

Portland Labor Press

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H. G. KUNDRET, Editor.

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Facts for Advertisers.

Printers' Ink, the recognized authority on advertising, after a thorough investigation on this subject, says: "A labor paper is a far better advertising medium than an ordinary newspaper in comparison to circulation. A labor paper, for example, having 2000 subscribers is of more value to the business man who advertises in it than an ordinary paper with 12,000 subscribers."

GOMPERS AND PARTY IN CITY.

The presence in our city this week of President Gompers and Vice-President Morris, of the American Federation of Labor, and President Mahon, of the Street Railway Employees, has given renewed life and vigor to the great labor movement. Not only will Portland feel the stimulating effect of their visit but it will prove of lasting benefit to our cause throughout the state. Our National officers would better the conditions of their locals and give impetus to the movement if they would all visit our great Western country and come into contact with the Western leaders. The spirit of Western enterprise, energy and push has been a revelation to our Eastern brothers. The personal contact and conferences between these National officers and our local people have been of untold benefit to our movement. It has renewed and strengthened the confidence and faith in each other, demonstrating to us the wisdom of our conventions in their choice of our leaders. President Gompers' personality has impressed us with his unflinching and unselfish attachment to our cause and the "Little Giant" is an able defender and advocate of our faith, watchful at all times of our interests and quick to give battle to our enemies.

Secretary Morris is a very able man in his position and the Retail Clerks are to be congratulated that the destinies of their organization are placed in the hands of so able an advocate of the principles of trades-unionism. President Mahon, of the Street Railway Employees, is a man of unusual ability in the labor movement. As a speaker and logician he ranks with the greatest of our National leaders.

The condition of organized labor in our city and state was gone into fully with these gentlemen and we feel proud to say that the management of the movement received their highest commendation. Our local leaders were highly praised for their conservative course in dealing with the many complex situations they have had to meet this Summer.

With the encouragement given us by our brothers' visit and the great good accomplished by their very able exposition of unionism in their public addresses, we predict a renewed enthusiasm and energy that will add materially to our numbers and solidify and cement us more closely in the grand cause of the working people.

ALL DAY LABOR DAY.

The committee, Messrs. Mickle and Harry, appointed to get the business houses closed on Labor day, are meeting with no opposition whatever. Their petition is headed as follows: "We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to close our place of business all day Monday, September 1, 'Labor day,'" and they have secured the signatures of all the large department, dry goods and clothing stores. They circulated the petition this afternoon among the clothing and second-hand stores in the North End and they all agree to close the whole day—even including two Chinese merchants—with the single exception of the Baltimore Clothing House. Our trade unionists can remember those they should not patronize.

It now only remains for our unions to "get a move on," as it is an assured

fact that the employers of labor in Portland will recognize our day and we believe that this will be the last year it will be necessary to circulate a petition for that purpose. Messrs. Mickle and Harry will continue their good work, so that by Friday's meeting of the Federated Trades they can report the names of all our large and small industries as agreeing to close on that day. This means an all day Labor day for the first time in the history of the movement in Portland. Hurrah for Labor day!

A WRONG IMPRESSION.

The Oregonian, in the issues of the 5th and 6th inst., has conceived the ridiculous idea that trades unions place a dead line in their various trade capacities over which its members are not permitted to go. We are sorry that the Oregonian has made this mistake, for it places it and us in a peculiar light, where perhaps the embarrassment was not intended. The editor in question is not advised upon the matter, and we are compelled to correct the impression, as the statement is absolutely foreign and opposite to what the principles of unionism actually teach. One of the elementary rules of organized labor today is efficiency and responsibility. And it does not hold the apt man on a level with his slower brother. "It merely undertakes to establish a minimum wage," said Mr. Gompers, the other day, "by which laboring men and laboring women can provide themselves with decent food and clothing, with enough left at the end of his or her day's labor to enjoy some social recreation if they so desire."

"If a man is fast and quick with his work, and nearly doubles that of his fellow-benchman, we will let his employer pay him as much as he likes. All we want is a scale sufficient that any man or woman working in their respective lines are assured of a decent living."

The Typographical Union of Portland has a minimum wage scale, but there are quite a number of printers in the city who are being paid more, on account of their skill, and the Oregonian pays most of its printers 50 cents per day more than the scale calls for, for the same reason. These men are not kept down by any rule or regulation of the union, and they can become as skilled as the faculty in them will permit; and most of the up-to-date unions advocate and urge its members to employ every energy to excel.

The Oregonian is laboring under a mistaken idea in this matter, but with a little time and inquiry we are satisfied that the editor will be convinced that industrial depression is not due wholly to the trades unions, nor any part thereof.

LABOR DAY COMMITTEE.

The committee met on last Sunday and heard reports and gave instructions to the various sub-committees. The music committee was instructed to secure six bands for the parade. All the other sub-committees reported good progress in their arrangements and from their reports and those from the different unions there will be hardly a union man in Portland who will not be seen in line on Labor day. The committee on sports is shaping up its plans, among which it proposes a tug-of-war contest between teams from the different labor organizations. It is rumored that the Building Trades Council will have a team and it is waiting challenges from any or all of the unions or organizations who are ambitious to enter the contest. There should be room here for a contest that would be a dandy if the Water Front section takes up that challenge. Another very pretty contest could be had between the Iron Trades section and the Allied Printing Trades, and still another between the two twin trades, the Barbers and Butchers. We have still another suggestion and that is the Bootblacks and Retail Clerks, also the young lady Bookbinders versus the Hodcarriers. Send your challenges to Chairman Jones of the committee.

It is a hard thing for a labor paper to say that a white man is worse than a Chinaman, but we are compelled to do this, for witness the consent of two Chinese merchants to close up their places of business on Labor day and the refusal of the management of the Baltimore Clothing House, on North Third street. Verily, the Baltimore man waltzes the decency of a Chinaman. Among the dry goods houses Labowitch Bros. were the only ones who refused to sign the petition of the committee, Labowitch stating to the committee that "he does not expect and did not want the trade of the working people; that he could do business by himself." This fellow has always been unfair to the Clerks' Union. This is to say that Labowitch is either a fool or a knave, and if physiognomy counts for anything the Great Designer molded him out of an equal amount of both.

The Pacific Regalia Company has come to the front again this year and has hung up as a prize a beautiful, all-silk American flag, the very best

money can buy, at a cost of \$75, to the union making the best appearance in the parade. The best uniformed and best marching organization without reference to numbers will secure this elegant flag.

It is expected there will be a hot competition for this prize, as our unions are all intensely patriotic and highly prize so beautiful a copy of "Old Glory." So, boys, get in and brush up your uniforms.

When asked by the committee if he would join the other business men of the city in closing his store on Labor day, H. C. Breeden defiantly said that he would not. He is the only furniture dealer in the city that refused. He refused to close last year, and would probably do so again next year if asked. Breeden knows full well that he will do no business upon that day, but he wishes to show a haughty contempt for the working classes. He fawns at the rear of the smart set, but paws the earth when he sees a man in overalls. What a puny, sick and shriveled soul is a man of so mean wit!

The general public will now breathe easier that the monstrous outlaw Tracy has met his death by his own hand. It is a fitting end to a desperate career. It is far better that he should have finished his worse than worthless life than that some good man should have been compelled to stain his hands with the blood of this desperate creature. We trust that the division of the reward will be hastened so that this whole detestable business may be quickly forgotten.

Hill, Mellen and Mohler have concluded that it is cheaper to reduce the rates on hauling grain from the Columbia basin than to take a chance on McBride's opposition to the merger. Never mind, some poor devil will have to pay for that 10 per cent, and it is just as apt to be the steamboat men as any one else. There is one thing sure, some one will have to pay for that 10 per cent reduction in rates.

Don't lose sight of the girls in the Labor Day parade. They may steal in and capture the \$75 silk flag prize as easily as they could capture the hearts of the boys. Look out for them. But if they did win the prize there would be no one left who could feel sore, and if there were they should be ashamed of themselves.

Samuel Gompers is the biggest little man and the slowest foot racer in the labor movement in the world today. It was all he could do to catch a boat at Vancouver last Tuesday that was tied up to a wharf.

Wednesday was a scorcher. The discomfort of the average man remarked the smile of the brewer, 'Tis a hot day that blows the brewery draught.

Crawfish and beer, crawfish and beer, Makes the boys jolly, and makes them feel queer. And when they lie down to dream of pure bliss, The crawfish keeps working the beer to excess.

STREETCAR UNION.

On last Sunday evening Secretary Wilson had been notified by telegram that our International president, W. D. Mahon, would be here and address the union on that date. Mr. Mahon, when entering the hall, was heartily cheered and after being introduced said in part that he did not expect to find many men at the meeting on this day. That he knew from experience that men who worked on streetcars had the most work to do on God's holy day.

He spoke of the time when he drove a mule to a streetcar and that if he worked that mule over four hours he would have been arrested, that he had to work 16 hours, and that no mention of the law or a committee to prevent cruelty to animals came and asked him if he was tired or worn out. He stated that there is no person in the world that has the responsible position that a motorman on a streetcar has. That a man who runs a streetcar is as much a business man as the president of a bank, or the person who clipped coupons in Wall street, but that there was a brighter and better day for the working man which was brought about by organization. That we have tried to avoid strikes, but sometimes to better our condition are compelled to strike, that it is the intelligent workingman that strikes—not the ignorant or degraded, as Chinese or Japanese.

Our opponents say that we lose strikes, that in Cleveland and St. Louis we lost, but today in those cities the men are now paid per day what they, at the time of the strike asked for. Their hours have been short-

ened and their union is recognized, which was not the case before the strike took place. He said this is the age of organization, that workmen are compelled to organize to better their condition. He advised all the men to obey all the rules of the company. That all good union men always obeyed rules, that since unions had been formed that the standard of honesty was far above what it had been before organization took place, that accidents were less frequent and that there was better discipline on all union roads.

On Monday night after the meeting at Cordray's theater, it being the regular meeting night, Mr. Gompers, president of A. F. & L., and Mr. Mahon being present, were introduced and both made short speeches which were appreciated by all present. The Oregon City line, the Vancouver line and the Washington-street line had cars waiting to take the boys home after the meeting.

The union feels proud of their international president. His presence here has done more to create enthusiasm than anything else, and many that were indifferent have had their unionism renewed. Mr. Mahon is a tireless worker, is honest and conscientious, is a strong man physically and intellectually, and even after he has left his influence is felt by all.

There were several new members obligated and applications of several more placed on file. All felt that it had been a red-letter day for the union, and hereafter the union will still increase its membership until every streetcar man in the city is unionized.

GRAINHANDLERS.

Although this is the dull season on the water-front there was a large attendance at the meeting Tuesday evening.

From twice per month it was voted to change meetings to once a week, and hereafter the Tivoli hall on Delay street, Lower Albina, will be the meeting-place.

Four new members were initiated and the members are very much encouraged with the shape the union is in. About the last of September activity on the river will be renewed and consequently the membership largely increased.

LOCAL NOTES.

W. H. Barry was sent to Eugene by the Typographical Union the first of the week to adjust some trouble there in getting the union started.

The Sheet Metal Workers contemplate giving a smoker next Tuesday evening, and the Carpenters the following night.

Wilkie Duniway, delegate to the International Typographical Union, left last week for the East. He will be gone about six weeks, visiting the principal cities, after attending the convention.

SHIELDS PARK.

Following the very excellent performance this week a new and very attractive programme will be presented the following week at the same very low price of admission, as follows: Earle and Hampton, dancing comedians.

Melrose and Dene, the Dutchman and the soubrette.

Norman and Bryce, comical tragedians.

The Lamonts, premier acrobats.

Polyscope, moving pictures, Portland Hunt Club drill.

Joseph Thompson, new illustrated songs.

LABOR NOTES.

Sioux City, Ia., has elected a union printer for Mayor.

In Indianapolis the strike of the planing mill men has been settled favorably for organized labor.

Labor unions at Syracuse, N. Y., representing about 6000 men, intend placing a labor candidate in the field for Mayor.

The Rhode Island Supreme Court declared the 10-hour law for motormen and conductors on streetcars to be constitutional.

The proposition made by the American Tinplate Company to its employees that they accept a reduction in wages of 25 per cent has been rejected.

Chinese are again flocking into California from Mexico. They creep across the line near Tia Juana, a favorite place for illegal entry at present.

The Allied Printing Trades Council of Boston is making a vigorous fight to have the label on all text books used in the public schools in the state.

The Ironton division of the Camden Interstate Railway line in Ohio is tied up by the employees. Not a wheel turned when the order was issued Tuesday.

The Labor League of Galveston, Tex., an organization of union men, will make a political fight for a state eight-hour workday law and the abolition of child labor.

The bricklayers' and carpenters' strike at Kalamazoo, Mich., has been settled. The men won on an eight-hour day at the old scale of 45 cents an hour for nine hours.

The Typographical Union of Astoria has demanded an increase in the pay for composition from 15 to 20 cents. The Herald says this is not enough, but is considerably better than the price that has been paid.

The Teamsters' National Union, in convention at Joliet, Ill., adopted reso-

lutions of moral and financial support of the striking miners in the East, and condemned Judges Jackson and Keller for issuing injunction writs.

The strike among the Boston bookbinders was ended a few days ago through the mediation of the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. The strike was to secure the adoption of a union schedule of wages.

The Hoe Printing Press Works, at New York, has a school to which attendance is compulsory upon the part of the boys learning a trade. This is considered necessary by reason of the highly skilled labor required.

A committee appointed by the Central Federated Union of New York to devise ways and means of aiding the striking anthracite miners has decided to levy a per capita assessment of 5 cents per member per week while the strike lasts.

It was decided by the Iron Molders International convention to increase the defense fund by an additional assessment of 25 cents a member each quarter. This will add \$50,000 a year to the fund, which already amounts to more than \$100,000 a year.

The machinists of the Allis-Chalmers Company, who were on strike for the greater part of a year and returned to work June 13, are out again. The trouble originated through the determination of the union men to force all the non-union men from the shops.

The attempt to start Good Spring colliery, at Pottsville, Pa., on the 5th, was abandoned by the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company. All the collieries remain closed, and the ranks of the strikers are unbroken. Company officials do not regard prospects favorable for an early resumption.

The executive board of the Chicago Federation of Labor is about to issue an appeal to all labor men to register for the fall election. A mass meeting of trades unionists and their sympathizers will be held the second Sunday in September, at which they hope to form a political club—thoroughly non-partisan.

The International Typographical Union has now a membership of 30,717; there were 113 charters issued during the year, making a total of 559 local unions subordinate to the international body. These are divided as follows: Typographical, all languages, 514; photo engravers, 17; mailers, 15; typefounders, 6; newspaper writers, 7.

The Santa Fe officials announce the strike of the boiler-makers at San Bernardino and The Needles, Cal., in effect since May 28, has been settled satisfactorily to all parties concerned. Both the strikers and the company made concessions. The new wages at The Needles will be 39 cents per hour. Between 50 and 100 men return to work.

George E. McNeill, of Boston, known from one end of this country to the other as the father of the eight-hour movement, has been chosen by Governor Crane as the labor representative on the Massachusetts commission authorized by the recent Legislature to urge upon all the other states in the country the adoption of uniform eight-hour laws.

The executive council of the California State Federation of Labor has decided to appeal to the next Legislature to enact an initiative and referendum law. A measure will be drafted similar to that passed by the last Oregon Legislature. The conventions of the various political parties will also be asked to pledge action in favor of the proposed legislation.

The striking blacksmiths and their helpers, who threatened to tie up work at the Pullman car shops, decided Wednesday to return to work for 10 days, pending the settlement of their grievances by arbitration. The officials of the company promised that their difficulties should be overcome. Should the company's proposals not be satisfactory, the men say 6000 workmen will go out.

Judge W. D. Patton, of Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, has continued as permanent the preliminary injunction granted by Judge Wallace, of Lawrence County, on petition of J. G. Beala, Republican candidate for Congress in this district, against William Little and others, representing the United Mineworkers of America and the Monongahela and Carnegie Brass Bands, restraining them from parading on the streets of Leechburg for the purpose of intimidating miners in the employ of M. G. & J. G. Beala.

The workmen employed by the Golden Drift Mining Company, in the building of their dams across Rogue River, three miles above Grant's Pass, went on a strike Tuesday for higher wages. The men have been paid \$2.50 but demand \$2.50. M. C. Ament, manager of the Golden Drift Company, refuses to grant the demands of the workmen. He states he is paying them more than the common workmen of the surrounding sawmills and factories receive. He expects no trouble in getting a new crew.

The Camden Interstate Street Railway strike, which has been on since Sunday last, was declared off Tuesday, and all the cars on the Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia divisions are being operated tonight on schedule time by union crews, the company agreeing to recognize the union and restore all men discharged without cause to their former places. The restoration of men discharged for cause is to be left for arbitration by the Governor, one member of the Supreme Court and another to be selected by the two parties.

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