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THE STRIKE SITUATION.

That the Building Trades Council has the best of the fight between them and the recalcitrant planing mill bosses becomes more evident as each day passes. The planing mills are positively badly tied up. The two or three mills which are putting on a bold front and wasting fuel for steam are losing more money than the other mills which are and have been entirely shut down since the strike began. The mills which are trying to operate have been forced to pick up any kind of semi-skilled workers to place in charge of their machines, with the result that, while having to pay more for this labor than was asked by their expert union men, by reason of the conditions under which these men work, their output is very much smaller and a great part of the work is wasted and has to be done over again, while that which leaves the mills is seldom satisfactory and never fits the details. This may be a satisfaction to the owners, as probably they feel they are "running their own business" if they are losing money. They called in consultation with them the proprietors of the different saw mills, and a few of their sympathizing friends among the local carpenters who style themselves the "Portland Master Builders' Association" (sounds big, doesn't it, but don't forget there are over 140 building contractors who do not belong to this clique), and concluded they would proceed to resolute organized labor into kingdom come. These thundering resolutions were duly written up with the usual misrepresentations to the credulous and verdant reporter who, from his published copy, was certainly convinced that no more lumber could be bought in Portland, under the earth beneath Portland, or in the sky above Portland, no more contractors could be induced to take the money of the owner and hire other men to build houses until such time as organized labor would consent to get off the earth. After diligent and searching investigation (five days after the publication of these threatening resolutions) the only man found to have been refused lumber by any of the saw mills was a member of this clique of carpenters, and one of the signers of the resolutions. On the other hand, the 140 other contractors are still building houses, and they are getting their work done and can and do get all the lumber they require with which to build houses, and the small and fair planing mills are working night and day and making money furnishing stuff for them. There are no more idle men than usual at this time of year, and new foundations are going in every day and building permits are being issued just the same.

During all this time, with the more than 3000 men in the building trades, but one deserter or scab has been found by the business agents.

Mr. Jackson was sent south, so the papers say, to get men to come here. When he comes back they had better send him north, then east, then west, and he will have no more or better force of men than he has now. The facts are that there is no surplus labor just now. All the other towns on this Coast are on a building boom and working shorter hours and for better wages than Portland pays. Another thing, men nowadays will not go to a strike town, even for strong inducements. Even though men can be found who don't belong to trades unions, the nonunion men have come to view things differently to what they formerly did. Organized labor is gradually and slowly winning for itself a place in the respect and confidence of all classes of the people, and the working people are fast learning that the more and better unions we have the shorter the work day and better the pay.

With the competition of the large

modern and well-equipped Schmit Planing Mill, which will start up steam on Wednesday of this week, all the Building Trades will become busy. This mill will run two shifts each day and will give employment to most, if not all, the striking woodworkers. So that when the unfair mills become fair and want their old employes back, they can't be had. This will mean a serious setback to them, as in any manufacturing plant of this character it requires years to acquire just the right crew for all purposes, and represents a money value of hundreds of dollars in wasted and spoiled material trying out incompetent workmen.

WESTERN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

The Western Federation of Miners, and the American Labor Union, whose conventions in Denver, Colo., adjourned last Saturday after a two weeks' session, promulgated certain measures that will be watched with interest by organized labor and the public generally. In the first place, they resolved themselves into a political organization of a socialistic character; endorsed woman suffrage; will endeavor to secure Government irrigation for the arid lands of the West; took an adverse position to the National Civic Federation, and have refused to affiliate in any way with the American Federation of Labor. They have concluded to stand alone in the industrial world and aloof from the American Federation of Labor, enlisting recruits as they can, and adding strength to their organization wherever possible. In truth the Western Federation is an essential growth from the needs of the laboring classes of the West. It is composed of men of the Western type—aggressive, daring, fearless, conscientious, and energetic. After repeated and futile attempts to secure assistance from the national body at Washington, these men evolved a scheme to help themselves. The Western Federation of Labor is the result. Whether they are wise in adopting the course they have taken remains to be seen. We doubt the sagacity of the means employed, but the Western laborer certainly had a right to feel that he was entitled to a proportionate amount of consideration from the parent body. Of course, he did not fully appreciate that the American Federation of Labor was overburdened with demands from the factory congested and densely populated states of the East, but he felt and knew that the West was contributing more to the Eastern cause than the East was to the West. The Western Federation of Labor has grown strong in the Rocky Mountain States and is gradually and rapidly advancing Westward. Its purpose is as righteous in its primary elements as those of other labor organizations, but we do not believe that organized labor can accomplish what it should upon a disintegrated plan, any more than our government can be best subserved upon the line of state rights. Organized labor should have one grand head, in which sections can centralize their forces, and from which they can be masters of their local affairs. But the fact that the Western Federation of Labor has taken the place left vacant for years by the American Federation of Labor is sufficient excuse for its being. It is to be deplored, however, that these two organizations have drifted so widely apart. It would have been much better had they amalgamated their forces and together established a Western section headquarters under charter from the American Federation of Labor. The benefits thus derived by interchange would have done more for organized labor in the West than the separate efforts consequent by the existing estrangement. As it is, the labor movement will grow, more slowly, perhaps, but it will grow nevertheless, until matters may finally adjust themselves upon a common basis under a universal head. The hopes entertained by all familiar and interested in industrial affairs that an affiliation would be effected at the Denver convention were dissolved by the political phase enacted by the Western Federation of Miners and the American Labor Union. It means the downfall of these organizations or a revelation that will act as the solution to the labor question.

BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT.

The resolutions passed at the last meeting of the Federated Trades Council were a disappointment to the arbitrary mill owners and their sympathizers. They were sure that the resolutions they had previously adopted, demanding that the boycott must be raised, would create consternation in the labor ranks, which would cause the members to recant, or possibly to aggravate them into a general strike, causing a complete tie-up of the city. As neither of these things were done, and since the Federated Trades have openly announced in favor of arbitration, the mill owners have put their feet in their own trap. If the unions had followed the usual custom, when the sawmill owners joined the planing mill men in their threat, every man would have been called out of the sawmills. As it was, the Council felt that the public had been subjected to enough discomfort, and rather than cause more inconvenience to the innocent, the men were allowed to remain

at work. The boycott that the mill owners are howling about being so damnable and un-American must seem to them a good thing, for they declare in their resolutions that they will boycott any man who affiliates or sympathizes with the boycotters of the first part. The mill owners say they are experiencing no inconvenience, but their actions would rather indicate that they are. They say they can get plenty of men, but they have sent Mr. Jackson out to obtain them if possible; they say they cannot afford to give their employes nine hours, but they can afford to shut down their mills or run with half of an inexperienced crew at a loss of interest and profit. They say a good many things, but their interviews and actions are so ridiculous that the public begins to wonder how such men can conduct a profitable business and maintain the respect of their employes. While the mill owners and "master builders" are looking for a hole to crawl through, organized labor in Portland will calmly continue to saw wood, with the boycott in full force and effect. We regret that the public are so inconvenienced by these arbitrary men, but with a heart free from animus and belligerency towards the mill owners, we find solace in the passage from holy writ: "Have pity on them, Lord; for they know not what they do."

A COUNTERPART.

The strike of the Building Trades in Denver is an exact counterpart of the troubles at present existing in Portland. Each originated from the same cause, in support of the Amalgamated Woodworkers for a shorter workday—from nine to eight in Denver, and from ten to nine in Portland. Because of violation of their constitutional right to call a strike, the National Building Trades Council ordered the Denver branch to call it off and go back to work. Then the Material Men's Association informed the Building Trades that the union men would not be put back to work unless they consented to leave the Building Trades Council and disrupt the organization. This they of course very promptly refused to do, and now have their men locked out.

This bit of news may point a warning to our local council. Stand by your Building Trades Council and fight it out on the contention between you, and don't permit other questions or differences brought into discussion. Make it nine hours and recognition of the Woodworkers Union, and stick close to this contention and this only.

The jail delivery at Salem last Monday, and the murder of three innocent men, proves conclusively a lack of system at the penitentiary. This cannot be attributed to any one in particular, but is an error of judgment established years ago and allowed to continue up to the present time. Any one at all familiar with the penitentiary and its grounds are not surprised that arms were put within reach of the desperate men, who have been so ready to use them. The night watch around the penitentiary was absolutely inadequate to prevent what took place Monday morning. The prison yard is too large for one man, and there is nothing in the way for a man to scale the wall, keep watch of the night guard, and conceal weapons in the sand piles of the stove foundry. There is scarcely a doubt but that the rifles were gotten into the yard from the rear wall by some man who had studied the ground and situation thoroughly. A night patrol of only a few men would have saved the community the awful cost of the lives of three good citizens, and perhaps more before the murderers are captured. The outbreak has taught a lesson that will undoubtedly be remedied so far as legislation is concerned, but it can never give back the lives that have been forfeited to pave the way for the safety of others.

The adoption of the amendment to the Oregon Constitution is now an assured thing. There were about 60,000 votes cast for the initiative and referendum out of about 80,000, and 5000 against it. The amendment has carried with an overwhelming majority, and it is the first time in the history of Oregon that the Constitution has ever been amended. The initiative and referendum will be in full force and effect immediately after the State Legislature has met and ratified the same. The good that will emanate from the amendment can hardly be estimated. The people have effected a revolution in the law-making department of the state which as yet they hardly realize. From now on the people can say whether or not a law shall be placed in our statute books. Unwholesome legislation can be reduced to a minimum. We have finally gotten down to a basis whereby corrupt legislation can be headed off. Two other reforms would go very nicely with this one, i. e., election of United States Senators by direct vote, and direct primary election. Then we would have no use for the non-producing professional politician, who creates nothing but disorder, bad laws and contributes nothing of a wholesome character.

Recently a teamster, who holds a card in his union in good standing, was elected Mayor of Des Moines, Ia., on

a plank declaring unqualifiedly for union labor. He has already appointed as chief detective a union man. A union printer was also elected Mayor of Sioux City, and organized labor defeated an unfair Police Judge and Alderman in that city. There is no reason for organized labor to despair because they did not elect all of their candidates in our recent election. The spirit has taken hold in the New England States, and has reached as far West as Iowa, and will continue to work Westward until organized labor in Portland will yet see the necessity of sticking together at the polls.

What makes Judge Williams an extraordinary man is his ability to grasp the fundamental points of questions, deal with them theoretically, analyze them practically, judge them impartially, announce his finding fearlessly, and at the same time deal justice to all. This is the position he has taken in reference to the pending industrial difficulties in Portland. On the other hand, Mr. Mills doesn't regard the public inconvenience any more than a little row in his own family. Of course the public will take issue with him in this matter, and had rather place the destinies of its affairs in the hands of Judge Williams than in the hands of Mr. Mills. If Mr. Mills does not see the difference between a family row and public weal, the people can.

PROTEST AGAINST THE INJUNCTION ABUSE.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its recent session at Washington, D. C., having under consideration the flagrant abuse of the writ of injunction by the courts, in labor cases, issued the following address in an endeavor to attract public attention to the violation of the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the citizen workers by the arbitrary action of the courts in regard to injunctions. It is believed that a healthier public opinion will be formed on the subject when the situation is considered in all its bearings.

To all Wage Workers of America, Greeting:

The constant struggle in which the wage earners of our country are continually engaged for the attainment of their rights, and the mitigation of the wrongs they daily endure, renders it essential that they organize, unite and federate, irrespective of trade, calling, nationality, locality, sex, politics, color, or religion.

The hope for justice and right, now and hereafter, as well as the perpetuation of liberty in our republican institutions, lies in organized labor.

Individual effort of the wage earners in this day of concentration of industry and wealth is absurd, as well as suicidal. There are few contests in which the toilers are engaged for improvement, or for the prevention of a deterioration in their condition, but what injunctions are issued by the courts, of the most far-reaching character, invading the legal and moral rights of the workers to perform perfectly legal and legitimate acts, to carry on their efforts to a successful termination.

Injunctions of a flagrant, unjustifiable and outrageous character are continually issued, and honest, law-abiding and faithful citizen workers are thrust into prison for periods of from one to nine months.

Thus far, we have been unable to persuade the Congress of the United States to enact a law that shall protect the rights and liberty of people engaged in industrial disputes, and many of the courts have interpreted this failure on the part of Congress to act as a warrant and authority to extend the use, or more properly speaking, the abuse of the writ of injunction, so that the scope of each writ still further invades our constitutionally guaranteed rights.

This growing danger, therefore, impels us to appeal to the workers, and to all people of our country, so that the true feeling of all may be expressed and registered; so that the public opinion of the people of our common country may more definitely impress itself upon the minds of our National Congress and state legislatures.

With this object in view, we recommend to all organized workers in National, State, Central or Local Unions, that at their public celebrations on July 4 and Labor Day, 1902, they concentrate their attention upon a discussion of the abolition of the injunction in labor disputes, and the passage of resolutions demanding at the hands of Congress and the legislatures of their respective states, the enactment of laws conforming to that purpose.

It is urged, too, that at the conventions of the National Unions, the State Federations, as well as at stated meetings of the Central Labor Unions and local trade and Federal labor unions, this subject-matter be fully discussed, emphatic action taken thereon, and the result of that action promptly communicated to the United States Senators and Members of Congress from your respective states, and to the members of the legislature of your respective districts.

The American workmen are law-abiding, faithful and loyal citizens; they have no desire for immunity from the law governing other citizens; but they

most emphatically protest against and resent the action of courts convicting them, and sentencing them to prison for acts which they have the legal right to perform; and condemning them, too, without proper opportunity for defense and trial before a jury of their peers.

The American principle of equal justice before the law is being violated day after day. The relics of antiquated judicial tyranny are being revived by judges who, assuming absolute control of men's affairs, convict and mete out punishment to them, without regard to the constitutionally guaranteed right of trial by jury.

We are conscious of the advance which the workers of our country have made, by and through organization. It is our purpose that the trend of our movement and our efforts for still further amelioration in the condition of labor shall proceed; that we shall be larger participants in the great production of wealth which the toilers yield to our country and our time.

The toiling masses, and particularly the organized wage earners, cannot and must not surrender one jot of that which they have secured, and must organize the yet unorganized, and unite and federate those already organized, to present a solid phalanx of the grand army of labor of our country, in earnest and emphatic protest against judicial usurpation or invasion of our rights, attempted no matter by whom or from whatsoever source.

Therefore, we again appeal to our fellow workers to make early preparations to fully and perfectly carry out this suggestion for the holding of meetings and demonstrations; and declaring in the form of resolutions and otherwise our unalterable purpose to maintain at all hazards, the rights for which our forefathers have struggled, engrafted in our written Constitution, and ingrained in the American character, conscious that we are striving for the rights of the workers today, as well as the perpetuation of freedom for the countless millions of our country yet unborn. Fraternaly,

- Samuel Gompers, President.
 - James Duncan, First Vice-Pres.
 - John Mitchell, Second Vice-Pres.
 - James O'Connell, Third Vice-Pres.
 - Max Morris, Fourth Vice-Pres.
 - Thomas I. Kidd, Fifth Vice-Pres.
 - D. A. Hayes, Sixth Vice-Pres.
 - John B. Lennon, Treasurer.
 - Frank Morrison, Secretary.
- Executive Council, American Federation of Labor.

LABOR NOTES.

Out of 91,047 wage hands in the manufacturing plants of California, there are 2114 children under 16 years of age.

In obedience to the decision of the board of arbitration selected to settle the trackmen's strike on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, President Shaughnessy has issued an order raising the pay of the trackmen 20 per cent.

The strike of 400 molders, coremakers and helpers at the American Steel Foundry in Granite City, Ill., has been settled by arbitration, and the plant will at once resume work. The company decided to recognize the union.

The Pullman car conductors are making demands by petition that all new conductors be paid \$65 a month for the first six months of their service; \$70 the second six months, and \$80 after they have served one year.

Roelof Hat Manufacturing Company has sued the United Hatters of North America for \$250,000, claiming that they have injured his business to that extent. He also alleges in his complaint that he was deprived of an order for \$100,000 worth of hats.

The Republic Iron & Steel Company of Youngstown, O., offered an advance of 10 per cent to all employees above the grade of ordinary laborers. The proposition was regarded by the striking furnace workers as satisfactory. The strike is now ended.

An agreement has been reached between the manufacturers and the Pulp Workers' Union, whereby a threatened strike has been averted in the papermills throughout the East. The workers will receive an advance of 10 per cent, but several minor matters remain to be settled. It is estimated 15,000 men are affected.

A. B. Youngson was re-elected assistant grand chief engineer, and T. S. Ingraham was re-elected first grand engineer. Delos Everett was elected third grand engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at the convention held in Norfolk, Va., May 28. The terms of Grand Chief Arthur and Second Grand Engineer Salmons will not expire until two years hence.

The building trades strike at Denver, Colo., was declared off last week by the Council. Since then the Contractors' and Material Men's Association have issued a statement to the effect that they would not take back to work any of the striking builders unless they would dissolve the Building Trades Council. This the men say they will not do, and the situation now partakes of the nature of a lockout. The mill men held a meeting today, but no decision was reached in regard to taking back the striking employes.

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Alarmed by the disturbances that marked the strike of the packing house teamsters last week, employers have started a movement for the prevention of strikes in the shape of an arbitration board. It is proposed that all difficulties that cannot be settled by the men directly with their employers shall be submitted to an advisory body, composed of representatives of the Employers' Association and the unions affiliated with the National Teamsters' Union for arbitration. The movement has the support of eight associations of employers and the tacit approval of President Albert Young, of the National Teamsters' Union.