

A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF THE CASE

(Oregonian, June 10, 1902.)

The employing lumbermen settle back on the principle that it is nobody's business how long they lock out their men. They are probably mistaken. The presence of several hundred unemployed men about the town, the menace of discontent, misery and disorder, the cessation of building operations and consequent derangement of plans and molestation of the comfort of thousands of noncombatants, make up an exhibit of popular concern in contests of this sort which it is probably impossible to brush peremptorily aside. What vitally concerns the public may be in some sense the public's business. The public may make it its business.

The employing lumbermen undertake to say that the question whether nine hours make a fair day's work or not is not a matter for argument. They say ten hours are the minimum, and that settles it. They have nothing to arbitrate. They will run their business in their own way. They are not concerned as to any need their men may have for more time for rest and relaxation, more pay to keep pace with the increased cost of living. They will treat with their men precisely as they treat with their logs and their sawdust. They will simply indicate where the boom shall be moored and there it floats without more ado. They will simply say that batch of flooring shall go to So-and-So, and So-and-So gets it. They will simply say, Our men will work ten hours for \$2, and forthwith they do so. The employees are not reasoning beings, they have no rights to be considered, they are simply raw material to be moved about obedient to superior will.

We do not wish to misrepresent either the employers or employees in this unfortunate tie-up, but we understand the hands to say that in their demands concerning hours and wages they may be wrong; they would accept to have the question investigated by competent and disinterested persons, and by the conclusions reached they would be bound. We understand the masters to say that the justice of the question at issue is for them and for them alone to decide, and that outside interference would be resented by them as unwarranted and impertinent intrusion. Of these two positions, the workmen certainly appear to the better advantage.

These employing lumbermen are either right or they are wrong. If they are right, then modern sociology is wrong in holding that labor troubles are matters of public concern, to be legislated about if necessary and to be discussed and even treated by semi-public organizations like the Civic Federation. If they are right, then society is helpless in the presence of a great strike. It can only sit still and let the combatants wreck themselves and all dependent industries as it will, jeopardize the peace and order as well as the prosperity of the community, and perhaps put us in the end to the expense of dispersing mobs, prosecuting rioters and caring for dependent relatives of murdered men.

Unless one is prepared to concede the logical consequences of the employers' contention, then the conclusion follows that they are wrong; and if they are wrong, then this strike is a fit subject for arbitration. Then the persons who may be momentarily intrusted with the arbitration inquiry will require to know, not only the ability of the workman to maintain himself properly on \$2 a day for ten hours' work, not only the workmen's balance sheet on wages and household expenses, but also the employer's ability to conduct his business at \$2 a day for nine hours' work, and if he cannot under present conditions, to determine whether his proper remedy may not lie in lower estimated interest rates or other fixed charges, in lower freight rates, in other economies of operation, besides the sole expedient of taking it out of labor. Society does not require that the profits of business shall be so great as to insure the least efficient against loss. Ninety per cent of business ventures are said to fail. The man of average efficiency should be able to make a profit. The most

efficient will get rich, the least efficient will fail. If the employing lumbermen's case is so desperate that it cannot stand shortening of hours, then this would appear plain upon impartial investigation. The reluctance to submit to arbitration does not argue the invincibility of their case.

Men who are belligerently desirous of standing alone and doing their own business in their own way have a habit of rushing for help in a very precipitate at the above place.

manner as soon as they begin to lose ground in the struggle. As long as the mills maintain themselves comfortably in the strike, they are jaunty enough regarding public opinion. Their affair is nobody's business. But it is somebody else's business fast enough when the picket appears on his beat. Oh, yes, it is society's business then. There is a Judge up at the Courthouse, paid by taxes. It instantly becomes his business. He must hear pleas for injunctions against the strikers. It becomes a Deputy Sheriff's business to scurry around half the night trying to find a union official to serve his papers on. At the first sign of violence, the question becomes somebody's business. Policemen must be armed and militiamen must leave their own business to attend to the millman's business. The cause of the striker is nobody's business, but the cause of the employer is everybody's business from Governor down to patrolman, if the employer is in danger. If the striker only is in danger, the affair is nobody's business. The mills will take care of themselves.

The planing mill men will take care of themselves. They want no interference. Well, then, how about the combination of sawmills in the planing mills' interest? Do the planing mills address the sawmills loftily, requesting to be let alone with their own affairs? How about the action of the Seattle mills, acting in support of the Portland mills? Has anybody heard of the Portland mills telegraphing to Seattle a request not to be helped? The men who promulgate the theory that they have no desires or expectations of society are in grave danger of making themselves ridiculous. One is profoundly moved by the highly moral arraignment of the boycott, formulated both in Portland and Seattle, until he reaches the conclusion to which the arraignment leads. So thoroughly are the mills persuaded of the immorality, injustice and un-Americanism of the damnable boycott that until the union's boycott is withdrawn, they will be compelled to boycott the union mills!

MEETING OF DIRECTORS.

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Portland Labor Press Friday evening, June 20, 1902, in the Press office, Room 8, 232 1/2, corner Second and Washington streets. Unions having delegates to same will please take notice.

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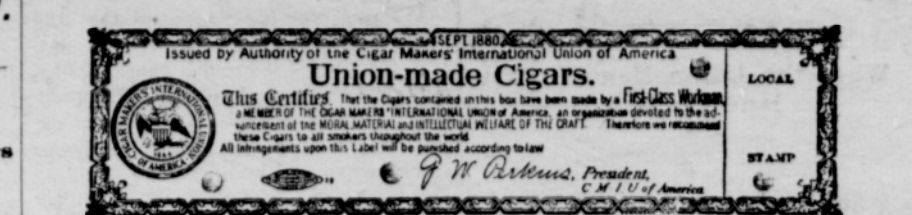
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Trade Union Directory
Portland Federated Trades Assembly—Meets every Friday in A. O. U. W. Bldg., sixth floor, Third and Taylor streets.
Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees of America, Division 181—Meets first and third Monday evenings at 8:45, in Union Hall, Union block.
Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen, Local 143—Meets every Thursday at 8 P. M., in Eagles' Hall, corner Second and Yamhill.
Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, No. 16—Meets every second and fourth Tuesday at 228 1/2 Yamhill street.
Amalgamated Woodworkers' Union No. 69—Meets every second and fourth Thursday, at 220 1/2 Yamhill street.
Beer Drivers' Union, Local No. 201, National Union of United Brewery Workmen, U. S. A.—Meets every first and third Saturday, corner Eleventh and Morrison streets.
Bricklayers' International Union No. 1—Meets every Wednesday at 228 1/2 Yamhill street.
Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, Local No. 10—Meets every Thursday at A. O. U. W. building.
Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Sunset Lodge No. 130—Meets every first and third Sunday, at 2 P. M., in Auditorium Hall.
Building Trades Council—Meets every Monday evening in rooms 214 and 215, Chamber of Commerce Building.
Cigarmakers' International Union of America, Local No. 202—Meets every first Tuesday, 228 1/2 Yamhill street.
Expressmen's Union—Meets every Tuesday evening in room 214, Chamber of Commerce Building.
General Longshoremen's Union, No. 265—Meets every Thursday evening at Union Hall, Union block.
Grain Handlers' Union, No. 283—Meets at Schranz's, 230 corner Knott and Delay streets, every Tuesday evening.
I. L. A., No. 264—Meets every first and third Saturday at Union Hall, Second and Stark streets.
International Association of Machinists, Local No. 63—Meets every first and third Friday in Alsiky building.
International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, Local No. 72—Meets every second evening of each month at 309 Alsiky Bldg., Third and Morrison streets.
Iron Moulders' Union, No. 135—Meets every first and third Thursday at 228 1/2 Yamhill street.
Journemen Barbers' Union, No. 75—Meets every Monday evening at 228 1/2 Yamhill street, corner Second and Yamhill streets.
Journemen Horseshoers' Union No. 41—Meets every first and third Thursday in room 214, Chamber of Commerce Building.
Journemen Plumbers' and Gasfitters' Association, Local No. 61—Meets every Monday evening at 228 1/2 Yamhill street.
Journemen Tailors, Local No. 74—Meets every second and fourth Monday in Union Hall, Second and Stark streets.
Lumbermill Workers' Union of the Northwest No. 1—Meets every first and third Sunday, at 2 P. M., in Upchurch Hall, corner Seventeenth and Marshall streets.
Mount Hood Lodge of the Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Ship-Builders, Local No. 72—Meets every second and fourth Thursday in Alsiky Hall.
Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58—Meets every first Sunday of the month at 2 P. M., in Auditorium Hall.
Musicians' Mutual Association, Local 99—Meets every first Tuesday at 2 P. M. in room 214, Chamber of Commerce.
National Association of Letter-Pressmen, Branch No. 92—Meets every second Wednesday of the month in the Post-office building.
National Union of the United Brewery Workmen of the United States, Local No. 7—Meets every second and fourth Saturday at 228 1/2 Yamhill street.
Plasterers' Union, No. 1—Meets every Friday evening in room 214, Chamber of Commerce Building.
Portland Labor Protective Union—Meets every second and fourth Sunday, at 2 P. M., at 228 1/2 Yamhill street.
Portland Printing Union, No. 42—Meets every second Tuesday of the month in McKay building, room 21.
Portland Bakery and Confectioners' Union—Meets every first and third Saturday, at 6 P. M., at 228 1/2 Yamhill street.
Portland Theatrical Stage Employees' Union—Meets every second Thursday of the month at McKay's Theater.
Retail Clerks' Protective Association, Local No. 249—Meets every Wednesday evening, at Alsiky Hall, corner Third and Morrison.
Shipwrights, Caulkers' and Shipjoiners' Association of the Port of Portland—Meets every first and third Saturday at 220 1/2 Yamhill street.
Stablemen's Union, No. 919—Meets every Monday evening in room 225, Alsiky Building, President, C. T. Davis; Secretary, W. T. Vinson, 411 Couch st.
Team Drivers' International Union, Local No. 162—Meets every Tuesday evening in Union Hall, Stark street, between First and Second.
The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, No. 125—Meets in Eagle Hall, the first and third Tuesday of every month.
United Brotherhood of Leatherworkers on Horse Goods, Branch No. 56—Meets every Wednesday evening in Union Hall, Union block.
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Branch No. 50—Meets every Wednesday night in Eagles' Hall, corner Second and Yamhill streets.
United Brotherhood of Railway Employees, Division No. 4—Meets every second and fourth Saturday evenings at Alsiky Building, corner Third and Morrison.
Waiters' Alliance, Local, No. 33, meets every Monday evening at 8:30, at 234 Third street. President, Frank Bean; Secretary, M. F. Pike, 234 Third street.
Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International Union, Local 54—Meets every Thursday evening in room 214, Chamber of Commerce Building.
Woodworkers' Local Union, No. 66—Meets every Wednesday night at Trades Union Hall, Second and Yamhill.
Look out for the union label.