

Portland Labor Press

Published every Thursday by the Portland Labor Press Publishing Association. (Incorporated August 18, 1906.)

OFFICE: Room 8, 232 1/2 Washington Street.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: One year \$1.00, Six months .60, Three months .35.

ADVERTISING RATES: Rates will be made known upon application.

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Entered at the Postoffice as second-class matter, September 29, 1900.

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BEGINNING OF THE THIRD YEAR.

With this issue the Portland Labor Press starts in on its third year of publication. While the present editor and management have been responsible only for the utterances and business management of the paper since the first of the current year there is no doubt that the existence of the Labor Press since its inception has not wrought any embarrassing features to organized labor, and on the other hand has persuaded the rapid progress of unionism in the city and state. Since the first of the year the policy of the paper has been conservative; and judging from the files there has been no departure from the primary intention of the incorporators. No matter how trying a question forced against the interest of the toilers the Labor Press has striven to consider the question from more than one individual bias, and deal fairly and honorably with its dissenters.

Since the present management has been in charge a campaign and an election has taken place. There was only one policy that obtained—neutrality of party preferences and an effort to elect every union man on whatever ticket he had been given a place. While the result was not as gratifying as was expected, organized labor secured three members of the House of Representatives from Multnomah County, and a number of friends in both houses of the Oregon Legislature. Another question that tried the judgment of labor journalism was the several and annoying strikes that occurred during the busy months of the Summer. While this paper at times made assertions that were pointed and created displeasure, still many aggravating circumstances arose that were not wholly attributable to organized labor. In fact, errors were made on both sides, but the mistakes are as beneficent an educator to one as the other. In dealing with these questions the Labor Press has endeavored to be impartial, but of course there are employers who would aggravate the patience of a saint, even to the detriment of their own business interests. The daily press has apparently entered into the controversies between capital and labor without prejudice. Sometimes articles would appear not altogether to the liking of enthusiastic unionists, and at other times the employer would feel piqued, but any discrepancies were evidently the fault of an over-zealous news gatherer and not the policy of the editorial section of the papers. On the whole the Labor Press has attempted to give the laborer's side of every question without being rabid or unreasonable.

The paper has advanced and is gradually progressing and reaches nearly every home of the union wage-earner in the city, making it one of the very best mediums of advertisements for the merchant. The future policy of the paper is dependent upon the evolutionary progress of trades unionism. There is no retrogression. The movement is forward, upward and perpetual—the very essence of optimism. Local and international industrial disputes are transitory, but the sum final purge the elements of society and strain its pure essence into material use.

Trades unionism is not a thesis of the soul, but it is an agency through which an able body can maintain a healthy orthodox spirit. No matter how much the Labor Press may differ

from the opinions of those who dissent, it will not assume that the policy of trades unionism is absolute. There may be better remedies, but until that remedy can be made effectual organized labor is the best agency for the emancipation of the thousands of industrial slaves who toil their lives away in the congested avenues of trade for the manipulators of stocks and trade.

The Labor Press has no apology to make for its existence. If it has made errors it has been a natural error and not a crime; others have been as bad or worse.

But the natural advancement of the times, molded into practice by the little red schoolhouse, will gradually erase the fault, and organized labor welcomes the time when the schools will be filled with factory children. The Labor Press hopes that the end of the subsequent year will bring prosperity to the city of Portland, the labor unions and the Portland Labor Press.

GOOD DOCTRINE.

Mark Hanna is a queer fellow. It is said that he is an unconditional politician; that his apparent interest in labor is feigned and for partisan purposes. Even the trusted officers of the American Federation of Labor do not wholly understand him, though they have met him repeatedly in the National capital and places of industrial conciliation. But here are his latest utterances in a speech at Urbana, O., dealing with the labor question that sound good. In speaking of the Civic Federation and "the adjustment of the differences between capital and labor," he said:

"I feel encouraged that if my mission in life is to do good in the direction in which I have enlisted it gives me more hope and more courage to go on. The difficulty is that I am afraid the Republicans of Ohio will have to find another fellow for the Senate, because I don't want to go back there. I think I would rather do this kind of work."

He expressed strong approval of organized labor and deep sympathy for toilers. He said:

"Now our methods are first to offer our services for conciliation. If it comes to our attention that there are labor difficulties anywhere and application is made from either side, our committee on conciliation takes the question up and attempts to settle the differences at once, and I am glad to say, my friends, that in every instance but one in our 10 months of life we have settled every one that has come to us without arbitration. Failing in that effort we offered our services to arbitrate."

"I am not greatly in favor of compulsory arbitration. That has not been a success entirely where it has been tried. Besides, I believe that a difficulty settled even by a friendly arbitration is more binding and more enduring than when the law compels a settlement, because it brings into that question not only the self-interest of men, but it brings them together upon an equal plane."

"Face to face and heart to heart in a way that men may know each other, discern each other's motives and find themselves a reason for what they do. Therefore, I advocate that sort of arbitration which is more in furtherance of the plan to create a better feeling between the parties interested. I say that our efforts have been successful in nearly every case, and I want to pay this tribute, standing before this splendid audience in my native state: To those who have represented labor on those occasions I want to say that experience has shown that the men who are at the head of these great organizations and upon our committees have been fair and honest and able."

Here Mr. Hanna related an incident to show "how little that great question," capital and labor, has claimed the attention of the American people, and how little the great teachers of philosophy, of ethics or religion really know about it.

"You have got to remember," he said, "that every man who works with his hands, whether under the ground or above it, is a human being with a soul, with a mind and with reason, and with a laudable ambition to better his own condition beginning at the foundation—his wages—because it is only there that the laboring element of this or any country can begin to better its condition; is to be able to pay for it and not ask alms for it."

"I say it is a moral question, because good society depends upon good morals, and because good morals depend on environments which must encourage men to be good, to be treated as human beings and fellows, and not looked upon as belonging to another class in which we have no interest. "The only way that you can honestly judge the conditions of your fellow-man is to put yourself in his place, and from his standpoint study the situation."

"I said that our organization had failed in one instance, and I allude to the anthracite coal strike. I admit that the Civic Federation has failed in its efforts there. It is hard to conciliate; it is hard to arbitrate a question that only one side will consider."

Here he paid a high tribute to President Mitchell and the miners who refused to break their contracts and go on a sympathetic strike.

ARE ASLEEP.

The Iron Molders of this city ought to awaken and show that they are alive. Right up here at Salem in the state penitentiary are nearly 200 prisoners in the stove foundry working in open competition with free labor at the rate of 3 1/2 cents per hour. A strenuous protest should come from the Iron Molders of this city and state, but they are as silent about the matter as the contractors who are accumulating large sums of money, and competing with firms that pay good wages. It is not fair, and the Iron Molders of San Francisco have taken the affair away from Oregon as a matter of self protection. The Iron Molders of San Francisco have addressed the Central body of that city in the following terms: "We wish to call your attention to the fact that the Loewenberg, Going Company of Portland, Or., with foundry at Salem State Prison, have found that through the antagonism of labor unions, their business is not as flourishing as formerly consequently have changed their name to Acme Steel Range Company, Boston, Mass., and are putting on the markets of this coast the products of convicts in competition with free labor. They have the standard makes of stoves and ranges and the contract of running the Oregon State Prison foundry. We therefore request your honorable body to publish this firm in the A. F. of L. Journal, also in the San Francisco Labor Clarion."

A labor exchange of San Francisco says that one of the most pleasant incidents of Mr. Gompers' visit while in that city was a dinner tendered him by City Attorney Franklin K. Lane. There were about 25 guests, among them being representatives of every profession, some of the leading merchants of the city, and Chief Justice Beatty and Attorney-General Ford. President Gompers talked trade unionism for two hours after dinner, answering all sorts of questions and answering them well. There were two or three trade unionists among the guests, and the host and one or two more were in active sympathy with the movement. The balance was disposed to be critical on many points, but President Gompers met every objection with a completeness of explanation and a force of argument that left the unions better understood and better liked.

Dennis Kearney, of San Francisco "sand lot" fame, and the man who coined the phrase, "Chinese must go," is now a well-to-do wheat operator in the San Francisco Produce Exchange. Dennis has not forgotten his toiling brothers although he is now a man of considerable means. A few days ago he made a speech at San Jose in behalf of trades unions, and speaking in reference to long hours that some wage-earners are compelled to work said: "Why is it a horse works six hours a day and a man 13 hours? Truly, the man should be in the shafts and the horse in the driver's seat."

In the courts the mother of Rosalie Coe Campbell has petitioned to have her daughter's income increased from \$6000 to \$9000 a year, so that she may make a presentable appearance in society.—In New York's "400." The young lady, who is the heiress of a fortune of more than \$1,000,000, is now 18, but was not to receive her full allowance until she was 21 years of age. The same day the news is recorded of women and children in the anthracite coal regions wandering around the country begging for scraps of food.

A short time ago a wealthy woman paid \$600 for a section in a Pullman car for the use of seven Japanese spaniels en route from Chicago to San Francisco. The principle involved in which all the luxuries on earth can be bestowed upon a litter of inferior pups, while men, women and children in the congested cities are actually in need of enough food to keep body and soul together, is all wrong. A social system that permits its people to fare worse than a dog is sadly in need of fumigation.

If there is anything more pitiful than another it is to hear a minister of the Gospel who curls his mustache, and who preaches for revenue only, try to solve the labor problem with a pair of hands that has never known a callous. It is true that labor unions are doing a work that the churches never had the courage to attempt, but that is no reason why Rev. Frank E. Coulter should abuse Samuel Gompers for the churches' dereliction.

The heads of the departments of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company are taking a census of all employees over 65 years of age. Some are generous enough to believe that the movement is for the purpose of settling upon a system of pension for their old and trusted men. We hope the supposition is correct, but these veteran employees will undoubtedly be in suspense until the scheme is officially announced.

For several months the Portland Labor Press has been comfortably situated in new quarters in Room 8, 232 1/2 Washington street. The office of the Oregon State Federation of Labor can also be found at the same address, and the officers of both would be pleased to receive a visit from any wage-earner from any union in the city at any time. You will receive cordial treatment.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

All the responsible business men of the city have signified a willingness to close their places of business on Labor day.

J. T. Morgan will deliver an address at La Grande on Labor day. His services were secured through the Oregon State Federation of Labor.

A. A. Bailey has been secured by the Albany union people, through the Oregon State Federation of Labor, to deliver an address in that city on Labor day.

The picnic of the Laborers Protective Association last Sunday was a success financially and otherwise. The day was intensely hot but the refreshments were cool and unrestrained.

In the notice of the Cooks' Union in the last issue of the Labor Press, a mistake was made in regard to the 'phone being placed in the house of "Phil Arden, the secretary." Mr. Arden is the president, but the rest of the article was correct, and the 'phone number is still "Oregon, Green 604."

G. Y. Harry left for The Dalles this (Thursday) morning for the purpose of installing the officers of the Carpenters' Union and Federal Labor Union, that he organized when last there. Tonight there will be a mass meeting at which he will address the wage-earners and citizens of that city. Mr. Harry will probably return next Saturday. While in The Dalles Mr. Harry will endeavor to organize other unions.

An Irish policeman, of Topeka, arrested a sleepwalker a short time ago who had wandered away from home in his night clothing. "Surely you are not going to lock me up," said the sleepwalker. "I can't be responsible for the position you found me in; I am a somnambulist." "It don't make any difference what church you are a member of," said the other. "You can't walk the streets of Topeka in your shirttail if you belong to all the churches in town."

The newly instituted Typographical Union of Astoria has raised the price of hand composition to 25 cents per thousand and the scale was indorsed by the Central body and support pledged to the union. For 10 hours work a good compositor can earn \$2 50 per day at this rate. Now the Astoria News sends up an injured cry that the Astorian was at the head of the movement so as to shut out other papers in the field; that other papers could not possibly afford it; that it was a prohibitory raise of 66.2-3 per cent on leaded matter and 100 per cent on solid matter, and then it arraigns "Pete" Meyers for saying that a paper that could not pay the price should go out of business. If 25 cents per 1000 is the scale now established and it is a raise of from 66.2-3 to 100 per cent, we would like to know if there is any other figure in mathematics excepting the "0" that would express how much the compositor of Astoria did get at the end of the week before the raise?

Interesting Data.

Secretary David Ross, of the Illinois State Bureau of Labor Statistics, is gathering data that will be very interesting to the industries of the state. It will show the difference between the organized industry of 1897 and the increase in numbers in 1901. Among the questions that will be answered by secretaries and presidents of unions is the total membership of 1897 and of 1901, the number of apprentices allowed in the trade, the number unemployed during 1901, and the cause that led to idleness during that year; the difference, if any, in wages of 1897 and 1901, change of working hours between those years, if any; cost per member to maintain the organization of his trade; the benefits and insurance that is paid by the organization; the contributions that are made toward organizations to maintain union wages and conditions; the relation that convict labor holds to the various trades; the affiliation with kindred trades, central bodies and federations of labor, and the benefits derived from such affiliations.

Secretary Wilson, of the United Mineworkers, states that the membership of that organization is now 232,589, making it the largest labor organization in the United States. The United Mineworkers paid \$202,926.07 for strike benefits to its members last year.

A souvenir history of the recent strike of the street railway employees of San Francisco has been issued by the Street Carriers' Union. It reviews in detail the provocations under the Vining management of the Market Street Railway, which forced the men to organize and ultimately order a strike to gain better conditions and a fair wage. Events during the strike are also vividly portrayed. The book is handsomely illustrated with halftones of the officers and men who were prominent in the direction of the strike.

LABOR MOVEMENT IN EUGENE.

A Typographical union has been organized in Eugene, composed of the following charter members: Captain R. S. Huston, temporary president; Miss Adaline A. Miller, temporary secretary-treasurer; Harry M. Shaw, Miss Ida M. Amis, Ben F. Amis, Miss Rosalind Gross, Horace Burnette, Claude Sylvester, Karl Hackleman, Miss Ada Orrell and H. R. Miller. Three cards will be deposited as soon as the charter arrives. All the members are very enthusiastic about the organization, which bids fair to become one of the strongest of its kind in the interior. Miss Miller, the genial little secretary, has proven herself to be a tireless worker for the organization, and displays a knowledge of the labor movement unheard of in many older persons. We hope that when the charter arrives and permanent officers are elected she will be retained in her position for the good she can do for unionism.

The Federal Union in Eugene also bids fair to become a power in the labor movement. While a full attendance was not present at the last meeting it was demonstrated that there is a general desire to expand. Messrs. Miller, Pennington, White and Gerrard have the right spirit in them to make the organization a success. Brother C. C. White, the treasurer, is at present doing night patrol duty, but as Eugene is a highly moral town Brother White has little else to do but gaze at the stars and give a pleasant "good evening" to his many friends.

Zacharia Moore, the modest inner guard of Eugene Federal Labor Union, performed a double duty last Wednesday evening; the first instance at the hall, and the second at Clem Hodes' hotel, where he faithfully stood at his post, although fast asleep. This is the first case in which the writer has witnessed a man sound asleep and at the same time smoking his pipe, puffing out the smoke at regular intervals. Zach, you're all right.

There is room at Eugene for unions of Carpenters, Painters, Retail Clerks and Laundry Workers outside of the Federated organization. These will be organized by President Harry on his next trip through the valley.

William H. Barry, secretary of the State Federation, is very much elated over the treatment he received while in Eugene, and expresses a desire to return at the first opportunity and "shake" all around with acquaintances made there.

If the wage-earners are alive to their own interests they will put forth every effort to make Eugene a solid union town. This will benefit not only themselves but the business man as well. Where the mechanic is fairly paid, the business men of the community are the gainers. Nine-tenths of the working class keeps Uncle Sam's gold and silver smooth by voluntarily passing it out. The more they make the better they live, consequently the more they spend, and the merchant sells more of his goods. It's better all around. Then let every worker in Eugene get into the union band-wagon and help to extend and broaden the movement until it reaches the threshold of every wage-earner's home there, thus showing an example to be followed by other interior towns in the State of Oregon.

Albany.

William Eagles, of the Federated Union in Albany, reports that Labor day will be celebrated there this year, in such a manner as will demonstrate to the citizens of that community that the labor movement is expanding and that more work in this line has been done than perhaps they have imagined. Go it, Albany, or Eugene will beat you out!

OREGON STATE FAIR.

The Oregon State Board of Agriculture is advertising extensively this year, expecting to make the 42d annual exhibition of the Oregon State Fair the finest this season of any previous meeting. The fair will last six days—September 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20—and \$10,000 in premiums on live stock, agricultural and manufactured products will be awarded. The premium list has already been issued in neatly printed pamphlet form of 83 pages, giving full information to exhibitors. Among the attractions this year will appear the Missouri giantess, standing 8 feet 4 inches in her stocking feet; John Sparks, of Reno, Nev., with one of the finest herds of Hereford cattle in the United States, numbering 20 head.

Horses from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, British Columbia, California, Utah, Colorado, Montana and Canada are entered to race at the State Fair this Fall—and it will be the greatest racing event on the circuit.

To those who wish to take their families and spend a week at the fair, they will find one of the finest camp grounds on the Coast, absolutely free. Any information regarding the fair will be gladly given by writing the secretary, M. D. Wisdom, at Portland, Oregon. If you have not received a premium list, write for one at once.

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