

Oregon Historical Society  
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OFFICIAL PAPER  
FEDERATED TRADES COUNCIL

# Portland Labor Press

OFFICIAL PAPER  
STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

TRADE UNIONS ARE THE BULWARKS OF MODERN DEMOCRACIES.—W. E. GLADSTONE.

Vol. III

PORTLAND, OREGON, AUGUST 21, 1902

No. 2

## Orient Bicycles

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IT'S A BUSINESS PROPOSITION. YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO WALK OR RIDE STREET CARS AT OUR PRICES

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Time waits for no man, but we have the finest time-keepers in this city for the man or woman with the money.

And for the man or woman without the money we can make satisfactory arrangements so you can pay for your watch on very easy payments, weekly or monthly.

Come and look at the assortment, and learn how easy it is to own a good time-piece.

Our Fall Stock of Shoes and Clothing will be unpacked Friday and ready for Sale Saturday 23d inst.

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## Eastern Outfitting Co.

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PORTLAND'S ONE-PRICE CASH OR CREDIT HOUSE

### LABOR DAY COMMITTEE MEETS.

The Labor Day Committee met Wednesday night and heard the reports from the various sub-committees. Everything shows up favorably, and there is no doubt but there will be an immense turnout of union men for the parade at 10:30 A. M. Besides listening to the various reports, W. H. Barry was elected grand marshal, and, having served in this capacity last year, was the best man, in the opinion of the committee, for the place. He is thoroughly competent and will do the position proud.

### A Union Store.

Readers of the Labor Press will notice on the local page of this issue a display advertisement of McAllen & McDonnell, a union store run on union principles. They carry a large stock

of ladies' wear and general dry goods, and are agents for the Bazar glove-fitting patterns. They bid for the patronage of union men and women, and should receive consideration in return for their co-operation.

Bishop Henry C. Potter, of New York, believes the anthracite coal operators are wrong. He thinks "the anthracite coal operators have all along maintained a false position. They take the stand that they will not deal with the organizations, but insist on dealing with the men as individuals. Now this is all wrong. Any body of men whose interests are common have the right to organize into an association for mutual protection, and are entitled to recognition as an organization in matters which affect their individual and combined interests."

## GENERAL NEWS OF INTEREST TO WORKING PEOPLE

### NOTE AND COMMENT.

Hop pickers will receive 50 cents per box in nearly all of the valley yards. The price of hops justifies the raise.

The tragic death of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fair is a sad lesson of recklessness. Their riches could have been put to better use than the taking of their own lives.

Ex-Governor Lind of Minnesota is a candidate for Congress from the Minneapolis district. On account of his friendly attitude toward organized labor while in office, the trades unionists will endorse his candidacy.

Judge Tuley, of Chicago, has made the statement that every time he sentences a "criminal," he feels like a giant placed in his position by society for the purpose of taking revenge on victims produced by society itself.

Portland is going to have several miles of good concrete sidewalks. If an ordinance was passed to conform the streets with the new sidewalks more of the winter's rainfall would find its way into the Pacific Ocean.

If business men would transact their own affairs as they do world's fairs—especially the Lewis-Clark Fair—Portland would remain unbuild to this day for want of a site. It is a hard matter to tell if procrastination is the thief in this instance or not.

Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister, has accepted an invitation to address the union of labor men of Binghamton on Labor day. This may be out of Mr. Wu's sphere, and something of a departure from the industrial morals of a Pacific Coast unionist, but Wu is a brainy man.

There has been considerable talk about obsolete laws and "dead letter" ordinances, but witness how active and effective they become when men are in office who are not afraid to enforce them. The up-town business man is as amenable to the law when he violates it as the notorious North-Ender.

The impression is abroad in the East that as soon as the scarcity of anthracite coal has forced the price sufficiently high the coal barons will make a few concessions of minor importance to the men and resume work in the mines. It is thought that the strike will be settled sometime during September.

German Consul Lohan attacks Larry Sullivan and his gang of runners and crimps with two-ounce gloves. Portland may be worse than other port, but we imagine there are others just as bad. If they are they need purging just as much as Portland does, and their sailor boardinghouse keepers and litter of crimps sent to jail.

F. Stacy Whitney, general organizer for A. F. of A., writes that he will leave the eastern part of Washington, where he has spent over two months past in the cause, and pay more attention to the western part of the state. We would infer from the letter that he was instructed from headquarters to do some work in the lumber districts, where organization is badly needed.

Charles M. Schwab is to retire as president of the great steel trust on account of his health. It is stated that his mind has been affected by the great responsibilities of his office. H. C. Frick has been named as his possible successor. While Mr. Schwab's attitude toward organized labor has not been thoroughly tested, it will be a sorry day for the workmen if Mr. Frick is installed as president.

G. Y. Harry, president of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, left Wednesday for valley points on the west side of the River on an organizing tour. He expects to be gone about 10 days, visiting McMinnville, Dallas, Independence, Sheridan and Corvallis. Wherever enough mechanics can be found in one craft local unions will be organized under their respective international; otherwise Federal Labor Unions will be formed under charters from the American Federation of Labor.

In Germany recently a railroad contractor working two gangs of laborers, one German and the other Italian, posted notices that upon a certain day wages would be reduced. The Ger-

mans struck, but the Italians kept on working. The following day the contractor noticed that all the Italians had cut two inches off the handle of their shovels. The ringleader of the gang was asked for an explanation, and in reply said: "Not so much pay, not lift so much dirt. So much longer last work."

The chapel of the Butte Miner has adopted two new sections to its rules that would have a wholesome effect most chapels. They are as follows: "The charter of the Ancient Order of Backcappers is hereby revoked, and any member of this chapel backcapping another shall be fined \$1 for each offense." Another section is to the effect that any member preferring charges against another and failing to sustain them shall be fined not less than \$2 nor more than \$10, at the option of the chapel.

Organized labor of Portland will have Labor day all to itself next year. The Elks convention at Salt Lake just closed, voted to eliminate street fairs and carnivals hereafter. The unions of Portland hereby announce that they will brook no interference in the future upon that day and want the co-operation of the business men, citizens and retired capitalists from now on to make Labor day an all-day holiday. This will give the people an opportunity to see the advancement of America's toilers in the most practical form.

### FROM THE CAPITAL CITY.

Editor Labor Press: There is a slight ripple in the heretofore peaceful waters of unionism in this city. The Painters' Union has declared the firm of Warner & Co., painters, unfair. The Warners, though members of the union, ignore the plain provisions of the constitution and of unionism, and hire the only scab painter in the city, and a man who boasts that he is a non-union man. The union here has done all in its power to have this firm do the right thing, but all to no purpose. The Warners also have two apprentices, when they are entitled to but one. They have no disposition but utter contempt and overbearing, and will not condescend to meet the union and make any attempt to square themselves whatever. Local dealers have voluntarily asked the Painters' Union whether it desired that they refuse to sell supplies to Warner & Co., saying they would promptly comply with such a request, but the painters have not asked it yet, hoping to get these people to reconsider their action and do the square thing. The Warners are obstinate, and union men say they use the union when soliciting work from union sympathizers, and boast non-unionism when trying to deal with people who oppose unionism. The central body met and indorsed the action of the painters, and unless the Warners soon make themselves right, the efficacy of the unions here will be tested, and it is thought a certainty that its work will be quick, sure and effective.

Preparations for the celebration of Labor day will soon be completed. There will be a parade and speaking in the grove by local business men, union men, ministers and others.

Appeals from the anthracite mine-workers have reached the unions here, and it is safe to say all will respond liberally. The cigar-makers have set the pace with a standing weekly assessment of 50 cents per member.

By-laws and constitution for the central body have been adopted, and a uniform working card to be issued by the central body to all unions was likewise adopted, and, having been previously printed, will soon be in evidence.

R. A. HARRIS.

### DISTINGUISHED PAINTER.

Joseph C. Skemp, third vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, arrived in this city last Friday, on his way to San Francisco. Mr. Skemp has been attending the semi-annual meeting of the executive board and stated that the brotherhood had never been in a more prosperous condition. Within the last year over 200 locals have been granted charters, among which was one in Porto Rico. The membership for these unions has been an increase of 12,000, which gives a total membership of over 40,000 members in 750 unions. The percentage of increase has been greater than that of any other brotherhood in the same length of time. In the past year there have been 100 strikes and disputes for higher wages and shorter hours. Of these 95 per cent have been won, and

a few are still unsettled. Besides this, the New York trouble among painters has been straightened up.

When asked about his views on the efficiency of Building Trades Councils Mr. Skemp said: "It is the most powerful instrument for good that we have. To break it up or try to disrupt it would be the height of folly. The Building Trades Council is a double advantage. It protects the individual craft by the united strength of all allied crafts, and it gives the contractor and the public a guarantee for faithful performance. In San Francisco, where my home is, the council absolutely controls the unions in the city, and it does it for the common good. You will find that under the council the unions are more conservative. The union that has a grievance cannot strike without permission of the council, and that permission is not extended except under stringent regulation. For instance, the demand must be made three months before action is taken; that is, three months' notice must be given the employers. All contracts made prior to the date of the demand are to be finished at the old scale of wages, and the Building Trades Council will entertain but one demand at a time. In other words, one strike must be settled before another can be declared. The councils all over the country are doing such a vast amount of good that the National brotherhoods are more and more declining to enter into local controversies. It is felt that the local Trades Council is better acquainted with the conditions, is more deeply concerned, and is better able to do the proper thing. I consider the Building Trades Council to be at present the nearest solution of some of the problems that confront us, and you will find our brotherhood always in the front when it comes to maintaining them."

Friday evening Mr. Skemp visited the Painters' Union and addressed the members along craft lines, encouraging them in their organization and giving some wholesome advice. He left Saturday morning for his home in San Francisco.

### BUTCHERS' BARBECUE.

Last Sunday the butchers' barbecue attracted about 1200 people to Troutdale to spend the day in sport and feasting. Two beeves were roasted, but the rain Saturday evening interfered with the programme, and the roast was not so good as it would otherwise have been. The outside was well enough done, but the meat was too rare next to the bone. The hotels at Troutdale, however, prospered by the misfortune to the butchers. Many people secured a piece of well-cooked flesh, but there were many of the 1000 loaves that remained uncut.

The sports were carried out as scheduled, and were interesting from the start. The baseball contest between the Willamette ironworkers and the Troutdale butchers led, and resulted in a score of 14 to 11 in favor of the Troutdale team. The game was considerably interfered with on account of the crowd pressing in upon the grounds, but withal the game was warmly contested and at times exciting.

The other sports followed in regular order, and the winners and prizes are as follows:

100-yard race, (butchers)—First prize, cleaver, knife, saw and steel, Thomas Healy; second, cleaver, W. F. Smith.

100-yard free-for-all—First prize, \$5 hat, P. Maloney; second, one Rex ham, 14-pound, Frank Beatty.

50-yard fat woman's race—First prize, spice, tea and coffee, Miss Saylor; second, one side breakfast bacon, Mrs. F. Gratton.

50-yard girl race, under 14 years—First prize, umbrella, Miss Lena Wood; second, one corn ham, Miss Florence Cleveland.

50-yard boys' race, under 14 years—Prize, baseball bat and ball, Ralph Hansen.

50-yard wheelbarrow—Prize, box 100 Excellence cigars, Messrs. Beatty and Westledge.

Running broad jump—Prize, meal ticket, \$5.50, Thomas F. Healy.

Hop, step and jump—Prize, meal ticket, \$5.50, Thomas F. Healy.

100-yard, proprietor (butchers)—Prize, fancy smoking set, T. E. Woods.

100-yard (sausagemakers)—Prize, one fancy negligee shirt, Lon Eichberg.

100-yard (meatcutters)—Prize, one Philippine turkey, value \$5, Charles Eneix.

The prize waltz—lady's prize, sweater—was won by Miss Julia Welch, as was also the silk umbrella in the cake-walk.

The sheep-killing contest was won by Jack Hickey, of Troutdale.

### THE ENGINEER AND HIS AD.

A funny story has just leaked out on one of the officers of the Steam Engineers' Union of this city. A short time after the union had been organized the aforesaid officer got a tip that a couple of the members were doing some underhanded work, so he thought

he would bait them. Accordingly he wrote up a want ad and took it to the Oregonian for publication. It read this way:

"Wanted—Non-union steam engineers; \$150 per month; steady employment."

The address was given, and the ad was paid for. When the paper was issued next morning the ad was there, but the "non" to the "union" was missing. The officer went to the business office and showed the ad, man the error, and again the ad was sent to the printer. The next morning it was the same as before—the "non" to the "union" was missing. An effort was made again, but still the ad came out without the "non" to the "union," and finally it had to be given up. The officer, who knew some of the boys on the ninth floor, went up and confidentially told one of them what he had been trying to do. The printer winked one eye and told him that accidents were liable to occur any time, but he didn't think the boys in the ad, alley liked the looks of "non-union" in the ad, as they all carried paid-up working cards.

The truth flashed upon the mind of the engineer and he burst into a hysterical fit of laughter.

### GONE INTO BUSINESS.

Frank Calkins, for a long time delegate to the Federated Trades Council and secretary of the Tailors' Union, has surrendered his membership as an employee, and donned the garb of an employer. Frank has stepped down from the active list, but his heart is coated with unionism, and in the right place. His place of business is room 7, 232 1/2 Washington street, next door to the Labor Press, where the genial Frank will ever be ready to serve his patrons with the best of goods at a price within the reach of everyone who can afford a suit of clothes. The first piece of furniture put into the shop was the union shop card, and the contract with the union hangs in a frame on the wall.

### UNIONISM AND THE EMPLOYER.

While much discussion of trades unionism has been had in print and on the platform, one striking and valid argument, appealing directly to the self-interest of employers, has been shunned. Charles A. Murdock, of San Francisco, a well-known employing printer, if he is not the inventor of the argument, at least gave it clear and effective expression in the Western Printer last October.

Deploring the sharpness of competition in the printing business—a competition which, he wrote, had greatly diminished profits and damaged the trade—Mr. Murdock remarked that "the measure of stability we enjoy we must place to the credit of our employees, and cannot in any manner claim it as the result of our own effort. I wish to express my conviction that we owe the Typographical Union more than we are accustomed to acknowledge." Mr. Murdock said that competition had forced many printing houses to hire girls and boys to do cheaply work which in other houses was done by men at fair wages. By this means prices had been brought so low that many firms, though busy all the time, were making little or no profit. They had to take work at cost or below cost in order to prevent their trade from being stolen away by cheap-John rivals. Printers in giving estimates used to be perplexed because they had either to pare prices to the quick or see jobs go to other offices. The Typographical Union had checked the downward progress of prices, and by establishing a uniform rate of pay for labor had preserved the equality of opportunity and checked the demoralization that follows the forcing of labor to its lowest price—had dulled the too-sharp edge of competition, Mr. Murdock wrote:

"I believe the advantages of an equal standard of pay are so great that we can afford to be patient, even when they (the union) are unreasonable and arbitrary. And in the matter of apprentices some strong control is necessary, or a fair office is at a tremendous disadvantage. I believe that it is our best policy to be friendly to our employees and to their organization whenever we can; to do all our power to influence them to wise and judicious action, and to resist them only when they are clearly wrong and impose upon us restrictions they have no right to make, and to which we cannot in honor submit."

Competition, when normal and healthy, is the life of trade; but when it becomes too active and feverish it produces death. To combat the evil of excessive competition, an evil felt alike by master and man, the employers formed trusts and the employees unions, so that the two movements, so hostile to each other, are twin children of one mother and have the same end in view. It has been said in argument that trades unions were nothing less than labor trusts. The retort is obvious that trusts are employers' unions, and that if it is right and fair for employers to organize it is right and fair for workmen to organize.

Murdock applied his argument to the printing trade only, but no doubt it applies with equal force to all trades, and it seems strange that the spokesmen for trades unionism have not made much use of it. Resistance to trades unionism is founded mostly on selfishness, and if employers can be convinced that unionism will help their business they soon will yield.—San Francisco Bulletin.