure of the people and in favor of the interests of the Chinese-lovers. The "sailor clause," left in by the Senate, was eliminated in conference, so that the American ship, owned by American capital and protected (if the subsidy bill is passed) by Government bounty, will continue to be manned, not by American seamen, but by cheap Chinese coolie labor. How do you like that, brothers? But you can't vote against these Senators. They are not elected by the votes of the people, but by boodle. Think of it! "Dollar Mark Hannah" posing as the intimate friend of the workingman, shedding tears on the floor of the Senate for the poor workers, and with stentorian voice voting him in competition with Chinese coolie laborers! "I am very sorry my esteemed friend Lodge has so poor an opinion of organized labor as to think they would threaten a United States Senator in the discharge of his duty. As his intimate friend I must defend him against such aspersions." He might have added "the threat would be idle, as my bank account is safe, and if I bought one Ohio Legislature I can buy another when it is needed. Even though some of my friends are spending the balance of their lives in foreign countries for bribery, I can afford to make their path easy until such time as public apathy will permit them and their crimes to be forgotten."

It now becomes the duty of organized labor to push the work of petitioning for a Constitutional Convention by the states for the purpose of amending the National Constitution, providing for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people. A petition of two-thirds of the states through their Legislatures will call this convention, and a vote of three-fourths of the states in its favor will adopt this reform. There can be no greater or grander work cut out for our State Federations than to take up this proposition with their several Legislatures. We now have 26 State Federations, and with our Oregon organization to come to life next week there will be 27. Thirty states will be needed to call this convention. Now let the American Federation of Labor take up this matter and promote the organization of some more State Federations, and we will soon be able to give our people the opportunity of voting for men for Senators instead of as at present voting for men who will sell the office to the highest bidder.

AN OBJECT-LESSON.

An object-lesson for the working people is afforded in the outcome of the recent street-railway strike in San Francisco. "Lasted one week; without a word said in anger." This quotation is from the San Francisco Examiner. Isn't that an inspiring phrase for the patriotic lover of our glorious country? Three thousand idle men on strike, with 300,000 people on the walk for a whole week, and not an angry word spoken. Who can say that the American workingman is not a good citizen

and a lover of law and order? What other class, if you will, can be found in any country who under like conditions could make so great and noble a record? We are sometimes severely criticized by the business public for heeding the brutal frankness of Abraham Lincoln's statement in his great speech at Hartford, Conn., in 1860, referring to the New England shoeworkers' strike, when he said: "Thank God, we have a system of labor where there can be a strike. Whatever the pressure, there is a point where the workingman may stop." But do you believe that should by some system of oppression 3000 business men's employment and income suddenly cease, they could or would show as great fortitude and forbearance as this little army of workmen?

What are the causes for this most happy outcome, and what great lesson is here taught the American workmen?

First and foremost, that which contributed most to a peaceful and orderly strike is that the workmen of San Francisco, through the terrible crucible of disorder, oppression and riot, learned the lesson to vote as they march on Labor day in labor's cause. They selected and elected to the chief executive office of their city one of their own number, and they now have a practical illustration of the great benefit to be gained by supporting for office a union labor man. Had the city been under the management of their former Mayor, the request of the united railroads for police to be placed on the cars would undoubtedly have been granted, with the other and worse inciters of riot, the special police or private detectives. Mayor Schmitz pursued the just and reasonable course of guaranteeing full protection to both sides to the controversy, with at the same time a rightful care for the interests and rights of the general public.

LABOR AND POLITICS.

The desire displayed by both political parties to afford men prominently identified in labor circles places on the legislative ticket is sufficient manifestation of the change that public sentiment has undergone in recent years in its attitude toward the wage-earner. The most prominent and influential newspapers in the land, which not long ago were firm in their opposition to labor movements and emphatic in their denunciation of unions, have now completely changed their base and are devoting much space to labor news, and are pointing out with emphasis the necessity of giving the laboring class full recognition in all branches of the Government. This view is further strengthened by an examination of the results of political campaigns in prominent cities of the Union. The outcome of the elections in San Francisco, Bridgeport, Hartford and other places affords an excellent example. It is as if should be. The betterment of labor's interests absolutely demand representation in the lawmaking department. We find there the merchant, the farmer, the manufacturer, the banker, the lawyer, the doctor, and men in all walks of life. Why not the laborer? His prosperity is of as much advantage to the general welfare as that of any of the other aforementioned classes. Legislation pertaining to the wage-earner can be more intelligently enacted when there are intelligent wage-earners on the floor of the Legislature who can speak intelligently on matters respecting their vocation. The propriety of the proposition is so clear that further reasons are mere surplusage. So far, so good. It is now up to the laboring men of Portland to respond to the call and put forth their ablest and most intellectual fellows, and there are plenty of them who can and will serve their fellow-citizens in such a manner as will reflect credit on themselves and benefit on their constituents.

The dastardly assault made upon Miss Faith Stewart last Saturday night by five lecherous cowards of the bad lands in the North End of the city should not need a jury trial if they are apprehended. They should be taken to the river and dumped in like rats. While it is best to adhere to a lawful course, a little of the good, old-fashioned Western energy would dispose of them without attaching unnecessary expense to the taxpayers by way of trial. While this advice is not as wholesome, possibly, as it should be, still there is a time for certain violent acts when the course of law acts too slowly. That this pure-minded young lady, who is striving at sacrifices too great to be comprehended to lift the unfortunate members of her own sex out of the mire, should be the victim of a murderous assault from men who are undoubtedly the habitués of the North End cribs and the consorts of their inmates, who thrive and live off the revenues of this ill-gotten system, is an indication that the streets are too loosely guarded. To make this statement is not politics; it is a fact.

The committee on State Labor Convention requests all delegates to the convention to have their credentials include the total membership of their union—that is, all the members on the roll, whether in good standing or otherwise—as the vote in the convention will be based on the number of men in each union, and be proportioned to the delegates from such union. A union with 100 members will have two delegates, and each delegate would be entitled to 50 votes in the convention on all measures under consideration.

Next Sunday, May 4, there will be a meeting of the Non-Partisan Advisory Association. The meeting will be an important one, as a number of committees are ready to report, and especially the investigation committee. All members are earnestly requested to be present and take part in the proceedings.

LOCAL HITS.

Excursion! Some of the striking laundry girls are scrappers, even if they don't weigh a ton. The Federated Trades Council is in full accord with the Civic Improvement Association in keeping clean and beautifying the city.

When? Since the laundryworkers' strike a number of drivers have quit, and a number of nonunion workers have joined the union. The Bartenders' Union sent their first delegates to the Federated Trades Council last Friday night, and they were accorded a warm reception.

On Sunday, May 4. Portland's central labor body is unanimously in favor of a public market owned by the city, the revenues to go into a city instead of a private fund.

Whenever you see a man carrying a little bundle you can put it down that it is a batch of washing and that the man is on his way to a Chink laundry.

Where to! If the laundry-drivers had the sense of a louse they would know that labor unions will last forever, and laundry bosses must sooner or later give up the ghost.

Some of the laundry-drivers have been trying to put on a bold front, but only a few of them have hides so thick that they don't feel the gibes of their former customers.

To Seaside. If the laundry-wagon drivers don't want to earn the contempt of every decent citizen in Portland, they had better join the laundry-workers in their strike for living wages.

Dame Rumor has it that Daniel the persecuted has curtailed some of his unnecessary expenses by giving up his private ward in the hospital and spending more time at his fireside.

By Whom? If you see two men appearing to be agitated on the street you can just put it down that the man who is doing the talking is a member of the Barbers' Union and the other fellow is a laundry-wagon driver.

The members of the Barbers' Union are all right. If the laundries don't sign up by May 2 the barbers will volunteer to take turns about and wash the shops' towels until such time as a co-operative laundry can be established in the city.

By Prospective Degree Team No. 140, W. O. W. The laundry bosses said that the girls were flighty and wouldn't stick together; that they would soon be back to work. It proved true in only a few instances. The most of them are as solid as Gibraltar and won't give in an inch.

Dannie Watson says he will walk out of town before he will unionize his restaurant. Well, Dannie, you had better lay in a supply of sole-leather while your credit as a restaurant man is good. You cannot get much help from your oil and artesian wells, as it is reported they leak.

Round trip \$1.00. Trains leave Union Depot at 7:30 a.m. sharp.

L. T. Gilliland, secretary of the Portland Laundrymen's Association, made an ass of himself at a meeting of the association the other evening, so it is reported. The information states that he said the laundry girls were nothing but riff-raff, irresponsible and immoral. Mr. Gilliland is an alleged Christian, is a member and sings in the choir of his church. Hell is full of just such Christians, and Ananias is a gentleman compared to the likes of such as he.

DELEGATES TO LABOR CONVENTION. Have your secretary certify the total number of members carried on the roll of your union, as you will vote your proportion of such membership. It is important to organized labor that a strong showing of members be made in the convention, and the voting strength of each delegate will determine the influence of his union in shaping the policies of the State Federation of Labor. Have your certificates corrected up to date of convention.

"Faust" Coming. Cordray's Theater will give its patrons an opportunity of seeing a magnificent production of "Faust" week commencing Sunday, May 4, with the famous John Griffith as "Mephisto."

Griffith is so well known for his imitable performance of "The Devil" that introductory comment is unnecessary, his name being synonymous with the ideal Mephisto of the American stage.

Miss Kathryn Purnell, the noted beauty, and a company of metropolitan players, will support Mr. Griffith in this production, which, it is predicted, will break the season's record at Cordray's.

Perhaps no actor of modern times has enjoyed a greater degree of well-merited and favorable notoriety than Mr. John Griffith, with whose name the weird character of Mephisto has become synonymous. He possesses the strange attributes of face, form and voice that render his portrayal of the devil (Mephisto) idyllic, and is regarded as the best exponent of his satanic majesty America has ever seen. "A King's Rival" will follow the latter part of the week.

AT OREGON CITY WHAT UNIONS DO

(Continued from page 1)

the ladies become thoroughly in earnest in matters of this kind, a few are equal to an army of men. But do you know what your employers say about you? Well, they say that you have no stability, that you are flighty, and in a short time you will weaken and return to the positions you have abandoned. That is what they say of the laundry girls now on a strike in Portland. Evidently these bosses do not appreciate the temperance of our American girls. If they had come in contact with them as I have within the past few days on committee work, they would reckon more wisely. Again, I admonish you to be of good cheer and firm, and you will have the moral and financial support of organized labor everywhere, and by so doing will finally get the rights you are contending for.

Organizer G. Y. Harry made the closing address. His remarks were confined principally to matters of information for practical use and setting forth the advantages of a State Federation of Labor, an organization that would be launched upon the industrial field of Oregon in a convention at Portland on the 24th day of May. He told them what the State Federation would do for them if they elected delegates to it and became affiliated with organized labor of the state. "It is a pity," said Mr. Harry, "that you were not organized long ago. Had you been, with the low wages you had previously received it is almost certain that your employers would not have dared to add more weight to the burden you have been carrying. But you are not too late. There is much good you can do for yourselves and others, and I want to extend the brotherly hand of organized labor of the City of Portland in this year of adversity. We are here to encourage you; to give you our moral, and, if need be, our financial, support. The drawing together and concentration of organized labor is what we want today. You have to protect yourselves. No one will do it for you. There are indeed a few exceptions where the corporation has voluntarily increased the wages of their employees. The policy of the capitalist is to increase his revenues as much as possible, and give as little in return to those who help him make it."

"The immortal Lincoln has said: 'Capital is the fruit of labor, and could not exist if labor had not first existed. Labor therefore deserves much the higher consideration.' Again, in a memorable speech he made at Hartford in 1860, referring to the New England shoeworkers' strike during that year, he said: 'Thank God, we have a system of labor where there can be a strike! Whatever the pressure, there is a point where the workingman may stop.'

Thorold Rogers, professor of political economy in the University of Oxford, understood the means through which the emancipation of the working classes would obtain when he said: 'I look to the trade unions as the principal means for benefiting the condition of the working classes.'

"Wendell Phillips, the great humanitarian, sometimes called the great commoner, said: 'I rejoice at every effort workingmen make to organize. I hail the labor movement. It is my only hope for democracy. Organize and stand together. Let the Nation hear a united demand from the laboring voice.'

"The grand old man of England, Gladstone, said that 'trades unions are the bulwarks of modern democracies.' And one of the greatest testimonials ever uttered reflecting credit upon united workmen was made by Potter Palmer, of Chicago: 'For 10 years I made as desperate a fight against organized labor as was ever made by mortal man. It cost me considerably more than \$1,000,000 to learn that there is no labor so skilled, so intelligent, so faithful and whose officials are well-balanced, level-headed men. I now employ none but organized labor, and never have the least trouble, each believing that the one has no right to oppress the other.'

"These references are but a few of many that could be read from great men favoring the movement of organization. Why, the rich men themselves endorse it, for notice the immense combinations of capital that have occurred recently and transpire almost every day. But they want the right to organize themselves. They say they have no need of labor uniting; it is liable to cause riot, insubordination and dissolution. The truth is they fear the amalgamation of the labor forces and the intellectual advancement of its members. They know that it will ultimately interfere with their plans and uncover their skeleton.

"We must be right and just in our demands, but we must be firm when we have demanded. And we have a legal and moral right to demand compensation sufficient to make us a comfortable living. No corporation has a right to deny it, and if they persist in bearing the voice of justice will cry out and reverberate from the lands of the rising sun to the going down thereof.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you have a duty to perform. It does not stop with yourselves. Posterity will hold all of you responsible for the industrial and social system of their day. You owe it to them to set an example now that will accrue the benefits of your own day and theirs to follow."

J. H. Howard, organizer of the American Federation of Labor for Oregon City, came in late from a meeting of the Painters' Union and made a few remarks of local interest.

From indications the strikers will stand as a unit. The business men and citizens of that city are in sympathy with the strikers, and besides their moral assistance they have offered financial aid. About 200 hands are out, and the mills are closed. New members are joining the ranks every day, and there is no doubt but an agreement of some character will soon be reached. The union is strong, and practically controls the situation.

The strike in the works of the Singer Manufacturing Company resulted in a victory for the company. The 1700 men went to work last Monday.

to this country that great measure of prosperity that will make our poor farms a thing of the past, our jails and state prisons as empty tenements, and give the lie to that old saying, "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

LABOR NOTES.

Buy union-made goods and give employment to white labor.

The millworkers of Reid's mill, at Rainier, Or., have struck for more pay. The mill is shut down.

On account of the advance in meat forced by the meat trust, 2000 employes at Bloomington, Ill., of the Chicago & Alton shops have signed an agreement that none of their number will eat meat during the next 30 days.

Last Friday 170 miners at Cananea, Ariz., went on a strike because the Cananea Consolidated Company tried to force its men to work to hours instead of nine without advanced pay. The miners are congregating at Bisbee.

The dock laborers at several Swedish ports where they have been loading Danish ships have struck. It is reported that at the desire of King Christian, Prince Waldemar, his son, will arbitrate between the laborers and the shipowners.

The Hakleton mines colliery of the Lehigh Coal Company, employing about 500 miners, is idle because of a strike inaugurated by the breaker-boys following the refusal of the foreman to reinstate 20 of their number who had been suspended.

Reports from Paterson, N. J., say that the strikers are quiet, and no more violence has been perpetrated. Mayor Hinchliffe still refuses to entertain the idea of asking for the militia, and contends that the police are competent to handle the situation.

The garment-workers in the East have scored a point in their contention for an eight-hour day. They have been working 9 1/2 hours per day, and a general strike was averted last Winter by the Civic Federation. The Manufacturers' Association has conceded a half holiday every Saturday the year round.

The ultimatum recently issued by the blast-furnace workers, that unless their demands were granted they would strike May 1 has been extended until June 1, because of the claim that the manufacturers make of having received no official notice, the notice contained in the press not being recognized.

The conciliation committee of the National Civic Federation was held in New York last Saturday to take up the differences between the United Mineworkers and the coal operators, but adjourned without reaching any definite results. The committee meets today to hear the report of subcommittees appointed to take up the matters in the dispute.

Every fireman and deckhand in the employ of the Great Lakes Towing Company, the "tug trust," at all the ports on the lakes where that company operates its tugs, have been ordered to join in a sympathetic strike to assist the members of the Deckhands' and Firemen's Association at Duluth in its demand for higher wages. The strike will practically amount to an embargo on navigation at this port.

The machinists in the Northern Pacific shops at Brainerd, Minn., are on a strike, which begins to assume a definite form. The apprentices have joined the striking forces, and the ironmolders and blacksmiths are ready at a moment's notice to do so. Mayor Halstead is attempting to conciliate matters. The question at issue is the employment of union labor in place of non-union. Unless the road yields the point the strikers threaten to extend the strike in the Brainerd shops to every machinist on the road.

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State Senator

J. R. WHITNEY Republican Nominee for

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Vote for the Initiative and Referendum Amendment

FRANK A. HEITKEMPER Citizens Ticket Nominee

For Representative

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Mr. Lewis stands for the Initiative and Referendum and Union Labor

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